LITTER 02/08/2017 S. KOCH

A research project by two students shows that, despite its reputation as a sustainable university, UW-River Falls has problem with littering that may be ingrained in campus culture. Sophia Koch has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:17 O/C: STD

KALLEY SWIFT: OUR ORIGINAL GOAL WAS JUST TO SEE WHERE THE TRASH WAS LOCATED ON CAMPUS AND THEN COMPARE IT TO WHERE, LIKE, THE TRASH CAN LOCATIONS WERE, AND TO SEE IF WE HAD ADEQUATE TRASH CANS.

SOPHIA KOCH: THAT WAS HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY MAJOR KALLEY SWIFT, WHO WORKED WITH FIELD BIOLOGY MAJOR KIRSTEN SCHMIDT ON A RESEARCH POSTER DETAILING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRASH RELATIVE TO TRASH CANS ON CAMPUS. BOTH STUDENTS DID THE PROJECT AS PART OF A GEOGRAPHY CLASS WITH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MATT DOOLEY FROM THE GEOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

MATT DOOLEY: SO MY CONCERN WAS THAT, YOU’RE NOT GONNA HAVE ANY DATA POINTS BECAUSE THERE’S NO TRASH ON CAMPUS. AND, BUT I TOLD THEM TO TRY. PLEASE PROVE ME WRONG. I MEAN, THAT WAS MY IMPRESSION. AND THAT WAS THE COOL THING ABOUT THEIR PROJECT IS THEY WENT AHEAD AND PROVED ME WRONG, BIG TIME.

SOPHIA KOCH: THE PROJECT FINDS THAT TRASH IS OFTEN DROPPED WITHIN A HUNDRED FEET OF TRASH RECEPTACLES, WHICH SCHMIDT SAYS MAY BE THE RESULT OF A CULTURE PROBLEM, RATHER THAN LACK OF TRASH RECEPTACLES.

KIRSTEN SCHMIDT: I THINK, BEING A FIELD BIOLOGY MAJOR, I’VE TAKEN A LOT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASSES, SO I’VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN, LIKE, BIRDS PICK UP THE TRASH AND PUT IT IN THEIR NEST. WHICH IS WHY I DON’T LITTER, ‘CAUSE I’VE SEEN THE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT MORE. SO I THINK IF YOU’RE, MAYBE CERTAIN MAJORS DON’T GET THAT, SO THEY DON’T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE TRASH.

SOPHIA KOCH: FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M SOPHIA KOCH.

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