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[Subject line:] STANFORD: 2011 Leopold Leadership fellows selected

[Web teaser:]

[Video: add link here]

[Headline:] Twenty researchers selected as 2011 Leopold Leadership fellows

[Summary:]

Twenty environmental researchers from across North America have been awarded Leopold Leadership Fellowships for 2011.

Based at Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment, the Leopold Leadership Program helps academic scientists make their knowledge accessible to decision makers. The program is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Each year, the program selects up to 20 mid-career academic environmental researchers as fellows. They receive intensive leadership and communications training to help them engage effectively with policymakers, journalists, business leaders and communities confronting complex decisions about sustainability and the environment.

"These 20 outstanding researchers are change agents engaged in cutting-edge research," said Pam Sturner, executive director of the Leopold Leadership Program. "Through our program, they will gain new skills and connections to help them translate their knowledge into action at the regional, national and international level."

The 2011 fellows come from a wide range of disciplines, including marine science, ecology, engineering, geography, economics, behavioral science and political science. "They will join a network of 153 past fellows who are actively working to infuse the best research into public and private sector discussions about the environment," Sturner said.

The fellows were chosen for their outstanding qualifications as researchers, demonstrated leadership ability and strong interest in communicating beyond traditional academic audiences. Each fellow participates in two weeklong training sessions where fellows take part in mock media interviews and meet with policymakers in Washington, D.C. The fellowship also offers peer networking and mentoring through the Leopold Leadership Network of program advisors, trainers and past fellows.

“Academic scientists work hard to understand environmental problems and develop potential solutions, but to actually solve problems requires communication and a two-way flow of information between scientists and decision makers,” said scientific director Pamela Matson, dean of Stanford’s School of Earth Sciences and senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment. “The Leopold Leadership Program trains academics to close the gap between knowledge and action.”

The 2011 Leopold Leadership Fellows are:

Joseph Arvai, Svare Chair in Applied Decision Research, Haskayne School of Business, and Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment, & Economy, University of Calgary. Research: Decision science and risk management across social, environmental and economic contexts.

Elena Bennett, assistant professor, Department of Natural Resource Sciences and McGill School of Environment, McGill University. Research: Ecosystem services and management of agricultural landscapes.

Elizabeth Canuel, professor of marine science, Department of Physical Sciences, Virginia Institute of Marine Science/College of William & Mary. Research: Nutrient pollution and development of renewable energy in coastal waters.

Greg Characklis, associate professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Research: Water resource management and treatment strategies based on hydrologic, engineering and economic processes.

Leah Gerber, associate professor of ecology, evolution and environmental science, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University. Research: Marine conservation ecology, population biology and adaptive management.

Liz Hadly, professor of biology and professor of geological and environmental sciences, by courtesy, Stanford University. Research: Evolution and ecology of mammals; historic perspective on climate change.

Jessica Hellmann, associate professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame. Research: Impacts of climate change and human activities

on the dynamics of populations and species interactions; adaptation methods of reducing climate impacts.

Andrew Hoffman, Holcim (U.S.) Professor of Sustainable Enterprise, Ross School of Business and School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan. Research: Cultural and institutional aspects of environmental issues for organizations (corporations, NGOs and governments).

Tracey Holloway, associate professor, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and director, Nelson Institute Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE), University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research: Air quality and links with energy planning, international development, climate change and public health.

Hope Jahren, professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Hawaii. Research: Arctic forests and ecosystems in geologic history.

Marco Janssen, associate professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, and director, Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity, Arizona State University. Research: Co-evolution of human activities and ecological processes.

Raghu Murtugudde, professor and executive director, Chesapeake Bay Forecast System, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, University of Maryland. Research: Earth system forecasts for sustainability and climate decision-support.

Lincoln Pratson, professor of energy & environment, Division of Earth & Ocean Sciences, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University. Research: Optimizing design for carbon capture and storage.

Ted Schuur, associate professor of ecosystem ecology, Department of Biology, University of Florida. Research: Permafrost carbon and terrestrial ecosystem feedbacks to climate change.

Martin Smith, associate professor of environmental economics, Division of Environmental Science and Policy, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University. Research: Fisheries economics and marine policy.

Valeria Souza, investigadora titular C, evolutionary ecology, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Research: Microbial evolutionary ecology.

Jake Vander Zanden, associate professor, Department of Zoology and Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research: Ecology and management of aquatic invasive species.

Jack Williams, Bryson Professor of Climate, People and the Environment, Department of Geography & Center for Climatic Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research: Responses of plant species and communities to the

environmental changes of the late Quaternary for understanding the sensitivity of vegetation to 21st-century climate change.

Elizabeth Wilson, associate professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota. Research: Technology and sociopolitical factors shaping low-carbon energy deployment.

Dawn Wright, professor of geography and oceanography, Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University. Research: Geographic technologies for mapping of oceans and coasts; marine conservation.

Relevant Web URLs:

Title: Leopold Leadership Program

URL: <http://leopoldleadership.stanford.edu/>

Title: Woods Institute for the Environment

URL: <http://woods.stanford.edu/>

Editors note: