



Nelson Institute for
Environmental Studies
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

February 2022

THE COMMONS

For alumni and friends of the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Sustainable Success lecture highlights new
collaboration to help save the Amazon*

Why Nelson students are the best
page 4

Funding award expands
community-engaged scholarship
page 6

WRM student bringing global
perspective to local water
challenges page 22

The Pathway Forward:

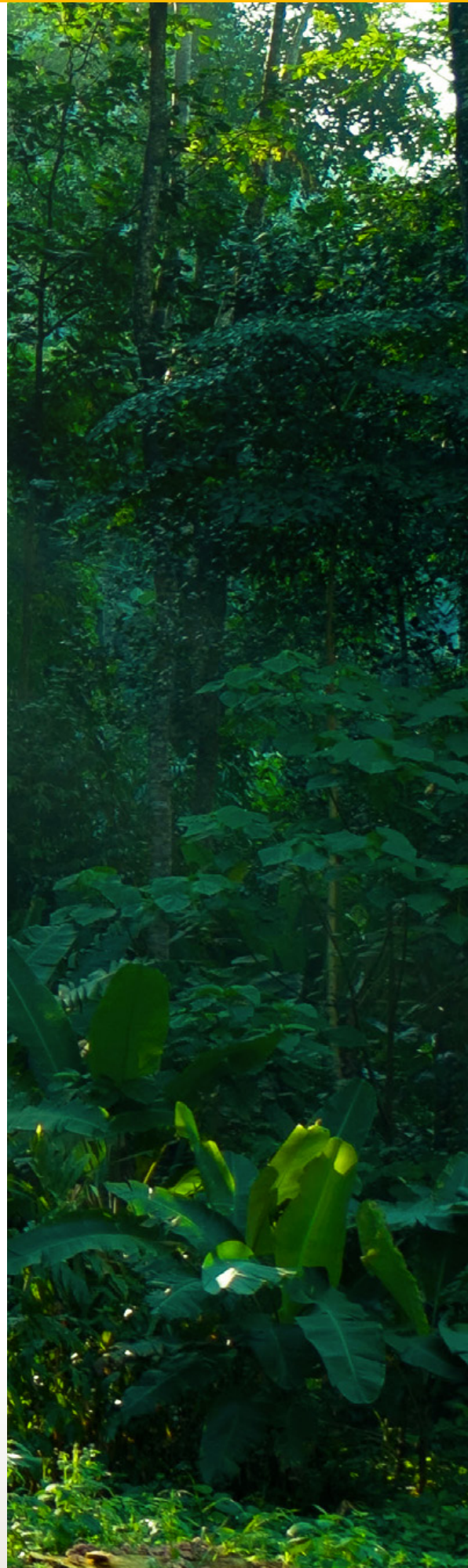
How companies, NGOs, and scientists are collaborating to help save the Amazon

By Bekah McBride

Explore how a new collaboration is helping to address deforestation and its links to meat and leather supply chains during the Sustainable Success Lecture on February 24, 2022. The lecture, “The Pathway Forward: How companies, NGOs, and scientists are collaborating to help save the Amazon,” offers both in-person and virtual options. This lecture will highlight the development of VISIPEC, a free, cloud-based supply chain traceability tool that can help companies achieve the goals of their zero-deforestation and sustainability commitments.

This event is a part of the Sustainable Success Lecture Series, an annual event hosted by the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin School of Business Grainger Center for Supply Chain Management which features speakers from the private and nonprofit sectors who focus on environmental sustainability and its financial and environmental benefits. This particular lecture will feature speakers from the Nelson Institute Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab (GLUE) as well as partners at Minerva Foods and the National Wildlife Federation.

“Unsustainable expansion of cattle pastures is a major threat to the Amazon, and during this event we will describe how our collaboration has developed innovative tools and science that shed light on how to strengthen forest conservation while also encouraging more sustainable business models,” said Holly Gibbs, an event speaker who also leads the Nelson Institute Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab (GLUE) and is a professor with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.





“We are very excited to showcase how we are successfully bridging science and business to help tackle one of the most significant challenges of our time.”

–Simon Hall

Gibbs will be joined by Taciano Custodio, the global director of sustainability at Minerva Foods and Simon Hall, the director of the Tropical Forests and Agriculture Program at the National Wildlife Federation.

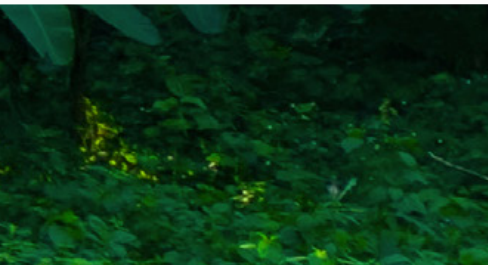
“Our commitment to the sustainable future of the planet’s food supply begins with our 15,000 producing partners, in the farms,” said Custodio. “We act together to mitigate climate change and eliminate deforestation from our entire supply chain. Part of these efforts include our pioneering spirit in the adoption of VISIPEC as an indirect supplying farms risk assessment tool, fully integrated with our procurement system in the Brazilian Amazon.

Custodio continued, “Our partnership for the sustainability of beef production in South America, adopting low carbon emission practices, and eliminating native vegetation loss and biodiversity loss, is a great milestone to be disseminated for all value chain actors, from producers to consumers.”

The National Wildlife Federation is also pleased to support these efforts and highlight the ways in which business and science can work together to create change.

“We are very excited to showcase how we are successfully bridging science and business to help tackle one of the most significant challenges of our time”, said Hall. “Deforestation is exacerbating both the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis. This project has helped us better understand complex cattle supply chains, and has brought forth unparalleled data and insights, new innovative tools and approaches, and meaningful partnerships that are helping to enhance traceability, strengthen deforestation monitoring, and advance more sustainable business practices, which benefit everyone.”

We invite you to learn more and [register](#) for the event which will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For those interested in attending the event in-person, the event will take place in the H.F. DeLuca Forum Room at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, 330 N Orchard St., Madison, Wis. We also invite you to join [WARF-D2P Entrepreneurons](#) for an event and reception from 4-5 p.m. on February 24, prior to the Sustainable Success event. More details coming soon.



Why Nelson students are the best



Nelson Institute programs are unusual, in that they are inherently interdisciplinary, and, in a way, a little unruly. Our undergraduates combine their Environmental Studies major or certificate (or Sustainability certificate) with *any other* course of study on campus, creating their own unique profiles and experiences. Graduate students in [Water Resources Management](#), [Environmental Conservation](#), and [Environmental Observation and Informatics](#) hitch their knowledge to the needs of a partner or client, making their journey unpredictable but deeply practical. Those in [Environment and Resources \(E&R\)](#) are largely untethered from any kind of fixed curriculum, and “choose their own adventure” in ways that are exciting, rigorous, chaotic, and always original.

Now, such wide-ranging pathways are not for everyone. It takes someone with unbounded curiosity— “What is happening to that lake? How can we make food more fair? Is there a better way to live with wildlife?”— with the ability to absorb and mobilize very different kinds of information (from poetry to geographic information science), and with an urge to put

knowledge immediately to work in the world. That combination is the Nelson Institute signature.

A quick look at this month’s *The Commons* will show you how true that is.

Consider [Nicholas Mailloux](#), an [E&R doctoral student](#) and his team who have documented the massive health benefits associated with a low carbon future. Showing the immediate positive health outcomes from clean electricity, eliminating food waste, urban landscapes for walking and biking, and even preserving ecosystems this work advances that of the team’s partner, Project Drawdown, which strives to document the many solutions to the climate crisis.

Or [E&R master’s degree student Anneliese Abbott](#), whose new book, *Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture* explores the deep history of sustainable agriculture. Yes, our students write books!

The experience of [WRM student Daniel Igirimbabazi](#) is unique and yet strangely typical of the vibrant experience in that

program. Seeking to address water resource issues worldwide, he and his cohort started close by. The Wisconsin InterTribal Lake Winnebago Connectivity Project, in partnership with the Brothertown Indian Nation will provide management strategies beneficial to culturally and ecologically crucial wild rice populations.

Nelson undergraduates thrive in very much the same way. It was difficult enough for [Alyse Bartol](#) to complete the challenging Wild Rockies Field Institute field course, but Bartol added to it—the effort to film the entire experience. The resulting video is both stunning and inspirational. [Eryne Jenkins’s](#) journey at the University of Wisconsin–Madison had a pathway through the Institute’s Community Environmental Scholars program, where she connected to community in a way that will equip her in her goal to make medicine more sustainable.

These phenomenal stories would seem like strange outliers in many other programs, but they reflect the common refrain of the student experience at Nelson. We have the best students.

Paul Robbins
Dean, Nelson Institute

Tracey Holloway

receives UW–Madison award for mentoring

By Bekah McBride

The Slesinger Award for Excellence in Mentoring, which honors those who provide excellent mentoring to women faculty, has been awarded to Nelson Institute Professor Tracey Holloway.

Jointly appointed in the Nelson Institute and the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Holloway is a leader in energy and air quality research, serving as the Team Leader for the [NASA Health and Air Quality Applied Science Team \(HAQAST\)](#). She is also dedicated to supporting women in science through the [Earth Science Women's Network \(ESWN\)](#) which she helped to found, [Science-A-Thon](#), and [Science Moms](#). Through this work, as well as her campus interactions, Holloway says she is proud to serve as a mentor to fellow scientists.

Holloway, along with Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, Trina McMahon, were presented the award during the annual Women Faculty Mentoring Program Reception for Newly Promoted & Tenured Women. Recipients of the award also have the opportunity to direct a \$2,500 award to a UW-Madison initiative or program through the Women's Philanthropy Council.

"I remember when I first joined the faculty at UW-Madison, and I attended the annual reception of the Women's Faculty Mentoring Program," said Holloway. "That year, Professor Molly Carnes was awarded the Slesinger Award, and I remember thinking how wonderful it was that the university celebrates and rewards the mentoring process. Most of us are taught that our success is up to us - sink or swim. But a culture that celebrates mentoring sends a different message, that we're in this together, and no one person can succeed without support."

"I see mentoring as a combination of friendship and problem-solving, in the context of work."

—Tracey Holloway



Holloway, along with Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor Trina McMahon, who both received The Slesinger Award for Excellence in Mentoring during the annual Women Faculty Mentoring Program Reception for Newly Promoted & Tenured Women. Photo courtesy of Tracey Holloway

"I am so honored to receive the Slesinger Award. It is really hard for me to put the depth of my feelings into words," Holloway said. "My life has been shaped by many supportive and kind people: my parents and grandparents, academic advisors, peers and friends, and numerous colleagues here at UW-Madison. I know first-hand the personal and career benefits of a focused conversation, well-timed advice, or just someone to listen. I prioritize these activities, so that I can be a source of support for others. The Slesinger Award gives me a clear sense that these activities have made a difference."

Holloway shared that mentoring has always been an important part of her life. After starting a peer-mentoring program in high school, Holloway went on to serve as an academic mentor in college and after graduate school she began the Earth Science Women's Network, which was recognized recently with a Presidential award for STEM mentoring from the National Science Foundation.

"I see mentoring as a combination of friendship and problem-solving, in the context of work," Holloway said. "I love working at the University of Wisconsin: The students, the opportunity to pursue research, the impact we can have on the world. It's really a dream come true to be a professor here."

Holly Gibbs receives award to expand community-engaged scholarship with UniverCity Alliance

By Abigail Becker

Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) professor of Geography [Holly Gibbs](#) and PhD student Jules Reynolds have been awarded funds to provide students greater opportunity to work with communities across Wisconsin.

The Kemper J. Knapp grant funding will support Reynolds as a project assistant to strengthen an emerging connection with [UniverCity Alliance](#)—a cross-campus initiative that pairs local governments with University of Wisconsin-Madison classes to solve community problems—and Gibbs' Geography / Environmental Studies 309 class called "People, Land and Food."

Though the course discusses the global challenges and opportunities like tropical deforestation in Brazil or small-scale agriculture in Africa, Gibbs also emphasizes what impact food and land sustainability can make closer to home.

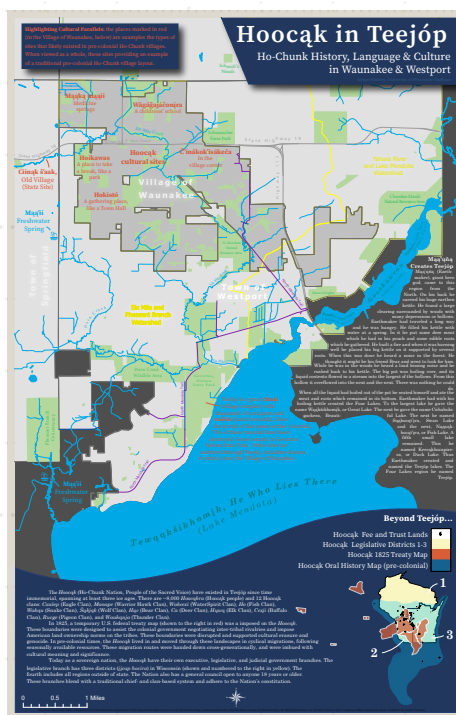
"We really dive into these local challenges and empower students to apply the lessons and concepts that they learn in class to influence change through semester-long community-engaged projects," said Gibbs, who oversees the [Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab \(GLUE\)](#).

During the class, students complete projects that connect course themes with personal topics of interest. Examples have included a Campus Food Map and Sustainability Dining Guide, policy change that [reduced receipt usage](#) in the Union Food Services and an ["Amazing Waste" cookbook](#).

One student project in Spring 2021 [created a map Ho-Chunk History, Language & Culture in the Village of Waunakee and Westport](#) and initiated the partnership with UniverCity Alliance. The project's success prompted conversations about increasing the scale of com-



Holly Gibbs



"We've noticed that student projects closely linked to the community organizations tend to be most successful and durable in terms of their impacts."

—Jules Reynolds

munity-based projects in “People, Land and Food.”

“We’ve noticed that student projects closely linked to the community organizations tend to be most successful and durable in terms of their impacts,” said Reynolds, who is a PhD student in Geography and Environment and Resources.

Reynolds is also a former fellow with the Morgridge Center for Public Service and recently received the UW Early Excellence in Teaching award.

These types of projects require more oversight to ensure they are beneficial for students and communities.

As a project assistant, Reynolds will be available to provide direct student support and build infrastructure and learning activities to make the community-based projects as successful as possible.



“Part of the thinking behind UniverCity Alliance is to look for ways to really institutionalize partnerships and projects, so that students can plug into partnerships that are bigger than this class and really be successful,” Reynolds said.

Gibbs hopes this work can be the “beginning of a long-lasting partnership.”

“I’m really excited that (Reynolds will) be able to help solidify the partnership with UniverCity Alliance in this course as we go forward,” Gibbs said.

UniverCity Alliance’s Managing Director Gavin Luter added: “We regularly get requests from communities to see things mapped because it helps them visualize data and information. This partnership with Holly’s class brings more capacity to do just that, and we’re grateful.”

Study co-authored by Gibbs Land Use and Environmental Lab researchers showcases how diet can impact greenhouse gas emission

Dietary changes in high-income nations may decrease greenhouse gas emission according to a new study published in [Nature Food](#).

The study was co-authored by Holly Gibbs, an associate professor in the Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) and Department of Geography, and Gibbs Land Use and Environmental Lab graduate research assistant, Seth Spawn-Lee. Along with co-authors from a variety of institutions, Gibbs and Spawn-Lee discovered that a shift from animal-based to plant-based diets can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration if agricultural land is restored to natural vegetation.

nature food

According to the study, dietary changes in high-income countries “could reduce annual agricultural production emissions of high-income nations’ diets by 61 percent” while sequestering the equivalent of approximately “14 years of current global agricultural emissions until natural vegetation matures.” The study suggests that “linking land, food, climate and public health policy will be vital to harnessing the opportunities of a double climate dividend.”



Andrea Hicks

Ask Andrea

A monthly column from Andrea Hicks, Director of Sustainability Education and Research, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the Hanson Family Fellow in Sustainability

Question: I have heard a lot of conflicting information about using salt on icy sidewalks. I don't want anyone to slip and fall, but I also want to be kind to the earth. What should I do?

Answer: This is a great question, and I guarantee that you are not alone in wondering what to do around those slippery sidewalks. Salt, or sodium chloride, has been used for de-icing purposes in Wisconsin since the 1950s. It works well at causing the ice to melt on surfaces when the temperature is above 15 degrees Fahrenheit (this is considered the "practical working temperature"). So, it's better to avoid using it at colder temps, when it won't make as big a difference to the slippery ice.

At the same time, most people use way too much salt. In order for salt to be effective on pavement you only need a 12-ounce cup of salt per 10 sidewalk squares. This doesn't seem like enough to most people. The Wisconsin Salt Wise program has a great deal of information on their [website](#) about just how much salt you should use.



Optimal salting quantity on pavement. Image courtesy of WI Salt Wise.

There are a couple of major issues with using too much salt. First, it's actually bad for concrete [pavement](#). The salt that is used for de-icing reacts with

chemicals (calcium hydroxide) in the cement, which forms a new secondary chemical (calcium oxychloride). This secondary chemical forms crystals in the concrete, which expand and cause the concrete to crack and crumble internally. Second, in Madison, Wis. too much salt is not good for the watershed, as that salt is swept into the lakes with stormwater, causing the salinity, or saltiness, of the lakes to increase. This is a challenge for the lakes because it degrades the freshwater ecosystems. Finally, salt is also damaging to pet paws and vehicles.

In recent years, multiple alternatives have been presented to using granular salt on pavement. Roadways can be brined, which means that a liquid salt solution is sprayed on the road before it gets icy. Brines can also be made out of waste products, such as cheese brine here in [Wisconsin](#), which has been piloted in Milwaukee and elsewhere. Alternate de-icing agents are also available, with a variety of benefits and challenges. Pavement can also be sanded to increase traction for people and vehicles, although the sand does not melt the snow.

In short, it's okay to use some salt or another de-icer when it's slippery out, but just be careful not to use too much.

To submit questions for future columns, please email us at: info@sustainability.wisc.edu with the subject line "Ask Andrea question"



WRM STUDENT, DANIEL IGIRIMBABAZI ASPIRES TO CREATE SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD'S WATER RESOURCE CHALLENGES

By Bekah McBride

Maintaining clean, sustainable water resources for future generations is a personal and professional goal for Nelson Institute Water Resources Management student Daniel Igirimbabazi, who experienced water scarcity as a child. His own experiences, coupled with his interest in science, inspired him to seek a career in water resource management and community engagement, which he hopes will positively impact the lives of those around the globe.

Igirimbabazi began his academic journey at the University of Rwanda, where he studied biology. After graduation, he sought an internship with the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB), a center hosted at the University of Rwanda that strives to enhance knowledge of biodiversity and natural resource management for sustainable development. During his time there, Igirimbabazi had the opportunity to interact with scientists and lead seminars before being named a research fellow. In that role, he took part in two projects including- one involving the Rwandan Biodiversity Information System (RBIS) and a second involving the African Biodiversity Challenge (ABC). During this time, Igirimbabazi became interested in pursuing a graduate degree and his mentor pointed him to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I had heard about the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) from my undergraduate mentor Professor Beth A. Kaplin [Director of the Center of Excellence in Biodiversity & Natural Resource Management at University of Rwanda] who did her master's and PhD at UW-Madison. I put this amazing university on my bucket list." Igirimbabazi said. "After deciding to pursue my master's degree, the UW-Madison was my number one choice, and I knew I had to learn something to do

with water, wetlands, and marine resources management. Water Resources Management (WRM) caught my interest since it involved practicums and hands-on portions of the program where students work with real world clients to solve water-related issues in the community."

Igirimbabazi was accepted to the WRM program, and he says he was thrilled to have the opportunity to gain new insights.



Igirimbabazi collects macroinvertebrates in Lake Mendota during a Limnology course. Photo credit: Gigi Diekelman



Igirimbabazi participates in a waterbird counts project at Umusambi Village, Kigali, Rwanda. Photo credit: CoEB-UR

“Having skills in watershed science and management with some courses in limnology-conservation of aquatic resources, ecotoxicology, GIS, land use control, global health, etc. could equip me with the necessary cutting-edge skills to be able to tackle environmental issues, specifically water-related ones, that are posing risks towards the well-being of humans and animals. With all that being said, I realized WRM program was a place to be,” Igirimbabazi said.

As part of the WRM program, students gain these skills through a variety of courses and hands-on experiences, including a cohort practicum project that focuses on a community client.

“The most meaningful project so far is the practicum of our current WRM cohort, the Wisconsin InterTribal Lake Winnebago Connectivity Project, where we will seek to provide management strategies for restoring wild rice populations within the upper Lake Winnebago system,” Igirimbabazi said. “These strategies will be developed in partnership with the Brothertown Indian Nation. I am very excited to contribute to the restoration of wild rice (Manoomin), a very important food resource for many Midwestern tribal nations and, the Brothertown Indian Nation in particular.”

In addition to hands-on, community-based experiences, Igirimbabazi has also enjoyed his classroom experiences, which have given him an opportunity to meet fellow graduate students and professors who share his passion for water resources.

“At the Nelson Institute, I have incredible support to be able to bring the best version of myself,” said Igirimbabazi. “I have learned so much so far on how to navigate through graduate school life, thanks to Environmental Studies 901, a graduate orientation seminar course taught by the Nelson Institute Dean and professor, Paul

“I am thankful to the Nelson Institute and the UW-Madison in general for the skills and knowledge I keep receiving from them which will help me make the world into a better place.”

–Daniel Igirimbabazi

Robbins. This course provides incoming graduate students with an introduction to the history, current research, and resources of the Nelson Institute. I learned crucial information that came in handy for me as a new graduate student. Part of this course includes making connections with peers in the Nelson Institute who are also doing great things in environmental field, learning about co-curricular training opportunities available, and making the best use out of it.”

By applying what he has learned and engaging with the Nelson Institute community, Igirimbabazi says that he has had many opportunities to connect and grow as a water resources management professional, and as a person.

“Being part of Nelson institute broadened my horizons in different ways. Nelson Institute is made up of individuals with diverse interests in science with an aim of understanding and taking care of the environment,” Igirimbabazi said. “This interdisciplinarity has helped me to find useful resources, ideas, and support from different people’s perspectives on the best practices that are shaping the environment. I am using this interdisciplinary approach to contribute to the Wisconsin InterTribal Lake Winnebago Connectivity Project alongside my cohort members to solve the environmental issues in the community, part of the Wisconsin-idea concept, and I am thankful to the Nelson Institute and the UW-Madison in general for the skills and knowledge I keep receiving from them which will help me make the world into a better place.”

Igirimbabazi is particularly excited to have the opportunity to be a teaching assistant (TA) for a biology undergraduate course in the Integrative Biology Department at UW-Madison.

“This has absolutely been an amazing opportunity for me to develop my teaching skills and get to interact with a diverse student body in this department. It is a challenging accomplishment but worth the efforts since I have been able to have professional and personal growth from being a TA,” said Igirimbabazi.

“This role comes with leadership responsibility which for me is a favorite part of being a TA. In addition, we learn about cool topics that impress students such as DNA extraction, rat dissection, and more. It gives me a sense of satisfaction when I see students really engaged in lab activities and their happy faces when they learn something new.”

Whether working with students, the community, or finalizing his requirements for his master’s degree in WRM, Igirimbabazi remains inspired by the power of water and all those suffering from the impact of water scarcity and water pollution.

“Water is a basic requirement for survival of almost every species on earth. This makes the access to water essential for life. However, the access to water does not have to be limited to just water supply; instead, efficient quality and quantity of water supplied is important in determining the health of individuals and communities as a whole,” Igirimbabazi said. “Understanding water quality and the impact of pollution on water resources is vital to worldwide public health. I aspire to be part of solution, contributing towards a healthy world where access to clean and sufficient water supply will not be a challenge.”

Learn more about the [Water Resources Management](#) program and how you can [support the program](#).



Igirimbabazi collects plant and animal photos in the southern province of Rwanda during iNaturalist training, which was organized by the National Geographic Society. Photo credit: CoEB-UR

NEW PAPER BY SAGE DOCTORAL STUDENT SHOWS: 'A WIN ON CLIMATE IS A WIN FOR HEALTH'

By Ann Grauvogl

From ramping up clean electricity to eliminating food waste. From designing cities for walking and biking to preserving ecosystems. Projects that lead to a low-carbon society and limit climate change will have more and greater benefits for health than previously realized.



Nicholas Mailloux

“While the full climate benefits from greenhouse gas mitigation can take decades to manifest, many of the health benefits we describe here begin to accrue immediately after a climate mitigation action is taken.”

–Nicholas Mailloux

Those are findings from a new commentary in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* from collaborators at the University of Wisconsin–Madison Global Health Institute (GHI) and Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE), Project Drawdown and the University of Minnesota.

In “[Climate Solutions Double as Health Interventions](#),” the team analyzes how Project Drawdown’s 80 solutions that build on existing technologies and practices to limit global warming will also improve human health. Looking at nine sectors, from energy to environmental resources, they identified health benefits “through improved air quality, increased physical activity, healthier diets, reduced risk of infectious disease, improved sexual and reproductive health, and universal education.”

“We only have eight years to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent to keep the earth from heating more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels,” says GHI Director and co-author Jonathan Patz, who holds appointments in the Nelson Institute and Department of Population Health Sciences. “The climate crisis is actually a human health emergency. Yet, at the same time, actions to reach a low-carbon economy offer enormous health opportunities.”

Patz and others have previously published work on how limiting greenhouse gasses benefits health. This paper goes further, using Project Drawdown’s quantitative assessment of specific climate change actions to determine which of those solutions might provide the biggest benefits to health and well-being.

“While the full climate benefits from greenhouse gas mitigation can take decades to manifest, many of the health benefits we describe here begin to accrue immediately after a climate mitigation action is taken,” says lead author Nicholas Mailloux, a SAGE doctoral student pursuing a PhD in [Environment and Resources](#). “Climate action today means health benefits tomorrow.”

The paper notes that the current one degree Celsius of warming above preindustrial times is already disrupting weather across the earth. “Continued warming of the planet will lead to increasingly dangerous extreme weather events (such as heat waves, floods, droughts, and wildfires), cause significant sea level rise, have dramatic effects on ecosystems and natural resources, and threaten human well-being worldwide.”

The paper looks to immediate action across sectors to reduce emissions 45 percent by 2030 and net-zero targets by 2050. [Project Drawdown](#), established to help reach the point when levels of greenhouse gasses begin to decline, has shown the world could halt global warming between the 2040s and 2060s by implementing solutions that exist today and are financially viable.

Connecting the Project Drawdown work to health benefits helps clarify the need for action. “The health co-benefits of climate mitigation solutions are often more familiar to people and thus can help garner public support for climate action while addressing the very real impacts of the climate crisis on individuals’ and communities’ health worldwide,” says co-author Kristen P. Patterson, director of Drawdown Lift at Project Drawdown.



Photo courtesy of the United Nations

“People often assume that solutions to climate change mean giving something up,” adds co-author Paul West, director of special projects-Global Solutions Initiative, at Project Drawdown. “Eating healthy foods, working to improve our communities’ air quality and walkability, increasing access to reproductive health services, boosting quality education and expanding open green spaces all improve people’s health and quality of life. Turns out they’re also climate solutions.”

By connecting the climate actions with health benefits, the authors hope the paper will be a resource, especially for health professionals, including physicians and nurses, who advocate for action on climate change.

“Health professionals, who consistently rank among the most trusted messengers in society, are increasingly engaged in climate advocacy and are uniquely positioned to make health a resonant part of the climate conversation,” Mailloux says. “The information in this paper can help to put this group and others on firm scientific footing when discussing the scale and scope of health benefits of climate mitigation.”

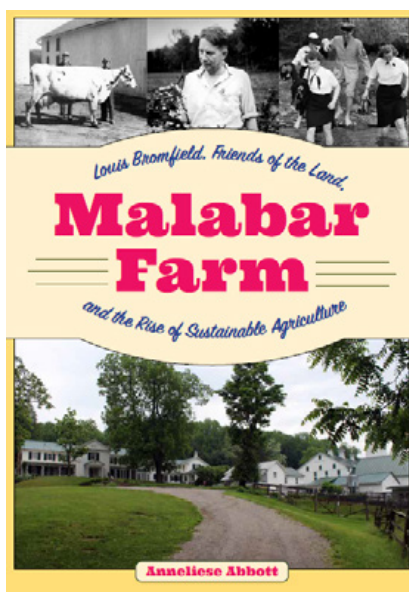
The assessment is especially timely since many nations are determining their climate commitments in advance of the next United Nations climate change conference, or CoP27, in November 2022, Patz says. “If they know how much overlap there is between carbon reduction decisions and public health policies, it helps clarify that actions on climate can be viewed more positively. A win on climate is a win for health.”

The team plans to distribute the paper to decision-makers with the goal of encouraging policies to reduce climate-heating emissions and provide health gains.

GRADUATE STUDENT ANNELIESE ABBOTT WRITES BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE PAST

By Bekah McBride

In 1939, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Louis Bromfield moved to a rundown farm in Richland County, Ohio where his new, sustainable farming methods transformed the land into “the most famous farm in the world,” and changed the future of agriculture. The new book, *Malabar Farm: Louis Bromfield, Friends of the Land, and the Rise of Sustainable Agriculture* by Nelson Institute graduate student Anneliese Abbott, explores this history as well as what it can teach us about common ground, and the future of agriculture.



Left: Book cover. Right: Abbott at Bromfield's desk on Malabar Farms. Photo credit: Thomas Bachelder

“One of the reasons I wanted to write this book and I want this information out there is so that people can learn from what worked and what didn’t.”

—Anneliese Abbott

Abbott began developing her book as a part of an undergraduate honor studies project while she was attending The Ohio State University. Having grown up on a small farm, Abbott had always been interested in agriculture and, as a plant and soil science student, she was looking for a project that would focus on those areas.

“I went to The Ohio State University to study sustainable plant systems, because I figured plants are the most important part of agriculture. You can’t have animals without plants, so plants must be the most important,” Abbott said.

A curator at the university recommended that Abbott review their special collection on Louis Bromfield. At the time, she didn’t know who Bromfield was, but through her research, Abbott discovered that Bromfield’s work on Malabar Farm was not only transformative and influential, but very close to what is currently known as sustainable agriculture.

“He was doing all of these things that we are just doing now,” Abbott said. “That really intrigued me to see that all of this was happening then. So, why do we think it’s new now, and what happened?”



Left: Bromfield at his vegetable stand in the early 1950s. Photo courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Right: Bromfield demonstrates the Seaman rotary tiller. Photo courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources and The Ohio State University Libraries

To answer these questions, Abbott decided to take her final project a bit further. After graduation, she spent an additional four years studying Malabar Farm, Bromfield, and the history of sustainable agriculture, which at the time was called soil conservation or permanent agriculture.

She studied the agricultural methods used, the connection between farming, soil erosion, and the Dust Bowl, the New Deal, and the conservation group, Friends of the Land. Through her research, Abbott says she wanted to discover what the past can teach current farmers about the success of sustainable farming methods.

“These ideas are not necessarily new, so I think the current sustainable agricultural movement could learn a lot from going back and looking at its history and seeing that people were saying the same thing 70 years ago,” Abbott said. “One of the reasons I wanted to write this book and I want this information out there is so that people can learn from what worked and what didn’t. I want them to be able to avoid past mistakes and see why things didn’t work and whether we’ve addressed the reason why it didn’t work.”

Abbott also hopes that her book will showcase the ways in which Bromfield’s methods brought conventional and organic farmers together.

“Another reason I wanted to write this book is related to the controversy that we have in agriculture, the animosity between environmentalists and conventional agriculture,” Abbott said. “The sustainable agriculture movement tries to bring them together, but even that movement has become divided, especially when it comes to organic or regenerative farming. What’s interesting about Malabar Farms is it predates the controversy. There wasn’t this divide between what we

would call conventional and organic agriculture like there is now. You can trace a lot of things from conventional agriculture to what Louis Bromfield promoted in what he called his New Agriculture, and you can also trace a lot of organic and sustainable agriculture to that New Agriculture as well. There was a divergence that happened in the 1950s and I think we could benefit from looking at Bromfield and trying to take a middle ground on a lot of these issues.”

Abbott’s book was officially published in December 2021, but she is continuing to study the history of sustainable agriculture through her Environment and Resources master’s program.

“In a way it was this book that led me to Nelson,” Abbott said. “I had finished it before graduate school, but the reason I applied to Nelson was this book got me interested in environmental history and the history of sustainable agriculture. It’s an interesting topic because it’s agricultural and historical and finding a program where I could do this research was why I was so interested in the Nelson Institute, it’s so interdisciplinary.”

Abbott will complete her master’s in May 2022 and is planning to pursue a PhD. She hopes to become a professor someday, but for now, she is enjoying her research and focusing on ways she can connect to agriculture.

“I want to stay connected to soil, no matter what I do. I don’t want to get off into the intellectual parts and forget about my connection to the soil,” Abbott said. “I’ve learned it’s actually the most important part of agriculture, because you can’t have the plants without the soil.”

Learn more about the [Environment and Resources](#) MS degree and how you can [support the program](#).



NELSON INSTITUTE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DOCUMENTS WILD ROCKIES FIELD COURSE

Bartol at the top of the first mountain in the Snowcrest Range of Montana that the Wild Rockies group climbed. Photo credit: Wild Rockies student

By Anica Graney

Over the summer of 2021, undergraduate student Alyse Bartol completed a three-week field course with the [Wild Rockies Field Institute](#), a program where students learn about complex social and environmental issues while roughing it outdoors. “It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done, but it was also the most rewarding,” said Bartol.

While hiking through the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem of Montana and earning three credits in Natural Resource Management, Bartol recorded her journey and created a video documenting the experience. The video, [available on YouTube](#), highlights the views of the area surrounding Yellowstone National Park, interactions with nature, and the projects the group of ten students and two instructors took on.

Bartol said the field course was unlike anything she had ever experienced before. “It was the coolest thing ever,” said Bartol. “We had lessons out in the mountains where we would sit down and learn for an hour. We only had what we could carry in our backpacks and cooked all our own food on camp stoves.”

Her decision to undertake such a challenge stems from her passion for the environment and documenting nature. For her undergraduate degrees, Bartol

has combined the [environmental studies major](#) with the radio, television, and film track within the communication arts major.

“I think the biggest difference that I can make in the world is telling stories about how climate change is affecting people.”

—Alyse Bartol

Once she graduates, Bartol hopes to create videos addressing today’s most pressing environmental challenges. “I think the biggest difference that I can make in the world is telling stories about how climate change is affecting people,” said Bartol. “And I think videos are the best way to do that.”

Bartol said her favorite classes are those that combine her interests of the environment and film. Recently, she took History 125, Green Screen: Environmental Perspectives Through Film where students learned how attitudes toward the environment at different

points in time were reflected through a variety of film types.

Another class Bartol enjoyed was Communication Arts (Comm Arts) 310, Topics in Rhetoric and Communication Science. “That was one of the most thought-provoking classes I’ve ever taken,” said Bartol. “We talked about how different environmental communication tactics worked.” Bartol said the lessons she learned in Comm Arts 310 will help guide her with what message and tone will be most effective in the videos she hopes to create in the future.

Outside of her classes, Bartol is a member of the Sierra Student Coalition and the a cappella group Under A-Rest at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also a [Nelson Institute ambassador](#) where she helps guide potential environmental studies students, plan Nelson Institute sponsored events, and write thank you letters to donors.

Bartol encourages those in the environmental studies program or who have an interest in the environment to consider signing up for the Wild Rockies field course. “Wild Rockies completely expanded my understanding on what it really means to be an environmental studies major by showing me, in person, exactly the things I am studying out in the field and why they are so important,” said Bartol. “It’s one thing to read about, say, invasive species in a textbook, but a completely different thing to hike to the top of a mountain and look out to see mile wide areas of forest that have turned white from the mountain pine beetle. It’s just a completely immersive experience.”

Learn more about the [environmental studies major](#) and how you can [support the program](#).



Without cell phone service for Google Maps, the group examines a map to plan their hiking route for the day. Photo credit: Alyse Bartol

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SHAPE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE FOR ERYNE JENKINS

Nelson Institute student Eryne Jenkins was recently featured in *On Wisconsin* magazine. The article highlights Jenkins’ journey to becoming a Badger and how scholarship opportunities have helped to shape her college experience.

Jenkins is a recipient of the spring 2021 Nelson Institute [Arthur B. Sacks Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Environmental Studies and Sustainability](#). Additionally, Jenkins is also a member of the Nelson Institute [Community Environmental Scholars Program](#) (CESP). This scholarship and cohort-based program is designed for students who want to link their passion for the environment with a commitment to the community.

“It’s been really monumental for me to realize there are people who are really excited to help me get to where I want to go,” Jenkins said of her scholarships and the CESP program. “Whether I pursue simply environmental studies or something else, I personally am interested in making medicine more sustainable, I think it’s been helpful that environmental studies looks at the people aspect and how people interact with the environment.”

Jenkins added, “One of the things that the CESP program helps you do is get connected to alumni and people in the community. In some ways, a degree in whatever area is useless if you don’t know how to apply it and through CESP, they are constantly encouraging us to learn how to relate our current experiences into something that we can use to make an impact. Read the full *On Wisconsin* story [here](#).

Board of Visitors member **Ashley Lee** works to expand environmental justice opportunities



Ashley Lee

By Bekah McBride

The Nelson Institute strives to be an inclusive community working to identify equitable and socially just environmental solutions. As a Nelson Institute alumna, Board of Visitors member, and the National Director for [Public Allies of Milwaukee](#), Ashley Lee hopes to use her experiences to help the Nelson Institute community expand these efforts by engaging students and young people from diverse backgrounds.

Lee, who is the National Director of Alumni Mobilization and Engagement for [Public Allies of Milwaukee](#), a national movement committed to advancing social justice and equity by engaging and activating the leadership capacities of young people, is looking forward to connecting the Public Allies community with the Nelson community.

“Coming to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and having the exposure to specifically environmental justice issues, but also environment as a body of study and a potential career, really changed my life and my idea



Ashley Lee (front row, far right), Monica White (front row, second from right), associate professor and the Gaylord A. Nelson Distinguished Chair in Integrated Environmental Studies, and members from Public Allies of Milwaukee attending the 2018 Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference. Photo credit: Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies

of where I would end up,” Lee said. “So, when I assumed my role at Public Allies of Milwaukee, one of the things I wanted to do was connect our young people to the Nelson Institute as a space for them to engage with issues in the environment and environmental justice.”

As a Board of Visitors member, Lee plans to identify a variety of opportunities for the two communities to engage, with Earth Day being a key networking event.

“Every year we attended Earth Day,” Lee said of her time at Public Allies of Milwaukee. “And in attending Earth Day, it really opened up my understanding of the depth and breadth of work the Nelson Institute is actively engaged in as well as who was missing from the space still. The content was so good, and rich, and deep, but I wanted to see more young people, I wanted to see more Black and Brown folks from communities like Milwaukee represented and engaging with the content.”

To reach a wider audience, Lee has partnered with Emily Reynolds, the Nelson Institute director of community engagement and alumni relations, who is the lead coordinator for the Nelson Institute Earth Day event, to identify new opportunities to engage all students and community members.

“There’s a long-term dream to have a track for Earth Day that engages young people, including Madison high schools and high schools across the state, and other colleges across the states,” Lee said.

She also plans to begin working with Monica White, an associate professor and the Gaylord A. Nelson Distinguished Chair in Integrated Environmental Studies, who is leading the Nelson Institute Office of Environmental Justice and working on a collaborative project with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

“I will be helping to get that up and running and I will be making some critical connections with black farmers in the south and schools in the south,” Lee said. “That’s just a part-time thing, but when I think about creating more inroads to academia and understanding what’s happening and taking those learnings and applying them to my work, that’s probably the thing I am most excited about for 2022. To have the opportunity to work alongside Dr. White and dive back into Nelson in that way, with someone who really inspired me as an undergraduate student is really exciting.”



Lee (second from right) at the 2019 Nelson Institute Rendezvous where she received the Rising Star Alumni Award. Joining her (left to right) JoAnne Kloppenburg, Jack Kloppenburg her advisor and alumni award nominator, and Luthien Niland. Photo courtesy of Ashley Lee

“Coming to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and having the exposure to specifically environmental justice issues, but also environment as a body of study and a potential career, really changed my life and my idea of where I would end up.”

–Ashley Lee

In addition to these partnerships, Lee also plans to support the [Nelson Institute Community Environmental Scholars Program \(CESP\)](#), a three-semester program designed for students who want to link their passion for the environment with a commitment to the community. Lee is an alumna of the cohort and scholarship-based program, which provided her with the opportunity to become a founding member of the Greenhouse Learning Community located in Leopold Residence Hall, on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. This community continues to provide participants with the tools and knowledge needed to be stewards of sustainability. Lee is among CESP alums who are supporting efforts to raise awareness and dollars for the program.

“CESP is my home in Nelson, so seeing CESP continue to thrive and really reconnect to the root of bringing in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) who come from different communities is important to me,” Lee said.

She also shared that she is honored to have the opportunity to engage with all of this work through her role on the Board of Visitors.

“I felt really beyond honored,” Lee said of being asked to join the Board of Visitors. “I felt a responsibility to change the face of the Nelson Institute and who engages with Nelson Institute and has access to content. I would say generally, when we talk about sustainability and stewardship, I would hope when people think of Nelson the face that comes to mind reflects diversity. I hope it reflects Black and Brown folks, people from poor communities and countries who are on the line here. When we talk about climate change we know who will be most impacted by that and in every conversation that we have, I will be asking the questions around what does it look like, who are we talking about, who will be impacted, and as we do this work I want to make sure we are doing so from a frame that is decolonized and honors the sustainability work communities of color have been doing since inception.”

Lee continued, “I’ve always believed that it’s really important to take up space in these seats of power where these decisions are made, where we are talking about what we are focusing on, or problem solving around how we reach the people we’ve been unable to reach, and it seemed like a great place to do that through the Nelson Institute Board of Visitors.”

Support the Community Environmental Scholars Program!

The Community Environmental Scholars Program (CESP) is designed for students who want to link their passion for the environment with a commitment to the community and provides undergraduates with the opportunity to work with community-based environmental organizations, professional training, and gives them a place to discuss the links between environmental studies and community service.

This cohort-based program provides a supportive and welcoming community for traditionally underrepresented students, such as first-generation, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, veterans, etc.

Please consider [making a gift](#) today in support of this critically important program! [Learn more about the Community Environmental Scholars Program.](#)



**DAY OF THE
BADGER**

SAVE THE DATE
DAY OF THE BADGER
is coming back on
APRIL 5 & 6!

— *Support* —
NELSON

Interested in supporting the Nelson Institute? There are many ways to contribute to the Nelson Institute – participating in our events, mentoring our students, providing connections to your personal networks, and making financial gifts. All of these are necessary and important to us and we invite you

to invest in our community in the way that makes the most sense to you. [Learn more about all of the great academic programs, research centers, and public programs we offer.](#)

Gifts in any amount are needed and appreciated!



WRM alumna coordinates flood resilience and mitigation efforts in Green Bay watershed

Kayla Wandsnider at Lake Wingra. Photo courtesy of Emma Davis

By Rachel Carrier

Nelson Institute alumna Kayla Wandsnider is taking an environmental approach to urban planning. Through her fellowship with The Nature Conservancy, Wandsnider is working to coordinate conservation efforts in the Green Bay, Wis. watershed.

Her current project is centered around coordinating communication between municipalities within the Green Bay watershed about flood resilience and mitigation. Wandsnider and her team are putting together a framework for the municipalities to use based on data and perspectives they have collected.

“We’re putting this together to help [municipalities] take action in the short and long term in order to assuage some of the flooding issues they’re experiencing,” she said. “The main goal is to get community members and

residents as involved as possible.”

Wandsnider, who is a recent graduate of the [Water Resources Management \(WRM\)](#) program, as well as the [Urban and Regional Planning MS](#) program, shared that this two-year fellowship program was a great transition from her studies. She said her fellowship opportunity is the perfect blend of both areas of study.

“I really enjoyed both programs, they played off each other really well,” Wandsnider said.

Wandsnider originally came to the University of Wisconsin–Madison for urban and regional planning but decided to add the WRM program after hearing about her peer’s positive experiences in both programs. By undertaking water and resources management, she

was able to dive deeper into her interests in water resources.

“Going through the WRM program gave me the possibility to go into the field of water resources and understand more of my own interests,” said Wandsnider.

Having the ability to choose concentrations in both programs gave Wandsnider a refined look into climate adaptation, planning, and ecosystem management. She acknowledges that her classes were difficult, but equally interesting and engaging.

She recalls one class in particular, hydro science with [Steven Loehide](#), professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Nelson Institute affiliate, for as a challenging but intriguing experience in the WRM program.

“It was rigorous but was definitely one of the most informative classes I’ve participated in” she recalls. “I still use some of the principles I learned in that class in my current work.”

The class focused on the technology used in water management and was a math dense course. Although her work is focused more on people management, she gained insight into technological processes used in her field.

Wandsnider had her “lightbulb-moment” in a course titled Physical Principles of Soil and Water Management. The class focused on how water moves through underground systems and covered topics such as soil particles, heat conduction, and gravity.

“It was one of the most influential classes I took through WRM,” she said. “It made me realize how soil can be so integral in the flow of water. It seems like common sense now, but that lightbulb went off for me while taking this class and things really clicked.”

Wandsnider said coming to UW- Madison for her graduate studies was an easy choice. She previously obtained her undergraduate degree in biology with minors in Spanish and environmental studies from the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse. She took a few years off to travel before returning to school to solidify how she wanted to continue her studies.

Wandsnider’s fellowship with the Nature Conservancy is a launching point for career in water and environmental management. While she looks forward to what comes next in her career, she also reflects on how her educational journey ties into her work.

“My current work incorporates both of my master’s degrees really well, and even elements of my undergraduate studies. I’m glad to be using my degrees in a meaningful way.”

Learn more about the [Water Resources Management MS](#) and how you can [support the program](#).

“It was one of the most influential classes I took through WRM. It made me realize how soil can be so integral in the flow of water.”

–Kayla Wandsnider



Field tour of the lower end of the East River Watershed at Van Beaver Park. Photo courtesy of Lamont Smith, The Nature Conservancy



The Pathway Forward:

How companies, NGOs, and scientists are collaborating to help save the Amazon

We invite you to join us as we discuss a new University of Wisconsin–Madison collaboration that is helping to address deforestation and its links to meat and leather supply chains in the Brazilian Amazon. The collaboration, which bridges public and private sectors, involves researchers at the Nelson Institute Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab (GLUE) as well as partners at Minerva Foods and the National Wildlife Federation. Together, they are forging a new path forward through the development of VISIPEC, a free, cloud-based supply chain traceability tool that can help companies achieve the goals of their zero-deforestation and sustainability commitments. See story [page 2](#)

Thursday, February 24

The H.F. DeLuca Forum Room
Wisconsin Institute of Discovery
Streamed Live and limited
in-person seating available
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. CT

Learn more about the
lecture and register [here](#)



Back to the Earth:

Why Green Burials Matter

Explore the environmental benefits of a green burial during a virtual discussion with Shedd Farley, director of the Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice & Sustainability and Tajai Turner, a CEO, Licensed Funeral Director, and a member of the [Green Burial Council](#) Speakers Bureau.

Also called natural burial or eco-friendly burial, green burial emphasizes simplicity and sustainability. Join us as Farley and Turner showcase the ways these sites and green burials aid in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and preservation of habitat.

Wednesday, March 9

Virtual

Noon - 1:15 p.m. CT

Learn more about the lecture and register [here](#)



Water on the Rise April 21, 2022

Registration opens March 1

Water and life are inextricably intertwined. Without access to adequate water, humanity suffers. Yet, water in extreme abundance can also become a destructive force.

We invite you to join us as we explore these concepts and more during the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Earth Day 2022: Water on the Rise. This day-long community learning event, featuring both in-person and virtual experiences, will examine how communities across the globe are facing, responding to, and mitigating critical water issues.

We are excited to announce that speakers will include Kelsey Leonard, a water scientist, legal scholar, policy expert, writer, and enrolled citizen of the Shinnecock Nation and Sandra Postel, director of the Global Water Policy Project.

This event will be in partnership with Water@UW, who will continue the conversation on Friday, April 22, 2022, at the annual Water@UW Symposium.



CHE Environmental Colloquia and Graduate Student Symposium

The [Center for Culture, History, and Environment](#) (CHE) invites you to attend the Spring 2022 colloquia series and graduate student symposium. Mark your calendar for these events:

Wednesday, February 23

[Scientific Storytelling as an Approach to Decolonizing Science Education](#)

Justin Hougham

Noon - 1 p.m. CT

[Register Today](#)

Saturday, March 5

[CHE Graduate Student Symposium:](#)

[Re-/generation](#)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CT

[Register Today](#)

Saturday, March 5

[Tristan Ahtone Keynote Address](#)

[2022 CHE Graduate Student Symposium](#)

9:30-10:30 a.m. CT

[Register Today](#)

Wednesday, March 23

[The Alchemy of Dirt: Land Art and Agriculture as Social Practice](#)

Tory Tepp

Noon - 1 p.m. CT

[Register Today](#)

Wednesday, April 20

[The Headwaters of Insurrection: Origins of January 6 through Environmental History](#)

Matt Villeneuve

Noon - 1 p.m. CT

[Register Today](#)



CLIMATE, PEOPLE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

CPEP Series

Each semester the [Climate, People, and the Environment Program](#) (CPEP) hosts a weekly seminar featuring lectures by visiting speakers as well as presentations by CPEP faculty, scientists, and students. CPEP seminar presentations are held in conjunction with the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (AOS) and are open to the public. Lectures are held Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. CT in Room 811, AOS, 1225 W. Dayton St. Mark your calendar for these upcoming lectures:

February 15

Evidence for Increased Waviness of the Northern Hemisphere Wintertime Polar and Subtropical Jets

Jonathan Martin, Professor, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, UW-Madison

February 22

Extreme Indian Monsoon Regimes Lead to Collapses in Oceanic Productivity

Kaustubh Thirumalai, Asst. Professor, College of Geosciences, University of Arizona

March 1

Topics on Arctic Research

Claire Pettersen, Asst. Professor, Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Michigan

March 8

Building Ecological Insights from Marine Mammal Archives

Alyson Fleming, Associate Scientist, Forest & Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison

March 22

Under-Ice Physical and Biological Responses to a Multi-Year Snow Removal

Hilary Dugan, Assistant Professor, Center for Limnology, UW-Madison, and Ellie Socha, Graduate Student, Center for Limnology

March 29

Change is Rough: the Impacts of Changing Sea Ice on Arctic Winds

Alice DuVivier, Polar Climate Scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research

April 12

Modeling Lake Ecosystem Change in Socio-environmental Systems to Improve Water Resources Management

Nicole Ward, Water Resources Ecologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

April 26

A Nonlinear Dynamics Approach to Understanding and Measuring Sustainability

Dylan McNamara, Professor and Chair, Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, University of North Carolina-Wilmington

May 3

Extratropical Impacts of the Madden-Julian Oscillation

Stephanie Henderson, Assistant Professor, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, UW-Madison

Past lecture recordings are available for viewing [here](#).

February 22, 4:30-5:30 p.m. CT

W



GLOBAL HEALTH TUESDAY



EMPIRE OF RUBBER

FIRESTONE'S SCRAMBLE FOR LAND & POWER IN LIBERIA

Read about Greg Mitman's new book that highlights land use, racial injustice, and America's shared history with Liberia [here](#).



Weston Series

The [Weston Roundtable Series](#) is designed to promote a robust understanding of sustainability science, engineering, and policy through weekly lectures are co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE), the [Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering](#), and the [Office of Sustainability](#). Lectures are held Thursdays from 4:15-5:15 p.m. CT in Room 1153 Mechanical Engineering, 1415 Engineering Dr. Some lectures will be presented online, which will require registration. Mark your calendar for these upcoming lectures:

March 3

Global Forest Watch: Lessons from Providing Real-Time Forest Monitoring Data

Mikaela Weisse, Deputy Director, Global Forest Watch, World Resources Institute

March 24

Tackling Environmental Challenges (Including Plastic Pollution) Globally and Locally: A Conversation with the UN Environment Programme, North America

Barbara Hendrie, Director, North America Office, United Nations Environment Programme

March 31

Climate Crisis and the Global Green New Deal

Robert Pollin, Distinguished University Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

April 28

Excessive Heat and Human Health: Defining the Problem and Implementing Solutions

Larry Kalkstein, President, Applied Climatologists, Inc.

May 5

Can We Agree on the Truth of Climate, Health, and Elections? The Decline and Rise of Democratic Learning

Archon Fung, Winthrop Laflin McCormack Professor of Citizenship and Democracy, Harvard Kennedy School

Past lecture recordings are available for viewing [here](#).

Video library of past lectures is available on demand

If you missed a Nelson Institute hosted event or lecture this fall, you can view recordings in our new [video library](#).



Join us

in celebrating the Nelson Institute year-round by [purchasing branded merchandise](#), shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, bags, and more.



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



LinkedIn

Feedback or questions about *The Commons*, please email: communications@nelson.wisc.edu