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RELEVANT WEB URLS:

LEOPOLD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

<http://leopoldleadership.org>

WOODS INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

<http://woods.stanford.edu>

19 researchers selected as 2009 Leopold Leadership Fellows

Nineteen environmental researchers from across North America have been awarded Leopold Leadership Fellowships for 2009.

Based at Stanford University's Woods Institute for the Environment, the Leopold Leadership Program was founded in 1998 to help academic scientists make their scientific knowledge accessible to decision makers. Each year the program selects up to 20 mid-career academic environmental scientists as fellows. They receive intensive communication and leadership training to help them deliver scientific information more effectively to journalists, policymakers, business leaders, and the public.

“These nineteen outstanding researchers are engaged in cutting edge research about Earth's environmental systems,” said Pam Sturner, the managing director of the Leopold Leadership Program. “Through our program, they will gain new skills and connections to make sure their research is heard and is useful to decision-making.”

The 2009 fellows come from a wide range of disciplines, including marine science, ecology, engineering, geography, and economics. They will join a network of 134 past fellows who are active in science outreach and are working to infuse scientific understanding into public and private sector discussions about the environment.

The fellows were chosen for their outstanding qualifications as scientists, demonstrated leadership ability, and strong interest in communicating science beyond traditional academic audiences. Each fellow participates in two week-long training sessions that include practice media interviews and testimony at a mock congressional hearing. The fellowship also offers peer

networking and mentoring through the Leadership Network of program advisors, trainers and past fellows.

"Academic scientists work hard to understand environmental problems and to develop potential solutions, but actually solving problems requires a two-way flow of information and communication between scientists and decision makers" said Pamela Matson, Dean of Stanford University's School of Earth Sciences and Scientific Director of the program. "The Leopold Leadership Program trains academics to close the gap between knowledge and action."

The Leopold Leadership Program is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The 2009 Leopold Leadership Fellows are:

Kevin Arrigo, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Earth System Science, Stanford University. Current research: Role of polar marine microalgae in global biogeochemical cycling.

Brendan Bohannon, Associate Professor, Biology, University of Oregon. Current research: Microbial biodiversity; response of microbial communities to environmental change.

David Breshears, Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona. Current research: Dieback of woodlands in response to severe drought.

Anne Chin, Courtesy Professor, Department of Geography, University of Oregon. Current research: Dynamics of dryland rivers impacted by urban development; dynamics of headwater mountain streams.

Simon Donner, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia. Current research: Effects of climate change and land use change on ecosystems.

Victoria Fabry, Professor, Biological Sciences, California State University, San Marcos. Current research: Impact of ocean acidification on marine ecosystems.

Margot Gerritsen, Assistant Professor, Energy Resources Engineering, Stanford University. Current research: Optimization of environmentally friendly oil production processes, carbon sequestration, and tidal energy systems.

Gretchen Hofmann, Professor, Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, University of California, Santa Barbara. Current research: Impacts of ocean acidification on marine populations.

Madhu Khanna, Professor, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Current research: Economic mechanisms for encouraging voluntary corporate environmental initiatives; environmental and economic implications of biofuel mandates, subsidies, and tariffs.

David Lea, Professor, Earth Science, University of California, Santa Barbara.
Current research: Implications of paleoclimate data for understanding and predicting climate change.

Laura Meyerson, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources Science, University of Rhode Island. Current research: Identification of native plant populations at risk of extinction from invasive plant species.

Paige Novak, Associate Professor, Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota.
Current research: Contamination of water and wastewater by estrogen compounds.

Dov Sax, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; joint appointment with Center for Environmental Studies, Brown University. Current research: Species extinction; evaluation of “assisted migration” as policy.

Karen Seto, Associate Professor, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University. Current research: Impacts of urban growth.

Whendee Silver, Professor, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California, Berkeley. Current research: Land use management effects on climate change; impact of tropical reforestation.

U. Rashid Sumaila, Associate Professor, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia. Current research: Economics of fishing and impacts on marine conservation policies.

Jeanne VanBriesen, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University. Current research: Drinking water safety.

Jianguo (Jingle) Wu, Professor, School of Life Sciences and School of Sustainability, Arizona State University. Current research: Urbanization and its ecological effects in Arizona; biodiversity and ecosystem function in Mongolia.

Luis Zambrano González, Professor, Zoology, Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Current research: Dynamics of freshwater fish populations.