

To: Kimberly Espy, Vice President for Research & Innovation  
From: Ronald Mitchell  
Re: UO Climate Change Research Group (CCRG) – summary of AY2011-12 activities  
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012  
CC: Heather Brinton, Isla Dane, Alan Dickman, Mark Carey, Kathy Lynn, Thibaud Henin, Sena Choi, Kaitlyn Grigsby, Camille Ogden

This memo is intended to briefly summarize activities of the UO Climate Change Research Group (CCRG) during AY2011-12. I, and the other faculty and graduate students that make up the CCRG, are very grateful for the financial support provided by the Vice President's Office.

In general, it was a very successful second year for CCRG. After efforts during 2010-2011 to create a coherent group, the group hosted numerous events as described below and also began fostering an increasingly strong community of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates working on climate change. As the description below makes clear, the group has begun to truly foster interdisciplinary conversations, as most evident in the range of disciplines of those who presented at the Climate Change Research Symposium. The CCRG listserv currently includes over 80 faculty, graduate students, and a few undergrads.

Throughout the year, I and other CCRG faculty have worked closely with the Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program and their Fireside Series lectures (particularly Heather Brinton and Isla Dane), with the Environmental Studies Program (Alan Dickman), with the organizers of the "Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference" (Mark Carey and Kathy Lynn) and with others on campus working on related issues. We are also very happy that Babe O'Sullivan and Matt McRae from the City of Eugene's Sustainability Office have been regular attendees at the CCRG meetings, fostering more dialogue and "policy engagement" of UO faculty members with the local community.

Plans for 2012-2013, but we plan to have a similar schedule to this year, including both large lectures open to the public as well as to continue the more informal presentations to the smaller group of research faculty and graduate students made possible through the monthly faculty colloquia.

In closing, I would like to again thank you and your office for your financial support and would welcome any suggestions or feedback on CCRG's activities as we go forward.

### **UO Climate Change Research Symposium**

May 23, 2012

Goal: An interdisciplinary symposium to prompt discussion among faculty and students conducting research on Climate Change at the University of Oregon.

<http://climatechange.uoregon.edu>

This symposium, which we hope to be the first annual one, provided a forum for professors and students in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences to present their research on different facets of climate change. The goal was to bring together individuals whose problem-driven research transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. The symposium consisted of three panels on "The Impact of Climate Change on the American Landscape and Mind," "Changing Climate, Changing Policy – an International Perspective," and "Climate Change and Future Resource Use." Presenters reflected the interdisciplinary nature of the CCRG with representation from 10 different academic units on campus, including:

- 6 faculty from Geography, Geological Sciences, Law, Physics, Political Science, and Sociology;
- 2 post-docs from Biology and Environmental Studies;
- 4 doctoral students from Biology, Geography, English, and Political Science; and
- 1 undergraduate from History.

Attendance over the course of the symposium (which ran from 10 am until 3 pm) was approximately 120 different people, with at least 50 people in attendance during each of the panels. The Symposium also benefited tremendously from an organizing team led by Thibaud Henin (Political Science graduate student), who was assisted by Sena Choi (Political Science graduate student), Kaitlyn Grigsby (Environmental Studies graduate student), and Camille Ogden (Political Science undergraduate coordinator).

The symposium was coordinated to coincide with "The Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change Conference" that was organized by Mark Carey (Honors College) and Kathy Lynn (Environmental Studies).

### **Campus Visit: Anthony Leiserowitz, Yale University**

April 25, 2012

Tony Leiserowitz of Yale University and the University of Oregon's first PhD in Environmental Studies gave a public lecture entitled "Climate Change and the American Mind" and also led a small-group discussion among CCRG faculty and grad students. He also met with, or had meals with, several faculty members.

His public lecture described and explained recent trends in public opinion on climate change and the current state of Americans' climate literacy. It also included a discussion of Global Warming's Six Americas - six different audiences within the public that respond to the issue in unique ways and required tailored education and communication strategies.

Attendance at the public lecture was approximately 150 people and at the small-group discussion was 25 people.

The Eugene Weekly published an article on Leiserowitz' talk which is available at:  
<http://www.eugeneweekly.com/article/six-americas-literacy-climate>

### **Campus Visit: Robert Socolow, Princeton University**

April 9, 2012

Rob Socolow of Princeton University gave a public lecture on "How would we act if we took climate change seriously?" and led a small-group discussion among CCRG faculty and grad students on "The challenge of climate stabilization." During his visit he had an extended discussion with Prof. Mary Woods research group at the Law School and also had meals with several faculty members.

The abstract for his public lecture was: "The world is busy rejecting the news from the scientists that modern civilization in its current form is overwhelming the planet. This talk is a search for the Restart button, that would enable a fresh conversation, specifically about climate change, between the environmental community (which accepts the news) and the general public, viewed as wary but not hostile. The messaging about the science of climate change, about international political implications, and about ethics and values all can be improved."

Attendance at the public lecture was approximately 120 people and at the small-group discussion was 20 people.

The Eugene Weekly published an article on Socolow's talk which is available at:  
<http://www.eugeneweekly.com/article/princeton-physicist-climate-change>

### **Monthly CCRG meetings and other events**

In addition to these three "major" events hosted by CCRG, CCRG either organized or co-organized and helped sponsor the following 10 events over the course of the year with the Law School's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program and their Fireside Series lectures and with the Environmental Studies Program. Attendance at the CCRG Faculty Colloquia were consistently at 15-20 faculty and graduate students and at the public lectures at Many Nations Longhouse ranged from 50-150 people.

- John Orbell, Institute for Cognitive and Decision Sciences, University of Oregon
  - "Simulating human responses to what climate science is saying"
  - Mar 14, 2012
  - Public lecture at Many Nations Longhouse
  
- Adrian Howkins, History Department, Colorado State University
  - "Antarctica and climate change in the past and present"
  - Feb 21, 2012
  - CCRG Faculty Colloquium
  
- David Allaway, State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Babe O'Sullivan, City of Eugene - City Manager's Office, Sustainability Liaison
  - "Materials, Consumption and Climate Policy"
  - Jan 17, 2012
  - CCRG Faculty Colloquium
  
- Derek Smith, Oregon Clean Energy Works
  - "Creating a Scalable Home Energy Efficiency Industry"
  - Jan 17, 2012
  - Public lecture at Many Nations Longhouse
  
- Mike Hoglund

- “From Scenario to Reality: Reducing Greenhouse Gases in the Portland Region”
- Nov 16, 2011
- Public lecture at Many Nations Longhouse
  
- Greg Bothun, Department of Physic, University of Oregon
  - “What is a “climate” and how do we know it has changed?”
  - Jan 17, 2012
  - CCRG Faculty Colloquium
  
- Brendan Bohannon, CEEB, University of Oregon
  - “The response of microbial life to global change”
  - Oct 18, 2011
  - CCRG Faculty Colloquium
  
- Kari Norgaard, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon
  - “Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions and Everyday Life”
  - Oct 12, 2011
  - Public lecture at Many Nations Longhouse
  
- Kristine Harper, Department of History, Florida State University
  - “Experiments in geoengineering: controlling the weather in 20th century America”
  - Oct 6, 2011
  - Public lecture at Honors College Library
  
- Adell Amos, School of Law, University of Oregon
  - “Water and Climate Change: The Role of the Federal Government”
  - Sep 28, 2011
  - Public lecture at Many Nations Longhouse