Experts to address climate change and the future of water

Five top experts in global water issues, flooding, glacial ice and sea level rise will visit the University of Rhode Island for the Metcalf Institute Annual Public Lecture Series, an integral component of the annual Metcalf Institute journalism fellowship (page 3). Join us for these free public programs at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography as we engage with these critical issues.

Corless Auditorium, URI Narragansett Bay Campus, 215 South Ferry Road, Narragansett, Rhode Island. Monday through Thursday at 3:30 p.m., Friday at 11 a.m.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 3:30 P.M.**
JEFF GOODELL, JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR
The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World
Book-signing to follow lecture.

Sea levels are projected to rise fast in the coming decades, with profound implications for virtually every coastal city and town. Goodell, contributing editor for Rolling Stone magazine and award-winning book author, will discuss the economic, environmental and political implications of rising seas, how cities around the world are preparing, and the challenges of reporting on this global phenomenon.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 3:30 P.M.**
MANNY TEODORO, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
The Water Infrastructure Crisis in the U.S. and a Roadmap for Reform

America's water infrastructure challenges emerge in large part from the crazy patchwork quilt of institutions that own, manage, finance, and regulate the supply. Teodoro offers a roadmap for water governance reforms to align institutional incentives with sustainable, affordable and effective infrastructure.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 3:30 P.M.**
TWILA MOON, NATIONAL SNOW AND ICE DATA CENTER
From the Ice Sheet to Your Doorstep: The Expanding Impacts of Global Ice Loss

Glaciers and ice sheets around the globe are shrinking and disappearing, changing ocean properties and ecosystems and raising global sea levels. Moon will explore global ice loss, the implications for communities and economies, and the options for positive action to shape the future of ice on Earth.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 3:30 P.M.**
ERIC TATE, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
Floods and Community Resilience

Water and destruction to property generally get the attention when floods hit, but what about the impact on people? Tate will describe what scientists know about the effects of flood disasters on communities and how vulnerability drives human impacts.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 11 A.M.**
BRANKO KERKEZ, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Smart Water Systems: Could Windshield Wipers Help Prevent Floods?

In this era of smart phones, digital assistants, and self-driving cars, can we build autonomy and intelligence into water systems? New low-cost sensors and controllers could reduce flooding impacts and improve water quality. Kerkez will describe the real-world test beds he is developing for smart stormwater systems. Please note the earlier time of this lecture.
We’ve been busy this spring, training scientists and journalists and meeting with public audiences to explore best practices for relaying environmental and climate science to targeted audiences.

April 4 at Northeastern University:
Strategies for Engaging the Press, a science communication workshop for researchers at the 2019 Superfund Research Program Annual Meeting

April 15 at Rhode Island College:
Climate change: The search for solutions
Metcalf’s Executive Director, Sunshine Menezes, participated in The Providence Journal’s Publick Occurrences panel

April 23 at URI:
Celebrating Earth Day: Richard Louv and the Nature Principle, a public lecture with URI partners

April 27 at Cambridge Public Library:
Sea Change: How Climate Change is Shifting Ocean Ecosystems, a Peter B. Lord Seminar on the Environment for journalists and the public

May 1 at URI: Tailoring Technical Knowledge for Public Audiences, a training for URI Master Gardeners

May 20 at Society of Freshwater Science Conference: Effective and Inclusive Public Engagement for Freshwater Science: A Call to Action, Menezes’ plenary talk

May 24: Proposal Deadline for the 2019 Inclusive SciComm Symposium

Metcalf Institute Advisory Board welcomes three new members

Michael Oppenheimer is professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University, director of the science, technology and environmental policy program at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School and faculty associate of atmospheric and ocean sciences. He spent more than two decades with The Environmental Defense Fund as chief scientist and manager of the climate and air program and is a long-time participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Oppenheimer studies the science and policy of the atmosphere, particularly climate change and its impacts on the ice sheets, sea level and patterns of human migration. He has appeared on ABC News, Nightline, The News Hour, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and the Colbert Report among others. In addition to authoring over 100 articles in professional journals, he is co-author of Dead Heat: The Race Against The Greenhouse Effect.

Ricardo Sandoval-Palos is an award-winning investigative journalist, editor and broadcaster with InsideClimate News. He has helped 100Reporters and the Fund for Investigative Journalism revamp their journalism and fundraising operations. At National Public Radio he helped manage the network’s flagship Morning Edition show. Previously, Sandoval-Palos led global teams of investigative reporters for the Center for Public Integrity and edited the science, health and environment reporting teams at the Sacramento Bee. He is co-author of the biography The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Movement.

Bina Venkataraman is a writer and policy expert who teaches in the program on science, technology, and society at MIT. She is director of global policy initiatives at the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT. She is also a fellow at New America and a former journalist for The New York Times and The Boston Globe. She previously served as senior advisor for climate change innovation in the Obama White House, where she forged partnerships among communities, companies, and government to combat carbon emissions and prepare for climate disasters. Venkataraman also advised the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology in responding to the Ebola epidemic, promoting patient access to cancer therapies, and reforming public school science education. Her first book, The Optimist’s Telescope: Thinking Ahead in a Reckless Age, is due out in August 2019.

The mission of Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting is to expand accurate environmental news coverage through innovative training and resources for journalists, researchers, and other science communicators to build a deeper public understanding of science and the environment.
The Climate-Water Nexus: 21st Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists

JUNE 2–7, 2019

Ten new Metcalf Fellows (below) will sharpen journalism skills and build greater context in their reporting at the 2019 Metcalf Workshop in June through science immersion in the field, lab and lecture hall with research, policy and communication experts on climate change and impacts on water resources.

“With only five days of training, I’m flooded with new ideas and perspectives that I can’t wait to apply to local stories.”

SUSAN PHILLIPS, WHYY, 2016 WORKSHOP ALUMNA

As we’ve seen, local news has a significant influence on a community’s ability to make informed decisions about environmental issues—from planning for flood hazards to the adoption of policies to curb water pollution. The 2019 Metcalf Fellows, chosen from a highly competitive pool of applicants from 34 countries, work in a representative variety of these news settings.

Clifton Adcock, senior reporter/editor, The Frontier, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Robert Anthes, reporter, Community News Service, Lawrence, New Jersey
Mohammed El-Said, editor, Daily News Egypt, Giza, Egypt
Chloe Johnson, reporter, Post and Courier, Charleston, South Carolina
Debra Krol, freelance journalist, Phoenix, Arizona
Josephine Okojie, reporter, BusinessDay, Lagos, Nigeria
Ezra David Romero, reporter, Capital Public Radio, Sacramento, California
Molly Samuel, reporter, WABE, Atlanta, Georgia
Christian Von Preysing-Barry, multimedia journalist, Weslaco, Texas
Kate Yoder, editor, Grist, Seattle, Washington

The Metcalf Workshop is based at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, one of the nation’s premier research institutions with a global reputation for excellence in exploration of the world’s oceans and coasts.

Donors fund a Metcalf Fellow

The 2019 Metcalf Fund a Fellow donor initiative was a huge success thanks to the generous support of our donors. We asked you to help cover the $8,000 cost for one Fellow to attend Metcalf Institute’s 21st Annual Science Immersion Workshop and the response was tremendous — you exceeded our expectations, giving more than $10,000!

Supporting a Metcalf Fellow is one of the most effective ways to counter misinformation and promote high quality reporting on critical environmental issues that impact our communities, our nation and our world.

Thank you to these Fund a Fellow Donors!

Anonymous
Mr. Allen Best
Mr. & Mrs. James Brayton
Dr. Josephine Carubia &
Mr. Vincent Colapietro
Ms. Marti L. Cavanagh
Ms. Caitlin Chaffee
Mr. Matthew Chin
Ms. Cornelia Dean
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Ms. Sharon Gold
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URI Division of Research and Economic Development
Ms. Bina Venkataraman
Dr. Thompson Webb
Ms. Christine Woodside & Mr. Nat Eddy

GRETCHEN ERTL
Metcalf offers young scientists a career boost

BY JULIA REI

Graduate school is an important step for aspiring young scientists. Hard work, hours in the field and lab, weeks in the library, consulting advisors, and writing up results, all to become a master in the field. But what comes after graduation?

Science and engineering students are exiting graduate school and post-doctoral fellowships wishing they had more guidance and skills to make the transition to professional work. In 2017, Science magazine published “The Sad State of Professional Development Programs for Scientists,” which exposed “[the] misalignment between the narrow preparation PhD candidates receive and the broad array of careers they pursue.” Most graduate-level career development is centered around traditional academic research, despite the fact that the majority of PhDs end up working outside of academia, as reported by the Council of Graduate Schools.

Authors of “Best Practices in Doctoral Retention: Mentoring” in the journal Higher Learning Research Communication indicate that students quit graduate school primarily due to feeling overwhelmed, confused and unprepared. They suggest a solution that includes immersion in a supportive and mentoring network of students, professionals, and academics. The ideal network emphasizes the importance of team leadership, portfolio building, time management and science communication.

Metcalf Institute is addressing this gap in higher education with a new Career Development Program (CDP) to give young scientists and engineers the skills and confidence they will need as they enter the workforce. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation through the Rhode Island Consortium for Coastal Ecology Assessment, Innovation and Modeling, the new intensive certificate program requires participants to build an individual development plan and a work-ready skillset, and it encourages them explore career options through workshops, webinars, and conversation circles.

The CDP will also build bridges among the eight colleges and universities that comprise the consortium and develop a network of mentors, instructors, advisors and students that helps to close the work-readiness gap in Rhode Island.

Metcalf Institute and its institutional partners look forward to giving early career scientists and engineers a new perspective on their education and encouraging them look further, think bigger, and stand taller as they move forward in their careers.

Julia Rei is a URI Metcalf Institute science communication intern, graduating in Writing & Rhetoric and Communicative Disorders this May.