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Café Solar® is a registered trademark of the  
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Certified Integrated Open Canopy™ is a trademark of MDI

For Immediate Release

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## **Fund UMass Lowell Scholarships — Buy Café Solar® Solar-Dried Coffee**

### **Café Solar® Coffee Is Processed Using Clean Technology and Forest-Friendly Farming Systems Researched by UMass Lowell Students & Faculty**

Conventional coffee-drying methods mean that every time you drink a cup of coffee— unless you are drinking Café Solar® — roughly 3 sq. cm of rainforest is destroyed. Not only does drinking Café Solar help sustain the rainforest, drinking Café Solar coffee helps fund UMass Lowell research into sustainable development, including women-managed cooperatives.

Café Solar® is the first coffee to be processed using 100% clean, renewable energy, solar and biomass. The completely off-grid technology was designed and engineered by the non-profit Mesoamerican Development Institute (MDI). MDI is collaborating with UMass Lowell, UMass Amherst, and Central American Universities to create a multi-disciplinary program supporting forest-friendly farming.

The multidisciplinary program is known as the Networked Entrepreneurial Research Center (NERC) and is focused on a women-run farmer organization, Co-operativa COMISUYL, in Honduras. COMISUYL supplies the coffee used to make Café Solar®.

The program allows student and faculty researchers to participate in cutting-edge international research, education and marketing programs supporting the introduction of clean technology for rural communities, women's empowerment and training, and new high-biodiversity agroforestry systems endorsed by the US Forest Services for coffee, essential oil, and biofuel production.

As the sustainable coffee choice at UMass Lowell, Café Solar® is available through University Dining, is certified Fair Trade and organic, and is smooth and delicious. Café Solar® is also now available online through <https://www.cafesolar.com/welcomeuml> where customers can identify

as UML friends and support this research. \$1 from every 1 lb. package and \$2 from each 5 lb. package of Café Solar® will be donated to a research and scholarship fund.

The funds raised will be awarded to student participants in the NERC program and used to support relevant faculty research through the Center for Women & Work (CWW) at UMass Lowell. CWW and its associates are researching the impact of the Café Solar® program on the women, families, and communities of COMISUYL.

For more information, contact [info@cafesolar.com](mailto:info@cafesolar.com), or the Mesoamerican Development Institute at (978) 934-2296. [View a slide show on Café Solar.](#)



**Meet Maira**

General Manager of Cooperative COMISUYL. Strong-willed and successful, María has deep roots in coffee. Her grandfather was one of the first to introduce coffee to the region and she has been growing it all her life. Now, as the only female coffee co-op Manager in Honduras, María plays a significant role in the male-dominated sector.

Support the Café Solar® scholarship program with your online purchase of coffee from Cooperative COMISUYL. [www.cafesolar.com/welcomeuml](http://www.cafesolar.com/welcomeuml)

Research in support of an alternative model for rural sustainable development in partnership with UMass Lowell and its Center for Women and Work



(Graphic by Prof. Karen Roehr and her students.)

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