



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our First Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Interfaces of Global Change newsletter, part of our effort to keep you informed about the activities and accomplishments of our growing global change community at Virginia Tech. Now in its second year, the graduate program is thriving with 15 Ph.D. fellows and 22 faculty members. We opened the academic year in August with a Meet & Greet Reception at the Hahn Garden, and welcomed [5 new students](#) to the program. The Global Change Seminar class (FIW 5004) now meets weekly, and the student-driven syllabus reflects our community's strong interest in the science/society/policy interface. Faculty members are always welcome to join us for these lively discussions.

This fall, we are working to raise our collective research and education achievements to a higher level of cohesion and recognition. With support from the Fralin Life Science Institute and the Virginia Tech Graduate School we are actively making strides towards establishing The Global Change Center at Virginia Tech. This large cross-campus initiative will capitalize on VT's strengths in science, engineering and the social sciences, in a wide array of academic units at our University. We have already gained considerable traction towards this unified vision through our work on the IGC IGEP and by rallying the enthusiasm of additional faculty members across campus. We now have office space in Fralin Hall, have hired a full-time Global Change Center Coordinator, and are working on our official Center charter. With this current momentum, I believe the months ahead promise to be full of exciting developments. Stay tuned!

-William A. Hopkins

Amy Pruden receives the 2014 Busch Award

Amy Pruden, professor of civil and environmental engineering and associate dean and director of interdisciplinary graduate education in the Graduate School at Virginia Tech, is the 2014 recipient of the Paul L. Busch Award which includes a \$100,000 research grant. A well-recognized researcher in her field, Pruden is instrumental in developing a new way of thinking about controlling aqua/c pathogens and expanding the use of recycled water. She has an interna/onal reputa/on in applied microbial ecology, environmental remedia/on, and environmental reservoirs of an/microbial resistance. [Read more](#)



Laura Schoenle receives a 2014 EPA STAR Fellowship

Laura Schoenle, a fellow in the Interfaces of Global Change IGEP, was recently awarded a EPA STAR Fellowship for 2014. This very competitive graduate fellowship program from the Environmental Protection Agency supports masters and doctoral candidates in environmental studies. Her award will cover tuition, salary, and \$10,000 for research/expenses. Laura will be studying the effects of mercury exposure on how birds resist and tolerate infection with avian malaria. Laura is co-advised by Ignacio Moore (Virginia Tech) and Fran Bonier (Queen's University). [Read more](#)



FROM THE IGC BLOG



The Living Planet Report 2014

"In less than two human generations, population sizes of vertebrate species have dropped by half. We ignore their decline at our peril."



Freshwaters in the Anthropocene

BIOL 6064 will examine the interactions of climate, eutrophication, invasive species, and withdrawal on lakes and streams.



A Special Supplement in PNAS

This Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) is dedicated to science communication.
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