News Highlights and Announcements

- **PSIEE to provide training in shale gas best practices: Initiative to provide training in shale-development best practices**
  PSIEE will lead a new initiative focused on training regulators with oversight of shale development. The new multi-university initiative announced March 8 will provide best-practices training for people working in the rapidly growing shale natural gas and oil development sector. The effort involves Penn State, the University of Texas at Austin and the Colorado School of Mines.

- **Josh Fox, writer and director of film Gasland to speak this Wednesday on campus**
  Josh Fox, writer and director of the Academy Award-nominated documentary GasLand is scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 in Alumni Hall as a part of the Student Programming Association’s Lecture Series.
  ALSO: Film GasLand will be shown **TONIGHT** Tuesday March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the HUB-Robeson Center Alumni Hall.

- **Curtis Lab presents technology developments at ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit**
  Wayne Curtis attended the third annual ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit held in Washington D.C from February 27 - 29, 2012. The event is designed to bring together key players (researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, corporate executives, and government officials) from across the energy ecosystem to share ideas for developing and deploying the next generation of energy technologies. View technology showcase participants.

- **Bruce Logan: Penn State lab provides Microbial Fuel Cells for teaching tool**
  Through a partnership with Kershner Environmental Technologies, LLC in Reisterstown, MD, Bruce Logan’s lab provided laboratory-scale Microbial Fuel Cells (MFC) and accompanying equipment for Baltimore’s McDonogh High School. The MFC was installed in the school’s new Energy and Environment Nexus Laboratory. Read article in the Chesapeake Water Environment Association’s Winter 2012 issue of ecoletter.

- **Patrick Drohan: ‘Fertilizer Forecaster’ aimed at improving water quality**
  A grant of $484,000 will support a joint Penn State/U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service project designed to help farmers improve water quality by making better decisions about when and where to apply fertilizer.

- **Curtis Omiecinski: Researchers receive award for best paper of the year**
  The Society of Toxicology’s Board of Publications has selected the paper titled “Selective Phthalate Activation of Naturally Occurring Human Constitutive Androstane Receptor Splice Variants and the Pregnane X Receptor” as the best paper published in Toxicological Sciences in the past year (Toxicol. Sci 2011, 120(2): 381–391). The authors of the paper are Joshua G. DeKeyser, Elizabeth M. Laurenzana, Eric C. Peterson, Tao Chen, and Curtis J. Omiecinski. The award presentation will take place at the annual Society of Toxicology Meeting held in from March 11-15 in San Francisco.
Maranas and Janik to receive Engineering Alumni Society awards
Michael Janik and Costas Maranas will be receiving awards from the Engineering Alumni Society. Dr. Costas Maranas has been awarded the Outstanding Research Award and Dr. Michael Janik has been awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Tim Kelsey: Marcellus Shale activity affecting county-level dairy production
Natural-gas development appears to be associated with falling dairy production in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale region, but the exact reasons for the decline are unclear.

Bruce Logan: Unique salt allows energy production to move inland
Production of energy from the difference between salt water and fresh water is most convenient near the oceans, but now, using an ammonium bicarbonate salt solution, Penn State researchers can combine bacterial degradation of waste water with energy extracted from the salt-water fresh-water gradient to produce power anywhere.

Building on Penn State Law's Carlisle campus is LEED certified
Penn State Law's Lewis Katz Hall in Carlisle, Pa., has been awarded LEED Silver certification as established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

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.

Did you know? Penn State member of the National Energy Technology Laboratory's Regional University Alliance
The National Energy Technology Laboratory’s Regional University Alliance (NETL-RUA) is an energy technology research and innovation partnership among Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Penn State University, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University. View new NETL-RUA Grid Technologies Collaborative brochure.

Plots available for rent at Penn State Organic Community Garden
The Penn State Organic Community Garden will soon be accepting applications for garden plots for the coming growing season.

Online Sustainability Course Survey launched
Faculty members across all PSU colleges and campuses that teach sustainability-focused and related courses can now submit their courses and information through the online sustainability course survey.

Have a bicycle at home just sitting there?
The Centre Region Bicycle Coalition and the Penn State Center for Sustainability are working with the Kallari Association in Tena, Ecuador, to help children get to and from school. Long walks (up to two hours or more in each direction) keep many children from attending school. By donating a bicycle, you can help a child stay in school.

Also of Interest

Climate Change Continuing Education Symposium for Faculty (CAMEL) Webinars
A series of free introductory webinars are scheduled between March 20 and May 22. Each will discuss the CAMEL project, how to find a teaching module or exercise, and how to use it in your teaching. The modules we’ll discuss are designed for undergraduate students, primarily at an introductory level.
EPA unveils two new websites focused on nutrients

The nutrient pollution policy and data website helps individuals access information on EPA actions to reduce nutrient pollution, state efforts to develop numeric nutrient criteria, and EPA tools, data, research, and reports related to nutrient pollution. Visit the website at [http://epa.gov/nandppolicy](http://epa.gov/nandppolicy). The nutrient pollution website is designed for homeowners, students, and educators and features information explaining the problem of nutrient pollution; the sources of the pollution; how it affects the environment, economy, and public health; and what people can do to reduce the problem. Visit the website at [http://epa.gov/nutrientpollution](http://epa.gov/nutrientpollution).

**Special Request!**

- **PSIEE is requesting all interested researchers to PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS** for our “Research Photo Spotlight” section on the PSIEE website. All we need is a photo, short description of the photo, photo credit, short summary of research the photo is representing, and related links (if any). Please see [Research Photo Spotlight Archives](http://example.com) for examples of previously submitted research photos and information.

**Select Campus Events (from March 1-2, 2012)**

### March 13, 2012

- **Distinguished Lectures in Life Science**
  Mariana Wolfner, Cornell University, "Battles and ballets: interactions between males, females, and their molecules during reproduction in Drosophila"
  4:00 p.m.; 100 Life Sciences Building (Berg Auditorium)

- **Geosciences Colloquia**
  Ramon Arrowsmith, Arizona State University, "When did the Atacama Desert Become Dry? Geological Evidence for a Late Pliocene Drying"
  4:00 p.m.; 22 Deike Building

- **Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Seminar**
  Nate Seigel, Bucknell University, "Title TBA"
  4:00 p.m.; 135 Reber Building

- **Student Programming Association’s Lecture Series**
  Showing of film [GasLand](http://example.com)
  7 p.m.; HUB-Robeson Center Alumni Hall

### March 14, 2012

- **18th Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo - Poster Session**
  4-8:00 p.m.; Life Science’s Bridge

- **Earth and Mineral Sciences Library Spring Film Series**
  "Welcome to the Nanoworld!" (Part 3) (The promise of nanomedicine)
  12:15 p.m.; 105 Deike Building

- **Meteorology Seminar Series**
  Tammy Weckwerth, UCAR, "Convection Initiation in COPS and NCAR/EOL Instruments"
  3:30 p.m.; John J. Cahir Auditorium (112 Walker Building)
Student Programming Association’s Lecture Series
Josh Fox, writer and director of the Academy Award-nominated documentary GasLand
8 p.m.; HUB-Robeson Center Alumni Hall

March 15, 2012

BMB Seminar Series
Brittany Warner, “A Structural Study of Bacterial RNA Polymerase Conformational Changes During Transcription Elongation”
11:15 a.m.; 101 Althouse Laboratory

Chemical Engineering Seminar
Ali Khademhosseini, Harvard Medical School, “Microengineered hydrogels for stem cell bioengineering and tissue regeneration”
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 102 Chemistry Building

Extension Webinar
Charlie Abdalla, “Municipalities Roles, Water Use, and Protections”
1-2:15 p.m.

18th Annual Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo Awards Ceremony
5:00 p.m.; Berg Auditorium, Room 100, Life Sciences Building

Michael Wasseggij Price, White Earth Tribal and Community College, “Climate Impacts to the Lifeways of Native Americans”
7:30 p.m.; 113 Carnegie Building

March 16, 2012

Entomology Seminar
Judith Myers, Professor Emerita, University of British Columbia, “Population cycles of western tent caterpillars in potentially changing climate: Is warmer better?”
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; 107 Forest Resources Building

Crop and Soil Sciences Seminar
Franklin Egan, Ph.D. Candidate in Ecology, “Building multifunctional agriculture through the interplay of land-sparing and land-sharing strategies”
12:20 - 1:10 p.m.; 101 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building

EME-590 Seminar
2:30 p.m.; 157 Hosler Building

Geography Coffee Hour
Missy Rock, Dartmouth College, “Privatizing Space, Atomizing Lives: Splintering Social Networks Within Beijing’s Neoliberal Urbanism”
4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

Upcoming Conferences
View all 242 upcoming conferences

Funding Opportunities

- View all 171 funding announcements

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you do not wish to receive messages from this listserv you can unsubscribe by simply sending an e-mail to L-PSIEE-unsubscribe-request@lists.psu.edu - no subject or message text is required.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

If you know of others that may be interested in joining this listserv, they can join by sending an e-mail to: L-PSIEE-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu - no subject or message text is required. The system picks up the name and address from the e-mail headers.

We welcome your input!

In order to make this listserv useful for our subscribers, we appreciate your feedback! Please send your comments/suggestions to Patricia Craig at plc103@psu.edu. Please use “PSIEE listserv” in the subject line. If you have information that you would like us to distribute please send that as well. Thanks!

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

Best regards,

Patricia Craig