News Highlights and Announcements

- **“Science Communication: Six Things Scientists Can Learn from Science Editors”**
  When you talk about your research, do you feel like you're talking to yourself? Have ever accidentally left a lay person more confused than they were before they met you? Does your left eye go twitchy every time a journalist calls? Communicating science is scary. Fortunately, the same lessons that turn cringe-worthy journalism into smart science reporting can help you do a better job of communicating your own work—whether directly to the public, or to journalists, themselves. Don't freak out. Don't give up. Instead, come to this presentation by Maggie Koerth-Baker, science editor for the award-winning blog, BoingBoing.net. She is also the author of Before the Lights Go Out, a new book about the future of energy in the United States. Her work has appeared in Discover, Popular Science, New Scientist, and more. Lecture is part of the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute’s Earth Talks series. Talk is scheduled for Tuesday March 27 at 4:00 p.m. in 112 Walker Building.

- **Brennan selected Kavli Fellow**
  Rachel Brennan, associate professor of environmental engineering, has been selected as a Kavli Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences. She has been invited to be an Introductory Speaker at the upcoming German-American Frontiers of Science Symposium in Potsdam, Germany, from May 10 – 13, 2012.

- **Graduate Funding Opportunity**
  The Penn State CarbonEARTH (Carbon Educators and Researchers Together for Humanity) program seeks exceptional science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduate students for several $2500/month National Science Foundation (NSF) GK-12 Fellowships beginning August 1, 2012.

- **Penn State advanced vehicle team to reveal hybrid vehicle design**
  After months of designing and simulating hybrid concept designs, the Penn State Advanced Vehicle Team (PSU AVT) will hold an event to publicly reveal its final vehicle architecture for the national competition known as EcoCAR2: Plugging In to the Future.

- **U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu named honorary degree recipient**
  U.S. Secretary of Energy, distinguished scientist and Nobel Laureate Steven Chu will receive an honorary doctor of science degree from Penn State. The University’s Board of Trustees today (March 16) approved Chu as a recipient, who will receive the degree and deliver a keynote address during commencement ceremonies at University Park on May 5.

- **Director of National Science Foundation to speak April 5 at Penn State**
  Subra Suresh, the director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), will speak on Friday, April 5, in Heritage Hall at the HUB-Robeson Center on Penn State’s University Park campus. Part of this year’s Nelson W. Taylor Lecture in Materials, Suresh’s presentation, titled “Biomechanics and Human Diseases,” will begin at 11 a.m. The event will begin at 9:45 a.m. with talks by three Penn State faculty members.
Campus Sustainability Office Internships Available
Office has two intern positions open for the summer and several for next year. The applications are due on April 2nd at 8:00 a.m. Please email to Lydia@psu.edu.

'Father' of modern environmental movement to speak at Penn State
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. For more information please visit http://www.psiee.psu.edu/news/colloquium.asp online.

Select Campus Events (from March 26 – 31, 2012)

Sunday March 25, 2012

- 27th Annual Graduate Exhibition
  Noon - 3:00 p.m.; Alumni Hall, HUB-Robeson Center

March 26, 2012

- Plant Biology Seminar
  Josh Herr, "Is plant health linked to below-ground soil microbial diversity?"
  12:10 p.m.; 108 Wartik Laboratory

- Plant Pathology Seminars
  Krishna Subbarao, UC Davis, "Anthropogenic Host Range Expansion: A Unique Cause of Verticillium Wilt of Lettuce"
  3:35-4:35 p.m.; 112 Buckhout Laboratory

- Ecology Seminar
  Cristina Grozinger, "Genomic analysis of honey bee chemical communication and health"
  4:00 p.m.; 112 Borland Building

- Melissa Flagg, Director, Office of Technical Intelligence, Department of Defense (DOD), "Technological Forecasting in Science and Technology Portfolio Planning"
  4:15 PM 135 Reber Building (contact Darryl Farber (dfarber@engr.psu.edu) for more info.

March 27, 2012

- Biology Seminar Series
  Sturat Sandin, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, "The cascading effects of predators on coral reefs"
  4:00 p.m.; 8 Mueller Laboratory

- Geosciences Colloquia
  Audrey Sawyer, University of Delaware, "Dynamic Groundwater Responses to Currents, Tides, and Waves in a Shallow Estuary"
  4:00 p.m.; 22 Deike Building
- **Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering - Dusinberre Distinguished Lecture**
  Massoud Kaviany University of Michigan, "Harvesting Hot Phonons in Energy Conversion"
  4:00 p.m.; 135 Reber Building

- **Earth Talks Series - Electronic Media and Environmental Science: e-Education to e-Data**
  Maggie Koerth-Baker, Science Editor, BoingBoing.net, "Science Communication: Six Things Scientists Can Learn from Science Editors"
  4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

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**March 28, 2012**

- **Earth and Mineral Sciences Library Spring Film Series**
  "Sweet Crude" (Part 2)
  (The story of Nigeria’s Niger Delta impacts of crude oil on the people and the environment)
  12:15 p.m.; 105 Deike Building

- **Meteorology Seminar Series**
  Sandra Yuter, NC State, "Untangling Controls on Marine Stratocumulus Clouds and Drizzle"
  3:30 p.m.; John J. Cahir Auditorium (112 Walker Building)

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**March 29, 2012**

- **Entomology Seminar**
  Michelle Elekonich, NSF, "NSF funding in biology: changes and updates"
  Time and Location TBD

- **Infectious Disease Dynamics Seminar**
  Shedra Amy Snipes, "Narrative stories as science: Words as measures of health inequity, lack of healthcare, and pesticide exposure among Mexican immigrant farmworkers"
  11:00 a.m.; 203 Millennium Science Complex

- **Entomology Seminar**
  Michelle Elekonich, Program Officer for Behavioral Systems, NSF, "NSF Funding in Biology: Changes and Updates"
  Time TBD.; 324 ASI

- **Biology Seminar Series**
  Monica Medina, University of California, Merced, "Coral reef genomics: evolution and ecology of the Holobiont"
  4:00 p.m.; 8 Mueller Laboratory

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**March 30, 2012**

- **15th Annual Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium**
  4:00 p.m.: Keynote Speaker: Jizhong Zhou, "From Community Structure to Functions: Metagenomics Technologies, Current Status, Challenges and Future Perspectives, 111 Wartik
  5-7:00: Poster Session, Life Science Bridge
- **Entomology Seminar**
  Michelle Elekoniche, UNLV, *"It's not the age, it's the mileage: honey bee behavior, stress, and aging"*
  11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; 107 Forest Resources Building

- **Crop and Soil Sciences Seminar**
  Emily Duncan, Ph.D. Candidate in Agronomy, *"Improving manure management to balance nitrogen use efficiency and environmental trade-offs"*
  12:20 - 1:10 p.m.; 101 Agricultural Sciences and Industries Building

- **School of Forest Resources Seminar**
  Chris Mullin, *"Impacts of Modern Pesticide Formulation Technologies on Pollinator Health"*
  12:30-1:30 p.m.; 105 Forest Resources Building

- **M.E. John Seminar Series**
  David Just, Cornell University, *"Food Marketing, Food Policy and Obesity: It's Not What You Think"*
  1:30-2:30 p.m.; 215 Armsby

- **Geography Coffee Hour**
  Brian King, *"States of Disease: HIV/AIDS and Political Ecologies of Health"*
  4:00 p.m.; 112 Walker Building

- **Biology Seminar Series**
  Benoit Dayrat, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, *"Macroevolution and biodiversity of pulmonate gastropods"*
  4:00 p.m.; 8 Mueller Laboratory

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**Saturday March 31, 2012**

- **15th Annual Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium**
  9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Oral Sessions, 102 Chemistry Building
  3:30 p.m.: Keynote Speaker, Anne Thompson, "Observing Atmospheric Chemical and Dynamical Processes through the Lens of Ozone," 102 Chemistry Building
  4:30 p.m.; Awards Ceremony, 102 Chemistry Building

**Featured Conferences** View all 250 upcoming conferences

- **Public and Land-Grant Conference on Energy Challenges**
  The conference will be held April 29-May 1, 2012, on The Ohio State University campus in Columbus, OH. The conference is being held in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and Colorado State University, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act.

- **Biomass 2012: Confronting Challenges, Creating Opportunities - Sustaining a Commitment to Bioenergy**
  Conference will be held July 10-11, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

- **ASA, CSSA, and SSSA International Annual Meetings: Visions for a Sustainable Planet Abstracts due May 1**
  The American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of America will host more than 4,000 scientists, professionals, educators, and students at the 2012 International Annual Meetings, "Visions for a Sustainable Planet," Oct. 21-24, 2012, Cincinnati, OH.

**Job Announcements**
Funding Opportunities (View all 57 recent announcements)

- **Biomass Research and Development Initiative** (April 24)
- **Energy Savings through Improved Mechanical Systems and Building Envelope Technologies** (April 17)
- **Social Science Weather Research** (April 27)
- **Measurements and Modeling for Quantifying Air Quality and Climatic Impacts of Residential Biomass or Coal Combustion for Cooking, Heating, and Lighting** (June 19)
- **NWRI Fellowship Program** (April 25)
- **Small Modular Reactor Design Program** (May 21)
- **Postdoctoral Program in Environmental Chemistry** (August 20)
- **Regional Test Centers: Validation of Photovoltaic (PV) Modules and Systems** (May 4)
- **NIST Consortium for Post-Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) Nanoelectronics Research Grant Program** (April 16)
- **Initiative to Maximize Research Education in Genomics** (May 25)
- **ROSES: Ocean Biology and Biogeochemistry** (May 30)
- **ROSES: Carbon Monitoring System Program** (April 20)
- **ROSES: IceBridge** (May 1)
- **Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers** (May 14)
- **Validation of Hydrogen Refueling Station Performance and Advanced Refueling Components** (May 10)
- **Predictive Modeling for Automotive Lightweighting Applications and Advanced Alloy Development for Automotive and Heavy-Duty Engines** (May 7)
- **Women And Minorities In Science, Technology, Engineering And Mathematics Fields Program** (April 12)
- **Partnerships for Sustainable Research and Dissemination of Evidence-based Medicine** (May 22)
- **Advancements in Sustainable Algal Production** (April 18)
- **Technologies to Ensure Permanent Geologic Carbon Storage** (April 17)
- **Addressing Climate change in the Arctic** (April 3)
- **Hydrologic Sciences Early Career Award** (June 1)

(View all 227 funding announcements)

Special funding announcements

- **Translational Research in Energy Support Program (TRESP)**
  TRESP grants are for research institutions and their commercial and industrial partners to develop commercially viable research in energy and energy related fields. They are particularly interested in shale gas related translational research concepts. Contact John Siggins (jes42@psu.edu) if you have a concept you are interested in pursuing, but are in need of an industrial partner.

- **RFI Hydrogen Prize Topic** (Due April 20)
  The DOE Fuel Cell Technologies Program (FCT) is soliciting ideas for H-Prize topics and criteria for advancements that would help to enable the widespread commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Topics would be advancements in technologies, components or systems related to the following areas of interest: hydrogen production, hydrogen distribution, and hydrogen utilization.
Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies (SEEDS) Request for Information (RFI) (Due April 6)
The SunShot Initiative seeks to examine how breakthroughs can be practically applied to accelerate the rates of solar energy technology evolution and deployment. This RFI describes a structure for a potential funding opportunity that is intended overcome the key challenges in pursuing these lines of investigation, including requirements for access to relevant data sources, multidisciplinary involvement, and executing pilot experiments. Respondents are asked to comment on the questions in the RFI.

In-Water Wave Energy Conversion (WEC) Device Testing Support - Notice of Intent (NOI)
The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to provide potential applicants advance notice of a proposed upcoming Funding Opportunity Announcement initially titled: In-Water Wave Energy Conversion (WEC) Device Testing Support.

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

Best regards,
Patricia Craig