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March 30, 2021

# GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome, Dr. Heather Drew! New GCC Communications & Strategic Initiatives Specialist

We'd like to welcome Dr. Heather Drew as she joins the Global Change Center beginning April 1st in the new role of Communications & Strategic Initiatives Specialist! Heather completed her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Florida College of Medicine in May 2020 with a focus in immunology and microbiology. As a US Senate Science Policy Fellow in 2018, she worked to translate scientific information about climate change, human health and antibiotic resistance for decision makers. In her new role with the GCC, Heather will work to expand our communications efforts and contribute to the growth opportunities ahead for the Interfaces of Global Change IGEP.

[Read more](#)

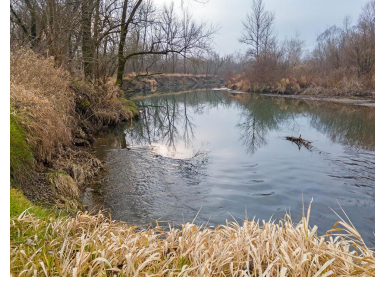
[www.globalchange.vt.edu](http://www.globalchange.vt.edu)



## Restoration Ecology Working Group - Buried wetland soils reveal past vegetation & natural seedbank expression

The next meeting of the GCC Restoration Ecology Working Group will be this **Thursday, April 1 at 1:00 PM**. Rachel Reid, Cully Hession, and Lisa Kennedy will lead a discussion about the potential of buried wetland soils for learning about past vegetation composition and potentially for restoration via excavation and natural seedbank expression. There is a short reading - a Science news piece about a successful project in Pennsylvania.

All are welcome! Join via [Zoom here](#).



## Invasive Species Working Group - Education, Communication, Public Engagement & Behavior Change: Shifting public perceptions and actions to tackle invasive species

Next Monday's (**April 5th from 10-11:30 am**) Invasive Species Science, Policy & Management Seminar session will focus on education, communication, public engagement, and behavior change as means to foster action to tackle invasive species. The session will start by challenging simplistic *information deficit model*-based understandings of how and why stakeholders engage in various behaviors that support or complicate invasive species management. **We will talk about how we can more effectively engage and communicate with communities and other stakeholders.**

The session is being led by Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation Research Associate Kiandra Rajala, Entomology PhD student Carrie Preston, Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation Associate Professor Michael Sorce, and Public and International Affairs Assistant Professor Todd Schenk.

Drop-in attendance is welcomed! Please [join us via Zoom](#), and reach out to GCC affiliate [Todd Schenk](#) if you wish to be added to the Canvas page to access preparatory readings and other seminar materials.



## FELLOW SPOTLIGHT



## IGC Fellow Lauren Maynard receives NSF Non-Academic Research Internship for Graduate Student (INTERN) Award

IGC fellow [Lauren Maynard](#), PhD candidate in Susan Whitehead's lab, has received a NSF Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students (INTERN) award to support an internship with the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#). During the six-month internship she will work on a collaborative research project with senior scientist John Parker and participate in mentoring and outreach activities within the Smithsonian Institution.

[Read more](#)

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## AROUND CAMPUS

### **EEB Seminar: Katharine Criswell, Cambridge University**

*Hosted by GCC faculty Michelle Stocker*

**Thursday, April 1 at 9:30 am**

Contact [Michelle Stocker](#) to join

The poster is a colorful graphic with a maroon and blue geometric design. It features the Virginia Tech logo (VT) and the text 'FRALIN LIFE SCIENCES INSTITUTE VIRGINIA TECH.' on the left. On the right, it says 'VTLSS Virginia Tech Life Science Seminars'. In the center, there is a portrait of Dr. Rita Colwell, an older woman with short grey hair, smiling. Below the portrait, it reads 'DR. RITA COLWELL' and 'UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK'. At the bottom, there is an orange banner with icons for a calendar, a clock, a location pin, and a QR code. The text on the banner reads '04/02/2021 12:00 p.m. via ZOOM'. Below the banner, the URL 'bit.ly/VTLSS-Spring2021' is displayed. In the bottom right corner, the website 'fralinlifesci.vt.edu/VTLSS' is listed.

### **Dr. Rita Colwell to speak about climate, oceans, & human health**

Dr. Rita Colwell, former Director of NSF, member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, will speak at the VTLSS seminar on Friday, April 2, at 12:00 p.m.

[Read more](#)

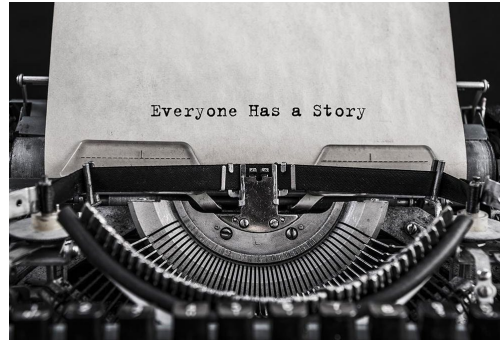
[vtnews.vt.edu](http://vtnews.vt.edu)

### **Center for Communicating Science hosting storytelling workshops with Story Collider**



If you're a VT graduate student or faculty/staff member interested in developing and practicing your storytelling skills, we've got a great opportunity to offer! The Center for Communicating Science has engaged [The Story Collider](#) to offer a series of workshops this spring - **the first one kicks off this week** (Tues Mar 30 & Thurs Apr 1, at noon) - so sign up ASAP!

[More info](#)

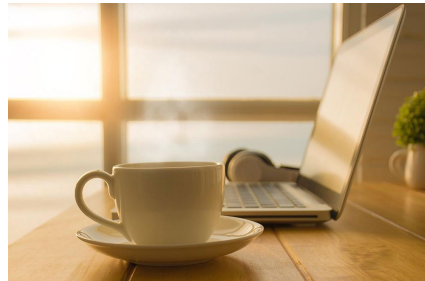


## COMMUNITY

### April 5 town hall on APIDA/Asian International concerns part of #VTUnfinished series

Join President Tim Sands for a town hall and #VTUnfinished Conversation on **April 5 at 11:30 a.m.** President Sands will be joined by Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for Strategic Affairs and Diversity, Guru Ghosh, vice president for Outreach and International Affairs, Jessica Nguyen, president of the Asian American Student Union, Silas Cassinelli, assistant professor in the Department of English, and Nina Ha, director of the Asian Cultural Engagement Center.

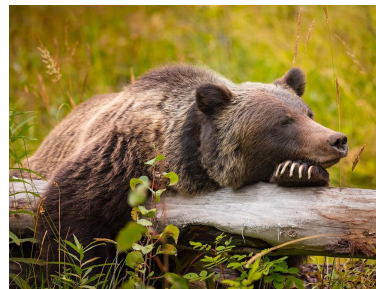
The event will be livestreamed on [this page](#) and on the [InclusiveVT YouTube channel](#).



### Hokie Health: Zoom fatigue and what you can do to protect yourself

New research explains why videoconferencing exhausts the mind and body and how individuals should protect themselves. This article shares many of the reasons for Zoom fatigue along with several suggestions for how certain videoconference features and strategies can reduce fatigue.

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





### NRV COVID companions connect with older adults in community

BLACKSBURG, Va. (WDBJ) - Connecting with others over the past year has been very difficult for some people, especially older adults. A new program launched by students at Virginia Tech is providing a buddy system, connecting the younger and older ...

[Read more](https://www.wdbj7.com)  
www.wdbj7.com



### Coffee bike will support Recovery Community

Hokie Wellness and the Virginia Tech Recovery Community have partnered with students and faculty at the College of Architecture and Urban Studies to design and build a coffee bike. The bicycle will traverse campus, serving pour-over coffee while...

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



# NEWSWORTHY



## Linsey Marr honored with Ut Prosim Scholar Award

Linsey Marr, the Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and GCC affiliate, has been recognized with the Ut Prosim Scholar Award - the university's top honor for faculty - for her research and efforts to mitigate the ...

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



## GCC affiliate Edward Fox honored as inaugural inductee in ACM SIGIR Academy

The Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (ACM SIGIR) has announced that [Edward Fox](#), professor in the [Virginia Tech Department of Computer Science](#) and faculty at the [Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics](#), is one of 25 inductees from across the globe in its inaugural SIGIR Academy.

[Read more](#)  
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**Do you have an opportunity or announcement you'd like to share with the  
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