Faculty Invited to Incorporate Climate Lecture Series in Course Planning

University Relations - Communications
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With the United Nations Climate Change Conference currently underway in Paris, the environment is in the headlines this week, but UA researchers have long been newsmakers on research on climate change.

Six internationally recognized researchers on the environment will be lecturing in the spring UA College of Science Lecture Series, "Earth Transformed" [1], which this year will focus on the topic of global climate change.

The UA College of Science Lecture Series has become a Tucson institution over the last 10 years. This year, students will have a chance to meet with the lecturers after the talks and engage in a lively discussion about their research. New QA Science sessions will provide students with a firsthand look at how influential researchers think about the challenges of global climate change.

Faculty who teach classes that address climate change issues are invited to include the lectures in their courses. All UA students and faculty are invited to watch a live-stream of the UA College of Science Lectures and attend the QA Science series in the Environment and Natural Resources 2 Building. This discussion series, designed for students from all disciplines, will focus on the story behind the science and provide a fun and engaging venue to ask questions, and consider how to translate science into action to address global climate change.

The discussions with the lecturers will be led by Lisa Elfring, associate professor of molecular and cellular biology and of chemistry and biochemistry and a member of the BIO5 Institute; John Pollard, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry; and Ed Prather, associate professor of astronomy.

"The scientists who are lecturing in the series include award-winning teachers, and the QA student discussion series is being led by three faculty members who have won just about every major university teaching award," said Joaquin Ruiz, dean of the College of Science.

Prather, Pollard and Elfring have received national awards and grants for their efforts to develop active learning strategies [2] and expand collaborations with local teachers. The discussion series is based on a model Pollard developed of having lecturers talk with local teachers about their research after their lectures.
To "open doors for students to the top levels of research and knowledge," Distinguished Scholar Joellen Russell, associate professor of geosciences and planetary sciences, has gathered together resources on studying the environment. These Resources on the Environment will help faculty integrate the lectures series into their courses.

In an invitation to faculty to include the lecture series and QA Science series in planning their courses, Ruiz wrote: "The UA Science Lecture Series has provided a tremendous opportunity for us to showcase the incredible research of our colleagues. With your help, we can expand their impact to involve our students in the discussions."

Faculty who are interested in accepting Ruiz's invitation should email Prather, Pollard and Elfring.

The "Earth Transformed" lectures, by UA faculty members Russell, Kacey Ernst, Russell Monson, Kimberly Ogden and Jonathan Overpeck, and University of Washington faculty member David Battisti, will begin on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in Centennial Hall, and continue every Monday night through March 7, with the exception of Feb. 15. The QA Science series begin with a pre-lecture discussion at 6:30 p.m. in the Environment and Natural Resources 2 auditorium, with a live-stream of the lectures starting at 7 and discussion beginning immediately after the lectures with the speakers.

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