

# Generation Response

Spring 2012



People • Earth • Art

# LOYAL AND NEW READERS

Generation Response has gone through many transition phases recently with the graduation of key contributors. Luckily we are a dedicated group with a willingness to respond to new challenges. We are Generation Response's new Co-Editors-In-Chief and are really excited to lead the group into a new chapter this spring after the graduation of the previous Editor in Chiefs. We were both abroad last semester, studying in Copenhagen and Istanbul, and both had incredible experiences traveling and seeing the world from different perspectives. We return to Emory motivated to highlight the many

important issues in our own community while valuing the diverse perspectives that we have come to appreciate. The Emory community is such a special place and we have faith that students and the administration will all do our parts to make our world a better place. There is always something to be done, whether it's a big change or a small one. Continue turning to Generation Response to stay informed about important sustainability and humanitarian issues around Emory and Atlanta. Take action after reading by registering to vote on a major transportation act described in an article in this issue.

We all have the ability to make our community a better place. We are thrilled to get this issue out just in time for the celebration of Earth Week this year and hope that you all enjoy all of the articles written by our wonderful team at Generation Response.

Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved with the publication. We like you, so like us (on Facebook)!

Thanks for reading and please enjoy the Spring 2012 issue!

Cass Gonzalez &  
Margot Pagan  
Editors-In-Chief

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### *masthead*

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# READERS BEYOND BORDERS

BY MELIA HAILE

**R**eaders Beyond Borders is a performance-driven organization built upon innovative solutions to some of the world's most challenging problems. The organization is dedicated to providing educational opportunity to orphans and vulnerable children.

Readers Beyond Borders (RBB) began with an ambitious young Emory student with a dream to help others in need. In summer 2011, Naveed Amalfard ('10) went to Kenya on a trip with a multidisciplinary team from Emory's Global Health Institute. There, he worked in an artificially constructed village dedicated to housing and educating 800 orphans whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS. In regards to his experience in the rural village, Naveed had this to say:

"Nyumbani Village was in the middle of nowhere--three hours east of Nairobi, Kenya and ten miles from a paved road. It is hot and dry in the village with scarce water and no wired electricity. Life is not easy in the village, but to me, it was a happy place. The village is a brilliant model. It tries to bridge the two generations affected by AIDS deaths: the parents and children of those who have died of AIDS. These parents (who are grandparents) and the children come to Nyumbani Village, and they are paired with about 10 adopted children per grandparent."

After getting to know the orphans living there, Naveed

*"I believe that innovative projects are not just for the high tech industries."*

realized that he was in a position to help the orphans, and thus Readers Beyond Borders



was conceived. Readers Beyond Borders is an international organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities for impoverished students.

"I believe that innovative projects are not just for the high tech industries. We've created a sponsorship model that's net cost is one-sixteenth that of similar programs that USAID (United States Agency for International Development) runs. That's an example of real innovation that allows donations to go up to sixteen times further. Donors love innovation, and of course, they prefer sponsoring 16 orphans with us over 1 orphan with other programs."

After returning to the United States, Naveed has applied for official 501c3 status, developed a public relations platform, and recruited several exemplary Emory students for his staff. His next goal is to recruit a research time that can develop low cost-high impact projects. Readers Beyond Borders has also raised enough funds to send three Kenyan orphans to university this fall since its inception this past summer. In addition, another student will begin this winter, and two more in the spring.

Sarah Mosby (COO of RBB) defines the organization best when she says,

"The best part is that we are a completely Emory student run organization. We are college students helping other college students realize their dreams, by connecting donors to students in need that want to desperately pursue their education." Amazingly, both Sarah and Naveed are only sophomores in the college.



*We are college students helping other college students realize their dreams*

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# THE PRICE OF IGNORANCE

# SEX TRAFFICKING IN A

BY **SOPHIA  
DHANANI**

**E**mory University: the name says it all. We are aware of its connotation: intelligent students that are aiming for success. Future Coca Cola CEO's, doctors, businessmen, and lawyers walk the streets of this campus, their names filled with promise. We are a minority of society today. We have the resources and guidance to pursue our dreams and the right people to help our visions become reality. However, we are subject to one great weakness, our ability to get caught up in our own world; our incapability to perceive what exists outside the Emory Bubble, and the truth that lurks just behind the shallow masks of our reality.

Atlanta is our tem-

porary home. It is the home of the world's largest aquarium and busiest airport. People from different walks of life converge in this one southern hub for the arts, business, scholarly pursuits, and culture. Atlanta is also home to a bustling 7 billion dollar sex slavery industry. Close to 600,000 people are working as slaves across Canada and the United States, some as young as 5 years old, in the form of prostitution, as masseuses, and predominantly as victims of sex tourism, and rape. Here is the number most relevant to you: one. Atlanta is number one in sex trafficking rates in the nation. 500 under aged girls are trafficked each month in

Atlanta, sold at about 90 dollars a person if they are young. 100 to 150 girls are raped for profit every weekend and the city faced over 400 arrests on sex trafficking charges in 2010, a number that is steadily rising with time. Women and girls are held under false pretenses where johns, or "daddies" will rape, beat, threaten and even kill to keep the girls as subjects. On average, girls are killed within 7 years of entering the business.

One such story, relayed by an acquaintance of the victim in the industry, revolves around a woman who managed to escape her john, "she made that fateful mistake of coming back,". Few days later she was found beaten to death

lying outside the Salvation Army offices. Another documents a college student going to a party with a senior, being drugged and passing out. She recalls how the senior received a packet of money before she lost consciousness. The morning drive back was when she found out she had been raped and beat. More often than not, women have been introduced into the industry by those they know and trust, and will not realize the situation until it is too late.

Campaigns such as Innocence Atlanta and Not for Sale are working to spread awareness and offer rehabilitation to victims of sex trafficking. Awareness does not stop there. Emory students have

# ATLANTA

*"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"*

*- Edmund Burke*

also done all they can to spread awareness and to "pop" the Emory Bubble. Start up club, Emory Students against Modern Slavery (Emory SAMS), functions as the go-to club at Emory College for its efforts in raising awareness regarding sex trafficking on the local, national, and international level. Started by Founder Joshua Degastyne and now run by co - presidents Mansi Upadhyay and Sindhu Subramanian, the club has done several things to establish its presence on Emory's campus. Last semester, they hosted a very successful viewing of the documentary Nefarious Merchant of Souls and also created wide spread awareness among students with the sales of Red

Thread Movement bracelets helping escaped sex trafficking victims in Nepal. Most recently, Emory SAMS has teamed up with the medical school in order to sell jewelry as well as on several other occasions for fundraising possibilities.

In the end, I will hold no reverie that one more advocate will sway the nation: Emory will continue to be Emory, Atlanta will continue to be Atlanta, and you will continue to be you. But one thing, to bear in mind is that it can happen to anyone. Victims have been abducted from homes of middle - class families who otherwise would have gone to college. Evil knows no bounds. You can still look into the

mirror, and see yourself, your dreams, and aspirations... what do they see? Will they recognize the blank stares that dejectedly stare back at them? The more important question is, when the cries of a woman finally reach your ears, and the bounds of our reality finally encompass realms outside our ignorance: will you listen? Sindhu answers this question in one very important remark, "By being ignorant of it, you are letting it happen".

# BE AFRAID MICHIGAN STATE, BE VERY AFRAID

*the Longest Taco from Emory is coming to town*

BY SUKWON KOH

**A**t first we thought that Emory had set the Guinness record for the world's longest sustainable seafood taco a year ago. However, we soon heard the news that MSU (Michigan State University) had broken our record by making almost 1,100 seafood tacos. On March 2, 2012 Emory held a huge event from Cox bridge all the way to the front door of the DUC. There were more than 20 tables lined-up, and members from Emory dining were all outside preparing something special. It was the day of Emory's second attempt to set the world record for the longest sustainable seafood taco by making roughly 1,300 tacos and aligning them.

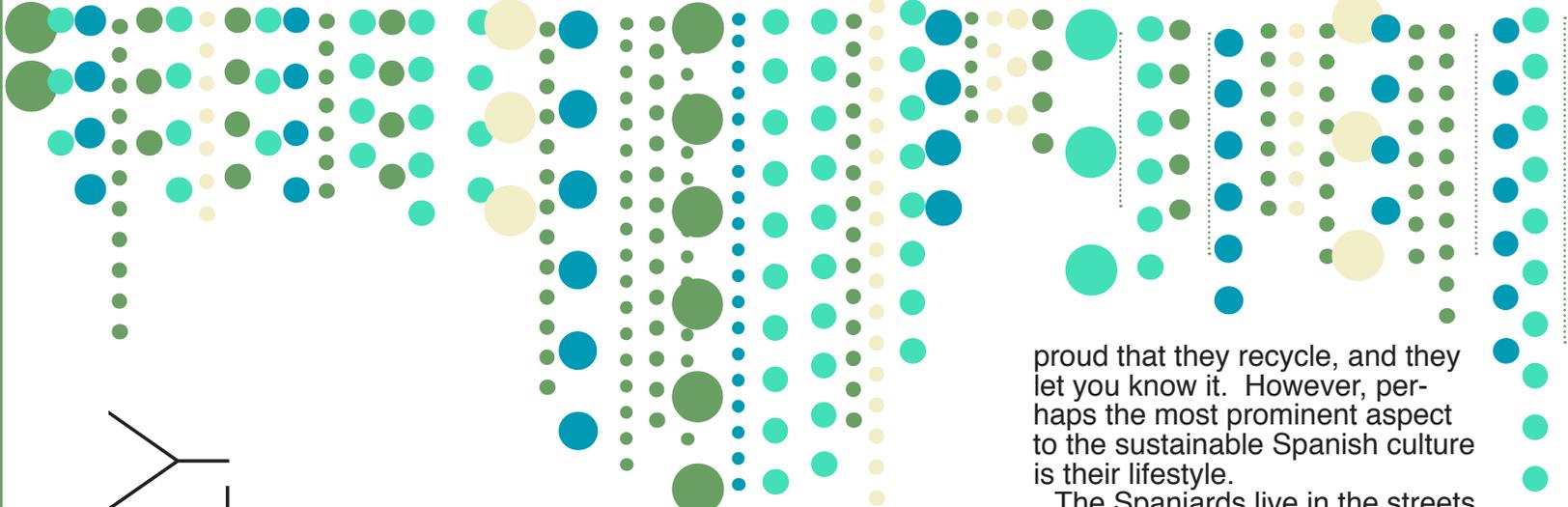
The event was special in that the students could participate in making tacos. The filling was made of sustainable fish from Alaska and there were flour tortillas all lined-up on the prepared tables. The students who volunteered had to grab

the filling and put it on the flour tortillas and wrap them. It was such a simple process, and many students who walked by were interested and eager to volunteer.

Julie Shaffer, who is the project manager for sustainability in food service administration at Emory, said "This event is just so wonderful! It will provide students with valuable experience that could never be forgotten while studying at Emory. Also, I am glad that by doing this event, we can promote the importance of sustainability and let the students now how passionate the school is about sustainability issues. Above all, it will be fun!"

Thanks to the wonderful weather, the event was successful and Emory once again set its world record of the longest sustainable seafood taco. Though the event was fun and quirky, it highlighted Emory's deeper dedication to creating a sustainable university.





# LIVING SUSTAINABLY IN SALAMANCA

by Michael  
Goldberg

**W**ith an unemployment rate measured around 21.5% for the third quarter of 2011, Spain has one of the highest unemployment rates in the European Union. Like most countries, it is enduring one of the toughest economic periods since the Great Depression. The Eurozone crisis has pushed the Spanish to save and conserve not only their money, but their energy as well. For instance, it is Spanish national law that the heat in apartment buildings cannot be turned on until November 1. Around this time when I went without heat, I threw on an extra shirt (or two) and dove under the covers. Was this the perfect situation? No, but I realize the changes that must be made given the current economic climate. Although the current economic situation influences many of their energy usage decisions, it is obvious that the general Spanish population does care about living sustainably, with or without an economic crisis.

Living in Salamanca, a small city of about 200,000 residents including 30,000 college students, it is quite obvious that the environment is important to them. For one, all of the lights in the hallways are on timers, in buildings both old and new. Even though they aren't equipped with motion sensors, like in the newer buildings on campus, the timers are much more prevalent throughout the entire city than in a typical American one. Scattered throughout the city, there are groups of dumpsters: one for normal waste, as well as one for glass, paper, and plastic. The Spanish are

proud that they recycle, and they let you know it. However, perhaps the most prominent aspect to the sustainable Spanish culture is their lifestyle.

The Spaniards live in the streets. They live in bars. They are with their kids in cafés (even at one in the morning), and they are always strolling through their neighborhoods. The Spanish love being with other people, watching soccer, and sipping on a good beer. In America, we aspire to drive home in large luxurious cars alone. We build our castle of homes in the suburbs, we hide behind our big screen televisions after work, and despite our thousands of television channels, there never seems to be anything on. The beauty of Spanish society is that everyone is always together. Instead of watching *Modern Family* after dinner, the Spanish go for a walk, sit in a park, or drink coffee with friends and talk for hours. Although the majority of Spaniards live in smaller apartments, they spend so much time outside their homes that it hardly matters. There is something about interacting with other humans constantly that is so refreshing. Weaving between the crowded streets during the normal late afternoon stroll gives the city a sense of livelihood that most U.S. cities don't have.

Spain might be enduring one of the toughest economic periods since the Great Depression, but Spaniards remain resilient and positive. The cafés are still full of people eating tapas or drinking wine. The constant togetherness and socializing is in itself, an extremely sustainable practice. It might be this sense of unity that helps them get through the crisis. Yes, the sun may have certainly set for the Spaniards and their empire, but as a society, they remain strong.

# K O R T R E Y

Recipes by Julia Kortrey

# COOKS

## quinoa&beans

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- ½ onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- ¾ cup uncooked, rinsed quinoa
- 1 ½ cups vegetable broth (I like Trader Joe's Organic)
- 1 ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 (15 ounce) cans garbanzo beans or black beans (or both), rinsed and drained
- 2-3 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ cup cilantro
- Optional: add sautéed carrots or cauliflower at the end

### WHAT YOU'LL DO

1. Sauté oil, onion, garlic on medium heat until light brown.
2. Mix quinoa, sautéed mixture with vegetable broth and remaining spices.
3. Bring the mixture to a boil. Cover, reduce heat to a simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Stir in beans, cilantro and lemon juice and cook for another 5 minutes. Don't over stir.

Serves 4-6



# tofurky|kale

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*(my roommate Laurin  
taught me this one)*

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## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 2-3 Chopped Bunches of Organic Kale or a bag of
- Organic Kale (it's on the dirty dozen list!)
- 1 Cup of Vegetable Broth or Water
- 4 Cloves of Garlic
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 2 links chopped Tofurky -Italian Sausage
- Optional: ½ tablespoon Apple Cider Vinegar

## WHAT YOU'LL DO

- 1.Heat 2-3 tablespoons of EVOO in a large saucepan or wok to medium heat. Add garlic. Cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring constantly.
- 2.Turn the heat up to high. Add broth, kale, vinegar, salt and pepper. Allow to boil (The kale will cook down, so, don't be afraid to put it all in at once.)
- 3.Cover, reduce to simmer for 10-20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- 4.Meanwhile, sauté Tofurky and 1 tablespoon of EVOO in a frying pan at medium heat.
5. Mix in tofu and serve.

# Patient Bear

*by Alex Rosenfeld*

“And it’s okay if this world had a billion saviors ‘cause there’s so many things to be saved.” *Cloud Cult*

I am a polar bear. Not the most exciting statement, but at least it didn’t waste your time. I’m not here to waste your time. Sure, I’m a patient bear, but I don’t think that you understand what I mean by that quite yet.

Experts say that polar bears are an endangered species, but I don’t agree with them. “Endangered” is past tense. As far as I know, I’m still alive, and so are many other polar bears, but we’re all still in danger, which is the present tense. And realize that even though we polar bears live in the frozen tundras of Alaska, Canada, Russia, Greenland and Norway (not the North Pole?!), this isn’t Christmas. This isn’t a good present.

The Latin name for polar bear is *ursus maritimus*. This means “sea bear,” which is a

fitting name, because we do swim. However, it’s disheartening, when there are 19 subpopulations of my species, eight of them being on the decline, and no one can SEE that we BEARS need help. Sure, just like humans, we’re talented enough to walk on the land and swim in the sea, but we can’t control the weather and we can’t stop the ice from melting. Arguably, humans can’t either, but they can influence the atmosphere in ways that polar bears cannot, and that’s no misconception.

A misconception is that we polar bears drink Coca-Cola. It’s not that we wouldn’t, because I hear that it’s rather delicious, but no one sells it where we live. In fact, no one sells much of anything where we live (I once heard that we were supposed to get a store called “The

Bear Necessities,” but once the owners were told that they would be sued for stealing the phrase, they scrapped the whole project. I don’t know where the phrase originated, but not getting that store made me feel baloo...I mean blue, sorry).

My species is forced to hunt for all of its own food, a burden that most humans never have to worry about. Most humans just go to the store, buy their food and heat it up in their fancy ovens. As a polar bear, I have to hunt down seals, as they are the only source of food that will provide me with the necessary calories to sustain my massive build. I have to swim out into the freezing water, catch a seal (which isn’t easy, because naturally, they’re trying to avoid becoming my dinner) and then, using my



powerful claws, I have to haul what could be up to 200 pounds of food back to shore. Sure, it's a great workout, leaving me looking mighty fine for the ladies to look at, but it gets tiring after a while. Being at the top of the food chain is a big time commitment, so we polar bears don't get many opportunities to figure out how to reverse global warming. Even if we did have the time, humans are the ones who are causing this environmental catastrophe that is destroying our homes. Shouldn't they be the ones to fix it?

But who would ever want to help a killing machine? All bears do is attack humans, right? That's another misconception. And for that matter, so is the notion that we're all cute, fuzzy and adorable, like the teddy bears people sleep with when they're children (or when they're 40 and have no shame).

And it's not just polar bears. In general, bears are normal creatures, just trying to survive. Yes, we're vicious at times, but that's because we're at the top of the food chain. We have to kill. We have to attack in order to survive. So every now and then, when humans provoke us, such as when they're hunting us or trying to play with our cubs (not the baseball team) or when they're trying to hug us like we're teddy bears, we get startled or angry and attack them. It's nothing personal. We're just trying to protect ourselves.

Major studies project polar bears will be extinct by the year 2050. That's not all that far away, especially when you consider that a polar bear has an average life span of only 15-18 years. 38 years translates into about 2.5 generations worth of polar bears. Today, somewhere in

the range of 20,000 polar bears are alive. To do some simple math, 20,000 polar bears multiplied by 2.5 equals 50,000 polar bears. Could you live knowing that you didn't so much as try to prevent such a monstrous extinction?

Realize that I'm not a patient bear because I enjoy waiting around for things, because I don't. We polar bears need help, and we need it now. I'm a patient bear in the same sense that you are a patient every time you go to the doctor. So, imagine that you have a life threatening illness, such as cancer or an STD or an impending extinction. How long would you want to wait for somebody to try to save your life? I'm dying. My species is dying, and we need your help now. I'm a patient bear, but I can't wait forever.

# TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

BY MADISON POCHE

I asked the director of the office of sustainability, Ciannat Howett, “What can students really do at Emory to make an impact?” She said the one and only thing that matters is voting for the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), and this vote will determine the future of transportation in Atlanta.

You don’t need to be a car-less freshman to understand the dearth of public transportation options in Atlanta: Forbes recently gave Atlanta the title for the worst commute in the entire country. If you have ever wished for a MARTA stop at Emory or to be able to drive down North Decatur at 5 p.m., that opportunity is in your hands by voting for the Transportation Investment Act during this year’s referendum. The plan is absolutely crucial to improving quality of life, air and business

growth in our city.

## What infrastructure will be created?

The bill contains \$6.14 billion for transit projects. It is split 52-48 between public transportation projects and road projects, respectively. This includes \$700 million for a transit line to connect Emory University through the “Clifton Corridor” area, and \$602 million in support of the Atlanta BeltLine, reports the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

## Why would anyone oppose the bill?

It will create a 1 percent sales tax for the counties included.

## Oh no, the vote is happening in July. What about students?

- 1 Register to vote in Georgia now! (You will be able to re-register in another state before presidential elections November 2012)
- 2 Fill out an absentee ballot that we email to you.

How? Get on our mailing list, and we will send you everything you need to know. Email me at [mpoche@emory.edu](mailto:mpoche@emory.edu) with the subject line “TIA.”

This bill has the potential to make an enormous difference in the lives of Emory students and Atlanta residents as a whole. Let’s make our voices heard!

# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BRIGADES IN PANAMA

BY JESSICA DEERE



In May of 2011 twelve Emory students traveled to Panama to help mitigate environmental problems in an indigenous community called Piriati Emberá. Our main initiatives in the community were reforestation and waste management.

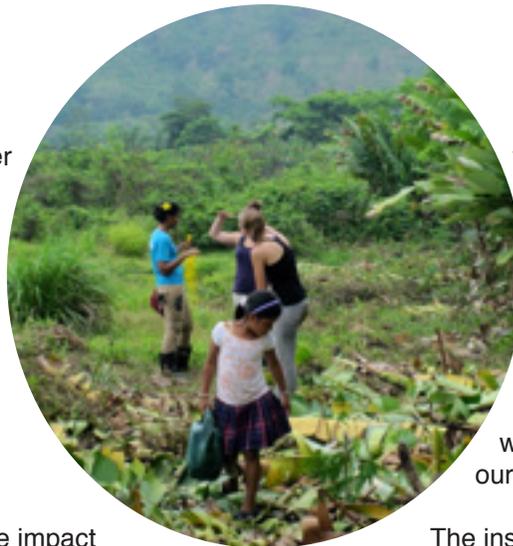
Our team was successful in organizing an efficient system for the reforestation project enabling us to finish ahead of schedule. We planted 350 trees by hand and even had some help from the children in the village. We also helped establish a community based Environmental Committee to continue proper reforestation in the future.

Along with reforestation, our Brigade's environmental education addressed the issue of waste management. We did fun and interactive workshops in the classrooms to educate the students about the 3 R's of recycling: "reduce, reuse, and recycle." We also taught efficient sorting and disposal methods nec-

essary for proper waste management. We emphasized why these environmental issues were important to the survival of their community and the world.

Our immediate impact on the community was the recycling bins placed in the classrooms and the tree saplings that were planted. Once grown, the trees will provide sustainability for the people in many ways. The village's main source of income comes from crafts they create from the wood provided from the trees. The cultural exchange between Emory's Global Environmental Brigade group and this community's first environmental brigade was mutually beneficial.

We found the people of Piriati Emberá open and trusting. The picture below is an example of the kindness shown to us. This family



warmly welcomed us into their home on two separate occasions. They were comfortable in sharing their traditional culture with us, but gracious in that they were not critical of our Western influence.

The inspirational week was filled with happiness, hard work, and fun. Upon arrival in the community we immediately began to experience a connection with the children and families. The farewell presentation we received from the community was very heartwarming. The week we spent in this community was so amazing and its effect on each of us is difficult to put into words. It was definitely a week no one on the brigade will ever forget.



# Emory Student Stepping Ahead to Make a Sustainable Campus

BY SUKWON KOH



**M**any of the newcomers and students who have been here at Emory would agree that Emory has something special about sustainability. Walking along Asbury circle towards Cox, students can see several composting areas where they are responsible for throwing away their garbage based on certain categories (e.g. plastic, paper, compost, and so on). They can see for themselves why recycling and being sustainable matter to the Emory community. Aside from the administration's efforts to make

Emory a more sustainable community, students are stepping up and raising their voice to deliver a message of why it is important to keep the community clean by organizing groups. These student-organized groups known as the "Green Groups" at Emory are actively communicating with the student body in order to spread information regarding the importance of being sustainable on our campus.

When mentioning the "Green Groups" at Emory, it would be wrong not to mention these three groups in particular: Green Team Emory, Emory Environmental Alliance, and The Green Bean Coffee Cart. These groups actively communicate with each other by organizing meetings on regular basis to discuss what they can do to

make Emory a cleaner and more sustainable community. For example, Emory Green Team, Emory dining's undergraduate branch for sustainability department, actively communicate with Emory dining department's main-sustainability initiatives to increase awareness of what kind of food the students eat. Additionally, thanks to Emory Green Team, there are movie nights in the DUC where students can watch movies that have to do with sustainability issues. Emory Environmental Alliance does Lullwater-clean ups on an annual basis. The Green Bean makes eating and drinking sustainably on campus accessible and affordable on a daily basis with their coffee, teas, and baked goods. Instead of just sitting at a round table to discuss environmental issues, the "Green Groups" actively participate in multiple activities to keep the Emory community clean tackling the issues from all sides.

Zachary J. Pettigrew, a sophomore who is majoring in anthropology and human biology, is the president of Green team Emory and says "For the future, the Green Team will focus on doing activities outside campus; we hope that we will plan on making a trip outside campus where we can meet other green groups and maybe go on a trip to the farm and talk to local farmers so that we can be more equipped with knowledge regarding sustainability and bring it to our campus to create a more sustainable environment."



# Save a tree *...doom a family?*

BY MELIA HAILE

## *A look at the indiscrepancies of wealth and health in the conservations of Tanzania*



This past spring, I went on a study abroad trip to Tanzania, and I must say—It changed my life. There are over 130 tribes there, and each is distinct and unique as the others. My group of students (from all over the United States) spent about fifty or so days camping in the national parks amongst the lions and gazelle. At one point, a trip to the restroom involved navigating past

the enormous herd of immense Cape buffalo or waiting for the lion to leave the ladies' room.

At Emory, nearly all students have at one point or another been exposed to the ever-expansive sustainability campaign. We hear all of the time of the merits of going green, saving the rainforests, and recycling water. We hear it so much, that these ideas are ingrained in us. We see anyone not striving to be green or promoting the preservation of the world's natural beauty as simply awful. I am no different, I mean, why wouldn't you want to save the rainforest?

In Tanzania one of the courses we studied was political ecology, specifically of the national parks. We camped there for days at an end and learned about the creation of national parks and who uses them, along with their many benefits and merits, which in-

cluded reducing poaching and animal extinctions. Local park rangers and teachers also taught us about conservation efforts, over grazing, and slash and burn techniques.

Now, this sounds all well and good. However, upon closer inspection, I realize that nothing is quite what it seems. The famous Tanzanian national parks were created when Tanzania was a British colony. Eventually, the native people living in the conservation areas became too troublesome to the Europeans, (eating the animals for food that the Europeans needed for sport, and ruining the picturesque image of a pristine wilderness with their homes), and they were subsequently evicted. It was similar to the removal of the Native Americans here in the United States. Fast forward many decades to today, the Tanzanian national parks are now famous around the world (one is an UNESCO World Heritage Site). They draw crowds of tourists, so many that a large portion of the national GDP is based off of tourism. Interestingly, after conducting many focal groups and meeting Tanzanians, we found that most Tanzanians cannot afford to visit the parks, and have never seen a lion in their lives. They said that the parks are exclusively for the foreign visitors, and rarely even give back to their communities.

Many of these Tanzanian national parks have incredible safari lodges with amenities that many of the local residents have never seen. A night in the safari lodges can cost in the thou-



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sands, while right beyond the gates there are villages where people are dying from malaria, bad drinking water, lack of grazing lands and so on. The local villagers are not allowed to enter the parks to graze their animals, despite the fact that many of the national parks were lands where they grazed their cattle on for hundreds of years. With nowhere to graze their animals, many animals die, and the nomads are forced to become agri-pastoralists, attempting to feed their families with crops grown on parched and depleted land. The local residents are also not allowed to enter the national parks and rainforests to gather firewood, and many enter at night to steal it. Without the firewood, their families would have no way to make fires and cook food or boil water. All of this exists just beyond the safari lodges. Many tourists do not

know about these places, for they rarely appear on the brochures.

These rules and regulations are implemented to prevent poaching, the killing or selling of bushmeat, and to give the severely depleted animal populations a chance to increase. Many of the animals in the national parks are endangered or threatened. These conservation policies are sound and just. Or are they? Is it just that the people who live in Tanzania gain little to nothing (monetary, community development etc.) from the parks? Is it fair that the cost of preserving these incredible species and biodiversity has to come at the cost of families not having food to eat or a fire to warm their homes? The next time you hear about saving the rainforest or preserving a species, question who really is benefiting.

# WE ARE ALL EARTHLINGS

by Cassandra Gonzalez

Food. Entertainment. Clothing. Science. Companionship. Each of these seems to be a completely separate realm of our lives. They are needs and desires met through processes that, on the surface, might appear to have no connection, but, in reality, they all have one thing in common – animals.

The 2005 documentary *Earthlings* highlights the ways humans have turned to animals to serve our needs and urges viewers to “make the connection.”

For most of us, how our basic needs are taken care of is automatic and seemingly natural. It is something we learned ages ago and give little thought to now. We open our fridges and see familiar cartons of skim milk and deli-sliced turkey. We head to the pet store and pick up a new puppy to cuddle with. We dish out hundreds of dollars on new leather boots and purses. That’s just the way it is.

*Earthlings* examines just how those comforting foods make their way into our grocery stores, the harsh reality of puppy mills, what it takes to get those classy knee-highs on our feet, and beyond. Though expertly done and eloquently narrated by Joaquin Phoenix, the film is difficult to watch. The facts it presents are undeniably unsettling and overwhelming. Few can watch a piglet being killed, a seal being ambushed and clubbed to death, or a frightened calf being branded with hot metal without feeling sick to their stomach.

A year ago, I made my own connection and became vegan so the issues outlined in the film were nothing new to me. Despite that, the film still left me in tears when I finally watched just a few weeks ago. It’s hard to lust after a cheeseburger or a new purse when you’ve seen the pain both animals and people endure to bring these products to us.

Animal and human rights are intrinsically connected. One cannot make strides for animal rights without also doing a great service to people along the way. As the film demonstrates, society’s exploitation of animals carries consequences for all of us including damaging the skin of tannery workers in India, exposing slaughterhouse workers in the United States to unsafe conditions, and increasing the prevalence of heart disease, obesity, and cancers worldwide. Our lives are not separate. Just as with driving a gas-guzzling car or failing to recycle, our choices have a ripple effect that impacts all forms of life all over the world. We are all Earthlings.

Sir Paul McCartney famously remarked, “If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be vegetarian.” Because of this, slaughterhouses are unlikely to ever be built of transparent glass, but this film provides a window into the uncomfortable truths our society perpetuates every day. Ignorance is not bliss for the exploited victims. The facts are clear – we do not need animal products to survive. We can feed, clothe, and entertain ourselves in ways that are more sustainable, compassionate, and conscious, if we allow ourselves to know the truth.

For more information, head to [www.earthlings.com](http://www.earthlings.com), watch the film for free, and make the connection for the animals, the earth, and all of us on it.