



# The Campus Green

February 2010 Issue 3

## **Recycling Statistics for 2009**

- **Mixed Paper:**  
184,302 lbs.
- **Bottles and Cans:**  
82,456 lbs.
- **Cardboard:**  
84,440 lbs.
- **Computers, CPU's  
etc.:**  
13,702 lbs.
- **Batteries:**  
1900 lbs.
- **Fluorescent  
Lamps:**  
8366 lbs.

**Good job people!**

**Let's keep up the  
good work in  
2010!**

## **Contact Us!**

**Don't wait around!  
Call us!**



Recycling Hotline  
X 1881

[recycle@providence.edu](mailto:recycle@providence.edu)

Providence College  
Office of Environmental  
Health and Safety

Emily Goodman and  
Kristen Montano,  
Student Coordinators

## **Dispelling the Myth: The Recycling Process on Campus**

In the recent months, it has been brought to our attention that many faculty and staff are concerned about the recycling process on campus. Several individuals have contacted the Recycling Program, expressing concern that the cleaning company (Hurley of America) is not separating trash from the recyclables and everything is being thrown away. This article is being written to inform the Providence College community of the recycling process on campus. (Please refer to the sidebar to see how much we recycled in 2009!)

### **The Recycling Process**

When the Hurley staff empties the trash receptacles and blue recycling containers, many people see them emptying the contents into their cart. While this is true, all should be aware that the cart has two different bags: one black bag for trash and one white bag for paper. Cans and bottles are kept separate as well. (Cardboard boxes should be flattened out and placed by the blue bin. They are also taken out for recycling).



After the blue bins are emptied, the paper is then deposited in the large

green totes marker PAPER ONLY (or CANS AND BOTTLES ONLY) that are in every building. Hurley then brings the totes outside twice a week and Cleanscape, our recycling hauler, empties them. Cardboard is taken out daily and picked up by Physical Plant staff for recycling. At Cleanscape's facility, items are cleaned and contaminants are taken out. Paper is separated into different grades and shipped to mills for reprocessing. Cans and bottles are sent to the recycling facility at Rhode Island Resource Recovery in Johnston, RI. Cardboard is shipped by the truckload to different mills, where it is remade into cardboard or different paperboard, such as cereal boxes.



All Hurley staff are trained and instructed to recycle by following these procedures. Please be aware that if Hurley staff are throwing the contents of your blue bin in the trash, it is because the contents are contaminated with TRASH. Please be sure to use the blue bin for MIXED PAPER ONLY! However, if you do notice that Hurley staff are not following recycling procedures, please let us know at x1881 or email us at [recycle@providence.edu](mailto:recycle@providence.edu) and we will follow up and correct the problem.



## **Recycling Styrofoam**

Styrofoam is a trademark of the Dow company, but the material itself is called polystyrene. It's very commonly used in packing material as peanuts or expanded foam, and a wide variety of other products.

The bad news is, polystyrene is manufactured from petroleum, it's highly flammable,

and it contains a chemical called benzene, which is a known human carcinogen. In addition to that, Styrofoam does not decompose— it stays in our landfills forever!

The good news is, we can recycle Styrofoam! But, we need your help. If you have Styrofoam peanuts or packaging blocks, put them aside in

a bag or some other container. Give us a call at x1881, or email us at [recycle@providence.edu](mailto:recycle@providence.edu), and we will make arrangements to come by and pick them up. We then bring them to one of several "Mail Boxes Etc.," where they gladly reuse them over and over again, keeping them out of the waste stream. Thanks for your help!





The PC Bookstore carries many different recycled cards for Valentines Day



Student Spotlight of the Month!



This month's Student Spotlight is on Lauren Montano! Last week, Lauren took all of the empty printer cartridges from her room and brought them to the recycling kiosk on the first floor of Accino. Now, instead of ending up in a landfill and taking 1,000 years to decompose, the printer cartridges will be shipped out to a cartridge recycling center by The Department of Environmental Health and Safety to be recycled!

Good work, Lauren!



# How to stay Green this Valentine's Day



We all love buying cards, candy, and flowers for our loved ones around Valentine's Day. A lot of those products however, contain wasteful material, and many of them will not be recycled afterwards. To cut down on waste this Valentine's Day, here are a few tips of things you can do to go green this Valentine's Day.

**Cards:** In 2009, 188 million Valentines Cards were sent in the U.S.

If you want to buy cards, make sure they are made from recycled paper. The **PC Bookstore** has a variety of recycled cards to choose from. Homemade cards can also help cut down on waste, and are a creative way to impress

your loved ones.

**Candy:** Over 36 million heart shaped boxes of chocolates are sold each year.

Instead of buying the same old generic box of heart shaped chocolates, why not try baking something



and delivering it in a reusable tin or box. If you have your heart set on chocolates, buy organic or fair trade which are much better for the environment because of lack of pesticides and support for local

farmers. It will be eco friendly and show your loved one just how much you care. Try this site to find organic options.

[www.organicconsumers.org/valentines/index.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/valentines/index.cfm)

**Flowers:** each year thousands of flowers are wrapped in plastic, bought and sent all over the country.

Flowers may be beautiful but they do not last for long, and when thrown away can be wasteful. Instead try buying your loved one a potted plant and flower seeds so they can watch their own plant grow. Or, get creative and make a Valentine's themed picture frame that they can keep for years to come.



## Who Was St. Valentine?



St. Valentine was a Roman priest during the reign of Claudius II. Since he was caught marrying Christian couples and aiding any Christians who were being persecuted under Emperor Claudius in Rome, St. Valentine was arrested and imprisoned. In the year 269, he died in Rome as a martyr for Christianity. He is the Patron Saint of love, young people, and happy marriages.



## Are You Sick of Junk Mail?



Interested in living a "greener" lifestyle? An incredibly simple way to help protect the environment is to stop your junk mail. Reducing the amount of junk mail you receive will save energy, natural resources, landfill space, tax dollars, and a lot of your personal time. Follow these simple steps and you'll be on your way to reducing your junk mail by 90 percent.

**Step 1: Register Your Name**  
Register with the Mail Preference Service of the Direct Marketing Association (DMA). DMA will list you in its database in the "Do Not

Mail" category. Direct marketers are not required to check the database, but most companies that send large volumes of junk mail do use the DMA service.

**Step 2: Get off the Lists**  
You can also go to [OptOutPre-Screen.com](http://OptOutPre-Screen.com) which can enable you to remove your name from lists that mortgage, credit card, and insurance companies use to mail offers and solicitations.



**Step 3: Contact Companies That Send You Mail**  
Ask all of the companies that you support to place your name on their "do not promote" or "in-house suppress" lists. Also, if you do business with a company by mail, (i.e. magazine publishers, catalog companies, credit card companies, etc.) it's best to request the removal of your name from their mailing lists the first time you do business with them. This will prevent them from selling your name to other organizations. You can, however, make this request at any time.