



The Center for Health and the Global Environment

Harvard Medical School

In an effort to keep you informed about the Center's activities and achievements, we present you with the latest edition of our electronic newsletter. If you would like to be removed from this list, please e-mail Emily Huhn at Emily_Huhn@hms.harvard.edu



Global Environmental Citizen Award

On December 1, 2004 Center Board Member Meryl Streep presented Bill Moyers with the Global Environmental Citizen Award, a recognition given out annually by the Center for outstanding achievement in raising awareness of global environmental change. Bill Moyers's remarks at the award ceremony, which took place at The Carriage House Center for Global Issues in New York City, resonated with people both in attendance and beyond and have circled the globe on the internet. A transcript of his powerful speech can be found on the Center's website

at <http://www.med.harvard.edu/chge/april.html#bill>.



Al Gore Visits Center

Former Vice President Al Gore visited the Center on October 21 during a stop in Boston. During the visit, Paul Epstein, Eric Chivian and Center Faculty Member Jim McCarthy gave brief presentations sparking a discussion with Mr. Gore on topics ranging from melting polar ice, nature's services, emerging infectious diseases and loss of biodiversity. He came to the Center with the purpose of finding clear examples, both visually and conceptually, of the connection between human health and global environmental change in order to better

present the idea to the public at large.



Education

The Center's Spring 2005 "Human Health and Global Environmental Change" course, offered annually at Harvard Medical School since 1997, began February 1 and runs through May 10. Twenty five lectures presented by nationally recognized experts cover a range of human health and global climate change topics. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 1:30-4:30 PM. Please check our website at <http://www.med.harvard.edu/chge> for an updated syllabus and course materials or e-mail emily_huhn@hms.harvard.edu for more information. Auditors and drop-ins are always welcome.



Arctic Climate Impact Assessment

The final report of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, "Impacts of a Warming Arctic," was presented in Reykjavik, Iceland, November 9-12 after four years of scientific study on the region conducted by an international team of 300 scientists. Center Faculty Member James McCarthy contributed to the report as a lead author of the chapter titled "Climate Change in the Context of Multiple Stressors and

Resilience" along with Marybeth Long Martello, a Sustainability Systems Research Post-Doctoral Fellow at Harvard. According to the assessment, increasing greenhouse gases from human activities are projected to warm the Arctic by an additional 7-13°F and at least half of Arctic summer sea ice is projected to melt by the end of the century. This melting, along with melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, will contribute to global sea-

level rise; may drive polar bears toward extinction; and cause serious health and food security issues for indigenous people.



Harvard Initiatives

Paul Epstein was involved, on behalf of the Center, in a collaborative effort to create a set of principles designed to ensure sustainable growth and advance Harvard's record as a responsible environmental steward. Student and alumni interest in a sustainable future campus prompted President Lawrence H. Summers to call on the Harvard Green Campus Initiative and a committee of 28 students, faculty, and administrators to define a policy of sustainable development. The results are reflected in the six following sustainability

principles: Demonstrating institutional practices that promote sustainability; promoting health, productivity and safety through the University's built environment; enhancing the health of campus ecosystems and increasing the diversity of native species; developing tools to enable comparative analysis of sustainability implications; encouraging environmental inquiry and institutional learning throughout the University; and establishing indicators for sustainability that will enable continuous monitoring, reporting, and improvement.



Speaking Engagements

On November 5 Paul appeared as a guest on "Your World with Neil Cavuto" on Fox News. He spoke about the role of climate change in this year's extreme weather events and the effects of changing weather on our health, ecosystems, and economy. He stressed that climate change is not a partisan issue, rather an all encompassing issue with energy, economic and global environmental

consequences.

Paul also spoke at the Closing General Session of the American Public Health Association's annual meeting on November 10 in Washington D.C. along with Kenneth Olden, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Second Director of the National Toxicology Program. They focused on the issue of environmental justice.

On January 27th Paul chaired a workshop at UNESCO's international scientific conference *Biodiversity: Science and Governance* in Paris. Scientists from all over the world came together at the conference, under the patronage of President Jacques Chirac and Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, in an effort to examine public and private approaches to biodiversity preservation and management. Paul was involved with the workshop titled "Biodiversity and Health: an Ecological Perspective for the Future." While in France, he also delivered a talk at the Universite Joseph Fourier in Grenoble titled "The Health, Ecological and Economic Dimension of Climate Change."

In November, Eric Chivian spoke at the World Conservation Union's World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, which more than 3,000 people attended. He presented two plenary keynote addresses and led a workshop. With the theme of "People and Nature – Only One World," conference participants discussed how the planet can meet the needs of growing populations and expanding markets without sacrificing nature. He also delivered this year's Darwin lecture in London in October and was introduced by the U.K.'s Minister of State for the Environment.

Eric also gave the second annual Dr. Melvin H. Chalfen Lecture for Cambridge Health Alliance on January 5th. The lecture, titled "How Human Health Depends on Nature," explored the potential consequences of global environmental change on human health. The lecture series was designed as a tribute to Dr. Chalfen and his lifetime commitment to the public health and academic mission of Cambridge Health Alliance.



New Staff

Emily Huhn joined the Center in January as the new Staff Assistant after finishing her Master's degree in science journalism at Boston University. Trained as a biologist and writer, global environmental change issues and the ways they are presented and disseminated to the public are especially important to her. Before coming to the Center, Emily taught children about the environment in Anchorage, Alaska, worked in the Research and Development lab of a small biotechnology company in Portland, Oregon, and spent

time as an editorial intern at National Geographic Adventure Magazine in New York City.