

News @ Metcalf

Thank You!

With generous support from our friends, Advisory Board, and the journalists and educators who have attended Metcalf training programs over the past fifteen years, Metcalf has met 80% of our fundraising goal for Fiscal Year 2013.

We have been thrilled to see an overall 25% increase in our donor base this year, with a 41% increase in alumni gifts over 2012 donations and a 64% climb in new donors.

Thank you for your contributions to the Metcalf Institute. Your tax-deductible gift improves the public dialogue about environmental issues and we could not do our work without you!

Regional Reporting on Renewable Energy

The third Peter B. Lord Seminar on the Environment was held at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, Metcalf Institute's home base, on March 14 and 15, with a focus on renewable energy in southern New England. Opening with a public lecture on March 14, Philip Warburg, author of the book, *Harvest the Wind*, talked about wind energy's transformation of America's energy economy. The seminar for journalists on March 15 explored the challenges and opportunities of renewable energy in southern New England.

Climate Change Science for Journalists

With a new four-year grant from the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, Metcalf Institute will hold a series of seminars around the U.S. to help journalists understand the effects of a changing climate. These regional seminars and conference sessions will provide reporters and editors with information and contacts, facilitating environmental news coverage that will inform broad and diverse audiences.

Advisory Board Updates

The Metcalf Advisory Board welcomes three new members: Rebecca Robinson (1), marine geochemist and associate professor at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography specializing in the study of ancient climate patterns; Cornelia Dean (2), distinguished lecturer and writer-in-residence at Brown University and science journalist for The New York Times; and Jennifer Francis (3), atmospheric scientist and research professor at Rutgers University and co-founder of the Rutgers Climate and Environmental Change Initiative.

The Block Island Times, published by Metcalf Board member Fraser Lang, won a record 14 awards from the New England Newspaper and Press Association in February. The paper was recognized for excellence in a wide variety of categories, and its web site, block-island.villagesoup.com, was described as "packed with good storytelling and important community information."



Improving Science Communication

Metcalf Institute trained researchers from Rhode Island colleges and universities in a one-day workshop in January on giving broadcast interviews. Featuring local radio and television journalists, the workshop identified the criteria for a quality interview and gave scientists opportunities to hone their interview skills.

Rhode Island scientists polished their interviewing skills as veteran journalists Kendall Moore, URI (standing, left), and Ted Nesi, WPRI, provide expert guidance.



Journalists at the Metcalf Workshop get hands-on field and lab experience to enrich future reporting. 2011 Fellow Trimmel Gomes extracted DNA from a water sample in a coastal biodiversity lab

Science Immersion for Reporters

Metcalf has received 45 applications for the 15th Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists, June 9-14, 2013, showing the program's popularity among journalists nationally and abroad. The workshop, supported in part by contributions from our donors, brings ten journalists to Rhode Island to learn about the process of scientific research and newsworthy topics in coastal science, including sea level rise, water pollution and fisheries management.

Why Support Metcalf?

"Talking to scientists, many of whom were involved in research on the Gulf Oil Spill, becoming briefly immersed in their world and gaining a better understanding of how scientists do their jobs while I was at the Metcalf workshop has been invaluable to my reporting."

—Mark Schleifstein, award-winning environment reporter for The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune|NOLA.com, 2011 Metcalf Fellow

Your contributions make these training opportunities possible. Please support Metcalf's mission with a tax-deductible gift today. Visit metcalfinstitute.org/giving or call (401) 874-6134 for more information.



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Your Generous Support at Work – Celebrating 15 Years of Success

As we approach the 15th Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists in June, Metcalf is celebrating the milestone by featuring short interviews with Workshop alumni at metcalfinstitute.org over the next 15 weeks. Our inaugural feature, showcasing alumna Chelsea Wald, demonstrates the value of peer-to-peer exchange that is fostered by Metcalf training programs.

When Chelsea Wald, a freelance science and environmental journalist, reflects on her experience at Metcalf Institute's Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists in 2007, she values the connections she made with fellow reporters most.

One such friendship with alum Christine Dell'Amore led to the creation of the Science Newsbrief Award, an idea they hatched during the Metcalf Workshop. The annual award, given by the D.C. Science Writers Association, honors excellent short-form science reporting. Wald was the producer of a 60-second science radio show at the time, and Dell'Amore was writing for a wire service.

"We were both putting all of our creative energy and knowledge into these short stories that were really hard to write but were never going to win an award," said Wald. "We thought it would be great for morale to acknowledge this type of work."

Recently, Wald accomplished one of her career goals. She and her husband recently authored a new book, *The Traveler's Guide to Astronomy and Space in the Southwest*, published as an e-book for Kindle.

"I hope the book will help people connect with science, the night sky and the desert on a personal level," said Wald. Some proceeds from the book will go towards reducing light pollution worldwide.

—Wald currently writes for various science publications from her home in Vienna, Austria.



Metcalf fellows Christine Dell'Amore and Chelsea Wald, first and second from left, tour the research laboratories in an urban wastewater treatment facility.

Wald visited an Alaskan research site via helicopter in 2010.

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