

**Message from Michael Crow**

Real Video (1:58) 

Quicktime Video (1:58) 

I am hopeful that this new "Inside the Earth Institute" electronic newsletter will help accomplish a very difficult task for our organization of a thousand folks across more than 25 disciplines, on several campuses.

Many of the Institute's initiatives happen just beyond the boundaries of what a person in any normal given day might hear about.

I'd like to use this electronic newsletter as a way to knit the Earth Institute community together; to keep people aware of what we are doing, where we are headed and what kinds of research are moving forward (that they might be a part of).

For instance, a week or so ago, I had a chance to look at a major proposal developed by Mark Cane and some others, which is looking at the relationship between climate factors and malaria development in areas of the world.

I happen to know that at the School of Public Health there are folks interested in that. There are people interested in that in the School of International and Public Affairs. There are people interested in the problem at The Rockefeller University in our Populations Laboratory, and so forth.

The hope is to make people aware of what's happening; not to burden them with yet another thing to read, or something else to bother themselves with, but just to get the word out, and help us be connected.

This newsletter is going to be open. People will be able to put things in it by working with the editors to get the word out about things that are happening.

-Michael Crow

**In the News**

ABC World News Tonight (01/18/02) Art Lerner-Lam, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was among those interviewed for a report on the eruption of a volcano in the Congo.

The Journal News (01/26/02) Sites on Hudson River vie for river research facility. John Mutter and Robin Bell, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, cited reasons why Lamont-Doherty offers more than the competition.

New York Times (02/02/02) The New York Times reported on a study of environmental sustainability that ranks 142 countries. Yale University and Columbia Earth Institute's Center for International Earth Science Information Network prepared the study for the World Economic Forum. Finland ranks first and the U.S. comes in at 51. The study was also reported on by CBS Marketwatch, Financial Times of London, The Associated Press, and Public Radio newswire.

New York Times (02/05/02) Don Melnick, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation, was featured in "Acrobatic Ape in Java Is in High-Wire Survival Struggle" for using genetic analysis to distinguish between populations of silvery gibbons and to shape a rescue plan.



*The Maurice Ewing, a globally capable research vessel seen here performing multichannel seismic profiling, now in the South Seas, is one of five Columbia Earth Institute campuses dedicated to Earth systems science and education.*

**Education**

There are many new education initiatives in Earth and Environment. The [education](#) web site shows introductory courses and undergraduate programs in our departments, plus the program at [Biosphere 2](#). It also lists our 7 [masters](#) and 5 [doctoral](#) programs. New this

**On the web**

**About CEI:** The mission and history of the Earth Institute detailed with descriptions of its units and a historical timeline. <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/about>

**Calendar of Events:** A new database-generated calendar of events, which is updated daily. If you would like your events posted, please contact: [ceievents@ldeo.columbia.edu](mailto:ceievents@ldeo.columbia.edu)  
<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/calendar.html>

**E-seminars:** Electronic seminars featuring leading Columbia faculty are now available online. Columbia e-seminars are free to Columbia students, faculty, and staff. They are available to the public for a fee via the online learning site [www.fathom.com](http://www.fathom.com). co-founded by Columbia. Four e-seminars featuring scientists from the Columbia Earth Institute can be found by Columbia community members at <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/outreach/eseminars.html>

**The Education site:** The CEI Education section features all of the earth and environment courses available at Columbia. New offerings include those from the newest academic department, Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology. The extensive Education section demonstrates Columbia's growing commitment to earth systems science.  
<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/education/index.html>

**Q&A**

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## Save the Date

03/15/2002

The [Environmental Policy Studies](#) group at SIPA is inviting suggestions and proposals for student environmental policy workshops. These workshops provide consulting experience in working with client organizations: government agency, international association, or non-governmental organization. Contact [Anna Giovinetto](#) for more information before 03/15/2002.

04/16/2002 06:00 PM - 07:45 PM

CERC: [Biodiversity on the Brink](#) Financing Conservation: Protection through Innovation

04/19/2002 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM

[Columbia Earth Institute 2002 Distinguished Lectures on Earth & Human Systems](#)

Partha Dasgupta, Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics, Fellow of St. John's College, University of Cambridge

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## Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

## Past issues

spring are two introductory courses, Science and Society (EESC1003) and [Biodiversity](#) (ENVB1001), and several courses for advanced undergraduates and graduate students, among them: [Alternative Energy Resources](#) (U4729), [Environmental Sociology](#) (U 4740), and [GIS Planning and Support Systems](#) (PLA6232). Much effort is going into the final development stage for the master's program in [Earth System Science Policy & Management](#), to be launched at Biosphere 2 this June.

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## Profiles: An Emerging CEI Unit The Center for Hazards and Risk Management

Under the auspices of the Columbia Earth Institute, physical and social scientists are undertaking a new research program motivated by a need to reduce the catastrophic impacts on society from natural and human-induced hazards. The Center for Hazards and Risk Research draws on Columbia's acknowledged expertise in Earth and environmental sciences, engineering, social sciences, public policy, public health, and business.

Columbia is undertaking the development of this new activity as part of our continued development of links across disciplines and between academia and other sectors. A new realm of knowledge development is emerging in which the articulation, development and outcomes of research programs are more tightly linked with the stakeholder and decision-making groups. Activities such as those of the Center for Hazards and Risk Research develop not only our understanding of Earth systems, but also our understanding of the impacts of that knowledge on human societies.

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[Klaus S. Lackner](#) is Ewing Worzel Professor of Geophysics. Lackner, along with other Columbia engineers, Earth scientists and economists on the Institute's Global Climate Change Task Force, is looking at new ways in which society can responsibly maintain the use of fossil fuels and manage the global carbon cycle.

Q: Can we achieve energy independence without negatively affecting the environment?

A: Unlike oil, lower grade carbon fuels are abundant and available in every region of the world. Improvements in technology are, however, necessary to avoid a negative environmental impact from the use of dirtier fuels like coal or tar. Since oil and gas also cause emission of greenhouse gases, "zero emission" technologies like the ones that we in Earth and Environmental Engineering are working on will need to be developed, even if our dependence on oil and gas remains unchanged.

Q: What is the real challenge to reducing our dependence on Middle Eastern oil reserves?

A: The real challenges to gaining independence are in the public policy arena. Liquefaction of coal, for example, has not been introduced in the past because oil producers can drop prices and maintain profits. By bringing together policy makers, economists and social scientists, Columbia's Earth Institute can help government and private agencies develop the structures and institutions that can facilitate and sustain the necessary transition to alternative fuels.