

The Environment and Society

The relationship between human society and the environment is complex and dynamic. The earth is at a crossroads as far as its ability to sustain life on the planet if human actions are not drastically altered. Long-term climate changes attributed to global warming have many people worried about the effects already felt on our air, water, food, and health and well-being. The environment is, and will continue to be, one of the most critical and pressing issues facing our country and the world. Join experts from the faculties of Syracuse University and Le Moyne College in a series of discussions on different aspects of this important topic.

Politics, Public Opinion and the Environmental Movement

October 9, 7 p.m., Grewen Auditorium

The discussion will explore a wide-ranging set of issues and questions regarding the relationship between the environment and society - from history through the future. What is the state of public opinion and of politics related to the environment? Has the U.S. environmental movement died as some have claimed? If so, can it be revived? What are the repercussions of an environmental "meltdown" when it pertains to a monumental issue such as global warming, especially if people are indeed 90 percent responsible for it? What should we do about climate change? Why has it become such a controversial and even ideological topic? How do we find and stay on a path of sustainability?

Speakers

Steven R. Brechin, professor of sociology, Center for Environmental Policy and Administration, the Maxwell School at Syracuse University

Walter Sharp, adjunct professor of education, Le Moyne College; climate project ambassador for Vice President Al Gore's The Climate Project

Religion and the Environment

October 23, 7 p.m., Grewen Auditorium

Can a religion be green? Historically, this discussion has been tenuous, controversial and even adversarial at times. Some of the controversy may stem from the perceived relationship between humans, their creator and the rest of creation. Some disagreement may originate with the concept of land or earth stewardship, what this means and who or what should benefit. Although Eastern and indigenous religions differ in these respects from the Abrahamic religions, can any environmental issue transcend these differences? Has it happened and were there any repercussions? What happens if we do nothing? Is there a way to facilitate a meaningful discussion among all parties?

Speakers

David Smith, associate professor, natural systems science, department of biological sciences, Le Moyne College

Philip Arnold, associate professor, history of religions/American religions, department of religion, Syracuse University

U.S. Climate and Energy Policies: Complementary or Conflicting?

November 6, 7 p.m., Grewen Auditorium

Greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels (and the associated climate change), and the reliance of the U.S. on imported oil to satisfy energy needs, are too often treated as separate issues. In fact, they are two sides of the same coin. Actions taken to control emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases will impact the cost and availability of energy, while measures to address the security of the nation's energy supply will affect the rate of greenhouse gas emissions in the future. Are there realistic options that would allow us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time provide a greater measure of energy security? What are the alternatives to fossil fuels? Can greenhouse gases be controlled more efficiently? Are there new technologies on the horizon that will save the day?

Speakers

Peter Wilcoxon, associate professor of economics and public administration, director of the Center for Environmental Policy and Administration at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University

Lawrence Tanner, associate professor of natural systems science, director of the Center for the Study of Environmental Change, Le Moyne College

THE
INTELLIGENT
CONVERSATION
SERIES



Fall 2007

October 9
October 23
November 6

All events are free

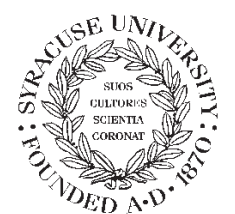
Call (315) 443-4846
or e-mail
cmkarlho@uc.syr.edu
for more information.

All events will take place
on the campus of Le Moyne
College. Parking is available in
lot C off Springfield Road (go
to [www.lemoyne.edu/
resources/campusinfo.htm](http://www.lemoyne.edu/resources/campusinfo.htm)).

Refreshments to follow
each event.

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