

Inside The Earth Institute

a monthly e-newsletter

September 2004

Message from Jeff Sachs



Real Video (5:55) 

Quicktime Video (5:55) 

In this e-newsletter video, Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, welcomes the Earth Institute community — researchers, faculty, new EI Fellows, Master's in Climate and Society and Ph.D. in Sustainable Development students — to the Fall 2004 school year.

This summer, Jeff traveled to fifteen countries on behalf of the UN Millennium Project and the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He was joined in several countries by EI experts who are working on a report for the Secretary-General that outlines ways the world can achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This report is being authored by Sachs and the MDG task force co-chairs and will be presented to the Secretary-General in the middle of January 2005.



Geologist Ascends Peaks and Dives to the Ocean Floor, Looking for Secrets of Earth's Crust

As a geologist, Peter Kelemen, who was recently appointed Arthur Storke Memorial Professor of

In the News

The New York Times, August 29, 2004

Joel E. Cohen, director of the Laboratory of Populations of Columbia and Rockefeller Universities, says that growing population pressure in rural areas could be good for the environment.

The Daily Nation (Africa), August 29, 2004

An article on Kenya's Minister for Tourism and Wildlife's recent death of from heart disease cites a report by the Earth Institute on the growing prevalence of heart disease in the developing world.

Access News, August 24, 2004

Scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC) and other groups have discovered that coral reefs nearly wiped out by climate change are recovering with unusual heat-resistant algae that may help protect them from future warming.

Scientific American, August 22, 2004

How do scientists determine the composition of the interior of Earth and other planets? Art Lerner-Lam, associate director for seismology, geology, and tectonophysics at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, explains.

[more recently in the media](#)

Pfaff, Schlosser Take on New Roles at Earth Institute

The Earth Institute is extremely pleased to announce that **Peter Schlosser** has been appointed Associate Director of the Earth Institute. [more](#)

Alex Pfaff became the new Executive Director of the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development in July, 2004. [more](#)

Bollinger, EI Experts Tour Ethiopia

Columbia President Lee Bollinger visited Ethiopia this past July, along with Earth Institute public health expert Awash Teklehaimanot and members of the Hunger Task Force of the United Nations Millennium Project, getting a first-hand look at community-based soil conservation activities, including terracing hillsides to prevent rapid flow of water and flooding during rainy periods. [more](#)

Upcoming Special Events at the Earth Institute



Restless Earth: LDEO Open House

Saturday, October 9, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's grounds will be open to thousands of visitors as researchers present their studies of this "Restless Earth." [more](#)

Reaching the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: The Role of the MDG Technical Support Center

September 15, 2004, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Guest speaker: **Glenn Denning**, Director of the MDG Technical Support Center, Nairobi, Kenya and Associate Director, Tropical Agriculture Program. At the Faculty House, and open to the public. Reception immediately following the lecture. [more](#)

Exploring an Icy Frontier Beneath Two Miles of Ice:
Lake Vostok

October 04, 2004 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Guest speaker: **Robin Bell**, Doherty Senior Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and Director, Center for Rivers and Estuaries. At the Explorer's Club, 46 East 70th Street. Entrance fee: \$15 or \$5 with student ID. Refreshments provided. [more](#)

[see all events](#)

Geochemistry in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University, has ascended to 7,500 meters on a Himalayan peak and plummeted into the Atlantic to 5,500 meters. He has traveled via snowmobile, helicopter and climbing rope, all in the pursuit of secrets of the earth's crust. [more](#)

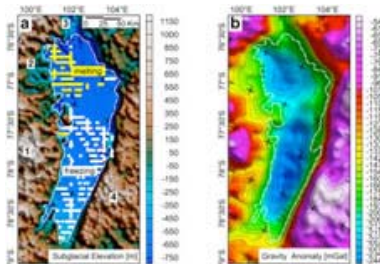


Ethiopian Meteorologist Wins Prestigious Scholarship to Attend Columbia's New Master's Program in Climate and Society

Diriba Korecha Dadi, team leader of the weather forecast and early warning unit at the National Meteorological Services Agency in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, arrived at Columbia this week to take part in the first class of Columbia University's new M.A. Program in Climate and Society on a Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship. [more](#)

NASA Grant for Carbon Research Awarded to Earth Institute

As part of its mission to fund scientific research that will provide a global census of various forms and quantities of carbon and the natural and man-made factors that regulate carbon, NASA recently announced a \$671,000 grant to Ajit Subramaniam, a Doherty Associate Research Scientist with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, part of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. [more](#)



New Map of Antarctica's Lake Vostok Reveals Two Distinct Parts, With Possibly Differing Ecosystems

The most comprehensive measurements of Lake Vostok, the world's largest subglacial lake — roughly the size of Lake Ontario in North America — indicate that it is divided into two distinct basins that may have different water chemistry and biological characteristics. The waters of Lake Vostok have not been disturbed for hundreds of thousands of years, and there are tantalizing clues that microbes, isolated for at least as long, may exist. [more](#)



Awash Teklehaimanot Looks Back on a Busy Summer

In Addis Ababa this summer, Awash Teklehaimanot (above, right), an Earth Institute health expert and member of the Center for Global Health and Economic Development, launched the [Center for National Health Development in Ethiopia](#), a project of the Earth Institute in support of accelerated expansion of primary health care facilities in Ethiopia. [more](#)

Grant Program Requests Proposals Center for Urban Research and Policy, Columbia University

The Center for Urban Research and Policy (CURP) announces a [request for seed grant proposals](#). Grant money is intended to support the initial stages of new social science research projects that address urban issues. CURP is a research center housed at the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP), Columbia University. Proposals are due October 15, 2004. [more](#)



New EI Website: Adding Contacts and Events Information is a Click Away

The latest EI website has a new design and increased functionality in the directory and events sections. The new Earth Institute logo (above, bottom right) was inspired by the spiral found in cosmology, natural sciences and certain aspects of technology. [learn about new EI website](#)

Funding Available for Undergraduate Research Assistance

The Earth Institute is sponsoring a number of undergraduate research assistantships available to affiliated faculty and researchers at Columbia and Barnard for the 2004 Fall semester. This is a chance for faculty to start new projects without current funding, or fund supplements to ongoing projects. [more](#)

Comments and Suggestions



UN Secretary-General Calls For Twenty-first Century Green Revolution in Africa

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan met with Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute and the UN Millennium Project, and Pedro Sanchez, director of the Tropical Agriculture Program and co-chair of the Millennium Project Hunger Task Force, after delivering the keynote speech at a July 5 meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which Sachs and Sanchez helped to organize through their roles with the Millennium Project. [more](#)

São Tomé Set to Vote on Unprecedented Oil Revenue Laws Earth Institute helped African island nation set up legal and governance framework to avoid "resource curse"

This advisory project may help São Tomé and Príncipe withstand the enormous pressures for fraud and abuse associated with oil revenues and avoid the "resource curse" that plagues many low-income oil exporters, whose newfound wealth often triggers corruption and social conflict. [more](#)



EI Fellows Begin Research to Address Sustainable Development Issues

"This is a unique range of post-doc expertise assembled to address the issues of our time," said Jeff Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, at this year's EI Fellows welcome luncheon. Some fellows' research interests include: environmental implications of the use and disposal of electronics; the social networks, population density, and the diffusion of new information; and sustainable use of local common property.

Incoming Fellows shown above: Top row: Kristina Czuchlewski, Bijan Khazai, Christopher Doll, Cristina Maria-Rumbaitis-del Rio, J. Carter Ingram, Yanis Ben Amor. Bottom row, left to right: Lee Addams, Nori Tarui, and Nikhil Krishnan. Incoming Fellows not shown: Yanis Amor, Fabrice de Clerck and Caroline Korves.

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