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Penn State News, Highlights, and Announcements

- **Mike Hicker: Synthetic polymers enable cheap, efficient, durable alkaline fuel cells**
  A new cost-effective polymer membrane can decrease the cost of alkaline batteries and fuel cells by allowing the replacement of expensive platinum catalysts without sacrificing important aspects of performance, according to Penn State researchers.

- **Hajek honored with Slingerland Early Career Professorship**
  Elizabeth Hajek, assistant professor of geosciences in Penn State’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, was recently honored with the Slingerland Early Career Professorship. This professorship was created through a gift from Roland P. and Debra C. Sauermann and named in honor of Rudy L. Slingerland, professor of geology in Penn State’s Department of Geosciences.

- **Geosciences professors elected Fellows of the American Geophysical Union**
  Three faculty members in the Department of Geosciences in Penn State’s College of Earth and Mineral Sciences have been elected as Fellows of the American Geophysical Union for their exceptional contributions to their fields of study. Geosciences professors Katherine H. Freeman, Andrew Nyblade and Rudy L. Slingerland are among a group of international scientists to be named fellows, which is considered one of the highest honors in the Earth and space sciences.

- **Architectural engineering's Bahnfleth becomes president of international society**
  William P. "Bill" Bahnfleth, professor of architectural engineering, was recently installed as president of ASHRAE. ASHRAE, formerly the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, is an international building science and technology society with more than 54,000 members around the world.

- **Eric Post: Arctic sea-ice loss has widespread effects on wildlife**
  With sea ice at its lowest point in 1,500 years, how might ecological communities in the Arctic be affected by its continued accelerating melting over the next decades? Penn State Professor of Biology Eric Post and an international team of scientists tackle this question by examining relationships among algae, plankton, whales and terrestrial animals such as caribou, arctic foxes and walrus; as well as the effects of human exploration of previously inaccessible parts of the region.
- **Ottar Bjørnstad: Temperature alters population dynamics of common plant pests**
  Temperature-driven changes alter outbreak patterns of tea tortrix -- an insect pest -- and may shed light on how temperature influences whether insects emerge as cohesive cohorts or continuously, according to an international team of researchers. These findings have implications for both pest control and how climate change may alter infestations.

- **Energy opportunities and pitfalls to be covered at Ag Progress Days**
  Whether it's a desire for energy independence, concerns about the environment, a need to cut costs or an effort to find new uses for farm products, the agricultural community is taking an increasingly close look at ways to tap an expanding energy market in Pennsylvania.

- **Expanded cover crops demonstration plot to be featured at Ag Progress Days**
  Cover crops planted in rotation with main crops can help farmers reduce erosion and replenish nutrients into the soil, and cover crops increasingly are being considered for biofuel feedstocks.

- **Dan Cosgrove and Nicole Brown: Penn State team wins Department of Energy poster competition**
  A group of Penn State scientists from the Center for Lignocellulose Structure and Formation took first prize in a U.S. Department of Energy “Ten-Hundred and One Word Challenge” contest, in which scientists were challenged to explain their research using only images, cartoons, photos and the 1,000 most commonly used words in the English language.

- **Inaugural Lecture by the UNESCO Chair Mark Brennan available online**
  The inaugural Lecture and Program Launch of the UNESCO Chair in Rural Community, Leadership, and Youth Development at Penn State is available online. View [Introductory remarks](#) | [Inaugural Lecture by the UNESCO Chair Mark Brennan](#)

- **Requests for Nominations: National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology**
  EPA is seeking nominees with knowledge in community sustainability, public health and health disparities, land use and sustainable development, green jobs and economic initiatives, energy, and environmental financing. Nomination/application is due September 6, 2013.

- **EPA's National Stormwater Calculator is Now Available to the Public**
  EPA's National Stormwater Calculator is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of rainwater and frequency of runoff from a specific site anywhere in the United States. Estimates are based on local soil conditions, land cover, and historic rainfall records.

- **View all news**

**Featured Events Calendar**

**August 13, 2013**

- **Ag Progress Days**
  Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center

- **Millennium Café**
  Rachel Brennan, Civil Engineering, "Exploring Strange New Worlds and New Civilizations within the Eco-Machine"
  Nanyin Zhang, Bioengineering, "Imaging Brain Function in Awake Animals"
  10:00 - 11:00 a.m.; 3rd Floor - MSC Café Commons
August 14, 2013

- **Ag Progress Days**
  Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center

- **Center for Systems Genomics Seminar Series**
  Andrew Patterson, "Metabolomics as Diagnostic and Prognostic Tool for Human Health and Disease: Are we there yet?"
  4:00 p.m.; 501 Wartik Laboratory

August 15, 2013

- **Ag Progress Days**
  Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center

August 21, 2013

- **Land Use Planning Webinar Series**
  "Transportation Connectivity & Land Use"
  Noon - 1:15 p.m.

- **Center for Systems Genomics Seminar Series**
  Lei Yang, University of Idaho, "Reviving the dead: retrotransposition of an extinct mammalian transposon"
  4:00 p.m.; 501 Wartik Laboratory

- **Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference 2013 - Trees: The Original Green Infrastructure**
  8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Forest Resources Building | Registration $45.00

August 23, 2013

- **Pennsylvania Community Forestry Conference 2013 - Trees: The Original Green Infrastructure**
  All day; Steimer Auditorium, Forest Resources Building

**Featured Conferences/Short Courses/Symposia Information**

- **Green Infrastructure and Water Management in Growing Metropolitan Areas Call for Abstracts**
  Conference will be held 14 - 16 January 2014 at the Patel College of Global Sustainability at the University of South Florida Tampa, Florida. Abstracts are due September 15, 2013.

- **2014 Green Infrastructure Conference Abstracts due Sept. 15, 2013**
  Conference theme is “Green Infrastructure & Water Management in Growing Metropolitan Areas” and will be held January 14 - 16, 2014 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida.

- **View database of upcoming conferences**

**Select Employment Opportunities**

PSIEE maintains a list of resources to help you with your job search. Please visit [http://www.psiee.psu.edu/for_students/career_planning.asp](http://www.psiee.psu.edu/for_students/career_planning.asp) online. View select opportunities below.
- University of Maine: Assistant Professor of Geospatial Analysis & Remote Sensing (10/14)
- NJ Trail Conference: Program Coordinator
- Yale University: Professor (any level) Plant Physiological Ecology (9/27)
- ARS: Interdisciplinary: Research Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist, Research Soil Scientist, Research Hydrologist (8/27)
- Hampshire College: Assistant Professor of Ecosystem Ecology (10/1)
- Society for Conservation Biology: North America Policy Director (9/1)
- DOE: Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Electricity Delivery (8/19)
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement: Petroleum Engineer (8/19)

**Special Funding Announcements**

- 2014 NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program Internal Downselect
  Penn State is conducting an internal downselect for the MRI Program. The NSF MRI Program assists in the acquisition (Track 1) or development (Track 2) of major research instrumentation that is, in general, too costly for support through other NSF programs. Successful internal applications will need to demonstrate notable prior NSF funding of the PI and team, relevance of the instrument to a broad cluster of NSF funded faculty and a good sustainable management plan. Cost sharing is also mandatory and must be precisely 30% of the total project cost. For the reasons stated above, and because of the requirement for cost-sharing, interested faculty are encouraged to contact their Associate Deans and/or Institute Director when considering whether to participate in the downselect. **STEP ONE: Notice of Intent** (Deadline - August 30, 2013);
- **STEP TWO: Downselect Application** (Deadline - September 15, 2013)

**Select recent funding opportunities** ([View all 35 recently added announcements](#))

- Full-Spectrum Optimized Conversion and Utilization of Sunlight (8/22)
- AHRQ Individual Awards for Postdoctoral Fellows National Research Service Awards (12/8)
- Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (1/13)
- Smart and Connected Health (10/10)
- Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water (9/16)
- Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Life Sciences; Geosciences) (11/8)
- High Energy Cost Grant Program (9/3)
- DOE Early Career Research Program (9/5)
- GeoMechanics and GeoTechnical Systems (10/1)
- 2014 NOAA Gulf of Mexico Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program (10/18)
- Experimental Elementary Particle Physics (10/30)
- Environmental Sustainability (2/20)
- Hydrologic Sciences (12/1)
- Hazard Mitigation and Structural Engineering (2/15)
- Genomics of Gene Regulation (11/15)
We welcome your input!
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Thank you for your continued interest in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment!

Best regards,
Patricia Craig

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