

# IGNITE CHANGE. GO GREEN.

## Faculty Spotlight:

Ruth McDermott-Levy, PhD, MPH, RN Associate Professor;  
Director, Center for Global & Public Health, Villanova  
University College of Nursing

In this interview series we bring you inside the world of Villanova's faculty and explore how their work relates to creating a sustainable future. In this issue we hear from Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy, an associate professor in the College of Nursing.

### What is your academic background?

I received my undergraduate degree in nursing from Wilkes University. Later I attended Villanova University for my masters and doctorate in nursing education. My dissertation is titled "The Lived Experience of Arab-Muslim Female Nurses Studying in the United States". Lastly, I graduated from University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a master's in public health, focused on environmental health and global health.

### How long have you been teaching at Villanova?

I started at Villanova in 1996 as a part-time faculty member. Since 2002 I have been working as a full-time faculty member in the College of Nursing.

### In your own words, how would you define sustainability and why is it important to you?

To me, sustainability means, living within your means. Specifically, being conscious of your purchasing, energy, transportation, food, & social choices and the impact those choices have on future generations.

### Why is sustainability important to you?

As a health care professional, scholar and activist, I see a direct link between the way we live and the health of people and the planet.



Interview continues on second page

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## **What is your current research focused on?**

I am currently in the second phase of a community based participatory research project focused on communities in Northeastern PA that are undergoing natural gas development. Gas development influences the energy choices we make - it also influences the local environment (air quality, water quality, community stress) and the global environment (greenhouse gas emissions). In phase one I identified the health concerns of people living in these communities. The major concerns were air quality, water quality and stress. In phase two, I am working with community members and health professionals who understand the health risks of gas development to identify what educational materials will address the community member's environmental related health concerns.

## **Do you collaborate with others on your research?**

I have not had the opportunity to partner with others on my research, but I hope to in the future.

## **Have you been able to incorporate sustainability into your course work?**

Yes, because climate change has been shown to cause health impacts I have included sustainability in the courses NUR 3122 Imperatives for Global & Public Health - a required undergraduate course, and NUR 7081 International Health.

## **If you could create any course, what would it be?**

I would like to teach two courses- the first would be an Environmental Public Health course that included policy and advocacy to support health promoting regulations with a service-learning component where the students worked with communities on environmental justice as it relates to environmental health. The other course would focus on policy makers and their staff – using a seminar structure to address scientific evidence regarding the health impacts of clean air, clean water, energy choices, sustainable food, and climate change. Learning objectives would include how to read scientific literature and incorporate health in all policy. As I have visited legislators to discuss environmental policies, I know there is a low level of understanding regarding environmental justice and public health.

## **What are your favorite outside of the office activities?**

I am fond of anything outside- hiking, biking, reading, camping and hanging out with my family.



# JOIN US! THE COMMON GOOD, OUR COMMON HOME

NOVEMBER 12TH  
SATURDAY • NOON-5PM  
VILLANOVA ROOM

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## WORKSHOP AGENDA

12:00 - 12:45

**WELCOME: CHECK-IN/LUNCH BUFFET**

12:45 - 1:30

**SETTING THE CONTEXT**

1:30 - 2:15

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS AND SUSTAINABILITY: THE COMMON GOOD**

2:15 - 3:15

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 6 PLENARY: CLEAN WATER & SANITATION**

3:15 - 3:30

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

3:30 - 4:30

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7 PLENARY: CLIMATE ACTION**

4:30 - 5:00

**WRAP UP & ACTION PLANS**



Come hear what our faculty experts have to say!

*Speakers include: Dean Gary Gabriele, Dr. Barbara Wall, William Lorenz,  
Father Art Purcaro, Dr. Ilia Delio, Dr. Frank Galgano,  
Dr. Paul Rosier and Dr. Ruth McDermott-Levy*



For more informations please contact [mfoley24@villanova.edu](mailto:mfoley24@villanova.edu)





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Organic  
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Soy-Free  
Preservative-Free  
and 100% Delicious!



Friday, Nov 18, 10AM-1:30PM  
Connelly Center Holy Grounds



Dare to be  
**VEGAN**

**NOVEMBER IS VEGAN MONTH**



"THE BEST. SERVING THE BEST"

We're highlighting vegan dishes throughout the month of November





# EVENTS

Monday, November 7

**A Conversation with Mel Chin**

Tyler School of the Art: Temple Contemporary, 6:00PM

*Mel Chin, an artist whose work is consistently rooted in provoking social awareness and civic responsibility, addressing issues from toxic landfills to primetime television.*

Thursday, November 10

**Franklin Institute: Speaker Series**

***The Waterways of a Changing Climate***

*Part of the International Science Center Day*

The Franklin Institute, 6:30PM

Reserve tickets online



Wednesday, November 16

**RAIR Trash Bash**

Crane Arts, 1400 N American St. 7:00-10:00PM

*Celebrate and support a unique art program that challenges perception of waste culture.*

Purchase your tickets online



Thursday, November 17

**Sustainable Energy Conference:**

***Connect the Dots Now for a Self-Sufficient Energy Future***

Temple University Student Faculty Center, 8:00AM-5:00PM

Register today.

February 22-23

**EcoCareer Conference**

***Building Pathways to Sustainable Careers***

*A partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, this virtual conference is designed to prepare students for wildlife and sustainable careers.*

Register online



**National Wildlife Federation's  
EcoLeaders**



**VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY**  
Sustainability

IGNITE CHANGE. GO GREEN.



# OPPORTUNITIES

## Depauw Office of Sustainability Coordinator and Campus Farm Manager

The Office of Sustainability Coordinator and Campus Farm Manager will assist DePauw's sustainability director with Office of Sustainability initiatives. The coordinator supports the overall mission and implementation of DePauw's Sustainability Leadership Program (50%), including primary coordination of The Thrifty Tiger, DePauw Conservation Challenge, student initiatives within the Solid Waste Working Group, and annual retreat and outreach events. The employee will also manage the DePauw Campus Farm (45%), which will include planting, growing, and harvesting of crops at the one-acre vegetable garden and surrounding property, as well as coordinating volunteer and educational activities and maintaining the budget. He/she will also assist Campus Life (5%) with initiatives like "Summer at DePauw" camps.

Apply Online

## The GREEN Program: Spring & Summer Programs



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RENEWABLE ENERGY  
& SUSTAINABILITY

# ICELAND

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- [1] MAY 15 - 24
- [2] MAY 22 - 31
- [3] MAY 29 - JUNE 7
- [4] JUNE 5 - 14
- [5] JUNE 12 - 21
- [6] AUGUST 7 - 16

# CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS

## Congratulations to

**Dr. Steven Goldsmith**

Assistant Professor for Geography and the Environment

**Ms. Barbara Donnini**

Graduate Student

and Past-President of the Villanova Environmental Group (VEG)