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January 19, 2020

# GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Message from the Director...*

Global Change Community,

Welcome back! I hope that everyone found a little bit of time to rest and recharge over the holidays. I wish you well as we embark on another busy and challenging semester.

In celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this week, I hope that each of you will personally reflect on what you can do as an individual to help us foster a more inclusive and diverse community. As a starting point, please join me in reaffirming your commitment to Virginia Tech's Principles of Community. The Global Change Center's recently revised commitment to these principles can be found [here](#). Many thanks to David Haak, Lauren Maynard, Emmanuel Frimpong, and Leigh-Anne Krometis for crafting the thoughtful statement, and to a variety of faculty and students who provided us with constructive feedback on our reaffirmation and beneficial steps that we can take as an organization.

I've had some students and faculty ask how they can help the GCC's efforts towards fostering a more inclusive and diverse community. Here are just a handful of examples of direct actions you can take to help drive the institutional changes we strive to achieve.

- Recruit diverse talent to apply to our new Diversity PhD Fellowship and Rural Environmental Health PhD Fellowship programs. [more info here](#)
- IGC Fellows participating in the IGC Ph.D. seminar sessions will discuss issues of environmental justice and equity.

- IGC Fellows are encouraged to participate in the IGC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion discussion group, organized by IGC Fellow [Lauren Maynard](#). **[read the blog post from last fall here](#)**
- Support IGC Fellow [Jessica Hernandez](#) in her efforts to create a peer-peer PhD fellow mentorship program that will help nurture an inclusive community.
- Volunteer to speak in the lecture series connecting Virginia Tech faculty with faculty and students from Virginia State University, organized by [Ignacio Moore](#).
- Participate in the Widening Inclusivity in the (Geo)Sciences weekly discussion group organized by [Michelle Stocker](#).
- Recruit outstanding undergraduates from underrepresented groups to apply to the Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program; The Fralin Life Sciences Institute has committed funding for 10 MAOP students this year. **[more info here](#)**
- Challenge yourself to continually grow by taking advantage of the virtual courses, workshops, and lectures related to diversity and inclusion that are advertised every week in our GCC newsletter.
- Share novel ideas about how the GCC can become more inclusive and diverse with me, Jess, or members of the advisory board. We continue to discuss the possibilities. **[GCC Advisory Committee contact info here](#)**

In this time of unrest, recurring tragedies, and reckoning, our community will benefit from each one of us taking intentional steps to directly confront these important issues. Our individual and collective efforts do make a difference, and are desperately needed as we look towards a more equitable, healthy, and peaceful future.

I look forward to seeing you all at the annual **[MLK lecture this Friday](#)**, which promises to be a provocative and enlightening discussion.

Sincerely,

William A. Hopkins  
Director, The Global Change Center at Virginia Tech

## Restoration Ecology Working Group Spring 2021 Meetings

The Restoration Ecology Working Group will meet every other Thursday this spring beginning this Thursday, January 21, 1-2 PM. All are welcome! In Fall 2020, we had wide-ranging discussions on topics like measuring restoration success, restoration as a public health intervention, inequality in restoration outcomes, community engagement through citizen science, and fire as a restoration tool. We look forward to stimulating discussions this year leading up to the official launch of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) on June 5.



[More information & get involved](#)

## MS Graduate Research Assistantship on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Nature-related Recreation

GCC faculty affiliate and Assistant Professor of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Dr. Willandia Chaves, is seeking applicants for an MS position to begin in Fall 2021. For full consideration, applications should be submitted by Feb. 15, 2021.



[More information](#)

## Workshops offered through the Center for Communicating Science

The following workshops, bootcamps, and one-on-one consultation opportunities facilitated by the Center for Communicating Science (CCS) provide individuals with the tools needed to engage and communicate effectively with individuals and groups:

[CCS Professional Development Workshops, Consultations, and Intensives \[PDF\]](#)

Faculty are encouraged to consider incorporating this work into grant proposals and working with CCS to help maximize the impact of your research.

Please contact Patricia Raun ([praun@vt.edu](mailto:praun@vt.edu)) for more information.



## FACULTY & FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



### Dr. Willandia Chaves - Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Dr. Chaves is a conservation scientist working with the human dimensions of fish and wildlife conservation, using tools and methods from different fields, including Conservation Psychology, Economics, Human Geography, and Environmental Education...

[Read more](#)

[www.globalchange.vt.edu](http://www.globalchange.vt.edu)



### Leah Novak - Biological Sciences

Leah's primary research interests include avian behavior and ecology, fire ecology and habitat restoration. At Virginia Tech, she is studying red-cockaded woodpeckers, a federally listed endangered species. Her research examines the effect of...

[Read more](#)

[www.globalchange.vt.edu](http://www.globalchange.vt.edu)

# AROUND CAMPUS

[Visit this page to view the full schedule of upcoming events](#) sponsored by the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and The MLK Celebration Committee!



**The Global Change Center is a proud co-sponsor of the...**  
**10th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture**  
**Friday, January 22, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, followed by Q&A**



## **Dr. Bryan Dewsbury**

Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Science  
University of Rhode Island

## **Intelligence plus character - Education as force for liberation**

Abstract: Martin Luther King said that "the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education". In this address we will explore the full meaning of this holistic view of the education process, and the ways in which if internalized, it grants us opportunities to shape our own futures.

Zoom link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88267131091>

Live stream YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FralinLifeScience>

[More information](#) & [View the full flyer here](#)

## **VT WInGS (Widening Inclusivity in the (Geo)Sciences) Seminar** **Wednesday, January 20 at 11:30 am**

The VT WInGS meeting group will kick off 2021 with a discussion from fourth-year VT engineering education Ph.D. students, Tierra Holloman and Jessica Deters. Read more about the speakers here: [Ph.D. students bring research-backed insights on inclusive action to film series on women in science](#)

[Email the WInGS Google Group](#) to participate!



## **CNRE Lunch & Learn: How is climate change affecting Glacier National Park?**

**Thursday, January 21 at 12 pm**

Lynn Resler, an ecological biogeographer from the Department of Geography, will be the featured speaker for the first Third Thursday Lunch & Learn webinar of 2021. She'll share what she's learned from her research on how alpine landscapes are adjusting to glacier retreat and how invasive species and forest diseases are affecting upper subalpine ecosystems.

[Register here](#) by noon. on Wednesday, Jan. 20



## Human-Water Systems Monthly: Integrating water systems with society

Friday, January 22, at 1:00 pm

Featuring Dr. Emily Grubert, Georgia Tech, and Dr. Sarah Fletcher, Stanford University. More information about the new seminar on the GCC blog [here](#).

[Jan. 22 flyer \[PDF\]](#)

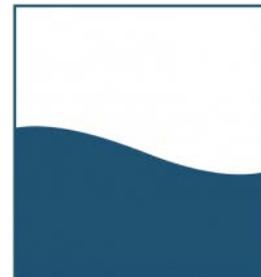


## Marine and Freshwater Conservation Seminar

Wednesday, January 27 at 4:30 pm

This semester, all Marine and Freshwater Conservation seminars will be every other week at 4:30-5:30 on Wednesdays (with extra time for discussion). Everyone is welcome. The first speaker will be [Dr. Austin Gallagher](#) from Beneath the Waves on Jan 27.

Contact GCC affiliate, [Holly Kindsvater](#), for more information



BENEATH THE WAVES

# COMMUNITY



### Honoring the legacy of MLK, "We Cannot Walk Alone"

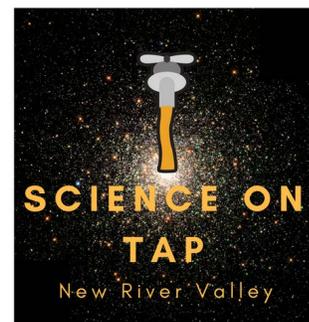
Virginia Tech will honor and remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events beginning Monday, Jan. 18, with a live keynote address by Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X, at 5 p.m. ET. This year's theme is "We Cannot..."

[Read more](http://vtnews.vt.edu)  
vtnews.vt.edu

### Science on Tap NRV: Embodying Emotional Connections to Science Through Theater Thursday, Jan. 28, 5:30 pm

Join us to hear from Daniel Bird Tobin, self-proclaimed "theatre archaeologist." What does that mean? Much as archaeologists reconstruct the story of a society from the artifacts they excavate, he builds theatrical stories from the artifacts he uncovers in his life.

[More information & Register](#)



## NEWSWORTHY

### From the Sewall Lab:

Male zebra finches exposed to lead (Pb) during development have reduced volume of song nuclei, altered sexual traits, and received less attention from females as adults

Two years of work conducted in the lab of GCC affiliate, Kendra Sewall (Biological Sciences), was synthesized as an article in the journal *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*. Authored by recent postdoc Chris Goodchild (now at Central Oklahoma State U) with massive help from previous post doc Michelle Beck (now at Rivier College), current grad students [Isaac VanDiest](#) and [Sam Lane](#), and undergraduate Neuroscience Fellow Frankie Czesak. The work was partially funded by a GCC undergraduate research grant to Tommy McCabe and by an ICTAS Jr Faculty award.



[Read the article](#)

## **GCC faculty seed grant team publishes findings from interdisciplinary study:**

**Exploring relationships among stream health, human well-being, and demographics in Virginia, USA**

The findings from a 2017 GCC-seed grant project, [How does current management of water quality align with ecological health and human well-being?](#), are now published in the journal *Ecological Indicators*. Authored by GCC faculty affiliates, [Paul Angermeier](#) (Fish and Wildlife Conservation) and [Leigh-Anne Krometis](#) (Biological Systems Engineering), along with Marc Stern and Tyler Hemby, both in the Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation.



[Read the article](#)

**Do you have an opportunity or announcement you'd like to share with the GCC community? [Send us an email!](#)**

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