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April 21, 2020

GLOBAL CHANGE CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22nd! Here are some new ways to participate digitally

- Check out [VT's Office of Sustainability](#) calendar of events (with links to join) for the entire week.
- Tune into events through [EarthDay.org](#), going on worldwide over three days.
- Blacksburg is participating in the [City Nature Challenge](#) April 24th-27th. This year, it's a *Stay Home* Nature Challenge using the iNaturalist app.



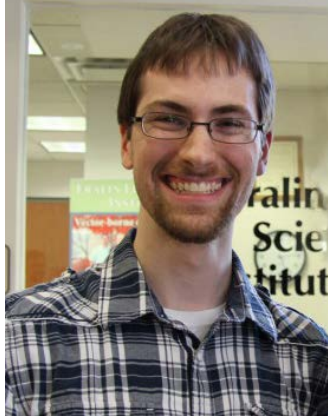
Engagement Opportunity: participate in the VT Climate Action Commitment revision process

GCC affiliate [Todd Schenk](#), vice-chair of VT's Climate Action Committee, reminds us that the Virginia

Tech community has an imperative role to play in reducing its environmental impact, educating others, and striving towards a more sustainable future. As part of Earth Week 2020, engage in the revision process of our Climate Action Commitment.

[Click here to participate & learn more!](#)

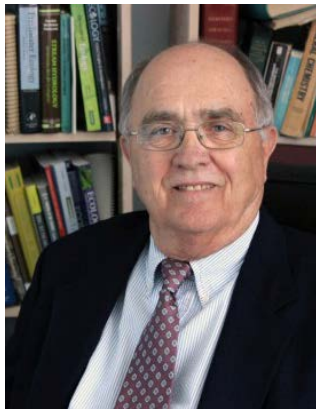
Congratulations to these IGC fellows on reaching major milestones!



[Dr. Derek Hennen](#) ([Marek lab](#) of Systematic Entomology) recently defended his dissertation with more than 150 people watching live online!



Recent IGC alumna [Dr. Becky Fletcher](#) has accepted a new job as a scientist with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

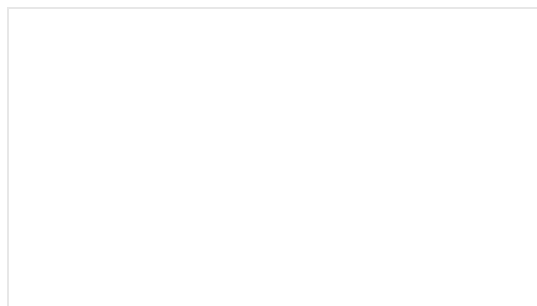
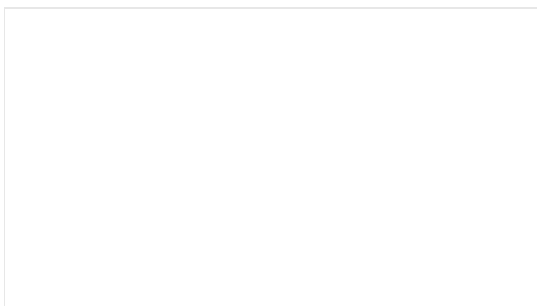


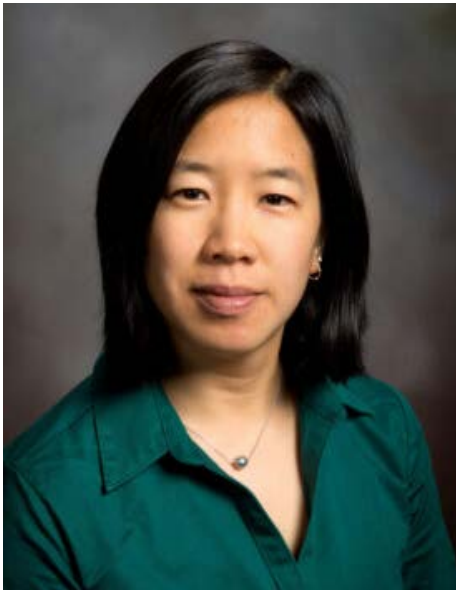
Thanks to GCC affiliate Fred Benfield!

Dr. Fred Benfield, professor emeritus of Biological Sciences, recently marked his last week of official service to the department. Since 1971, Benfield contributed to research on stream ecology and his scholarship also spanned pollution ecology, aquatic insect toxicology, distribution and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, and arthropod defense behavior.

He is well loved and respected by his colleagues. Read more about his impact as a researcher, teacher, and friend [here!](#)

FACULTY & FELLOW SPOTLIGHT





Dr. Linsey Marr - Civil & Environmental Engineering

Dr. Marr is especially interested in emerging or non-traditional aerosols such as engineered nanomaterials and viral pathogens and how they can be physically and chemically transformed in the environment. Her research on the airborne transmission...

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



Alaina Weinheimer - Biological Sciences

Alaina is working in the Aylward Lab with the goal of developing novel methods in computational biology to address questions in microbial ecology. She plans to explore the structure and function of microbial communities, their metabolic and...

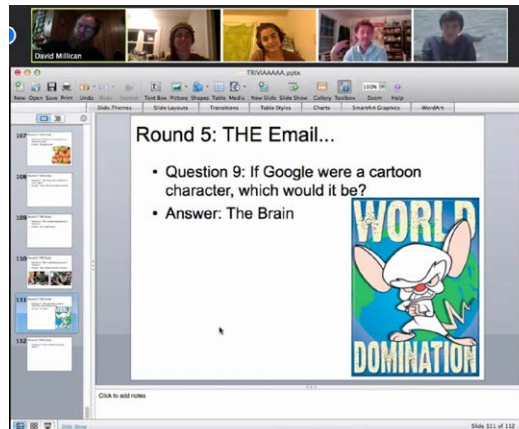
[Read more](http://www.globalchange.vt.edu)
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COMMUNITY

IGC community building continues with Trivia Nights

Despite the current social distancing measures, IGC fellows are finding new & creative ways to connect from afar.

Trivia Night #1, hosted by Dave Millican, was held on April 13th and included eight fellows and alumni! The next event will be hosted by Bennett Grooms.



These local businesses provide food & drinks for delivery/curbside pickup. Check them out!

Each week, we'll try to highlight different establishments!

- Get a [Giles County Gift Certificate](#) - spend \$20 and



get \$30 worth. Support the Palisades Restaurant, the Bad Apple, Mountain Lake, and more.

- [Avellino's](#) - Italian cuisine, including affordable family meal bundles, wine (order these during the brown bag happy hour!)
- [Cabo Fish Taco](#) - seafood and Baja-Mexican cuisine. Extensive menu!
- [The Coop](#) - 20% off orders in April! Snacks, entrees, and even meal kits to cook at home.
- [Blacksburg Farmers Market](#) - [shop](#) online anytime between Sunday noon and midnight on Thursday for a Saturday pickup at the market. Includes fresh produce, breads, meats, drinks, and many value-added products.

Local needs: current ways to volunteer and donate

- If you've received your stimulus check and would like to donate part or all of it to those in need, [check out this list](#) of local organizations/businesses assembled by the Looking Out for Each Other NRV coordinator team.
- The [Giving Tree Food Pantry](#) in Christiansburg is in need of cash donations.
- The [Red Cross](#) is still seeking blood donations! If you or a friend has fully recovered from COVID 19, you may be eligible to donate plasma.
- Donate \$10 or more to the the [Bluegrass BBQ Feed a Senior program](#), which delivers hot meals to Giles county seniors who cannot leave their homes.
- The [Women's Resource Center of the NRV](#) is in need of food, paper products, and cleaning supplies for their Emergency Shelter. Donations can be brought to their administrative office at 1217 Grove Avenue in Radford.

NEWSWORTHY



Data Collection During Social Distancing

The coronavirus pandemic has stopped this summer field research season—a disaster for some students. Here are some solutions to this growing problem in academia.

[Read more](#)

www.americanscientist.org



Is the Virus on My Clothes? My Shoes? My Hair? My Newspaper?

NYT asked several experts, including GCC affiliate Linsey Marr, to answer questions about all the places coronavirus lurks (or doesn't). You'll feel better after reading this. When we asked readers to send their questions about coronavirus...

[Read more](#)

www.nytimes.com



VT community converges to help meet need for medical...

GCC affiliate Linsey Marr is conducting ongoing experiments to test the efficacy of N95 respirators after they've gone through various sterilization techniques. Marr and her graduate students are evaluating how well the respirators retain their...

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



Where Did Plants Come From? This Ancient Algae Offers Clues

Around 500 million years ago-when the Earth was already a ripe 4 billion years old-the first green plants appeared on dry land. Precisely how this occurred is still one of the big mysteries of evolution. GCC affiliate Shuhai Xiao...

[Read more](http://www.wired.com)
www.wired.com

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