University Creates New Partnerships with National Park Service, NASA

From left, John Townsend, dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Maryland; Christopher J. Scolese, director of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Wallace Loh, president of the University of Maryland; and George Hurtt, principal investigator and geographical sciences professor at Maryland, and opens up new opportunities for broader collaborations,” says John Townsend, dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

A new partnership with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has created the Joint Global Carbon Cycle Center, inaugurated March 7.

“This center will explore how carbon moves through the Earth system, initially focusing on the land, to understand human and natural drivers, impacts and mitigation options using new methods, satellite imagery and advanced computer models,” says John Townsend, dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Principal investigator and geographical sciences Professor George Hurtt says, “Carbon is the basis of life, has large and changing reservoirs and exerts a strong influence on climate, and climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face.”

The center was established through a NASA Space Act Agreement, designed to foster external partnerships with the agency.

How can national parks and historical sites attract a greater number and variety of visitors? How can they better prepare for increased wildfires and environmental disasters as a result of climate change? How can they excite a new generation of young talent to create a more diverse workforce?

These are just a few of the challenges the University of Maryland will tackle through a newly formalized partnership with the National Park Service (NPS).

“This new collaboration reaffirms our commitment to being the federal government’s ‘go-to’ resource for science and scholarship,” says Patrick O’Shea, the university’s vice president for research and chief research officer. “We’ll continue to actively seek out similar partnerships that are beneficial for our faculty, the federal agencies and ultimately, society as a whole.”

The National Park Service oversees 84 million acres of land and hosts 280 million visitors a year. Existing ties between NPS and UMD include a strong influence on climate, and climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face.”

The center was established through a NASA Space Act Agreement, designed to foster external partnerships with the agency.

A new partnership with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has created the Joint Global Carbon Cycle Center, inaugurated March 7.

“This center will explore how carbon moves through the Earth system, initially focusing on the land, to understand human and natural drivers, impacts and mitigation options using new methods, satellite imagery and advanced computer models,” says John Townsend, dean of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

Principal investigator and geographical sciences Professor George Hurtt says, “Carbon is the basis of life, has large and changing reservoirs and exerts a strong influence on climate, and climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face.”

The center was established through a NASA Space Act Agreement, designed to foster external partnerships with the agency.

How can national parks and historical sites attract a greater number and variety of visitors? How can they better prepare for increased wildfires and environmental disasters as a result of climate change? How can they excite a new generation of young talent to create a more diverse workforce?

These are just a few of the challenges the University of Maryland will tackle through a newly formalized partnership with the National Park Service (NPS).

“This new collaboration reaffirms our commitment to being the federal government’s ‘go-to’ resource for science and scholarship,” says Patrick O’Shea, the university’s vice president for research and chief research officer. “We’ll continue to actively seek out similar partnerships that are beneficial for our faculty, the federal agencies and ultimately, society as a whole.”

The National Park Service oversees 84 million acres of land and hosts 280 million visitors a year. Existing ties between NPS and UMD include a strong influence on climate, and climate change is one of the biggest challenges we face.”

The center was established through a NASA Space Act Agreement, designed to foster external partnerships with the agency.
New Faculty

Amanda Bailey is an associate professor of English. She studies Shakespeare, early modern drama, early modern legal studies, political theory, economic history and the history of masculinity in literature.

Shue Chen is an assistant professor of biostatistics. Her research focuses on developing statistical methods for complex high-dimensional biomedical data, including neuroimaging and proteomics data, by using machine learning, Bayesian methods and functional data analysis.

Christopher Jewell is an assistant professor of bioengineering. His lab is studying new ways to treat autoimmunity and infectious disease by engineering biomaterials that help shape or control immune response.

Leah Findlater is an assistant professor of information studies. Her research on human-computer interactions focuses on lowering barriers to using technology and accessing information through personalized adaptation.

Alberto Rossi is an assistant professor of finance. His primary research fields are empirical asset pricing and financial econometrics.

FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

Journalism Professor Kevin Klose, former dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, is now acting president and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). He has extensive journalism experience, especially in radio broadcasting, including serving as president of RFE/RL from 1994 to 1997 and National Public Radio from 1998 to 2008.

Andres de Los Reyes, assistant professor of psychology, received the 2013 American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology for assessing and treating mental health disorders in children and adolescents.

Former UMD President C.D. Mote, Jr., the Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering, is the sole nominee for the presidency of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). The NAE is part of the National Academies, which includes the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine and National Research Council.

Researchers to Study Impact of Maryland Dream Act

Two education researchers will start investigating the impact of a landmark state law that allows undocumented immigrants to attend Maryland public universities as in-state rates.

Passed in November 2012, the Maryland Dream Act gives students new opportunities, but also forces them to reveal their citizenship status, something K-12 schools in the state don’t require. School of Education assistant professors Michelle Espino and Colleen O’Neal plan to track these students’ stress, emotions and academic performance from senior year of high school through college graduation, as well as study the policies and procedures of higher education institutions throughout the state and how these affect this group.

“Our overarching goal is for service equity, regardless of immigration status,” O’Neal says.

To obtain in-state rates, students must be tracked by the college they attend. The law requires students to attend high school in the state for three years, while they or their parents pay state income taxes, then complete 60 hours of community college before they can transfer to a four-year institution.

The research combines two areas of expertise: Espino studies educational pathways, particularly for Latino students, and O’Neal studies stress and resilience in minority and immigrant children.

Upcoming Proposal Writing Workshops

DIVISION OF RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Successful Fulbright Applications

Monday, March 25, 2-4 p.m.
Seminar Room 1101, Holzapfel Hall
RSVP to vpr@umd.edu by March 22

What Funder’s Look For: Success with Foundations

Wednesday, April 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Special Events Room (6137), McKeldin Library
RSVP to vpr@umd.edu by April 5

Winning NIH Grants: Swimming with Sharks

Thursday, April 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Benjamin Banneker Room, Stamp Student Union
RSVP to vpr@umd.edu by April 15

For more information: geronimo@umd.edu