Student Conference on Conservation Science
New York
October 9-12, 2012
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American Museum of Natural History

Student Conference on Conservation Science
New York (SCCS-NY)

October 9-12, 2012

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Full abstracts are available on the SCCS-NY website:
http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/scsny/

Organized by:

American Museum of Natural History
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation

In partnership with:

Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation
smconservation.gmu.edu

University of Cambridge

The Earth Institute
Columbia University

ESF
State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

The Center for Biodiversity and Conservation is grateful to the Edgar M. Cullman, Jr. Family for their generous support of this conference.

Funding for the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation’s International Fellowship and Capacity Building Initiatives has been provided by Ms. Vivian H. Donnelley, Strachan Donnelley Family Charitable Lead Unitrust.
Acknowledgements

American Museum of Natural History

Student Conference on Conservation Science
New York (SCCS-NY)
October 10-12, 2012

The Student Conference on Conservation Science (SCCS) is the only international conference designed for graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and early-career professionals pursuing or considering the field of conservation science. Interactions with established conservationists encourage collaborations, and advance research. SCCS-New York is a sister conference to the highly successful SCCS-Cambridge, begun in 2000 by the University of Cambridge, as well as SCCS-Bangalore and SCCS-Australia.

The Student Conference on Conservation Science—New York 2012 (SCCS-NY) has been organized by the American Museum of Natural History’s Center for Biodiversity and Conservation in partnership with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Columbia University Earth Institute, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Princeton University, Fordham University, and the University of Cambridge. The conference benefited greatly from the support provided by experts and mentors from Archipelago Consulting, Bard College, Barnard College, City University of New York, Clarkson University, Clemson University, Columbia University, EcoHealth Alliance, Foundations of Success, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, International Peace Park Exhibitions, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), Rutgers University, Stony Brook University, United States Geological Service (USGS), University of Florida, University of Maine, and University of Miami.

In conjunction with SCCS-NY, the American Museum of Natural History is proud to host the Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series panel discussion, which was established in honor of the late physician, Dr. Mack Lipkin, Sr., by his many friends and admirers. Dr. Lipkin was a gentle and powerful force who dedicated his life and career to advancing the most humane and caring practice of medicine.

This year the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation has also partnered with the Center for Humans and Nature to present a pre-conference event, Questions for a Sustainable Future, an afternoon of speaker presentations and panel discussions featuring diverse perspectives on humanity’s relationship with the world. The Center for Humans and Nature partners with some of the brightest minds in ethical thinking to explore humans and nature relationships.

For their significant role in shaping the format and content of this conference, we especially wish to acknowledge the SCCS-NY’s many advisors, reviewers, and mentors, who are named in the back of this program.

SCCS-NY Content Coordinators:
Ana Luz Porzceanski
Felicity Arengo
Eleanor J. Sterling

Symposium Logistics Coordinators:
Fiona Brady
Robin C. Gold

Logistics Support:
Steve Brady
Hannah Burnett
Kristin Douglas

Technology Coordinators:
Pete Ersts
Tony Alexander
Ho-Ling Poon

Program:
Robin C. Gold
Michael Esbach

Registration:
Margaret Law
RECORDING AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES:

SCCS-NY is designed to foster dialogue and collaboration between the students, post-doctoral fellows, early career professionals and established conservationists in attendance. We care deeply about preserving the integrity of work, research, and personal interactions of our speakers, mentors, presenters, and attendees.

Only official, AMNH-contracted vendors and working journalists with approved press credentials will be permitted to photograph, film, audio tape, or publish written content about the conference sessions and special events/receptions.

In addition, we respectfully discourage the use of social media (e.g. Twitter, Tumblr, Google+, Facebook, personal blogs) by attendees during presentations, poster sessions, mentor lunches, and speed talk discussions.

Individuals filming or photographing with personal video/audio equipment or other recording devices (mobile phones, digital or film cameras, tape recorders) without prior permission from the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation or the American Museum of Natural History, or without proper credentials, will be asked to cease recording or using these devices immediately.

If you choose to write about the event following the scheduled sessions, you must gain approval from speakers/presenters prior to quoting, publishing, or otherwise referencing their research on the Internet or through other forms of media.

Please keep in mind that our speakers and presenters have invested considerable time and effort in the development of their material and copyright laws apply.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS:

Please follow these steps to access the AMNH-PUBLIC-WIFI network:
1. Open the menu of wireless networks on your device.
2. Select AMNH-PUBLIC-WIFI from the networks presented and connect.
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QUESTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
Hosted by the Center for Humans and Nature and the American Museum of Natural History

• What Does it Mean to Be Human?
  
  David Sloan Wilson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, Departments of Biology and Anthropology, Binghamton University

• To Build or Not to Build a Road... How Do We Honor the Landscape?
  
  Nina-Marie Lister, Associate Professor, School of Urban Design and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, Toronto; and Visiting Associate Professor, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

  Ingrid Stefanovic, Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto

Panel Discussion with David Sloan Wilson, Nina-Marie Lister, and Ingrid Stefanovic with moderator
Eleanor Sterling, Ph.D., Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History

• How Do You Envision a Successful Economy without Continuous Economic Growth?
  
  Richard Howarth, Pat and John Rosenwald Professor, Dartmouth College and Editor-in-Chief, Ecological Economics

  Peter Victor, Professor in Environmental Studies, York University

Panel discussion with Richard Howarth and Peter Victor with moderator Brooke Hecht, Ph.D., President, Center for Humans and Nature
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast and Registration</td>
<td>(Grand Gallery, 77th Street Lobby)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction</td>
<td>(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Eleanor J. Sterling</strong></td>
<td>Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Plenary Address: Robin Kimmerer</strong></td>
<td>Restoration and Reciprocity: Indigenous Knowledge in Ecological Restoration</td>
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<td><strong>Professor and Director, Center for Native Peoples, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:55 am</td>
<td><strong>Session Chair: Eleanor J. Sterling</strong></td>
<td>Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</td>
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<td>Ximena Velez-Zuazo</td>
<td>Phylogenetic Conservation Priorities for Sharks</td>
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<td>University of Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>Luis Darcy Verde Arregoitia</td>
<td>Modern Threats to Older Species: Evolutionary</td>
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<td>University of Queensland, Australia</td>
<td>Age and Extinction Risk in Mammals</td>
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<td>Pen-Yuan Hsing</td>
<td>Tracking and Modelling Deepwater Horizon</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Disaster Impact on Deep Coral Communities</td>
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<td>What to Inventory in a Changing world?</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Izenbek National Wildlife Refuge: A Case Study</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong> (Northwest Coast Indians, 1st Floor)</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Session Chair: George Amato</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Isabel Caballero</td>
<td>Genetic Analysis of the Island Loggerhead Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus anthonyi</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Andrea Aplasca</td>
<td>Conservation and Genetics of the Allen Cays Rock Iguana (Cyclura cyclura inornata)</td>
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<td>Fordham University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trishna Dutta</td>
<td>Genetic Structure of Leopards in the Satpura-Maikal Landscape of Central India</td>
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<td>Smithsonian Institution</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Catalina Vasquez Carrillo</td>
<td>Adaptive Genetic Variability in the Marbled Murrelet: Implications for Conservation</td>
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<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
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<td>12:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch: Mentor-Hosted Tables</strong></td>
<td>(Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2nd floor)</td>
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### Speed Talk Session: Understanding Species Responses to Changing Environments
(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Chair: Jason Munshi-South</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Assistant Professor, Baruch College &amp; The Graduate Center, City University of New York</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christina Frare</td>
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<td>Fordham University</td>
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<td>Paola Dolcemascolo</td>
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<td>Montclair State University</td>
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<td>Tatiana Escobar</td>
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<td>Columbia University</td>
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<td>Andrew Mashintonio</td>
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<td>Rutgers University</td>
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<td><strong>University of California, Davis</strong></td>
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<td>Bjorn Erickson</td>
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<td>Jens Stevens</td>
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<td>Andrea Reid</td>
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<td>McGill University, Canada</td>
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<td>Anthony Caragiulo</td>
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<td>Fordham University</td>
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### Talk Session: Advancing Conservation Management Tools and Approaches
(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Chair: Shahid Naeeem</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Professor of Ecology, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alyson Fleming</td>
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<td>Scripps Institution of Oceanography</td>
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<td>Sam Baraso</td>
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<td>Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University</td>
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<td>Sujan Henkanathgedara</td>
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<td>North Dakota State University</td>
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<td>Mark Bond</td>
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<td>SUNY Stony Brook</td>
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<td>Sharon Baruch-Mordo</td>
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<td>Colorado State University</td>
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### 5:10 pm Poster Session / Reception (Astor Turret and Fossil Mammal Array, 4th floor)
Sponsored in part by the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation
This Year in Conservation: A Panel Discussion
2012 Mack Lipkin Man and Nature Series
(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)

Four conservation professionals explore the important events, milestones, and innovations that have challenged and inspired conservation action on the world stage and in their own careers. Introduced by Michael J. Novacek, Senior Vice President, Provost of Science at the American Museum of Natural History, the evening's panelists include:

Avecita Chicchón
Andes-Amazon Initiative at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr.
Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine

Robin Kimmerer
Center for Native Peoples, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York

Eleanor J. Sterling (Moderator)
Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History

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<td><strong>Breakfast and Registration</strong> (Grand Gallery, 77th Street Lobby)</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Talk Session: Conservation of Human-Natural Systems</strong> (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)</td>
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<td><strong>Session Chair: Martha Groom</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professor, University of Washington Bothell &amp; Adjunct Professor University of Washington</td>
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<td>Valeria Pasquarella, Boston University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Modeling Dynamic Ecosystem Processes Within and Beyond Urban Conservation Boundaries</td>
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<td>Getachew Eshete, University of California, Santa Cruz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Changing Ethiopian Coffee Agroecosystems</td>
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<td>Brian Miller, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>Rangeland Conservation and Pastoralist</td>
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<td>Rico Ancog, University of the Philippines Los Baños</td>
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<td>Resource-Use Decisions During Droughts</td>
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<td>Jennifer McCarthy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Plant Diversity and Vulnerability Analysis of Philippine Indigenous Upland Ecosystems</td>
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<td>Mitigation of Human-Felid Conflict in the Face of a Quickly Rising Human Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong> (Northwest Coast Indians, 1st floor)</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Talk Session: Restoring Landscapes, Ecosystems, and Species</strong> (Kaufmann / Linder Theaters)</td>
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<td><strong>Session Chair: Elizabeth Johnson</strong></td>
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<td>Metropolitan Program Manager, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emily Kelly, Scripps Institution of Oceanography</td>
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<td>Herbivore Enhancement as a Tool for Reef Restoration</td>
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<td>Catherine Benson, Clarkson University</td>
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<td>Ecological Value of Restored Wetlands in the St. Lawrence Valley of New York</td>
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<td>Nehru Prabakaran, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History</td>
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<td>Natural Recovery of Tsunami Affected Littoral Forests in Nicobar Islands, India</td>
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<td>Vanessa Boukili, University of Connecticut</td>
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<td>Using Plant Functional Traits to Refine Ecological Restoration Techniques</td>
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<td>Zach Hecht-Leavitt, New York Department of State</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indicators and Drivers of Habitat Quality and Water Quality in Inland Michigan Lakes</td>
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<td>Aerin Jacob, McGill University, Canada</td>
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<td>Exotic Trees Facilitate Native Forest Regeneration on Abandoned Farmland</td>
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<td>12:40 pm</td>
<td><strong>Lunch: Mentor-Hosted Tables</strong> (Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2nd floor)</td>
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<td>2:10 pm</td>
<td><strong>Group Photo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
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</table>
| 2:30 pm | **Speed Talk Session: Understanding Human Impact and Potential in Conservation**  
(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters) | **Session Chair: Ana Luz Porzecanski**  
Associate Director for Capacity Development and NCEP Project Director,  
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History |  
Gregory Barord  
City University of New York  
Graduate Center and Brooklyn College  
Lilian Parker  
George Mason University  
Stephanie Dowell  
Fordham University  
Theodore Varns  
Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences  
Daniel Abrahams  
Johns Hopkins University  
Ambika Pd. Khatiwada  
National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Nepal  
Ayesha Tulloch  
University of Queensland, Australia  
Dustin Partridge  
Fordham University |
| 3:20 pm | **Speed-Talk Discussion and Break**  
(Northwest Coast Indians, 1st floor)  
Sponsored by Fordham University |  |
| 4:00 pm | **Plenary Address: Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr.**  
“Reaching Beyond the Choir” and other Career Lessons from the History of Conservation Biology | Plenary Address: Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr.  
Libra Professor of Conservation Biology,  
Department of Wildlife Ecology  
University of Maine |
| 4:40 pm | **Awards and Closing**  
(Kaufmann / Linder Theaters) |  |
| 5:10 pm | **Resource & Career Fair / Reception**  
(Astor Turret & Fossil Mammal Array, 4th floor) |  |
## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

### Workshop Session I

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Conflicts about Wildlife: Preparing the Next Generation of Conservation Scientists</td>
<td>Linder Theater, 1st Floor</td>
<td>Leo R. Douglas, Visiting Scientist, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</td>
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<td><strong>Environmental Peacebuilding - International Peace Parks and Transboundary Conservation</strong></td>
<td>Kaufmann Theater, 1st Floor</td>
<td>J. Todd Walters, Executive Director, International Peace Park Exhibitions &amp; Fellow, Institute for Environmental Diplomacy &amp; Security</td>
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<td><strong>Expanding Your Teaching Toolbox: An Introduction to Active and Scientific Teaching Approaches</strong></td>
<td>Sackler Education Laboratory, 1st Floor</td>
<td>Ana Luz Porzecanski, Associate Director for Capacity Development and NCEP, Project Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History; Martha Groom, Professor, University of Washington Bothell &amp; Adjunct Professor University of Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Harnessing Social Media for Conservation</td>
<td>Linder Theater, 1st Floor</td>
<td>Colin Donihue, Ph.D. student, Yale University</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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### Workshop Session II

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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Modeling Ecological Niches and Geographical Distributions: What, Why, and How?</td>
<td>RGGS Lecture Hall, 5th Floor</td>
<td>Richard Pearson, Director, Biodiversity Informatics Research, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History</td>
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<td>An Introduction to Adaptive Management: Practical Training for Tomorrow's Leaders in Conservation</td>
<td>Kathryn W. Davis Science Teaching Classroom, 2nd Floor</td>
<td>Vinaya Swaminathan, Program Officer, Foundations of Success (FOS), and Kate Christen, Training Manager, Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation</td>
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ROBIN W. KIMMERER
Professor and Director, Center for Native Peoples and College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York

RESTORATION AND RECIPROCITY: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of indigenous peoples is increasingly being recognized by scientists and policy makers as a potential source of ideas for emerging models of sustainability, conservation biology, and ecological restoration. TEK has value not only for the wealth of ecological information it contains, but for the cultural framework of respect, reciprocity, and responsibility in which it is embedded. This talk will explore how TEK and the indigenous philosophies of reciprocity might guide the science of sustainability. The indigenous concept of the “honorable harvest” provides a framework for expressing reciprocity between land and people. Ecological restoration is a vital element in the exercise of reciprocity in which humans actively participate in the well-being of the land. Finding common ground between indigenous and scientific principles of restoration can couple the wisdom of TEK and the power of environmental science for shared goals of sustainability.

MALCOLM L. HUNTER, JR.
Libra Professor of Conservation Biology, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Maine

“REACHING BEYOND THE CHOIR” AND OTHER CAREER LESSONS FROM THE HISTORY OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Conservation biology is a relatively young discipline, making it quite easy to review some of its highlights with a view toward extracting a few insights about how young conservation professionals can be more effective. For example, we have learned that applied science cannot end with publication in scientific journals and talks at professional conferences; wider communication is essential. The importance of striving for creativity and being willing to challenge conventional wisdom is also apparent from a review of conservation biology. Thinking about moving from research to application reveals the need for being willing to take action but without compromising objectivity. Lastly, one cannot overlook personal considerations such as maintaining balance and hope in one's life.
Goli Ardestani
*International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and University of the Philippines, Los Banos*
**GENETIC DIVERSITY OF TWO THREATENED FRESHWATER GOBY SPECIES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Niloufar Bayani
*Columbia University*
**EFFECTS OF CHANGING CORAL COVER ON REEF FISH RECRUITMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Emilia Braga
*University of Brasilia*
**USING QUALITATIVE REASONING TO MODELLING THE INVASIVENESS OF ALIEN GRASS INTO SAVANNA**

Shannon Buckley
*SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*
**NEST PREDATION AND HABITAT OF THE DECLINING RUSTY BLACKBIRD (EUPHAGUS CAROLINUS)**

Rowshyra Castaneda
*McGill University, Canada*
**SOME LIKE IT HOT: AN AQUATIC INVADER (CORBICULA FLUMINEA) ALONG A THERMAL GRADIENT**

Sara Collins
*Carleton University, Canada*
**TOXICITY OF DETERGENT SALT COMPONENTS TO EARLY AMPHIBIAN LIFE STAGES**

April Conway
*University of Georgia*
**RURAL PEOPLES’ ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONSERVATION NEAR TIWAI ISLAND, SIERRA LEONE**

Seth Cunningham
*Fordham University*
**GENETIC VARIATION AMONG CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN CROCODYLUS SUCHUS POPULATIONS**

Mariano Andres De La Maza Musalem
*Fauna Australis Wildlife Laboratory and Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile*
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