

**Message from Jeff Sachs**

Real Video (11:55) 

Quicktime Video (11:55) 

In his first Earth Institute newsletter address of the fall semester, Director Jeffrey Sachs delivers a follow-up on the strategic plan, detailing the enthusiastic response from President Lee Bollinger, Provost Alan Brinkley, and Senior Executive Vice President Robert Kasdin, saying, "We have the backing of the university."

Jeff also welcomes twelve new Earth Institute Fellows noting that, "So much cutting-edge science is accomplished at that post-doctoral stage," and calls the Earth Institute Fellows a "fantastic mix of talent."

Lastly, Jeff outlines some important upcoming events in the next few weeks, namely the arrival of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on September 24th, and His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, the President of the Republic of Ghana, on September 25th. "Both are good friends of the Earth Institute and have been very eager and receptive to many initiatives from us," says Jeff, including a "major ongoing India program that involves giving policy advice and technical analysis on a range of sustainable development issues," and in Ghana a "major advisory program."

Jeff also talks about the important research that will be discussed at Robin Bell's [Lake Vostok lecture](#) on September 16th, and the [Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory's Open House](#) on October 4th.

**On the Web****In the News****Columbia Daily Spectator, NY - September 2, 2003**

Earth Institute and Columbia University scientists lend expertise to a new science course recently added to the Core Curriculum: [more](#)

**ScienceBlog.com - August 19, 2003**

Researchers led by Don Melnick of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University demonstrate that Borneo's elephants are genetically distinct from other Asian elephants: [more](#)

**Science Daily - August 11, 2003**

Dr. Mladen Nedimovic, a scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, was lead author on a paper published in Nature that examines mega earthquake threats in the Pacific Northwest: [more](#)

[more recently in the media](#)

**Professor Will Masters Appointed Interim Director of the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development**

Professor Will Masters from Purdue University has been appointed Interim Director of the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development (CGSD) as of September 2, 2003. [more](#)

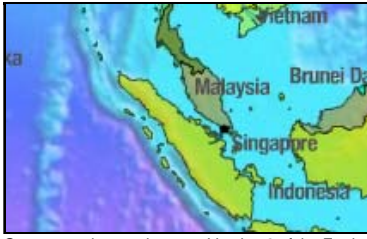
**Tuesday September 16th: Lamont-Doherty Scientist Robin Bell Presents Research on the World's Most Intriguing Lake**

How do you study a subterranean lake that has remained isolated from the surface of the Earth for more than 35 million years, without contaminating the waters in the course of your study? This is the challenge that will be discussed in a lecture by Robin Bell of the Earth Institute at Columbia University on Tuesday, September 16 at 4pm in Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR . [more info](#)

**Rob Glaser, Founder of the Glaser Progress Foundation, Joins Earth Institute Experts for Presentation Dinner**

On September 18th Jeffrey Sachs will host a dinner and presentation on progress in the fight against AIDS in Rwanda. Sachs' co-host will be Rob Glaser, founder of the Glaser Progress Foundation, which has funded the Access Project for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Access Project, located at Columbia's Center for Global Health and Economic Development (CGHED), has been working with leaders in Africa and elsewhere to design effective programs and submit fundable proposals to the Global Fund. In just over a year the Access Project, administered by Josh Ruxin, has helped countries put together proposals that have received over \$150 million in grant commitments.

Special guest at the dinner will be Dr. Richard Feachem, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,



Get your project on the map: Version 2 of the Earth Institute [map tool](#) and [directory](#), an enhanced function of the Earth Institute website, was one of the many projects completed this summer.

### Experts Meet to Discuss the Observed Impacts of Climate Change

Over 34 experts from 14 countries and 6 continents met July 17-19 at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies for an IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Working Group II Expert Meeting to discuss the detection and attribution of the effects of climate change. [more](#)

### On the Scoreboard



The Master of Public Administration in Environmental Science and Policy trains sophisticated public managers and policymakers who apply innovative, systems-based thinking to environmental issues. Also, they are favored by the New York Mets, as shown in the above photo taken by an MPA student during an informal MPA outing to Shea Stadium on August 13. (The Mets beat the Giants, 9-2). For more information about the MPA in Environmental Science and Policy, [click here](#).

### Comments and Suggestions

Contact our [editor](#)

### Past issues

### Earth Institute's Balstad Miller and Lenton Receive New Appointments

Dr. Roberta Balstad Miller, director of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) and coordinator of the Earth Institute's 21st Century Cities project, has been appointed chair of the U.S. National Committee on Science and Technology Data (CODATA). She has also been appointed chair of a new multidisciplinary panel organized by the International Council of Science (ICSU) to conduct an international strategic review of scientific data and information issues. [more](#)

Earth Institute water expert Dr. Roberto Lenton has been appointed chair of the Technical Committee for the Global Water Partnership, an organization that brings together government, public, and private sector groups to address challenges of sustainable water management around the world. [more](#)

### Earth Institute Fellows Program Now Accepting Applications

The Earth Institute is now accepting applications for its twelve openings as Earth Fellows. Fellows are selected each year for their past achievement, future potential, and existing commitment to pursue and communicate interdisciplinary solutions to scientific and social issues concerning the need to conserve the Earth's natural resources and to address increasing demands for food, shelter, safety, sanitation, energy, health services, and economic security, especially for the poor. [more info](#)

Tuberculosis and Malaria, who will provide an update on the work being done by the Global Fund and its grantees around the world. Members of the Access Project team currently on the ground in Rwanda will give a presentation on their work. Members of the media have been also invited to the dinner for a brainstorming session about how to increase awareness of, and funding for the fight against, the global AIDS crisis. [more info on the Access Project](#)



### Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Prepares For Thousands Of Visitors For Annual Open House

The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Open House is a hit with families. Plan on attending Saturday, October 4th, from 10am - 4pm. [more details](#)

### Save the Date: New Evidence About The Black Sea Flood

A two-day conference entitled "The Black Sea Flood: Archaeological and Geological Evidence" will be held at Columbia University in New York City on October 18-19, 2003 in the Altschul Auditorium of the School of International and Public Affairs. Admission will be free. The presented papers will review geological and archaeological evidence for Quaternary transformations in the Black Sea basin, with specific focus on the sixth millennium BC inundation proposed by Drs. William Ryan and Walter Pitman, both of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. [more](#)