

RACHEL CARSON INSTITUTE

AT CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

*Sustaining Earth's life support system – clean air, pure water and fertile soil –
through research, education and outreach*

Rachel Carson, ecologist and author, founder of the modern environmental movement, graduated from the Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University) in the class of 1929.



Rachel Carson Institute

The Rachel Carson Institute was established in 1989 to honor the legacy of Chatham University's famous alumna, Rachel Carson. The Rachel Carson Institute within the School of Sustainability and the Environment is an internationally focused center for outreach, education, and research, around the principles of systems thinking and multidisciplinary investigation that marked Rachel Carson's work.

Mission

- To promote and extend the legacy of Rachel Carson.
- To build on her commitment to publicly accessible science.
- To share her vision of people as part of a sustainable web of life.

Goals

- Extend Rachel Carson's principles on sustainability and environment into the broadest possible community of interest in complementary action with the academic pursuits of the School of Sustainability and the Environment and activities across the Chatham University campuses.
- Promote, provide and disseminate high quality issue analysis.
- Convene and connect among the range of organizations and individuals that participate in sustainability decisions.

Contact

Please contact Patricia M. DeMarco, Ph.D., director of the Rachel Carson Institute, to request speakers, presentations or information about our programs and opportunities.

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**SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABILITY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Rachel Carson Institute

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Shadyside Campus



Eden Hall Campus



Chatham Eastside

“...Man does not live apart from the world; he lives in the midst of a complex, dynamic interplay of physical, chemical and biological forces, and between himself and this environment there are continuing, never-ending interactions.”*

— Rachel Carson, Class of 1929

* Rachel Carson “On the Pollution of Our Environment” speech to Kaiser Permanente Medical Group and Kaiser Permanente Foundation. 1963. Reprinted in L. Lear (ed) Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson. 2004. Beacon Press. Boston. Page 228.

Chatham University expresses Rachel Carson’s environmental ethic as a community of practice applying her principles in action.

Live in Harmony with Nature

The concept of a sustainable community begins with the aspiration to meet the requirements of the living and learning community with a net zero energy profile and a net zero water profile, with nutrient recycling. Each Chatham campus is designed to encourage a sense of connection to the natural world within the limits of the existing space.

Preserve and Learn from Natural Places

The Shadyside Campus is located on a nationally recognized arboretum. The Eden Hall Campus holds three distinct ecosystems – woodlands, watershed and streams, and meadows. Research studies in the three distinct ecosystems of the Eden Hall Campus can track continuous time series data from year to year recording the character and inhabitants of the living community of which the campus life will become a part.

Minimize the Effects of Synthetic Materials on Natural Systems

Construction materials and practices for operating and maintaining the facilities use non-toxic products throughout the University. Chatham food services use locally sourced providers and compostable service items.

The Eden Hall farming operation will use organic and sustainable practices and the energy and water systems will use renewable and sustainable practices. Water nutrients will be recaptured, and wastes will be composted.

Consider the Implications of Human Actions on the Global Web of Life

The Eden Hall Campus will illustrate the capacity for a renewable and sustainable design model as a preferable approach for human development. Chatham University cultivates whole system thinking. Propagating development along sustainable principles opens more possibilities for growth in ways that are consistent with global security of our life support system – fresh air, clean water, fertile ground, and the wonderful biodiversity of our planet.

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Big thinking for a big world