



## THE HISTORY OF EARTH DAY

BY KATIE MEDLOCK

Earth Day, April 22, marks the anniversary of the modern day environmental movement in 1970. After seeing the devastating affects of the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, Sen. Gaylord Nelson came up with the idea for Earth Day.



We credit Sen. Nelson for coming up with the idea of Earth Day. Photo credit: NelsonEarthDay.Net

According to History.com, Sen. Nelson “developed the idea for Earth Day after being inspired by the anti-Vietnam War ‘teach-ins’ that were taking place on college campuses around the United States.”

Earth Day is a day of education about environmental issues. It was held on April 22 to amplify the number of students who could be reached on university campuses.

Earth Day in 1970 saw support from Republicans and Democrats, the rich and the poor, and people living in rural areas and those living in urban areas. Earth Day in 1970 led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the passing of the Clean Air, Endangered Species, and Clean Water Acts.

“Our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty,” Sen. Nelson said. “The objective is an environment of decency, quality and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures.”

Around 1990, Earth Day became a global idea. Headed by Denis Hayes, it affected 141 countries and over 200 million people, and brought environmental issues onto the world stage.

According to the Earth Day Network, “The fight for a clean environment continues in a climate of increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day.”

### IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2:  
Dear College Students...

PAGE 3:  
Recycling Dos and Don'ts

PAGE 4:  
Earth Day Events

PAGE 5:  
RecycleMania

### CONNECT WITH US!



<http://primannumumd.org/newsletters>



<https://www.facebook.com/PrimannumHonorSociety>



[https://twitter.com/Primannum\\_UMD](https://twitter.com/Primannum_UMD)

## DEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS,

As college students, our majors define who we are. This month, at the Primannum Honor Society induction ceremony, I watched as hundreds of new members introduced themselves by stating two things: their name and major. For four years, this is who we are as undergraduates; however, choosing the right degree can be difficult.

As a graduating senior in high school, I knew that I wanted to attend law school. The tricky part was figuring out how to get there. At an interest meeting for the University of Maryland, a recruiter told me that I could go to law school by majoring in environmental science and policy. At the time, I smiled and nodded, but secretly thought to myself, "What in the world is that?" Since I enjoyed environmental science in high school, I decided to take a chance and apply for the major. This blind decision turned out to be the best choice I ever made.

In the first year, environmental science and policy [ENSP] students enroll in a variety of courses, including economics, geography, biology, psychology, chemistry, and government and politics. After gaining an interdisciplinary foundation, ENSP majors choose one of eight different concentrations. From the beginning, I knew that I wanted to study politics and policy, but there are other interesting areas too, including wildlife management, environmental economics and conservation biology. I truly believe ENSP has something interesting to offer for everyone.

Majoring in ENSP has given me the freedom to research and explore all of my interests. As a junior, I am allowed to choose my own upper-level classes. To prepare for law school, I have taken many criminology and criminal justice classes. I am even working as a TA for the criminal investigations lab next fall! Last summer, I put my knowledge of environmental policy into practice by interning for the Office of the Howard County Executive, Ken Ulman. Currently, I work as a research assistant on campus for the Center for American Politics and Citizenship. As you can see, the experiential learning opportunities are endless.

I am still not sure what I want to do with my career, but majoring in ENSP has allowed me to explore every possibility. To solve the world's most complex environmental issues, we need people who understand different perspectives. If you are still wondering what to major in, or thinking about switching, I hope you seriously consider ENSP. It could be the best decision you ever make.

FROM,  
ARLYNNELL DICKSON



Interested in ENSP?

Check out the website to see which college is the best fit for you:  
<https://www.ensp.umd.edu/>

## RECYCLING DOS AND DON'TS

BY ALEXA TSINTOLAS

### DOS

Recycle plastic water, juice and milk bottles. Or, better yet, invest in a reusable water bottle and fill up at the fountain.

Compost food scraps and used napkins when in the diner or in Stamp. Let nature do some of the work too!

Throw Styrofoam cups in the trash as they cannot be recycled on campus. However, Styrofoam packing peanuts are accepted at Mailboxes Etc. in College Park to be reused.

Recycle batteries. There are more than 100 bins for batteries on campus. Check out the list of locations: <http://www.sustainability.umd.edu/documents/recycling/BatteryBins2013.pdf>!

Recycle aluminum cans. Don't worry even though we are a Pepsi campus, Coke cans can be recycled too. Aluminum can spend 80-200 years in a landfill.

Recycle compact fluorescent lightbulbs. This can be done by contacting the Department of Environmental Safety.

Recycle old magazines. The glossy paper can still be recycled.

Recycle the Diamondback after reading it. Even though newspaper can last 6 weeks in a landfill, it is best to recycle any and all paper that you can

### DON'TS

Recycle plastic utensils that you use with take-out food. Even though they are plastic, they are to be discarded in the trash.

Recycle plastic bags. Until recently, plastic bags were accepted as recyclable material on campus. Plastic bags can be reused multiple times. Instead of getting new ones every time you shop bring some with you. Reusable bags are also a good idea.

Recycle broken glass. It is hazardous to those working with materials that are to be recycled. Here is a mind-shattering fact: Glass can be recycled indefinitely without reducing its quality or purity. Plus, it can take glass a million years to decompose.

Throw away coffee grounds and sweetener packets. These items can be composted. There's no better way to start the day than with some coffee and composting!

Discard toner cartridges in the trash! Contact UMD's Recycling and Solid Waste Unit [recycle@umd.edu](mailto:recycle@umd.edu) to schedule a retrieval.

Recycle the packets and wrappers of foods like chips and candy. Unfortunately these items are made from mixed materials that are difficult to break down and isolate in the recycling process.

Throw away your tissues and paper towels. These items are compostable!

## EARTH DAY EVENTS

BY SANA HAIDER

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” As this Native American proverb emphasizes the importance of caring for Earth, we can look to the upcoming 45th anniversary of Earth Day, which was April 22, 2015. Earth day was first celebrated in 1970, and is now celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.



The Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. draws enormous crowds and is a tradition in the area. Photo credit: thedistrict.com

In Washington D.C., the Global Poverty Project and Earth Day Network presented an event called “Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day” on Saturday, April 18. It was a free event on the Washington Monument Grounds from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. It celebrated a time where global policymakers, finance ministers, environment and development NGOs, industry executives and high-profile artists came together. The goal was to inspire action to end extreme poverty and address climate change. Performers at this event included No Doubt, Usher, Fall Out Boy, Mary J. Blige, Train and My Morning Jacket.

In addition, climate education week was from April 18-25, where Earth Day Network was working to provide a toolkit that included a week’s worth of lesson plans and activities for students K-12. It covered themes like climate change, our impact,

Earth Day, renewable energy, green jobs and the economy. They also encouraged people to take action in our schools and community to meet a goal of 2 billion acts of green, the largest environmental service campaign. Acts of green can be recorded on [climateeducationweek.org](http://climateeducationweek.org).



The D.C. area also celebrates Earth Day with a concert and conversations about the environment. Photo credit: globalcitizen.org

The National Cherry Blossom Festival was also a celebration in Washington D.C. from March 20 until April 12, 2015. Each year, it commemorates the gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Yukio Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo, to D.C. in 1912. The first festival was in 1927 when the initial planting was reenacted by schoolchildren. The celebration recognizes the continued relationship between Japan and the United States. Today, the festival brings together more than 1.5 million people to the nation’s capital.

## RECYCLEMANIA

BY ADAM HURWITZ

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. A phrase we all know has been widely prevalent since the 3Rs campaign began in the mid-1980s. But for eight weeks from February 1– March 28, universities across the country took it one step further. Hundreds of schools competed in the annual competition that began in 2001, known as RecycleMania.



RecycleMania rewards schools across the nation for their recycling efforts. Photo credit: recyclemaniacs.org

The goal of RecycleMania is to encourage university students to decrease their environmental footprint, promoting the recycling of materials and reduction of overall waste. When it started in 2001, RecycleMania was a competition created by the recycling coordinators of Ohio State University and Miami University trying to play on the existing rivalry between the schools to motivate students to recycle more. It worked and spread quickly to include other schools.

RecycleMania now has multiple categories to compete in. The first, the Grand Champion category, is judged as the percentage of overall waste that is recycled. In 2014, UMD had the best score in the ACC. This year, UMD scored a 37.551 percent,

coming in fourth place in the Big Ten and 86th in the country. Rutgers won the Big Ten with a score of 49.519 percent, while Antioch University Seattle had the best score in the country with a whopping 96.759 percent of all waste being recycled.

Other categories include the Per Capita Classic, Waste Minimization, and the Gorilla Prize. The Per Capita Classic measures the weight of recycled material per full-time student and staff member. Rutgers won the Big Ten again, with 15.788 pounds of material per person recycled over the eight-week period, while Loyola Marymount University had students and staff recycling 73.874 pounds per person. UMD came in with an average of 10.011 pounds per person. In Waste Minimization, schools are judged on how little total waste (recycled or trash) is produced per capita. UMD clocked in at second in the Big Ten with 35.995 pounds of waste per person, just behind the University of Iowa with 28.720 pounds per person. North Lake College averaged only 3.290 pounds of waste per person.

The Gorilla Prize had Big Ten member, Rutgers, winning the entire national competition. It measures the gross weight of paper, cardboard, bottles and cans recycled. This played into the hands of large universities, since the campus population did not have an effect. Rutgers recycled over 2.2 billion pounds of recyclable material, almost four times as much as UMD recycled.

This competition has been a huge success every year since it began promoting developments in recycling programs at schools across the country. Continued advertisement and promotion of this competition around UMD and at other schools will help the success rate rise and will help our recycling program improve, ultimately creating a greener campus here at UMD and more green campuses elsewhere.

2141 Tydings Hall  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
301-405-1692

[PrimannumHonorSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PrimannumHonorSociety@gmail.com)

The Primannum Honor Society is a University of Maryland Honor Society that represents two national honor societies, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Both of these national honor societies recognize academic excellence during a student's first year in college.