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People Profile: Jennifer Calvo

Editor

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as existing equipment or behaviors, as well as understanding the barriers to overcome, are part of the planning process. And don’t be isolated; find out what is going on in your community and within your larger organization. True sustainability requires partnership and collaboration.

The entrepreneurial librarian sees crisis as opportunity. The current environmental and economic crisis is motivating people and institutions across the world to rethink traditional processes towards those that are more sustainable. We believe libraries and librarians can serve as progressive exemplars for taking measurable action in a practical, affordable manner. The steps towards sustainability we take in each of our libraries can have a profound positive impact on the environment, public budgets and even the behavior of our patrons.

You can find the panel’s presentation, as well as a plethora of resources for Greening your own Library at: http://greeningyourlibrary.pbworks.com/InspirationInnovation-Celebration.

**Rumors**

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guess who were the special guests? Anthony Watkinson <anthony.watkinson@biopenworld.com> and his lovely wife Sara! They had just come from the wedding of their son Charles. You will remember that Charles Watkinson has been a regular attendee at Charleston.

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**Preserving the Vitality of Learning Commons Spaces Through Dynamic Programming:**

The Learning Commons After Dark Series

by Jennifer Calvo (Former Reference Librarian for the Learning Commons, North Carolina State University Libraries)  
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Libraries face an interesting challenge when planning and maintaining new learning spaces. Most are heavily used spaces designed to facilitate collaborative learning and social engagement. Attracting students to the space is not as much of a challenge as finding ways to meet the vision of the space, and keep the space both vibrant and relevant to the users. Three key components to keeping learning spaces vibrant will be discussed, as well as programming ideas from the Learning Commons After Dark Series.

The History and Culture of the Commons

In 2007, the NCSU Libraries opened D. H. Hill Library’s Learning Commons, a space designed to meet the rapidly changing needs of today’s students. It is not only a student-centered, but a student defined space with mobile furniture, soft-seating areas, and collaborative workspaces. The flexible design of the Learning Commons facilitates change by offering students a place that provokes their imagination. I believe the design of the space is effective because it provides a welcoming environment for students to congregate, collaborate, and create.

The Learning Commons was immediately a hit with students. Even after two years the number of students in the space can top 300 at eleven o’clock at night. Students tend to linger in the space because it accommodates both their social and academic needs. I like to think of this type of use of academic library space as a new addition to a college student’s lifestyle — a “Learning Commons Lifestyle.”

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