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November 17, 2020

# GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Upcoming deadlines:

**December 1 -**  
IGC IGEP [application deadline](#) for spring  
2021 admission

**December 17 -**  
GCC [undergraduate research grant](#)  
proposals due



### Upcoming IGC fellows' PhD Defense Seminars:

**November 30th, 12 pm -**  
[Stephen DeVilbiss](#), School of Plant &  
Environmental Sciences

**December 9th, 9 am -**  
[Lauren Wind](#), Biological Systems  
Engineering

**Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs**

Through its program of fellowships, the Ford Foundation seeks to increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing their ethnic and racial diversity, maximize the educational benefits of diversity, and increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students.

The National  
Academies of

SCIENCES  
ENGINEERING  
MEDICINE

Predocutorial, Dissertation, and Postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded in a national competition administered by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on behalf of the Ford Foundation.

**December 10** - 2021 Dissertation and Postdoctoral application deadlines

**December 17** - 2021 Predocutorial application deadline

[More info](#)

## Cluster Hire - Restoring and Protecting Global Biodiversity



The University of British Columbia seeks applicants for five tenure-track positions at the level of Assistant Professor in the thematic area of restoring and protecting global biodiversity.

These new hires will join an interdisciplinary research and scholarship team focused on solutions-oriented approaches to biodiversity loss, and its connection to sustainability and adaptive capacity for humanity.

Positions include a Conservation and Restoration Scientist and a Biodiversity Data Scientist.

[More info](#)

## Course of Interest: Spring 2021

### Decision Making, Reflective Practice, and Engagement in STEM-H Domains

SPIA 5124 (PSCI 5124) (STS 5124), CRN: 21289 ★ Spring 2021 ★ Wed 7-9:45 pm ★ Hybrid (open to all campuses)

This exciting new course will explore **the roles of science, engineering, and technology in policy-making**. We will critically examine:

- Effective collaborative techniques for bringing officials, scientific & technical experts, and other stakeholders (including communities) together to advance decision-making
- How organizations and institutions make policy decisions, considering the range of interests and priorities, and behavioral, organizational, and ethical factors
- How we can bridge the theoretical and applied, nurturing more reflective practice
- The roles of 'big data' in decision-making



This course is part of Virginia Tech's Science, Technology & Engineering in Policy (STEP) Program, which is a product of the Policy Destination Area

For more information, please visit [www.step.vt.edu](http://www.step.vt.edu) or contact instructor and STEP Program Director Todd Schenk at [tschenk@vt.edu](mailto:tschenk@vt.edu)



**Next Restoration Ecology Working Group meeting:  
Wednesday, November 18th at 11:00 am**

All are welcome! We will discuss inequality in the costs and benefits of ecological restoration. There is no reading for this week. To get involved, contact [Leighton Reid](#) or [Karen Kovaka](#).

## FACULTY & FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



### Todd Schenk - School of Public & International Affairs

Dr. Schenk has extensive research and consulting experience working on environmental policy and planning, and collaborative governance issues in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. His current work falls into three overlapping...

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



### Korin Jones - Biological Sciences

Korin's research interests lie in microbial ecology, particularly looking at the way that microbes can impact the emerging amphibian threat, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*. Due to the myriad of conditions that affect the pathogenicity of this...

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

## AROUND CAMPUS

### **EEB Virtual Seminar: [Rafa Marcé](#), Catalan Institute for Water Research: "Vanishing lakes and the remobilization of a millennial carbon sink"**

*Hosted by IGC Alumni Dr. Ryan McClure*

**Thursday, 11/19 at 9:30 am**

[Zoom link](#)

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### **SPES Virtual Seminar: [Lukas Mueller](#), Boyce Thompson Institute**

*Hosted by GCC faculty affiliate Dr. David Haak*

**Friday, 11/20 at 3:00 pm**

Contact [David Haak](#) for Zoom info

# COMMUNITY

## Science on Tap NRV: Haha! Science Comedy Night with Kasha Patel

Need some good funny?! This Thursday, Nov. 19th, [Science on Tap NRV](#) will host Kasha Patel, science comedian, journalist, and communicator with the NASA Earth Observatory. Kasha has backgrounds in chemistry and science journalism, and performs stand-up regularly, including at the DC Comedy Club in Washington, D.C. Kasha will join for a special performance followed by a conversation about the role of comedy in communicating science.



**Thursday, 11/19 at 5:30 pm**

**Register here:** <http://www.bit.ly/3eHt5fG>

This is an online event and registration is required.

## Soil, Conservation, and Place: A Series of Conversations "Economics, Justice, and Systems Thinking from the Soil Up"



**VT** COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES  
CENTER FOR FOOD SYSTEMS  
AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION  
SOIL, CONSERVATION, AND PLACE  
*A Series of  
Conversations*

We invite you to join for a series of conversations with farmers who exemplify agroecological values held from 11am-12:15 pm on December 1, 5, 8, and 11. Visit our website for more information: <https://foodsystems.centers.vt.edu/events-and-speakers.html>

Join us for a conversation on soil health, economic justice, transition planning, and systems thinking with Ira Wallace of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, Robert Spiers of Spiers Farm, LLC., and Mike Phillips of Valley View Farms.

**Tuesday, 12/1 at 11:00 am**

**[Register at this link](#)**

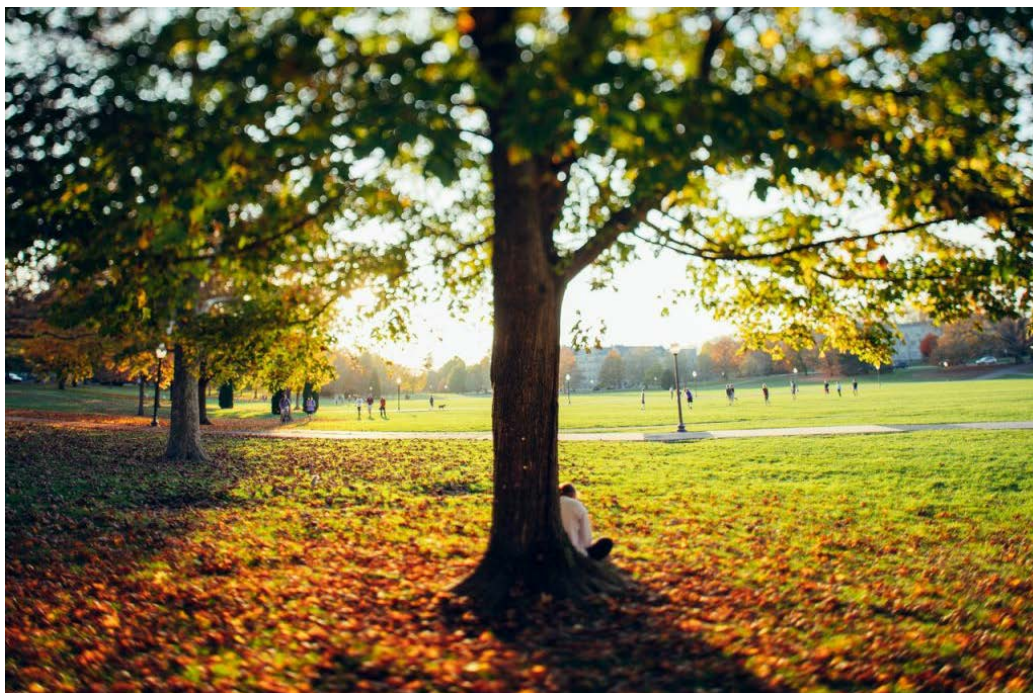
## New podcast highlights university-certified small, woman-owned and minority-owned businesses



Virginia Tech Procurement has launched a new podcast series of interviews with leaders from small, woman-owned and minority-owned (SWaM) businesses that are certified with the university. The SupplierReady! podcast's goal is to create greater awareness of the types of SWaM businesses certified at Virginia Tech and the goods or services they provide to the university.

[Read more](#)

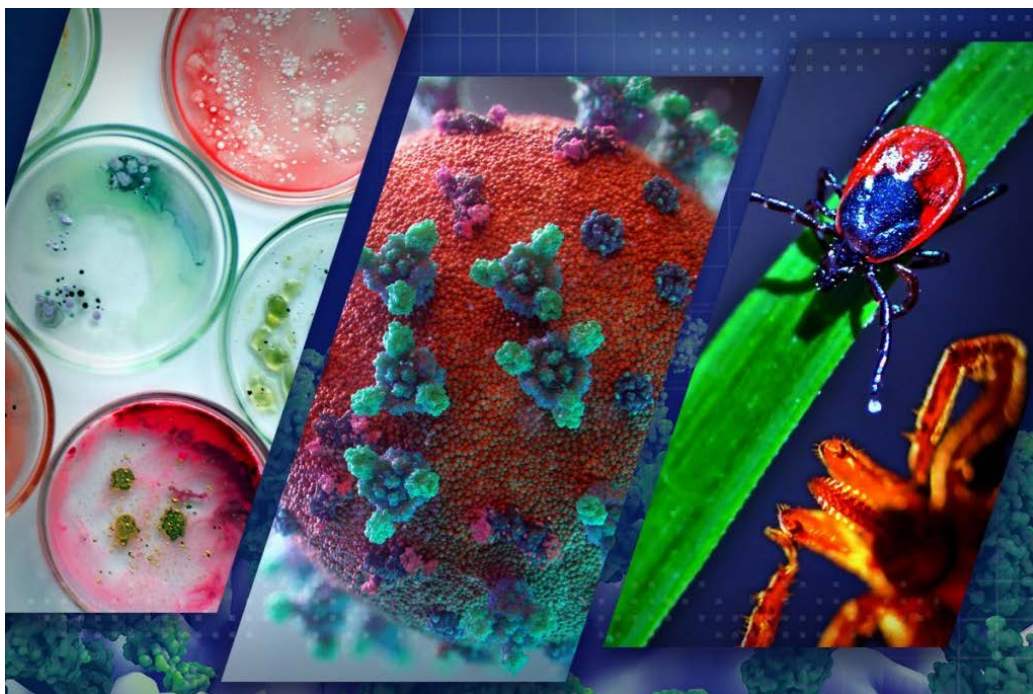
# NEWSWORTHY



### Climate Action Commitment report highlights actionable...

To ensure Virginia Tech implements the most stringent climate and sustainability standards, a working group presented recommendations for the next iteration of the Climate Action Commitment to the Board of Visitors on Nov. 15-16. Ambitious,...

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



### CeZAP announces team-building pilot grant awards

Pilot grants were recently awarded to 10 interdisciplinary research teams, including GCC affiliate team members Drs. Linsey Marr, Luis Escobar, and Gillian Eastwood, to tackle complex zoonotic and vector-borne emerging infectious disease problems.

[Read more](#)  
vtnews.vt.edu



### **Study: Urban Greenery Plays a Surprising Role in...**

Burning fossil fuels in densely populated regions greatly increases the level of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. The largest carbon dioxide sources are cars, trucks, ports, power generation, and industry, including manufacturing. Urban...

[Read more](#)  
climate.nasa.gov



### Teaching tools show climate change is just one aspect of ...

Not every Arizona high schooler gets a chance to visit Alaska to study climate change. In the summer of 2017, 23 lucky students flew with their teacher, Clarissa Toupin, to the city of Homer to test new teaching tools developed at the University...

[Read more](#)

[news.berkeley.edu](http://news.berkeley.edu)

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

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