News Highlights and Announcements

- **SAVE THE DATE – E.O. Wilson Keynote for Colloquium!**
  E.O. Wilson will speak on the University Park campus on Monday April 16, 2012 as part of the annual 8th annual Colloquium on the Environment speaker series. His talk "The Social Conquest of Earth" is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in 100 Thomas Building. A book signing and reception will immediately follow his lecture. Event is free and open to the public.

- **Strategic Sustainability Pre-final plan available**
  As part of the continuing effort to promote sustainable practices across Penn State, a University Sustainability Council was convened to draft a Strategic Plan for Sustainability at Penn State: 2011-12 through 2015-16. The council was charged to "identify broad goals and opportunities to leverage and link the many sustainability initiatives already occurring at the University and to recommend new thrusts ... for operational initiatives, academic programs and administrative services associated with sustainability." Steve Maruszewski, assistant vice president of the Office of Physical Plant, and Denice Wardrop, assistant director of the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment and senior scientist and professor of geography and ecology, serve as the council's co-chairs. The council's pre-final plan was presented to President Rodney Erickson and Provost Rob Pangborn on December 22, 2011. The committee welcomes comments about this pre-final plan.

- **Blandford co-author of guest editorial in EuroChoices**
  David Blandford, professor of agricultural and environmental economics, co-authored the guest editorial article "Bioenergy: Experiences from Both Sides of the Atlantic" in the December 2011 special issue of EuroChoices focused on Bioenergy, The journal is published by the Agricultural Economics Society and the European Association of Agricultural Economists.

- **ResearchPennState: Food for the Future: A conversation with environmental historian Bryan McDonald**
  "When we talk about globalization," Bryan McDonald says, “people tend to think about computers or airplanes. But the way most people interact with the world on a daily basis is through what they eat.” That’s why McDonald, an environmental historian and assistant professor of Science Technology and Society at Penn State, chose food as the focus of his most recent book. Food
Security, published by Polity Press, examines the interlocking challenges of developing a sustainable global food system for the 21st century. McDonald is a PSIEE co-hire.

- **Davis Group Measures Greenhouse Gas Emissions for World Economic Forum**
  Ken Davis, professor of meteorology, and his research group partnered with Picarro to measure greenhouse gas emissions before and during the World Economic Forum held from Jan. 25-29 in Davos, Switzerland. Picarro, Inc., an instrument company that makes greenhouse gas sensors, was selected to be a technology innovation demonstration company at the WEF, and recruited Davis's research group as partners in the demonstration. Davis's group is a leader in developing the techniques needed to measure regional greenhouse gas fluxes using atmospheric budgets, and has a long history of working with Picarro instruments in their field experiments.

- **Civil Engineering's Peggy Johnson Wins Woman of the Year Award**
  Peggy Johnson, professor and head of civil and environmental engineering, has been named the winner of the American Society of Civil Engineering Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) Margaret S. Petersen Outstanding Woman of the Year Award.

- **Mann and Pollard Elected as 2012 AGU Fellows**
  The American Geophysical Union (AGU) recently announced that Michael E. Mann, professor of meteorology and David Pollard, senior research scientist in the EMS Earth and Environmental Systems Institute, were elected as 2012 AGU Fellows. This honor is given to individual AGU members who have made exceptional scientific contributions and attained acknowledged eminence in the fields of Earth and space sciences. They will be recognized during an Honors Ceremony at the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting, to be held 6-10 December, in San Francisco, CA.

- **Penn State Researchers Recognized for Clean Air Research**
  A team from industry, government and academia, including Penn State researchers, received “Project of the Year” honors from the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program.

- **Effort to Establish Blight-Free American Chestnut Tree Switches Gears**
  The three-decades-old initiative to restore American chestnut trees back into forests in the eastern United States has entered a new phase, according to an expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

- **Keller: Climate Balancing: Sea-Level Rise vs. Surface Temperature Change Rates**
  Engineering our way out of global climate warming may not be as easy as simply reducing the incoming solar energy, according to a team of University of Bristol and Penn State climate scientists. Designing the approach to control both sea level rise and rates of surface air temperature changes requires a balancing act to accommodate the diverging needs of different locations.

- **Swistock: Penn State Water-Well Expert Testifies Before State House Committee**
  A Penn State Extension water specialist told a House committee on Jan. 10 that research has
shown that about 40 percent of all water wells in the state fail to meet at least one safe-drinking-water standard.

Featured Conferences/Events

- **ESRI Forestry GIS Conference**
  Join the ESRI Forestry Group at ESRI’s headquarters in Redlands, California for the 2012 ESRI Forestry GIS Conference. The theme is “Solutions and Resources for Today’s Forest Management Challenges.” The conference is scheduled for May 1-3, 2012.

- **ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit**
  The third annual ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit will be held at the Gaylord Convention Center, February 27 - 29, 2012. The event is designed to bring together key players from across the energy ecosystem – researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, corporate executives, and government officials – to share ideas for developing and deploying the next generation of clean energy technologies.

- [View all 196 open conferences](#)

Featured Campus Conferences/Symposia

- **Panel Explores Career Opportunities in Sustainable Business**
  Penn State students seeking information about business careers that contribute to a more sustainable society are invited to a free panel discussion “Careers in Sustainable Business” with leaders in the field, including open Q &A. Panel discussion will be held on Monday, February 6 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. in Pattee Library’s Foster Auditorium.

- **15th Annual Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium**
  The symposium will be held March 30 - 31, 2012 on the University Park campus. They are currently accepting Abstracts and submissions for the Photo and T-shirt contests. The deadline for all submissions is February 24th 2012. Keynote speakers are Jizhong Zhou, Presidential Professor of Botany and Microbiology and Director of the Institute for Environmental Genomics at the University of Oklahoma, and Anne Thompson, professor of meteorology at Penn State. Any interested faculty and postdocs are invited to join the judging committee. If you have any questions please contact the 2012 co-chairs, Hengjing Yan (hxy159@psu.edu) and Daniel Veghte (dov5041@psu.edu).

- **Student Research Poster Competition at the 2012 Penn State Bioenergy Symposium**
  The contest is open to Penn State graduate students or undergraduate students who are working on bioenergy research. The entry deadline is February 15. If you have any questions, contact Daniel Ciolkosz at dec109@psu.edu or by phone at 863-3484.
- **Pa. Housing and Land Development Conference set for Feb. 22, 23**
  The 20th annual Pennsylvania Housing and Land Development Conference will be held on Feb. 22 and 23 at the Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's University Park campus.

- **Media-mogul Arianna Huffington third Distinguished Speaker for 2011-12**
  Arianna Huffington, author and co-founder, president and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post, is the third speaker in Penn State’s 2011-12 Student Programming Association’s Distinguished Speaker Series. Huffington will speak at **8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9 in Eisenhower Auditorium** at Penn State’s University Park campus. Tickets will be available to faculty, staff and the general public Thursday, Feb. 2, based on availability.

### Select Campus Events (from Jan. 11 through Jan. 21, 2012)

**February 2, 2012**

- **Chemical Engineering Seminar**
  Daniel Cosgrove, *"Cellulose, lignin and plant cell walls - key research issues about this most useful of biomaterials"*
  10:00 p.m.; 105 Wartik Laboratory

- **BMB Seminar Series**
  Ritwiki Basu, *"Using X-ray Crystallography to view Enzyme Motions: Studies of the transcription mechanism in bacteriophage RNA polymerase"*
  11:15 a.m.; 101 Althouse Laboratory

- **Distinguished Lectures in Life Science**
  Malcolm Bennett, University of Nottingham, *"Root gravitropism: a long and bending road"*
  4:00 p.m.; 100 Life Sciences Building (Berg Auditorium)

**February 3, 2012**

- **School of Forest Resources Seminar**
  David Walter, Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS, *"Spatial Epidemiology of Unique Diseases: Prions, Parasites, and Bacteria"*
  12:30-1:30 p.m.; 105 Forest Resources Building

- **Geography Coffee Hour**
  Travis Tennesen, University of Wisconsin, *"Trouble in Paradise: Conflict over Introduced Wildlife on Alaska's Kodiak Archipelago"*
  4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

**Saturday February 4, 2012**
Lectures on the Frontiers of Science - Food: Strategies for Growing Enough for Everyone
Marilyn Roossinck, "The Good Bugs: Why Agriculture Needs Microbes"
11:00 a.m.; 100 Thomas Building

February 6, 2012

Plant Biology Seminar
Bob Sharp, University of Missouri, "Root Growth under Water Deficits: Physiological Complexity and Coordination"
12:10 p.m.; 108 Wartik Laboratory

Ecology Seminar
Norm Muth, Juniata College, "Jack of all trades, master of some: phenotypic plasticity and alien invasive plants"
4:00 p.m.; 112 Borland Building

Earth Talks Series - Electronic Media and Environmental Science: e-Education to e-Data
Jeffrey Brownson, "Emergent e-Education: new strategies for research and engagement linked to the cloud classroom"
4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

Center for Sustainability Panel Discussion: "Careers in Sustainable Business"
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.; Pattee Library, Foster Auditorium

February 7, 2012

Geosciences Colloquia
Heather Savage, Columbia University, "What can dead plants tell us about earthquakes?"
4:00 p.m.; 22 Deike Building

February 8, 2012

Earth and Mineral Sciences Library Spring Film Series
"The Great Squeeze" (Part 2) (Environmental crises have the Earth at crossroads. Can we transition to a sustainable economy?)
12:15 p.m.; 105 Deike Building

Meteorology Seminar Series
Chaim Garfinkel, Johns Hopkins University, "The Influence of the Stratospheric Equatorial Quasi-Biennial Oscillation on the Troposphere"
3:30 p.m.; John J. Cahir Auditorium (112 Walker Building)

February 9, 2012
- **BMB Seminar Series**
  Yaoting Deng, "Title TBA"
  11:15 a.m.; 101 Althouse Laboratory

- **Infectious Disease Dynamics Seminar**
  Spencer Hall, Indiana University, "Five reasons why disease biologists should think about resources of hosts"
  11:00 a.m.; 203 Millennium Science Complex

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**February 10, 2012**

- **Geography Coffee Hour**
  Nora Newcombe and Tim Shipley, Temple University, "Title TBA"
  4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

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**Saturday February 11, 2012**

- **Lectures on the Frontiers of Science - Food: Strategies for Growing Enough for Everyone**
  David Hughes, "Novel Solutions to Complex Diseases for Subsistence Agriculture"
  11:00 a.m.; 100 Thomas Building

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### Select Employment/Student Opportunities

- **Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science (CUAHSI) User Support Specialist**
  The User Support Specialist will assist the community in using CUAHSI HIS for data publication, data discovery, and analysis. The target education level is a master’s degree in a water science discipline with strong data management skills.

- **CUAHSI: Communications and Public Outreach Specialist**
  The Communications-Outreach specialist will execute a communications strategy with our membership and with the broader public.

- **Chief Water Scientist**
  The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) seeks a highly qualified water scientist to serve as Chief Water Scientist for advancing research and extension programs responding to high-priority water management needs in Texas and the South-central US. Nominations and applications will be accepted through February 20, 2012

- **National Geothermal Student Competition**
  The US Department Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is pleased to announce the 2012 Geothermal Student Competition. The Competition is designed to support, inspire, and promote innovation, exploration, and entrepreneurship among the nation’s emerging
young thinkers. The Competition platform focuses on developing and advancing the next
generation of geothermal energy exploration technology that can potentially unleash an infusion
of reliable, cost-effective, and clean geothermal energy into the US energy economy. Applications
are due Feb. 10, 2012.

Select Funding Opportunities (View all 45 recent funding announcements)

- **Genomic Science: Biosystems Design to Enable Next-Generation Biofuels** (April 2)
- **Caribbean Region: Climate Adaptation Partnership Initiative** (Feb. 22)
- **University Center of Excellence for Integrated Computational Material Science and Engineering of Structural Materials** (April 2)
- **Water Resources Research National Competitive Grants Program** (March 8)
- **John Wesley Powell Center Grant** (April 30)
- **Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize** (March 1)
- **Collegiate Inventors Competition** (June 15)
- **Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grants** (May 1)
- **Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement** (Sept. 14)
- **Innovation and Research for Water Infrastructure for the 21st Century** (March 6)
- **Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)** (May 15)
- **Rapid Response to Requests for Rural Data Analysis and Issue Specific Rural Research Studies** (March 19)
- **Development of Tools to Explore the Synaptome** (April 16)
- **Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative** (March 9)
- **Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Announces Opportunity for Assistance** (Feb. 27)
- **Special Program Announcement for 2012 ONR Basic Research Challenge: Carbon Molecular Electronics** (May 1)
- **Small Modular Reactor** (Feb. 17)
- **CIG-Water Quality Credit Trading Markets Funding Opportunity** (April 1)

(View all 234 funding opportunities)

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Thank you for your continued interest in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment!

Best regards,
Patricia Craig