

SFI weekly newsletter for the week of November 9, 2009
A weekly service of SFI



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Bill Valentine Lecture in Sustainable Design-- Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
2. 2010 Smart & Sustainable Campus Conference CFP - Deadline extended to November 15th March 21-23, 2010
3. Conf Call: Climate & Energy Truths: Making the Necessary Connections November 17, 2009; 12pm Eastern
4. Webcast – Getting Started on a Carbon Action Plan
5. Call for Abstracts--International Conf on Environmental Science and Technology 2010-- July 12-16 Houston

Please send announcements of your publications, presentations, awards, and names of awarded proposals to Denise Heikinen at dmheikin@mtu.edu.

SFI NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Michigan Tech gets OK for bids on new research center



GRIT Report reported that the Michigan Legislature's Joint Capital Outlay Committee meeting in Lansing on November 12th and authorized Michigan Tech to seek construction bids for its planned Great Lakes Research Center. The \$25.3 million structure will be built on the Portage River waterfront adjacent to the Michigan Tech campus in Houghton. The state will pay 74 percent of the cost. The University's share is 26 percent or \$6.6 million. <http://www.wwj.com/Michigan-Tech-Gets-OK-For-Research-Center-Bids/5664100>

2. Course Announcement – Spring 2010 BL 5380, CRN 14373 Special Topics: Ecosystem Ecology

This course will provide an overview of the history, key concepts, and practice of ecosystem ecology in aquatic and terrestrial environments. We will explore the interconnectedness of nutrient and energy flows through reading and discussing primary literature and regional case studies. Topics covered will include trophic energy transfers, ecosystem production, global nutrient cycling, and ecological stoichiometry. Whenever possible, we will explore these concepts in the context of the history of ecosystem ecology, by reading influential works on energy and material flow from the 1940-70's, and complimenting with studies from recent literature.

Readings will come from Schlesinger, WH (1997) *Biogeochemistry: An Analysis of Global Change*, and Golley, FB (1993) *A History of the Ecosystem Concept in Ecology*, among other sources. This course is appropriate for graduate students in Biology, Forestry, Wildlife, and other environmental disciplines. All students should have a firm basis in biology and ecology and a working knowledge of inorganic chemistry. Lecture, 3 credits Contact Instructor: Amy Marcarelli, Department of Biological Sciences, ammarcar@mtu.edu

3. Family Outdoor Adventures! Hike Swedetown Gorge at Maasto Hiihto Trails, 2-- 4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14.

Bring your family and join the Hohnholt family and their three daughters on a hike of the Swedetown Gorge at the Maasto Hiihto Trails in Hancock. The outing will begin at the chalet near the Houghton County Fairgrounds. Joan Chadde, representing the Western UP Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education, will bring a first-aid kit, binoculars, a variety of ID books, magnifiers, and pencils and supplies for the nature journals. Call 487-3341 if you plan to attend or have any questions, or contact Chadde at jchadde@mtu.edu, or Michelle Miller at michellem@mtu.edu.

4. Copper Country Guatemala Accompaniment Project offers Calendars and import gifts

For information about ARTE MAYA calendars (\$15) contact Sue Ellen Kingsley at <http://www.ccgap.org/index.html>

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



1. Report: Michigan won't push recycling despite promise of more jobs

Michigan could create up to 13,000 good-paying jobs in the recycling industry simply by increasing its recycling rate to the Great Lakes average, but instead it's moving in exactly the opposite direction, a new report shows. Michigan's per-capita recycling rate fell 28 percent between 1998 and 2008, from 0.36 to 0.26 tons annually, according to the report by Lansing's Public Sector Consultants Inc. By contrast, annual per-capita recycling rates in Indiana increased 150 percent, from 0.30 to 0.75 tons. <http://www.wwj.com/Report--State-Won-t-Recycle-Despite-Promise-Of-13-/5663911>

2. Engineering Society of Detroit and UM-Dearborn Begin Conversation On Water-Based Development

Around 240 people gathered Tuesday for a presentation and panel discussion at the University of Michigan-Dearborn on the economic development potential of Michigan's abundant fresh water. The talk centered on what industries could be lured to Michigan by abundant fresh water, and how the state's other economic development issues interact with water. Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Director Pam Turner said the region's recent economic troubles has left her department operating at only 50 percent of water capacity -- meaning that there is plenty of water for new industry. www.esd.org. More at <http://www.wwj.com/pages/5642009.php>

SEMINARS

1. Free Radical Chemistry of Chloropicrin: Linking Chemistry, Kinetic Modeling & Possible Health Effects

Dow 642 3:00 pm Monday, Nov. 16

Dr. Cooper has had a distinguished career in environmental chemistry and engineering with a very broad range of experience. He is Director of the Urban Water Research Center at UC Irvine. His current research topics include carbon cycling in coastal oceans and the chemistry of advanced oxidation processes, including the application of disinfection for ballast water treatment. Dr. Cooper's talk will focus on a byproduct of water/wastewater treatment disinfection processes. There will be a reception following the seminar in the 8th floor atrium in the Dow building. Contact Alex Mayer (906) 487-3372 asmayer@mtu.edu you would like to meet with Dr. Cooper while he is here.

2. Understanding Plant Cell Wall Synthesis to Improve Biofuel Production-4 pm Mon, Nov 16 Forestry G002.

SFRES Graduate Seminar Dominique Loque of Joint Bioenergy Institute (JBEI) in Emeryville, Calif., will present a seminar, "Understanding Plant Cell Wall Synthesis to Improve Biofuel Production," at 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 16, in Forestry G002. Loque is welcomed to campus by the SFRES Graduate Seminar Committee and Biotechnology Research Center.

3. Documentary: Liquid Assets Fisher Hall, Room 129 7:00 pm

Summary: Liquid Assets, a ninety-minute documentary, tells the story of essential infrastructure systems: water, wastewater, and stormwater. These systems — some in the ground for more than 100 years — provide a critical public health function and are essential for economic development and growth. Largely out of sight and out of mind, these aging systems have not been maintained, and some estimates suggest this is the single largest public works endeavor in our nation's history.

JOBS & POST DOCS & INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS and CFPs

1. Program Associate, ACUPCC, Second Nature

Second Nature is accepting applications for the position of program associate for the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) program. The program associate will serve as the primary point of contact for colleges and universities that have signed the ACUPCC and provide administrative and technical assistance to these schools related to reporting requirements, greenhouse gas inventories, and climate action planning. A strong technical background in greenhouse gas measurement and mitigation strategies and excellent customer service skills are required. The Program Associate will also conduct research on various aspects of climate change mitigation and participate in a variety of team activities including statistical analyses of greenhouse gas emission inventories and climate action plans, preparation of the ACUPCC annual report, and development and maintenance of the online reporting system. A master's degree in sustainability or a related field with a minimum of one year related professional experience is required, as is director knowledge of and experience using the Clean Air-Cool Planet Campus Carbon Calculator. The expected start date for this position is January 4, 2010, and the posting will remain open until filled.

<http://secondnature.org/EmploymentOpportunities.html>

2. Reminder: Michigan Space Grants Available

The Michigan Space Grant Consortium (MSGC) is inviting applications for 2010-11. The application and review processes are all online at www.umich.edu/~msgc.

Funding is available for the following programs:

Fellowship Program
Research Seed Grant Program
Precollege Education Program
Public Outreach Program
Teacher Training Program

Applications are due to Institutional Diversity at Michigan Tech no later than 3:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 16.
Submission process:

- 1) Contact Kellie Buss, Research and Sponsored Programs, to create a budget at 487-2226 or kellie@mtu.edu .
- 2) Complete online forms at www.umich.edu/~msgc . (Do not submit until after step number 4.)
- 3) Complete transmittal form
- 4) Print the materials and bring them to Institutional Diversity, which will provide a letter of approval to submit. This step needs to be completed during the week of Nov. 16.

Michigan Tech's MSGC liaison is Chris Anderson, special assistant to the president for institutional diversity. For more information, contact Anderson at csanders@mtu.edu or contact Michigan Tech's MSGC assistant, Carol Argentati, at 487-2474 or caargent@mtu.edu .

NEW RESOURCES

1. New Issue of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*

The Journal of Record. Volume 2, Number 5 contains an editorial entitled, "A New Era in Higher Education?" by Peter Bardaglio and Andrea Putman; an interview with Ciannat Howett, Director of Sustainability Initiatives at Emory University (GA); a roundtable on student engagement; a sustainability program profile of Green Mountain College (VT); the abstract of the winning project of AASHE's student research award; and profiles of AASHE's 2009 Campus Sustainability Leadership Award winners and Student Sustainability Leadership Award winner.

<http://www.liebertonline.com/toc/sus/2/5?cookieSet=1>

2. Offshore Siting Principles and Guidelines for Wind Development on the Great Lakes Released

The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative has released Offshore Siting Principles and Guidelines for Wind Development on the Great Lakes, now available at <http://www.glc.org/energy/wind/publications.html>. The document was a collaborative effort by members of the group's Offshore Wind Workgroup and other stakeholders. "The guidelines are a timely response to what the Collaborative sees as a wave of interest in offshore wind development that is sweeping across the Great Lakes. Offshore wind must be environmentally and economically sustainable and reduce the carbon footprint of the binational Great Lakes region," said Terry Yonker, U.S. Co-chair of the Collaborative's Steering Committee. The Great Lakes Wind Collaborative is a multi-sector coalition of wind energy stakeholders working to facilitate the sustainable development of wind power in the binational Great Lakes region. For more information on the Collaborative, visit <http://www.glc.org/energy/wind/>.

EVENTS & CONFERENCES

1. Janine Benyus, *Borrowing Nature's Blueprints: Biomimicry and The Art of Well-Adapted Design* Webcast Bill Valentine Lecture in Sustainable Design-- Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Biomimicry is a design discipline that seeks sustainable solutions by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies--new ways of living--that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul. Biomimics around the world are learning to grow food like a prairie, cool buildings like a termite, harness energy like a leaf, create color like a peacock, compute like a cell, and run a business like a

redwood forest. These bio-inspired designs are elegant, functional, and life sustaining. Besides helping our species earn a longer stay on the planet, biomimicry has the potential to change the way we view and value non-human nature. It encourages us to view nature not as a source of goods, but as a mentor, a source of wisdom. In this special tribute to Bill Valentine, Janine Benyus, the author of *Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature*, will highlight the Biomimicry Guild's exciting alliance with HOK, which has embraced biomimicry as one of the most important tools used by their designers to create built environments in partnership with nature.

For more information visit: Biomimicry Guild <http://www.biomimicryguild.com/> For event details contact: Brooke King (bking@gsd.harvard.edu) 6:30pm - 7:30pm · Piper Auditorium
Webcast live (and posted a few days following the lecture) at this URL:
<http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/events/webcasts/>

When: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 6:30 PM-7:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: webcast (or Harvard University)

2. 2010 Smart & Sustainable Campus Conference CFP - Deadline extended to November 15th March 21-23, 2010
University of Maryland, College Park

The National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) invites presentation and workshop proposals for the 2010 Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference. Submissions may come from campus administrators, students, or members of the corporate community. At least one presenter needs to be an institutional representative. Preference will be give to presentations that focus on removing obstacles to reach sustainability on campus, including finding creative ways to finance small or large-scale projects, and strategies being employed to fulfill the obligations of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. Broad categories for submission include: operational solutions, financing sustainability, institutionalizing sustainability, and planning and smart growth. The submission deadline has been extended to November 15, 2009. [http://www.nacubo.org/Events_and_Programs/Smart_and_Sustainable_Campuses_Conference/Call for Presentations Overview.html](http://www.nacubo.org/Events_and_Programs/Smart_and_Sustainable_Campuses_Conference/Call_for_Presentations_Overview.html)

3. Conf Call: Climate & Energy Truths: Making the Necessary Connections November 17, 2009; 12pm Eastern

The Media Strategies for Sustainability conference call series has announced a new call entitled "Climate and Energy Truths: Making the Necessary Connections." Climate and Energy Truths is a communications research project conducted to determine effective frameworks and messages for speaking with the American public about climate change, climate solutions, renewable energy, and carbon-based fuels. During the presentation, Robert M. Perkowitz, founder and president of ecoAmerica, will discuss how campus sustainability professionals can use this data to move forward sustainability issues on campus and in upcoming climate legislation. <http://sites.google.com/site/campussustainmedia/learning-sessions>

4. Webcast – Getting Started on a Carbon Action Plan

December 2, 2009; 2 – 3:30pm Eastern; Online

Academic Impressions invites participants to "Getting Started on a Carbon Action Plan." During the webcast, Dave Newport, director of the Environmental Center at University of Colorado at Boulder, will give an overview of the steps needed to create a realistic plan for carbon action. Attendees will learn how to create an accurate carbon inventory, evaluate carbon mitigation options, quickly project future emissions, and determine a carbon action plan and goals quantitatively. http://www.academicimpressions.com/web_conferences/1209-carbon.php?q=4009x274891yT

5. Call for Abstracts--International Conf on Environmental Science and Technology 2010-- July 12-16 Houston

The 5th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology sponsored by the American Academy of Sciences will be held on July 12-16, 2010 in Houston, Texas, USA. The conference will provide a multidisciplinary platform for environmental scientists, engineers, management professionals and government regulators to discuss the latest developments in environmental research and applications. Please visit the conference Website at

<http://www.AASci.org/conference/env/2010> for more information or send email inquiries to env-conference@AASci.org <http://www.AASci.org/conference/env/2010/index.html> env-conference@AASci.org