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April 20, 2021

GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to inaugural GCC Diversity Fellows, Gabriel Borba and Okeshola Idowu!

Congratulations to our first Global Change Center Diversity Fellows, Okeshola Idowu and Gabriel Borba! The new GCC Diversity Fellowship is awarded to incoming Ph.D. students from

underrepresented communities within the global change sciences.

[Read more](#)

globalchange.vt.edu

Upcoming IGC Fellow PhD Defense Seminars:

Nicole Ward, Biological Sciences - **Wednesday, April 21 at 10:00 AM**

Modeling lake ecosystem change with coupled human-natural systems to improve water resources management

Suwei Wang, Translational Biology, Medicine & Health - **Tuesday, April 27 at 12:00 PM**

Opportunities and Challenges in Identification and Classification of Heat Stress Risk Based on Analysis of Individual and Neighborhood Level Factors

Vasiliy Lakoba, School of Plant & Environmental Sciences - **Friday, April 30 at 1:30 PM**

Ecotypic Variation in Johnsongrass in Its Invaded U.S. Range



Modeling lake ecosystem change within coupled human-natural systems to improve water resources management

Nicole K. Ward
PhD Defense Seminar
Department of Biological Sciences
Virginia Tech
April 21st, 2021 at 10 am



Public Defense of Doctoral Dissertation

Translational Biology, Medicine, &
Health Graduate Program

Suwei Wang

Tuesday, April 27 at 12:00pm

Via Zoom; link in email announcement.



Dissertation Title: Opportunities and Challenges in Identification and Classification of Heat Stress Risk Based on Analysis of Individual and Neighborhood Level Factors

Dissertation Mentor: Julia Gohlke, Ph.D.

Dissertation Committee Members: Pang Du, Ph.D., Samantha Harden, Ph.D., Charlotte Baker, Ph.D.

Job opening: Air Force Environmental Engineer / Program Manager

The Air Force's environmental team at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling is hiring environmental program managers for our air quality, drinking water and stormwater positions. These are federal, full-time, GS-12 positions.

[More information](#)



PhD opportunity in data science, Bayesian statistics and decision support tools applied to Ecology at the Univ. of Florida

Dr. Dennis Valle (School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences, UF, is seeking a PhD graduate research assistant with strong interest in statistical modeling applications and decision support tools.

[More information](#)



FACULTY & FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



Michael Sorice - Forest Resources & Environmental Sciences

Dr. Sorice's Conservation Social Science Lab examines personal, social, and structural characteristics that influence people's choices in the face of biodiversity and habitat loss, invasive species, and landscape transformation. His research...

[Read more](#)



Charles W. Sterling III - Biological Systems Engineering

Sterling is working on his Ph.D. in Biological Systems Engineering with a focus on private water quality; advised by GCC affiliate Dr. Leigh-Anne Krometis. His research interests have revolved around environmental justice issues...

[Read more](#)

AROUND CAMPUS

Happy Earth Week!! For the GCC, every day is Earth Day!

Earth Week 2021 at VT is being celebrated April 18th through 25th. The Virginia Tech community is invited to participate in a wide range of in-person and virtual [Earth Week 2021 activities](#).

Wed-Fri, Apr 21-24: ["Unbearable Beauty" exhibit at the Moss Arts Center](#)

Thurs Apr 22, 12 pm: An Inside Look at VT's New [Climate Action Commitment](#) (email sustainability@vt.edu to register)

[More info](#) &
[See the full list of VT Earth Week activities here](#)



Inaugural STEP Keynote Seminar

Climate Change, Conservation, and Communities: Taking Science to Action

Featuring: Lynn Scarlett

Chief External Affairs Officer at The Nature Conservancy and former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Department of the Interior

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Please register at: <https://bit.ly/3rVfvu7>



The seminar will also include an introduction to the STEP program's new graduate certificate, brief responses from invited faculty, and time for Q&A. For more information on this event or the new STEP graduate certificate program, please visit www.step.vt.edu or contact program director Todd Schenk at tschenk@vt.edu

**Plan to join for the Inaugural STEP
Keynote Seminar!**

Tuesday, April 27 at 4:00 pm

[Register in advance here](#)

Marine & Freshwater Conservation Seminar: Todd Koel, Native Fish Conservation Program at Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone Lake Ecosystem Restoration: A Case Study for Invasive Fish Management

Wednesday, April 21 at 4:30 pm

Contact GCC affiliate [Holly Kindsvater](#) to join



EEB Seminar: Stanley Grant, UC Irvine & Virginia Tech

Hosted by GCC faculty Sally Entrekin & Stephen Schoenholtz

Addressing the Contribution of Indirect Potable Reuse to the Freshwater Salinization Syndrome

Thursday, April 22 at 3:30 pm

Contact GCC affiliate [Sally Entrekin](#) to join; [Seminar flyer here](#)



The Future of Energy, VT Aluminate Web Event

**Tuesday, April 20
3:00 - 4:00 pm EST**

Together, we'll learn about key issues facing the future of the energy sector and ask questions such as: Is 100% renewable energy possible? What would that mean for the oil and gas industry? What role do U.S. power systems play in fighting the effects of climate change? What has the global pandemic taught us about the future of energy? And how are leading private and public sector partners addressing the issues?



Future of Electric Energy for an Industry in Transformation

**Monday & Tuesday, April 26-27
3:00 - 4:00 pm EST**

As the fourth industrial revolution unfolds, the future of everything is changing. The energy sector is no exception. As global demand grows, consumer behaviors and preferences change, and technological innovations accelerate, the energy landscape is quickly evolving—with new opportunities and challenges on the horizon.

[More information](#)

[More information](#)

**BSE Distinguished Alumni Seminar Series:
Sanjay Shukla, UF Research Foundation
Prof., Distinguished Water Institute Fellow**

***Bringing large-scale changes in water and
environmental sustainability through win-
win solutions***

Friday, April 23 at 1:30 pm
Register in advance [here](#)

Biological Systems Engineering
Distinguished Alumni Seminar Series

Bringing large-scale changes in
water and environmental
sustainability through win-win
solutions

Friday, April 23 - 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
<https://tinyurl.com/SanjayShuklaSeminar>

Sanjay Shukla, PhD

- UF Research Foundation Professor,
University Term Professor and
Distinguished Water Institute Fellow
- Agricultural and Biological
Engineering Department and
Southwest Florida Research and
Education Center, University of
Florida



CEE EWR Seminar: Marina E. Vance, Univ. of Colorado

***Indoor particulate matter from everyday activities: insights from the
HOMEChem study***

Friday, April 23 at 2:30 pm
Register in advance [here](#)

COMMUNITY

SCIENCE ON TAP NEW RIVER VALLEY

**ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER
IN ACADEMIA**

RESEARCH STORIES AND SUCCESSES

PANEL DISCUSSION | Q&A

APRIL 22, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM
ZOOM

**Science on Tap NRV: Asian & Pacific Island in Academia: Research
stories and successes, including IGC Fellow [Sara Teemer Richards](#)**

Thursday, April 22

5:30 pm EST

Today, Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans (APIDA) make up roughly 6% of the population of the United States, and more than 10% of the student and faculty populations at Virginia Tech. While experiences of the APIDA community have largely been spoken about collectively, the community has roots in over 40 countries and a wide range of cultural identities. This month's Science on Tap NRV will include a panel discussion featuring graduate students and faculty at Virginia Tech. Join us to get a glimpse of the diverse, challenging, and vibrant experiences of being Asian/Pacific Islander in academia.

[More info & register here](#)

Cultivating a Career: From Seeds of Inspiration to a Harvest of Discovery & Transformation

**Dr. Beronda Montgomery,
Michigan State University**



1pm Wednesday, April 21 via Zoom

To attend, please register here:

<https://forms.gle/JcRxjRAqtG47ZyJw7>



Cultivating a Career: From Seeds of Inspiration to a Harvest of Discovery & Transformation

Wednesday, April 21

1:00 pm EST

Individual biological organisms perceive, respond to, and are impacted by the environments in which they exist. Montgomery's primary laboratory-based research is focused on the responses of photosynthetic organisms (i.e., plants and cyanobacteria) to external light and nutrient cues. Montgomery also studies humans in their environments, including scholarship and training initiatives on mentoring, particularly around issues relating to mentoring and retaining students and junior scientists from diverse backgrounds.

[More information](#)

NEWSWORTHY



Freshwater salt pollution threatens ecosystem health and human water security

GCC affiliates are part of a collaborative team studying inland freshwater salt pollution, resulting in the decline of biodiversity, critical freshwater habitat, and lack of safe drinking water. Their findings were recently published in the journal *Nature Sustainability*.

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



If You Build It, They Will Bike: Pop-Up Lanes Increased...

A study of European cities adds to a growing body of evidence that investments in cycling infrastructure can encourage bike commuting, which helps cut greenhouse gas emissions. Adding bike lanes to urban streets can increase the number of...

[Read more](#)
www.nytimes.com

Do you have an opportunity or announcement you'd like to share with the

GCC community? [Send us an email!](#)

Global Change Center | Virginia Tech | 540-231-5400 | www.globalchange.vt.edu

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