

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

*A PERIODICAL E-NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES STUDENTS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY*



## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

This semester has been a breakthrough! We have appeared to transition through the rough stages of the pandemic and have finally made it through finals. Great work to everyone, find plenty of rest and enjoyment. Don't forget to read and stay stimulated! In our closing edition the editors would like to thank all the readers, contributors and staff members. We look forward to next fall and plan to have some interesting segments and articles for the newsletter. In this edition you will find spotlights of a professor, an internship, and a club. A summer reading list for both editors, and an internship posting from the Office of Sustainability. Take the poll at the end please!!!

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# PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. AIMEE WARD

*by: Justin Thompson*

Dr. Ward holds a PhD in Public Health, Geography and an MPH in International Public Health. She earned a BS from Washington State University in Kinesiology and worked as a fitness specialist at Providence Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. After ten years in the workforce, she decided to pursue her Master's at Oregon State University. During her studies, she conducted a six-month internship in Taipei, Taiwan for the Department of Health. Upon graduation, Dr. Ward would go on to act as a research assistant in France and New Zealand. This is where she goes on to earn her PhD at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand studying in a multidisciplinary program, encompassing the Departments of Geography and Preventive and Social Medicine. After graduation and before her moving to KSU with her husband, Dr. Ward would complete a post-doctoral fellowship through the Department of Medicine at the University of Otago. She teaches such courses as Urban Transportation, Nature and Society, Medical Geography and her main area of research lies with transportation and well being and is particularly skilled at connecting geography with public health and the environment.



## PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

*Dr. Ward's advice for ENVS majors:*

- **Travel Overseas.**
- Practice **critical thinking** skills.
- **Diversify.** If you are considering a graduate degree, strive to get your master's and PhD from different universities than your undergraduate degree. If you are entering the workforce, consider jobs out of state (or out of the country). Take yourself out of your comfort zone.
- **Collaborate on campus.** by working with others outside of the ENVS major. Environmental Studies is multidisciplinary in nature, so take classes, do activities, and learn about a variety of areas.
- **Collaborate in the community.** Open yourself up to what is going on outside of KSU, in the broader NE Ohio community and the State. Educate yourself about what is going on locally that aligns with your interests as there might be opportunity there.
- **Publish.** When doing a class project, don't make it a "hollow" experience - think of how it can help you outside of the course. If the opportunity to collaborate as a co-author on an article presents itself, whether you plan on graduate studies or not, take it!

# PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

*Dr. Ward's recommended activities for students and young professionals to do outside of class to be better prepared for life after graduation:*

For those continuing to Graduate School:

- **Travel overseas!**
- **Read.** (Outside of class assignments, that is). Identify what interests you the most about Environmental Studies and read about it as much as you can, and be sure to understand any and all of its historical context.
- **Reach out to faculty.** It's never too early, or late, to seek mentorship from someone who shares your potential research interests.
- **Gain research experience.** Acquaint yourself with what KSU has to offer, such as internships and programs like the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (S.U.R.E.) to earn real-life exposure to planning for and conducting research. This will give you a leg up as you prepare to plan your own graduate projects.
- **Apply for funding and/or awards.** Keep an eye out for grants and fellowships, as well as any awards for which you are eligible. This could help you financially, as well as expand your CV. It also makes you "known" in your department.
- **Publish.** Early and often. Publishing in peer-reviewed journals hones so many important academic skills; it requires that you write directly and clearly, and that you change your writing based on your audience on a regular basis. It requires that you both work as part of a team and that you work alone. It requires that you constantly revise and rewrite, and it teaches you to handle criticism. If you can publish, it is a testament to your tenacity, resilience, and ability to compromise, and therefore has applications for teaching, advising, and working with colleagues.



## PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

For those planning to go directly into the workforce:

- **Travel overseas!** Yep. I said it again.
- **Research job opportunities while still in college.** This can help you identify what is available, and what skills are being sought by employers, so that you can maximize your potential employability prior to graduation.
- **Gain professional experience.** Acquaint yourself with what KSU has to offer regarding internships and fellowships. The same internships and programs (like S.U.R.E.) that provide exposure to research also provide valuable professional experience that will prepare you for the job market.
- **Apply for funding and/or awards.** Keep an eye out for grants and fellowships, as well as any awards you are eligible for. This could help you financially, as well as expand your CV for the job hunt.

# INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

by: Kathryn Burns

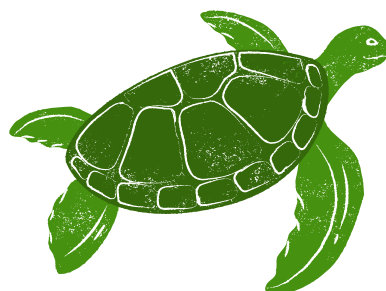
This semester I worked at the Office of Sustainability at Kent State University. During Campus Race to Zero Waste, I did visual audits of trash and recycling bins on campus. A few garbage cans on campus have sensors in them so this was meant to make sure the data is correct and troubleshoot any issues. I thought it was interesting to see which dorms and other campus buildings had the least amount of waste. Also, during this internship, I helped with campus events like Earth Fest and tabling at the farmer's market. The Office of Sustainability had a table, so we played a game that included sustainability related fun facts about the university. I learned a lot about projects that are happening at the university which was really interesting to learn.



## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: OCEAN MOTION

Ocean Motion is a club for any major on Kent Campus that has an interest in ocean conservation. The group's main goal is to spread awareness about preserving the earth's oceans and freshwater resources. Ocean Motion educates students, raises money for related national organizations, participates as volunteers, and connects students with trips and activities. This semester Ocean Motion has hiked at Cuyahoga Valley National Park at Ledges and the Towpath. They also partnered with Kent State Environmental Society and Kent VS Pink to clean up in downtown Kent for Earth Day. Ocean Motion also hosted a beach clean-up at Mentor Headlands located in Mentor, OH. There are many more activities to come next semester!

Follow Ocean Motion on their Instagram **@ksuoceanmotion** for updates about the club! Be on the lookout for their Engage page next semester to join club meetings.





# OCEAN MOTION PHOTOS FROM SPRING 2022

photo credits to Emma Marks, Kerri Halick, and Christina Golden





# SUMMER RECOMENDATIONS (ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS & DOCUMENTARIES)

by: Kathryn Burns

I rarely make New Year's resolutions, but this year I decided that reading more books was my goal for the year. A great way to learn about an unfamiliar topic, or gain empathy about one's experience is through reading. While I claim to not have read any of these books, they are some of the mostly highly recommended and rated books in the "environment" category. I plan on reading some of these books over the summer and putting them in the newsletter is holding me accountable. But, I hope that this list inspires you to pick up a new book as well! If you aren't into reading I've added in some documentaries as well. I hope that summer brings great opportunities to everyone and maybe a few days to relax and read!



## **What's currently on my bookshelf**

Fuzz by Mary Roach

No Impact Man by Colin Beaven

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs.

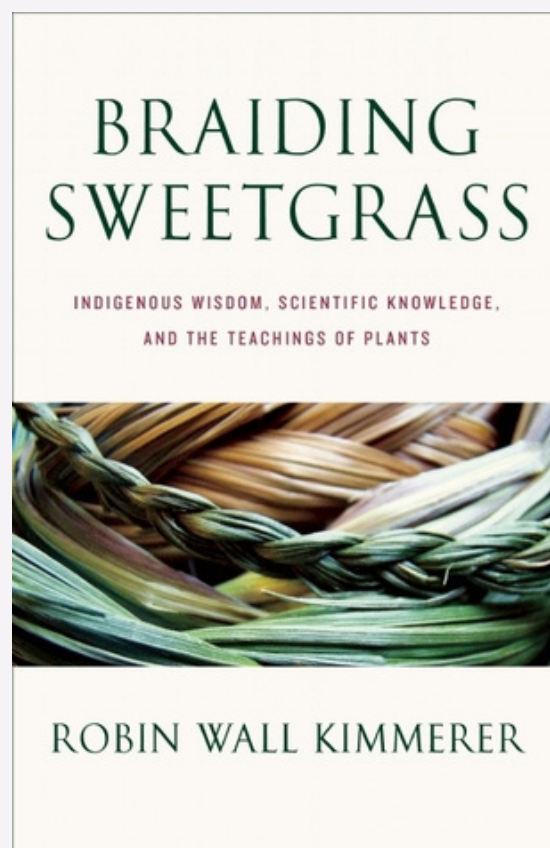
The Climate by Naomi Klein

# SUMMER RECOMENDATIONS (ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS & DOCUMENTARIES)

by: Kathryn Burns

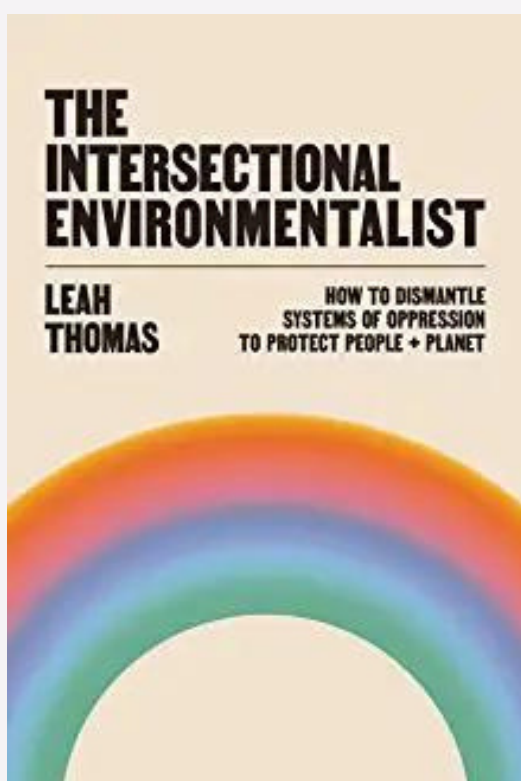
## **Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

This book was recommended to me by one of my previous professors who really thinks highly of this book. Braiding Sweetgrass ties together scientific knowledges and indigenous practices to answer questions about our environment and the natural world. I am sure that some of you have already read this book since its so well known!



## **The Intersectional Environmentalist by Leah Thomas**

I have followed both @intersectionalenvironmentalist and Leah Thomas on Instagram for a while and I was super excited when she announced this book. This book tackles the disparity of unheard (more specifically Black and Indigenous) voices in the environmental movements. One of the themes is recognizing that environmentalism can not be separated from social justice and civil rights, and if we fight for the planet we must fight for all of its people.



# SUMMER RECOMENDATIONS (ENVIRONMENTAL BOOKS & DOCUMENTARIES)

by: Kathryn Burns

## **Just Eat It. A Food Waste Story** (found on Hulu)

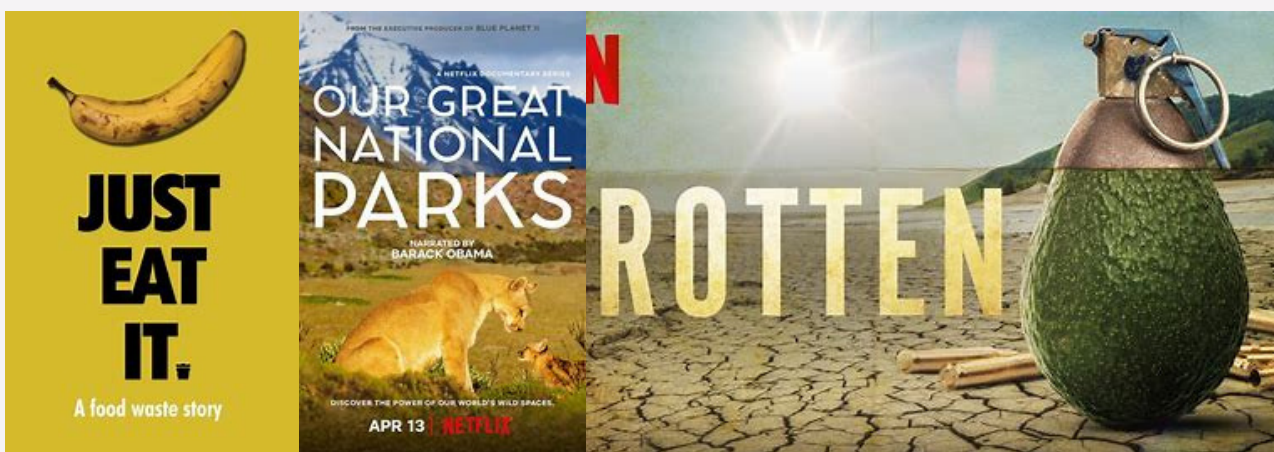
After learning about how much food waste the world produces, I felt like I wanted to learn more instantly. I wanted to make active change and to not produce more food waste that would end up not decomposing in a landfill. Then I watched this documentary and I became interested in addressing the systems that cause food waste. In this documentary a couple sees if they can survive off of food saved from grocery store's garbage bins. Will they be able to do it? What kind of recipes are they planning to make? Find out in the Hulu documentary Just Eat It!

## **Our Great National Park** (found on Netflix)

The first episode of this documentary already has me hooked and I can't wait to watch more! Narrated by Barack Obama, this series takes a deep dive into some of the world's most beautiful national parks and the animals that shape them. The filming is absolutely phenomenal which makes the documentary even more enjoyable!

## **Rotten** (found on Netflix)

All that I can say about this documentary was that it was completely mind opening. Rotten takes a look at our global food systems and point out the many injustices that happen behind the scenes. Social justice is a fundamental part of protecting the planet and its people so appreciated that this documentary brought those two elements together.



# SUMMER READINGS CONTINUED

by: Thomas Moore

I am not sure about you but when it comes to reading I love to find a great setting to fully relax. I find that my comprehension and enjoyment levels often reflects my environment. Some people love to create an amazing space and swim in it, I often at times just flow with wind like a leaf and land where ever the moment carries me. This summer you might find me on a paddle board in a lake surrounded by water lillies, or potentially under a tree around campus, my neighbors bench soaking up the evening sun, or quite possibly enjoying the breeze, birds and company of my cat in my studio. Regardless, the intent is still the same. Mainly my focus resides on material related to my majors and I am sure we all understand the importance of hashing out content related to our passions. Knowledge is power and the more we are exposed the stronger we are. Please find time and continue developing your understanding of your passions!!!

## Summer Reading List

The earth the city and the hidden narrative of race - Carl Anthony

Biophilia Hypothesis- Stephen R. Kellert

Unnatural Horizon- Allen S. Weiss

Epics in the Everyday - Jesus Vassallo

Architecture as Environment - Flavio Conti

Adaptive Architecture - Robert Schmidt

Adaptive Sensory Environment - Marie Lorena Lehman

The Sacred and the Profane - Mircea Eliade

Design with Life - Mitchell Joachim/Maria Aiolo

The Bhagavad-Gita - Translation Stoler Miller





# THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AT KENT STATE IS HIRING A SUMMER INTERN!

*Office of Sustainability Student Employee Summer 2022*

10-20 hours per week – mornings required, schedule may vary – \$10 per hour

**Duties:** Conduct outreach to students about campus sustainability; Answer questions about sustainability at Kent State during tabling events, other duties as assigned.

**Skillset:** Communication; Creative; Outreach/comfortable giving presentations; Enthusiastic; Outgoing; Organization; Planning and Logistics; Knowledgeable about Sustainability at Kent State University; Basic understanding and background about sustainability

Driver's License preferred

"I worked at the Office of Sustainability during the spring semester this year and I have absolutely loved it. I felt like I got a behind the scenes look as to what sustainability entails on a college campus. Melanie, the head of the department and who you will be working with, is knowledgeable in many topics in sustainability which makes conversations very engaging and interesting. If you are thinking about applying, you definitely should!" -Kathryn Burns

Apply on the Handshake website or contact Melanie via email **[mknowle1@kent.edu](mailto:mknowle1@kent.edu)**

**PLEASE FILL OUT OUR POLL  
FOR THE NEWSLETTER!**



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**You may also visit the official program  
website for additional information:**

<https://www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies>