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20 Researchers Selected as 2013 Leopold Leadership Fellows

Twenty environmental researchers from across North America have been awarded Leopold Leadership Fellowships for 2013.

Based at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, the Leopold Leadership Program provides outstanding academic environmental researchers with skills and approaches for communicating and working with partners in NGOs, business, government and communities to integrate science into decision-making. The program is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

This year's fellows come from 17 institutions in Canada, Mexico and the United States. They will receive intensive leadership and communications training to help them engage effectively with leaders in the public and private sectors who face complex decisions about sustainability and the environment.

"These 20 outstanding researchers bring different perspectives and new knowledge about today's most important question: how to meet basic human needs while preserving Earth's vital systems," said Pam Sturner, executive director of the Leopold Leadership Program. "Our program will help them gain skills, approaches and tools to translate their knowledge to action for the leap to sustainability."

The 2013 fellows are doing innovative research in a wide range of disciplines, including ecology, marine science, economics, behavioral science, entomology, engineering and planning. They join a network of 175 past fellows who are engaged in broad-based efforts to solve society's most pressing sustainability challenges.

The fellows were chosen for their outstanding qualifications as researchers, demonstrated leadership ability and strong interest in sharing their knowledge beyond traditional academic audiences. Fellows participate in a weeklong training session on leadership and communications, followed by a year of practicing skills that will advance their efforts to lead change. The fellowship also offers peer networking and mentoring through the Leopold Leadership Network of program advisers, trainers and past fellows.

"Academic scientists work hard to understand environmental problems and develop potential solutions, but to actually help solve problems requires two-way communication and partnerships between scientists and decision-makers," said Scientific Director Pamela Matson, dean of Stanford's School of Earth Sciences and senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. "The Leopold Leadership Program trains academics to close the gap between knowledge and action."

The 2013 Leopold Leadership Fellows are:

Maxwell Boykoff, assistant professor, Environmental Studies Program, University of Colorado. Research: Cultural politics of climate change and analyses of the transformations of carbon-based economies and societies.

Trevor Branch, assistant professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington. Research: Effects of implementing catch shares in fisheries, with associated ecological, economic and social impacts; impacts of fishing on global marine food webs.

Richard Camilli, associate scientist, Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Research: Marine robotic technologies as tools for rapid, low-cost assessment of environmental chemical pollution.

Jill Caviglia-Harris, professor, Economics and Finance Department and Environmental Studies Department, Salisbury University. Research: Deforestation and human welfare; role of human decisions in shaping the environment.

Kai Chan, associate professor and Canada Research Chair (tier 2), Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia. Research: Improving the management and governance of social-ecological systems.

Jennifer Cherrier, associate professor, School of the Environment, Florida A&M University. Research: Pollution control; sustainability of aquatic resources; impact of human stressors on chemistry of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

Claudio Gratton, associate professor, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin - Madison. Research: Ecology of arthropods in agricultural landscapes; conservation of insects beneficial to humans; agriculture for bioenergy.

Rees Kassen, associate professor and University Research Chair, Department of Biology, University of Ottawa. Research: Factors governing biodiversity; role of microbial diversity in environmental and human health.

Kevin Krizek, professor, Department of Planning and Design, University of Colorado. Research: Sustainable infrastructure, bicycle planning and land use/transportation policies.

Joshua Lawler, associate professor, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington. Research: Identifying and reducing impacts of land-use and climate change on animals.

Marisa Mazari-Hiriart, Researcher B full time, ecology of biodiversity, Institute of Ecology, National Autonomous University of Mexico. Research: Water quality and public health.

Erika McPhee-Shaw, associate professor, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San Jose State University. Research: Coastal ecosystems, pollution and the land-sea interface.

Stephen Porder, assistant professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Brown University. Research: Soil fertility in tropical ecosystems; agriculture in the 21st century.

John Sabo, associate professor, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University. Research: Freshwater as a resource to ecosystems and people and as a cause of disturbance and natural disaster.

Lisa Schulte Moore, associate professor of landscape ecology, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University. Research: Redesigning agricultural practice to help stem biodiversity loss, enhance freshwater supplies, curtail climate change and improve people's lives.

Noelle Selin, assistant professor, Engineering Systems Division, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Research: Impacts of pollutants on human health and the economy.

Fiammetta Straneo, associate scientist, Physical Oceanography Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Research: Role of ice sheets in a changing ocean; improving sea level rise predictions.

Jennifer Tank, Galla Professor of Ecology, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Notre Dame. Research: Influence of human activities on streams, including cultivation of transgenic crops; effective management of surface waters.

Laura Taylor, professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University. Research: Valuation of natural resources and environmental quality; evaluation of water conservation program and impacts of renewable energy production on local communities.

David Valentine, professor, Department of Earth Science, University of California, Santa Barbara. Research: Catastrophic methane release; deep-water oil seeps; deep-sea exploration.

For more information about the Leopold Leadership Program, please visit http://leopoldleadership.stanford.edu/.