

Message from Jeff Sachs

[Real Video](#) (4:16)

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New Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs Opens For Business

At Columbia, the Earth Institute welcomes new Director Jeffrey Sachs, July 1.

July 1st may have been the official start date for The Earth Institute's new Director Jeffrey Sachs, but he hit the ground running having spent the last few months learning about Columbia's earth, life, and social sciences initiatives.

After hosting the launch of the Institute's Columbia University/UNESCO Joint Program on Biosphere and Society (CUBES) center at a luncheon at the United Nations last month, Sachs moved to temporary offices in Columbia's Hogan Hall. In addition to directing the Earth Institute, Sachs is President Lee Bollinger's Special Advisor on Global Affairs. His permanent quarters will be at 314 Low Library.

By mid-July Sachs was on the first leg of a two month journey that would take him from New York to Arizona then Barcelona, Phnom Penh, the western provinces of China, and finally, to Johannesburg.

Arizona**New Earth Institute Director, Jeffrey Sachs, Visits Columbia's Biosphere 2 Center**

By: Wes Miksa, Student MPA, Earth Systems Science, Policy, and Management School of International and Public Affairs

Barcelona**AIDS 2002 Barcelona: XIV International Conference on AIDS****Princeton, NJ**

More than 50 members of The Earth Institute are attending the annual retreat to be held this year at the Doral Forrester Conference Center in Princeton, NJ.

In the News

Nature (05/02/02) Did the world freeze over some half a billion years ago? Nicholas Christie-Blick and Linda Sohl, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, were cited among those raising doubts about evidence presented by two Harvard scientists.

The New York Times (05/15/02) Steven Chillrud, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, received a federal grant to compile a database to ascertain as much as possible the pre-9/11 air conditions. This will assist in air quality testing at ground zero.

The New York Times (05/17/02) "Meteor May Have Started Dinosaur Era" was the title of an article featuring research by Paul Olsen, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "There is a geochemical signature of something important happening, probably an asteroid impact, just before the time in which familiar dinosaur-dominated communities appear." The research was also reported by New Scientist, Science, The Washington Post, The Economist, The San Francisco Chronicle, TIME, U.S. News & World Report, Boston Globe and USA Today.

The New York Times (06/30/02) Klaus Jacob, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was cited in an article on designing buildings to resist earthquakes.

The Economist (07/06/02) Jeffrey Sachs, The Earth Institute of Columbia University, stated "When you think about the scale of risk that the world faces, it is clear that we grossly under invest in knowledge...we have enough income to live very comfortably in the developed world and to prevent dire need in the developing world. So we should have the confidence to invest in longer-term issues like the environment."

Montreal Gazette (07/06/02) "The Throat of Satan": Volcanos loom as a sleeping threat for more than a billion people." Christopher Small, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, stated volcanos are "people magnets. If you look at the settlement patterns in satellite imagery, there are a surprising number of people living in the throat of Satan."

Education**MPA at B2C****On the web**

Read about Dr. Paul Olsen's research on the rise of large dinosaurs of the Jurassic period, which may have been caused in part by the impact of a large asteroid. There are links to high-resolution photographs of dinosaur footprints and to Dr. Olsen's web site.

[\(more\)](#)



Be sure to check out the updated [State of the Planet conference web site](#), linked from the home page.

Follow-up materials that have been added to the site include select highlights from the presentations with accompanying photographs. The media and agenda sections now linked to archived webcasts so visitors can watch the presentations they missed or review ones that they've already seen. Also added since the conference, is a press release in the 'News' section, summarizing the results of the conference.

Q&A with Duncan Watts

Sociologist [Duncan Watts](#) and Earth Institute Postdoctoral Fellow, [Peter Dodds](#), recently organized the **2002 Workshop on Network Contagion and Failure**. The conference was sponsored jointly by the Santa Fe Institute and the Earth Institute's Center for Nonlinear Earth Systems.

Q: What were your expectations for the Workshop?

Director Jeff Sachs will lead a discussion on making the Earth Institute the world's leading academic center for sustainable development. Planned events will include scientist Mark Cane working with the group to develop key cross cutting themes in the coming academic year.

Cambodia

On August 4th - 6th Jeff Sachs will be in Phnom Penh, accompanied by CUBES Coordinator Christine Alfsen-Norodom, where he will be meeting with National Assembly President Prince Norodom Rannaridh, as well as the Ministers of Environment, Health and Social Development, and other CUBES partners and stakeholders from government and civil society in Cambodia.

China

Jeff Sachs will extensively explore the western region of China (Yunnan, Sichuan, Guangxi, for example) in order to offer investment advice to the state development planning agency on promoting sound economic development in this, one of the poorest regions of China.

Africa

Johannesburg: World Summit on Sustainable Development

Save the Date

The [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#) will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Earth Institute will be represented at the Summit by director Jeffrey Sachs along with other members of EI. The agenda items to be discussed are Water, Energy, Health, Agricultural Productivity, and Biodiversity.

For more information on the Earth Institute's participation, see <http://www.earth.columbia.edu> as the dates draw closer.

Comments and Suggestions

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Next issue

The Earth Institute welcomes Center for the Study of Science and Religion, Center for Science, Policy and Outcomes, Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development, and Center for Public Health in Developing Countries.

Past issues



The [Master's Program in Earth Systems Science, Policy and Management](#) trains sophisticated public managers and policymakers, who apply innovative, systems-based thinking to environmental issues. Graduates are creating a new profession of Earth systems problem-solvers: individuals who can both understand and integrate the knowledge needed to maintain the health of the Earth's interconnected ecological, institutional, economic, and social systems. The program challenges students to think systemically and act pragmatically. To meet this challenge, students enter a top quality graduate program in management and policy analysis, which emphasizes practical skills and effective strategies and is enriched by ecological and planetary science. Our approach reflects the system level thinking that is needed to understand ecological interactions and to manage organizations. Graduates are prepared for leadership positions in local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as in nonprofit organizations, and the environmental divisions of private corporations. They are equipped with the broad training to break down highly complex problems into more manageable issues.

First Meeting



The IRI Board of Overseers convened its first meeting on June 12-13, 2002 at the Lamont Campus, Palisades, New York. The Members were chosen based on their international expertise and experience in sustainable development issues. Meeting participants include, from left to right: Julia Marton Lefevre, Crispin Tickell, Simon Upton, Michael Hall, Michael McElroy (Chairman), Roberto Lenton, Nay Htun, John Mutter, Shinn Liang Shieh, Ken Mooney, Christie Walkuski, Neil Ward, Antonio Moura, Alissa Schmelz, Reid Basher, Ming Cheng and James Buizer. (IRI)

Emerging Unit: CUBES



More than 50 members of the news media, diplomatic corps, and Columbia faculty turned out at the United Nations headquarters on June 21st for the announcement of the Columbia University/UNESCO Joint Program on Biosphere and Society (CUBES). Foreign press from Brazil, Japan, and India, to name a few, and the members of the missions of Cambodia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Brazil joined Christine Alfsen-Norodom, coordinator of CUBES and Jeffrey Sachs, director of The Earth Institute at the luncheon to announce the new center. CUBES' mission is to assist local communities around the globe in adapting to rapid environmental and societal change and to share information between societies facing similar challenges. The center is currently in partnership with sites in

A: The goal of the 2002 Workshop was to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines to discuss propagation on complex networks of contagion (disease, rumors, innovation, computer viruses) and failure (earthquakes, eco-system collapse, economic collapse). A good deal of research has been performed recently on the structure and evolution of real-world networks, from the growth of the world wide web to networks of sexual relations and company boards of directors. At the inaugural network dynamics workshop, held at Santa Fe Institute in August 2000, we brought together a similarly broad range of researchers to discuss the basic outlines of this rapidly emerging field. This year's workshop followed on from the one in Santa Fe by concentrating on the general issue of how networks facilitate, impede, and alter the outcomes of dynamical processes occurring at their nodes and along their links. How can thinking about networks help us to minimize the spreading of disease in populations or maximize the dissemination of important information? Given a particular network of cracks and faults, can we estimate under what circumstances an earthquake of a certain magnitude will occur?

Q: How does the workshop relate to the mission of the Earth Institute?

A: Both networks and contagion are inherently multidisciplinary topics that touch on a number of Earth Institute interests. The aim of the Earth Institute is to advance our understanding of earth systems with the key focus being on sustainable development. Because public health and also socio-economic health are necessary components of sustainable development, and because the spreading of influence—hence contagion—is central to a wide range of problems in both epidemiology and socio-economics, a proper understanding of sustainable development requires us to better understand contagion. And because networks, whether social, sexual, or institutional, are often relevant to contagion problems, we must understand them also. As such, the workshop's participants came from a broad array of fields including Earth Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Physics, Applied Mathematics, Ecology, Anthropology, Statistics Sociology, Economics, Epidemiology, Public Health, and Political Science.

The 2002 Interdisciplinary Workshop on Network Contagion and Failure was also the second Symposium of the Center for Nonlinear Earth Systems, which comes under the umbrella of the Earth Institute. The joint sponsorship between SFI and Columbia Earth Institute was beneficial for both sides. Columbia holds much promise to become one of the academic strongholds of interdisciplinary research over the next decade.

Cambodia, the US, Peru, Kenya, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. [\(more\)](#)

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