CSUF students, faculty push sustainability at symposium

BY ANGIE MARCOS
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Cal State Fullerton students and faculty presented their ideas and research at the university’s 3rd Annual Sustainability Symposium on April 16.

Lindsay O’Neil and Michelle Swadish, who both work at Pollak Library, are advocates of Open Educational Resources, or OERs. OERs are educational content that can be acquired online -- either free or at a cost -- and, as a result, diminish the need for paper and lower overall cost for students. Examples of OERs include textbooks, course readings, articles, journals, quizzes and videos.

A group of undergraduate students presented “Brown is the New Green,” which highlighted the recent efforts of the Associated Student Inc.’s Committee on Environmental Sustainability to allow certain grass areas on campus to turn brown in order to raise awareness about water conservation.

Through their poster presentation, the students urged university students to put in action the sustainable changes they wanted to see on campus.

Biology graduate students Miriam Morua and Emily Wieber studied irrigation techniques that lead to water conservation. Morua’s research found that it is more efficient and cost effective to irrigate based on how much water specific plants need, instead of what the soil or surrounding environment calls for.

Geography graduate student Curtis Blondell presented, “Remote Sensing: Uses Beyond Sustainability in the Environment.” His research supported use for remote sensing in topography, landscape biology, atmospheric chemistry, climate change, oceans, freshwater surface bodies and wetlands, among others.

Another presentation promoted careers in the field of sustainability, while another questioned the walk-ability of a Ladera Ranch community.

CSUF’s annual Sustainability Symposium featured day-long presentations and panel discussions on sustainability in business, politics, social justice, technology, art and education.

Contact the writer: amarcos@ocregister.com