

**Message from Jeff Sachs**

[Real Video](#) (10:45)

[Quicktime Video](#) (10:45)

In his February newsletter address, Jeff Sachs announces that Peter Schlosser and Mary Robinson have taken on new roles within the Earth Institute. Peter Schlosser has joined the leadership team as Assistant Director of the Earth Institute, and Mary Robinson has become director of the new Ethical Globalization Initiative (EGI) which will have a Columbia base here at EI.

Jeff also discusses the details of the flagship conference of the Earth Institute — The State of the Planet conference — held this year on the Columbia University campus on March 29-30.

"This is a major event for the Earth Institute," says Jeff, "convening world thinkers from around the planet to talk about, document and discuss the state of the planet regarding its sustainability and economic development."

Several world renowned experts in their fields are participating, such as Professor E.O. Wilson, renowned biologist from Harvard University; Mary Robinson, one of the most respected world leaders in human rights; and the administrator of National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher. On Day 2 of the conference, dozens of leading scholars from around the world will participate in four panel discussions on energy systems, food, water and health.

From this conference, leading scholars and scientists will issue a consensus statement to help advise the general public, the policy makers, and attendees of the G8 summit (which takes place this June) about the critical issues of sustainability and economic development.

In the last part of his video address, Jeff mentions that poverty reduction as part of the Millennium Development Goals is moving forward under the UN Millennium Project, which he directs. This project is roughly half-way

**In the News****The Journal News -- February 3, 2004**

An article discusses a lecture given by Paul G. Richards, Mellon Professor of Natural Sciences at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, on seismology's role in detecting, identifying, locating and determining the size of underground nuclear explosions.

**National Public Radio (NPR) -- January 6, 2004**

A profile of the cross-cutting work done by the Earth Institute. To listen, click on the above link and scroll down the page to additional link titled "Ambitious Ideas to End World Hunger."

**Fast Company -- January 2004**

In this interview, Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs expands upon some of the complex issues surrounding economic development in populations facing obstacles like disease and isolation.

**Fortune -- January 5, 2004**

Earth Institute Director Jeffrey Sachs authors an article on the expected economic growth of Asia in the next century, specifically in China and India.

**India Times -- January 5, 2004**

John McArthur, associate director of the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute, and Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute, have evolved a methodology to measure competitive growth called the growth competitive index (GCI) that was referenced in this article.

**Various Media -- December 2003**

Dr. James E. Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), a unit of the Earth Institute, and Dr. Larissa Nazarenko, a staff associate at GISS, published new research suggesting emissions of black soot alter the way sunlight reflects off snow. Over 80 media outlets, including The New York Times, CNN, Scientific American, BBC News, CBS News, and The Boston Globe, covered the story.

[more recently in the media](#)



### **Earth Institute Convenes State of the Planet Conference; Will Bring World Science and Policy Experts on March 29-30 to Discuss Sustainable Development**

Working to link global decision-making to the best of sustainability science, the Earth Institute at Columbia University will convene the third biennial State of the Planet conference on March 29 - 30, 2004. The conference will bring together an international roster of influential and innovative thinkers on issues critical to the well-being of the Earth and its inhabitants — specifically energy, food, water, and health.

State of the Planet 2004 will generate recommendations on the best scientific options, and most urgent areas for investment to ensure delivery of basic needs such as water, energy, health, and nutrition to all the world's people. These recommendations will be presented to leading policymakers, including those involved in the G8 summit meeting scheduled for June 2004. [more](#)

### **New York City Sustainable Development Initiative Launched**

Last month the Earth Institute convened about a dozen senior scientists to explore projects central to the Institute's mission to achieve sustainable development, especially for the poor. Former Mayor David Dinkins chaired the discussion which focused on the idea of an Earth Institute New York City Sustainable Development Initiative. The session was hosted by Steve Cohen, director of the Earth Institute's educational programs, along with Jeff Sachs. [more](#)

### **Recent Earth Institute Grants**

The **World Food Program** donated \$180,000 and **DFID** donated \$66,000 in support of the Millennium Development Goals, specifically the Hunger Task Force.

into its three-year term, and the ten task forces of the project, many of which are led by Earth Institute scientists, have issued interim reports, which are [now available online](#).



Will Masters (left), interim director at the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development, discusses sustainable development with Cheick Sidi Diarra, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations.

### El Retreat Brings U.S. Congresspersons and U.N. Ambassadors Together at Columbia University to Discuss Economic and Security Issues in Africa & the Caribbean Basin

The two-day retreat on Economic and Security Issues In Africa and the Caribbean Basin that took place this past January built on growing ties between the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus and the UN Diplomatic Corps. Co-sponsored by the Center on Globalization and Sustainable Development, a unit of the Earth Institute, and the Humpty Dumpty Institute, and in conjunction with the GlobalWorks Foundation, the retreat facilitated a robust dialogue between members of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus, African and Caribbean Ambassadors to the United Nations, and various experts from academia and the private sector on issues of trade, progress in the battle against HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases, U.S. foreign policy objectives in these areas and African peace and security. [more](#)

### GISS Scientist Wins AGU Award For Work With New York City Students and Teachers

George Tselioudis, a scientist at the Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS), a unit of the Earth Institute, has been awarded the Charles S. Falkenberg Award, which will be presented at a ceremony at the spring American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting in Montreal this May. This award recognizes Tselioudis' participation, since 1994, in an outreach program at GISS/Columbia University that brings New York City high school students and teachers from underrepresented minorities to GISS and mentors them on different research projects. [more](#)

### Ph.D. in Sustainable Development and M.A. in Climate and Society Application Deadlines Are Fast Approaching

In December, the Columbia University Faculty Senate approved two new important Earth Institute education initiatives, and their application deadlines are fast approaching. The Ph.D. in Sustainable Development application deadline is March 1, and the M.A. in Climate and Society deadline is March 15. Both programs begin classes in Fall 2004.

[more on the Ph.D. in Sustainable Development](#)

[more on the M.A. in Climate and Society](#)

### Columbia University Open House for Degree Programs in Sustainable



### Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joins the Earth Institute

Mary Robinson, the first woman president of Ireland, and more recently, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has been appointed an adviser to the Earth Institute on a broad range of international development issues and as a senior research scholar at Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute. She will also hold the position of Professor of Practice in the Department of International and Public Affairs, and will teach a course on human rights and globalization. [more](#)



### Pedro Sanchez Delivers Senate Briefing at Request of Senator Harkin

Pedro Sanchez (above, right), Director of the Earth Institute's Tropical Agriculture Program, delivers a joint briefing to the Senate Agriculture and Foreign Relations Committee staff on January 21. Sanchez was invited by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa (above, left), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, to share his expertise regarding hunger and agriculture issues around the world. (Photo by Lisa Dreier)

### CIESIN Receives Grant to Establish Government Biological Information Site

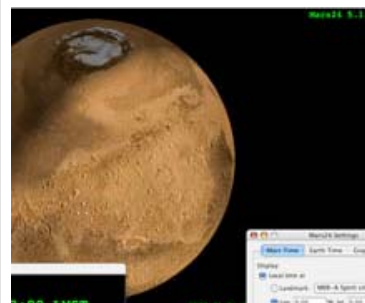
The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), a center within the Earth Institute at Columbia University, has once again been awarded a large grant to make essential data and information available for science-based policy and decision-making. [more](#)

The World Bank gave \$1 million for poverty mapping initiatives, \$700,000 of which is designated for CIESIN. The Hewlett Foundation donated \$500,000 and The Packard Foundation \$250,000 in support of the Millennium Development Goals around issues specific to reproductive health. The MacArthur Foundation gave \$750,000 and The Rockefeller Foundation gave \$35,000 in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The government of Norway donated \$73,000 in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

### Columbia University President Lee Bollinger Visits Ghana to Explore Ways to Enhance Collaborative Efforts in Region

The Earth Institute is collaborating with Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture to reduce hunger by enhancing soil fertility and food production. Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger traveled to Ghana, West Africa on January 7-13 to explore ways to enhance these and other collaborative efforts already under way in the region.

The trip follows on the heels of Ghanaian President John Agyekum Kufuor's successful visit to the University in September as a guest of the Earth Institute and Columbia University's Office of the President. The Earth Institute also plans future bilateral projects with Accra's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in urban planning, energy, and water conservation. [more](#)



### Telling Time on Mars is Only a Click Away, Thanks to Researchers at the Goddard Institute For Space Studies

Until GISS scientist Michael Allison found his solution, accurate Mars solar timing depended on elaborate computer programs that had to run separately, or only crudely approximated in atmospheric models and data analysis studies. Then Allison developed a simple and efficient method for the accurate calculation of Mars solar time in the form of trigonometric series. To read more about this online java application, developed by Robert B. Schmunk and Michael Allison of the Goddard Institute of Space Studies, [click here](#).

### Finalist in Intel Science Talent Search Focused on El Niño

Elizabeth Rose Heller, 17, of Nanuet, NY, entered an earth and space sciences project in the 2004 Intel Science Talent Search that statistically studied historical data to evaluate the strength of the 1868 El Niño. Now she has become one of 40 finalists in this contest that some liken to a junior Nobel Prize.

Throughout her research, Heller has worked with Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory scientist Alexey Kaplan. Says Kaplan, "This is indeed a formidable achievement." Mark Cane, Vetlesen Professor of Earth Climate Sciences, adds, "It is a tremendous achievement; in addition to the obvious fact that there are only 40 finalists in the whole United States, almost all do projects in biology or biomed, with a sprinkling of

**Development and Environmental Education**  
**Showcasing 21 accredited degree and certificate programs at all levels of higher education**

On February 25th, representatives and faculty will be available at an Open House to discuss over 20 accredited degree and certificate programs in environmental studies and sustainable development offered by Columbia University and Barnard College, including several new Earth Institute educational initiatives. [more](#)



**Dr. Martin Sandbu's economic research on Sao Tome and Principe as an Earth Institute Fellow allows him to consider issues like poverty and health in his work.**

**Earth Institute Fellows Address Questions of Sustainable Development**

While modern society likes to think of itself as scientifically and technologically advanced, there are many questions critical to our survival that still can't be answered. The traditional academic fields helped develop the world we live in, and along with the wonders of the modern age, created the problems of environmental degradation. Unless we learn a lot more in a hurry, the way we live today will not be sustained in the future. That is the philosophy behind a new post-doctoral program at Columbia University called the Earth Institute Fellows that is trying to mobilize the sciences and policy to achieve a sustainable future, especially for the poor. [more](#)

math/physics. Any sort of earth science project is rare, especially one that mixes in so much history." [more](#)

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**Comments and Suggestions**

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**Past issues**