

## A Green President

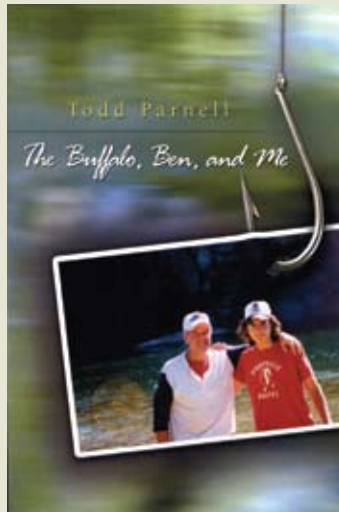
Perhaps literally green after 12 days spent floating on the Buffalo River, Drury's Interim President Todd Parnell recently published a book about that experience. The book, *The Buffalo, Ben, and Me*, is a 104-page log of a float trip that Todd took with his son Ben, then 13. Ben graduated from Drury in 2003.

The book is both a delightful description of this National Scenic Riverway and a unique guide to helping a struggling teenager. It also provides rare insight into the heart of Drury's current president. As I read it, I wanted to return to the Buffalo and see it through new eyes.

The photographs and Todd's eloquent prose paint a brilliant picture of this national treasure. The book makes the historically hard-won argument to keep this beautiful piece of the planet unspoiled.

*The Buffalo, Ben, and Me* shows how people can find meaningful ways to connect to nature and through it to one another. During their trip, Todd came to view his son differently—as a boy who was struggling in school but one who was confident, alert, observant and skilled on the river and in the woods.

The trip was a reward for Ben's efforts to turn around his performance in school. It proved



to be a turning point in another way: After successfully completing a bachelor's in biology from Drury and a master's in biology at Missouri State University, Ben now works for the Missouri Department of Conservation to protect beautiful Ozark streams.

In his book Todd recounts a moment of brutal honesty, when Ben accused his dad of being a "liberal, hillbilly, hippie businessman," and after a little reflection, Todd decided to take that as a compliment.

His many years of exploring the Ozark backwoods while developing a strong intellectual core have created a unique individual with talent, compassion, and a gift of observation. Indeed, the book shows Todd as a leader who is also an environmentalist at his very core.

—Wendy Anderson

## Sustainability Council Members

Wendy Anderson, Director of Campus Sustainability and Associate Professor of Biology; Todd Parnell, Interim President, Drury University; Bill Noblitt, Executive Director, University Communications; Mandy L. Phillips, Web Editor; Mindy Maddux, Director, Student Life; Michael Buono, Director, HSA, Chair and Professor of Architecture; Meagan H. Smith, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations; Sarah Davis, Recycling Coordinator; Jason Hainline, V-P, Sustainable Design Services; Edie Boatright, Chief Executive Officer Assistant; Andrea Battaglia, Coordinator, Greek Life and Student Organizations; Carla Shaefer, Director, Energy Management and Conservation, City Utilities; Darla A. Harmon, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations; Curtis DeWitt, Assistant Director, Facilities Services; Teresa Carroll, Instructor, Biology; Donald Weber, Professor of Physics; Steven Mullins, Associate Professor of Economics; Kevin Long, Assistant Director, Facilities Services; John Miller, Director, Facilities Services; Karen Spence, Assistant Professor of architecture; and Laura Bates, student and President of Think Green!

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

I would like to celebrate our recent achievements and share some goals for the upcoming months.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the renovations to Stone Chapel highlighted our public commitments to sustainability. The university's decisions to install a geothermal heating and cooling system as well as pave the disabled persons' parking lot south of Stone Chapel with a porous surface are encouraging signs that the university is making the "right" decisions.

Yet, we have far to go to improve the efficiency of many of our other buildings. During its October meeting, the Board of Trustees approved \$2.24 million to upgrade the heating and cooling systems in 11 campus buildings. The energy savings we anticipate from these upgrades will quickly pay back these expenditures.

Under the leadership of Dr. Don Deeds, the transportation working group of the Presidents Council on Sustainability has been evaluating several issues related to student and employee travel to, from and on campus, professional travel, and miles and fuel usage of university-owned vehicles. We plan to make recommendations to the President and the Board to reduce our community's environmental impact through transportation.

To reward the progressive leadership of the Sigma Pi's for deciding to install LED Christmas lights on their house, the Sustainability Council helped subsidize the additional cost for these lights. We urge a more aggressive rate of lighting upgrades to more efficient bulbs and fixtures over the next few months, while encouraging the replacement of incandescent bulbs in office and residence lamps with more energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs ("cfls") or LEDs.

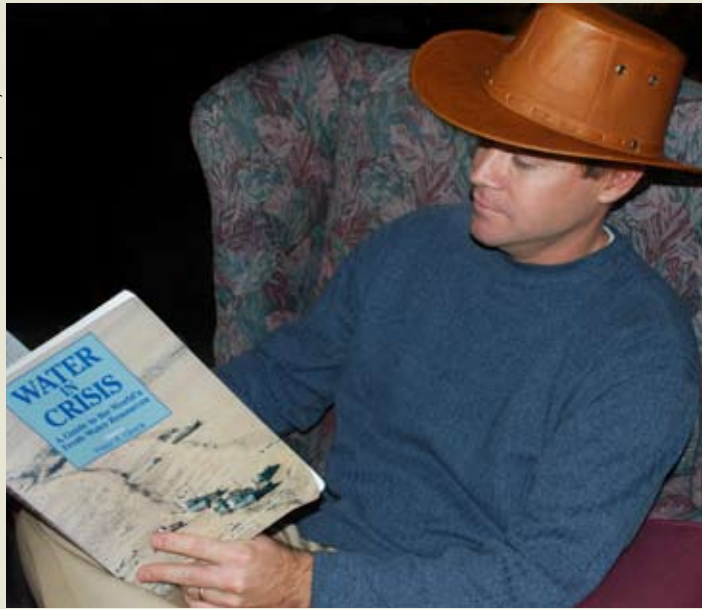
Thanks to the superb grant writing skills of Darla Harmon and Sarah Davis, we will be receiving several permanent recycling bins for plastic beverage containers from the Coca-Cola Company. These will help expand the recycling options in many buildings, which are starting to show wear and tear. We recently hired another recycling assistant, Katelyn Palmer, to pair up with Audrey Davis to move our recycled materials from the academic buildings and community center to the central dumpsters on Central Street.

Our formal partnership with OTC, Springfield Public Schools, Midtown Library, City Utilities, City of Springfield and Greene County, also known as the Central Street Recycling Coalition, will begin in earnest in January.

It's been a good year for our commitment to the environment, and I feel confident that we will realize even greater accomplishments in 2008.

—Wendy Anderson  
Director of Campus Sustainability





Dr. Sean Terry and his students study river water quality.

## A River Runs Through It

Dr. Sean Terry is teaching a living and learning community (LLC) on The Outdoors and the Environment this year in our Alpha Seminar. Besides the common Alpha textbooks and curriculum, the students can be involved in two research projects that address sustainability.

The first project, conducted early in the fall semester, was an environmental assessment of the Finley River Basin in Christian County, Mo. Students spent a day collecting water quality data at the Jude Ranch (a private property) and the Finley River. Students then analyzed the data to determine whether water quality problems were the result of unsustainable land-use practices in the basin. Issues such as septic tank regulations, deforestation and agricultural production were all considered as potential contributors to water quality concerns. The students presented their findings at a conference.

The second project, set for early April 2008, includes camping and floating the National Scenic Buffalo River. Students will research what environmental laws are in place to protect the status of this nationally designated river. They will observe species and land use in order to describe the forest and wildlife management that is needed to sustain a pristine river.

"I am excited about the curriculum and especially the field activities I am able to share with this Alpha Seminar class," said Dr. Terry. "I took special care to make sure students see firsthand a polluted stream and a pristine one and then consider how people can better manage our natural resources."

This is the second time Dr. Terry has taught The Outdoors and the Environment LLC for Alpha Seminar, and he plans to offer it again next year.

"As an environmental scientist, I consider this class a special opportunity to share my expertise with students in an outdoor setting. I hope that learning more about nature will help build a lifelong interest in enjoying and protecting our shared resources."

With new leadership and a growing interest among Drury students, the Think Green! environmental club has become a role model for sustainability among universities nationwide. Those from Drury who began Think Green! rallied the campus community around sustainability and reinforced it as a university priority. After President Todd Parnell signed the President's Climate Commitment (PCC) last year, Think Green! became more important in the university's efforts to decrease its carbon footprint.

This semester Think Green! has achieved many of its goals and looks forward to accomplishing many more during

the spring semester. The first step was to build a solid, unified group of members. Think Green! leaders accomplished this by raising awareness of the problems associated with global warming. They explained why it is crucial to take action and what our organization can do to help complete Drury's environmental commitment.

Think Green! made T-shirts for students, passed out brochures and fliers, and spoke to the students at many beginning-of-the-year events. This increased membership to 35 students.

We then began to discuss our main campus concerns and decided on goals we wanted

to achieve. We planned a large focus group where the students took surveys and voted on the top five environmental issues they wanted changed or implemented at Drury.

We reported the results to the President's Council on Sustainability. More than 150 Drury students, faculty and staff signed a petition to improve the efficiency of Drury's sprinkler/grounds system and to use Drury's printing/copying services more responsibly.

During the next several weeks, members of Think Green! learned to work as a group as we discussed current environmental events/issues, brainstormed ideas, encour-

aged and practiced sustainable lifestyles, and used the *Drury Mirror* and other means to promote our cause. We participated in planning the upcoming Focus the Nation event Jan. 31 on global warming. Several Think Green! members attended the Ozarks Climate Change Forum in October. Students described it as an encouraging and educational experience. Think Green! has also supported and worked on Drury's Habitat for Humanity project, a home for a family that will be a model for sustainable housing.

Recently, Think Green! was one of two groups honored during Student Activism Week. During this time, we held the

## Protecting Our Water

Drury faculty, staff and students partner with numerous local organizations to improve our community. A local environmental organization Drury students and employees work with is the James River Basin Partnership (JRBP). Brian Shipman, communication instructor, and Todd Parnell, Drury's interim president, work with JRBP to help protect Ozark lakes, streams and rivers by piloting water quality projects with homeowners and farmers and supporting testing projects with our team of scientists.

Nine years ago JRBP launched a program to pump septic tanks in rural areas, a common source of lake and stream contamination. Seventy percent of all Missouri septic tanks do not function properly, resulting in more than 100 million gallons of poorly treated sewage possibly entering our water every day.

After seven years of fund-raising, Bass Pro suggested that JRBP combine its annual river clean-up, River Rescue, with the company's annual Garage Sale for Conservation. Bass Pro sells excess equipment each year for charity.

The garage sale raised more than \$60,000 in three years, most of which is now used to pump septic tanks. In January 2008 JRBP will meet its goal of pumping a million gallons of septic tank contents. JRBP is sustaining the septic pump-out program by encouraging home owners with septic systems to stay current on their tank maintenance. Shipman communicates the results to tens of thousands of Ozarkers daily through TV public service announcements.

Organizations, like the James River Basin Partnership that depend on community leaders and volunteers are making a positive impact on our region's quality of life and environment through their educational initiatives and hands-on projects. Drury students, faculty and staff who would like to volunteer with the JRBP can contact Brian Shipman at [bshipman@drury.edu](mailto:bshipman@drury.edu) or Rick Jakeman, director of Leadership and Volunteer Development, at [rjakeman@drury.edu](mailto:rjakeman@drury.edu).

—Brian Shipman

# Think Green!

first annual Residential Hall Recycling Competition, where the residents competed against each other to collect the most recyclables within each facility.

Each winner received a free Nalgene bottle, preventing the overuse of disposable cups on campus. We also created a large banner where students could write the ways they practice sustainability. It was displayed in the Student Center.

We held a movie night in Lay Hall that was open to all Drury students. The film we watched, *Evan Almighty*, was made and produced in such a way that the crew theoretically gave back to the environment as much as it took (i.e., the wood

used during production was replaced by newly planted trees). We also recently sponsored 20 Drury students who saw *The 11th Hour*, a film about how the environment affects all humanity, at the Moxie Cinema.

For the remainder of the spring semester, Think Green! will post business card-size signs next to light switches in every restroom on campus to remind people to always be conscientious about their energy use.

Think Green! will continue to work with the administration and students to help build the most sustainable campus in the region.

—Laura Bates  
President of Think Green!

# Are You Green?

Being “green” is easy to talk about but harder to do. ENERGY STAR® says that the first step to being green is to be energy efficient. So are you green? After all, it all comes down to individual decisions and actions.

## Save Energy This Winter

During the winter heating season, take these steps to reduce your energy consumption while increasing the comfort of your home. Here are some low-cost and no-cost ways you can make a difference:

1. Weatherstrip around doors and windows. Sometimes a rolled-up rug or towel will do the trick. To keep cold air from circulating under your house, close the foundation vents. Don't forget to close and seal basement windows too.

2. Raise the humidity... lower the temperature. If the air in your home becomes dry in the winter, you will require a higher thermostat setting to remain comfortable. For example, 75° and 10 percent relative humidity feels the same as 70° and 50 percent humidity. Add moisture, lower the thermostat. You'll be comfortable and save energy too.

3. Adjust your water heater temperature so the kitchen water temperature is between 120 and 130 degrees F. Wrapping your water heater with an insulation blanket will help reduce heat loss through the tank walls, which is where the majority of water heating energy dollars go.

4. You can easily save energy by adjusting the thermostat while you're away (or asleep). This strategy is effective and inexpensive if you are willing to adjust the thermostat by hand



and wake up in a chilly house. To maximize your energy savings without sacrificing comfort, you can install a programmable thermostat. You can save 3–5 percent of your heating costs for each degree you set your thermostat below 68°.

5. Open shades and draperies...let the sunlight in during the day, and close them at night. Over the winter, you can save about \$5 in heating costs with each average-size, south-facing window.

6. Remove window air conditioners or seal around them. Window units, if left in place during the winter, should be wrapped on the inside, and good weather stripping should be used to block air infiltration around the unit. If wrapped on the outside, warm moist air from inside the home can condense and freeze inside the unit,

possibly causing damage to the system.

7. Install sealers or foam gaskets at outlets and switches if you feel cold air leaking in.

8. Don't let heat go up in smoke. In cold weather the furnace may have to work harder if you're using a conventional fireplace. When the mercury drops to about 25° or below, that fireplace will probably draw more heat up the chimney than it produces. Be sure the damper is closed when no fire is burning.

9. Maintain your furnace. Check the filters in your forced air heating system once a month. If they are clogged or dirty, clean or replace them. Your furnace will work more efficiently. Have your furnace serviced periodically.

10. Check your ducts. Ducts are usually out of sight and out

of mind. Over time, ducts can become disjointed or loosen from the registers, sending your valuable heat to the attic or crawlspace. Check your duct system, and if necessary, have a qualified technician do repairs, insulate and seal.

## Save Energy All Year

A good way to save anytime of the year is by using Compact Fluorescent Lights (cfls). These lights provide the same amount of light as traditional incandescent bulbs but use about 75 percent less energy, produce 75 percent less heat, and last up to 10 times longer. You can save more than \$25 in energy and replacement costs with just one CFL.

To save the most energy and money, replace your highest used fixtures or the light bulbs in them with energy-efficient models. The five highest-use fixtures in a home are typically the kitchen ceiling lights, the living or family room table and floor lamps, and the outdoor porch or post lamp.

Another way to save all year is to turn off electronics and appliances when they are not being used.

Did you know that in the average home, 40 percent of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off – to power features like clock displays and remote controls?

Electronics and appliances that have the ENERGY STAR® label use 10-25 percent less energy than standard models during regular use and use as much as 50 percent less energy when they are turned off.

Being green starts with what you do every day. Changing behavior is hard to do, but the small changes over time can add up. With energy efficiency, you are saving money while you are making a difference!

—Cara Shaefer  
Director, Energy Management  
and Conservation, City Utilities