

Sustainability Research Symposium

Wilson Library, Pleasants Family Assembly Room
Tuesday, April 16, 10 am - 12 pm

10 am
Carolina's Blue
Carbon



Mike Piehler, Chief Sustainability Officer and Sustainable Carolina Director

Piehler is the director of the [UNC Institute for the Environment](#), chief sustainability officer and special assistant to the chancellor for sustainability. He serves as faculty in the UNC Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences; Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering; and the Environment, Ecology, and Energy Program at Carolina.

10:15 am
Healthier,
Sustainable, and
More Equitable
Diets



Lindsey Smith Taillie, Associate Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health Department of Nutrition

Taillie is a nutrition epidemiologist focused on designing and evaluating food policies to support healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable diets across the globe. She co-directs the [Global Food Research Program](#), and co-leads a large multi-country project on healthy food policies, with a major focus in Latin America, including Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Chile and Mexico.

10:30 am
Flood evacuation
notices and
adaptation in
South India



Abhishek (Abhi) Bhatia, Ph.D. Candidate, Carolina Health Informatics Program

Bhatia's research combines large-scale clinical, demographic and geospatial data to estimate the effects of climate hazards on population displacement and health. Prior to this, his research at Harvard University quantified the public health impact of humanitarian crises, namely in the context of the [War in Syria](#), and the [Rohingya Refugee Crisis](#).

10:45 am
Using Satellite
Data to Track
the World's
Water



Tamlin Pavelsky, Professor, UNC Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences

Pavelsky's research interests focus on the intersections between hydrology, satellite remote sensing and climate change. He works on scales ranging from the entire globe to a single large wetland, with a special interest in Arctic and Subarctic regions. His research group is participating in [several major NASA- and NSF-funded projects](#).

11 am
Mapping
Climate Risks



Antonia Sebastian, Assistant Professor UNC Department of Earth, Marine and Environmental Sciences & the Environment, Ecology and Energy Program

Sebastian studies the application of interdisciplinary methods in socio-hydrology and engineering, evaluating how flood risks evolve in response to changing human and environmental conditions. She currently has projects funded by NSF, NOAA, Texas General Land Office and the North Carolina State Legislature.

11:15 am
Stormwater
Management



Anna Patterson, Project Director, UNC Environmental Finance Center

At the UNC Environmental Finance Center, Patterson focuses on improving environmental health within communities and helping water utilities achieve financial resilience. Since earning her master's degree in applied geography from UNC-Greensboro in 2015, she's gained experience in stormwater management for a water/wastewater utility, municipal planning and university-level project administration.

11:30 am
Microplastics at
the Highlands
Field Site



Chloe Hall, Student, UNC-Chapel Hill

Hall is the winner of last year's Prize for [Excellence in Sustainability Research](#), awarded at the Celebration for Undergraduate Research. She is a senior studying environmental science, with a minor in GIS. She studied at the UNC Institute for the Environment's Highlands Field Site during her sophomore year, where she assisted with freshwater microplastic research. She now works as a research assistant for Dr. Riveros-Iregui's Carbonshed Lab and Dr. DelVecchia's Freshwater Biogeochemistry lab.

11:45 am
Student
Engagement
Opportunities



Kathleen Gray, Research Associate Professor; Director, Center for Public Engagement with Science (CPES), UNC Institute for the Environment

Kathleen Gray leads CPES, a hub for community engagement and informal science education. Gray's community-engaged research has been recognized by the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of the Provost with the Engaged Scholarship Award for Partnership, which highlights exemplary engaged scholarship in service to the state of N.C. through demonstrated excellence, responsiveness to community concerns and strong community partnerships.