



## The Compost King of Queens

JAMAICA, NY (May 1, 2009) – On Thursday April 30, 2009, St. John's University officially became the first college in the US to use advanced composting technology.

With sustainability and going green at the top of many colleges's to-do lists, St. John's has proudly introduced composting to the Queens, NY Campus as part of their environmental stewardship. Campus food-service provider Chartwells is also excited about the endeavor of adding composting to their list of sustainable efforts on campus. The Rocket® A500 composter is manufactured by UK based Accelerated Compost, LTD and distributed exclusively in the US by NATH Sustainable Solutions. St. John's Office of Sustainability showed off the new composter at an Earth Day event on campus a few days earlier; the Rocket® was set up and put into action yesterday at Marillac Food Court.

Gina Capetanakis, Marketing Manager for Chartwells at St. John's says that the introduction of composting on campus just made sense: "Here at St. John's and at Chartwells' campuses across the country, we are already monitoring food waste in our kitchens through a program we call Trim Trax. As part of the guidelines of Trim Trax, food waste is separated from other kitchen waste such as plastic wrap and disposable gloves; thus making it even easier for the student volunteers to retrieve the appropriate organic materials for the Rocket®."

Each day the Rocket® is 'fed' by Student Sustainability Coordinators and student members of the St. John's University Earth Club. The student volunteers retrieve kitchen generated food waste from the Chartwells location in Marillac to put into the composter along with wood chips which are used as a bulking agent.

According to Gerardo Soto of NATH Sustainable Solutions, the composter will work much like a human in that it needs a balanced diet of proteins, fruits, vegetables and starches in order for the best results. From the inception of use it will take approximately 14 days for compost to be produced. At the end of the introductory period, compost will be produced on a daily basis and will be used to maintain the lawns and other green areas of the campus. Composting on campus will greatly reduce the amount of waste going to landfills which in turn reduces the CO2 emissions from the transportation of such waste.

Environmental stewardship is a top priority for both Chartwells and St. John's University. In December 2008, St. John's signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon emissions. Alternatively, Chartwells maintains a commitment to community and environment through various initiatives nationwide.

### *About Chartwells*

Chartwells, a division of Charlotte based Compass Group, provides dining services for over 875 colleges, universities, public and private schools around the country. Chartwells has been a proud partner at St. John's University since 2008. For more information visit [www.dineoncampus.com/stjohns](http://www.dineoncampus.com/stjohns) or [www.eatlearnlive.com](http://www.eatlearnlive.com)

### *About Compass Group*

Based in Charlotte NC, Compass Group North America is the leading foodservice and support services company with \$9 billion in revenues in 2008. With 388,000 associates worldwide, its parent company, UK-based Compass Group PLC had revenues of £11 billion in the year to September 30, 2008. [www.cgnad.com](http://www.cgnad.com)

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