



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY Climate Science Center™

October Newsletter 2015

Our Catholic Response and Responsibility to Climate Change

The Zak family provided a commentary on how those in the Lubbock community and around the world can approach the subject of climate change. The Zaks stress that extreme droughts are worsening and rainfalls are becoming heavier because of climate change. These changes are happening globally, not just to the Southern Plains. Pope Francis released his encyclical letter, the *Laudato Si*, earlier this year and the Zak family described it as "a call to action for acknowledgement of climate issues and the duty to change how the community interacts with the environment." Pope Francis is saying that as a community, we have a duty to create a world in which others can prosper. The Zak family insists that as leaders in the community, we must find new ways to conserve the natural resources we hold so dear, so that future generations can enjoy them as well. The Zaks also stress that the poor suffer the most from climate change when they do the least to produce it. The Lubbock community and those around the world must change their lifestyles if they hope to take care of the planet and those who live on it.



[Read Full Article](#)

Dr. Nathaniel Wright



Dr. Nathaniel Wright received his B.A. and Masters of Public Administration from Binghamton University in 2005 and 2006 respectively; and Ph.D. in Public Administration from the University of Kansas in 2014. Dr. Wright has conducted research in nonprofit management and the role that social advocacy nonprofits play in creating sustainable neighborhoods. His research specifically focuses on the role that community based nonprofits play in addressing environmental injustice and inequality in low income neighborhoods. He explores how nonprofits contribute to the preservation and protection of the ecosystems in U.S. cities. Dr. Wright teaches in the Political Sciences Department on the subjects of nonprofit management, philanthropic fundraising and program evaluation.

Upcoming Events

- Years of Living Dangerously will be coming to film an episode at Texas Tech University for Season 2. The date and time are still to be determined.
- Our Science by the Glass series will continue on November 11th at 6 PM. The speaker will be Dr. Jeff Lee presenting, "Are We Headed for Another Dust Bowl?"
- CSC Monthly Seminars will continue on November 3rd at noon in Experimental Sciences Building room 120. The speakers are Sarah Fritts from Natural Resource Management, Brian Schrek, from the Department of Political Science & National Wind Institute, and Andy Wilkinson from the School of Music.

Other News

- Miss a seminar? Watch past seminars on Texas Tech CSC's [YouTube Channel](#) to catch up and learn about the important work being done across campus.
- Spread the word and like our Facebook page at [Texas Tech Climate Science Center](#) and follow [Texas Tech CSC](#) on Twitter. The CSC is ramping up our social media and we would like more people on Facebook and Twitter to become aware of our events held by the CSC.
- If you are interested in learning more about the playas in Lubbock, TTU will be holding a Playa Summit from November 9th-12th with Playa Lakes Joint Venture from Lafayette, Colorado. The summit will be interested in hydrologists and economists that study recharge and the economics related to the aquifer.

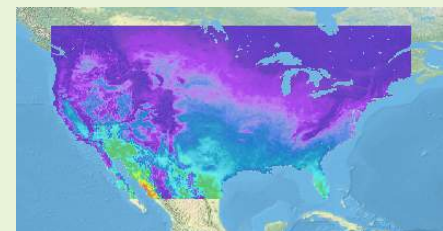
Texas Monthly Visit

This month we had a wonderful visitor, Sonia Smith, from Texas Monthly News come to shadow Katharine Hayhoe and the Climate Science Center. The affiliated faculty of the CSC held great conversations on their research in regards to climate change and even came up with new ideas for their current research projects.



CSC Featured Data Set

The high-resolution climate projections generated by the TTU CSC are now online as part of the USGS GeoData Portal. They can be used to make interactive climate maps of a host of variables (shown: days per year with maximum temperatures above 90F) <http://goo.gl/OF49Ep>



October Seminar Speakers



Dr. Allison Pease

Affects on Stream Fish Structure

Urbanization, collecting of groundwater, and invasive species can all affect stream fish assemblages. Climate change will affect stream fish assemblages and Pease wants to improve the prediction of potential impacts and community level responses.

[Watch Allison's Seminar](#)



Robert Pearl

Buildings and Sustainability

Building use contributes to almost half of the energy our society consumes, transporting harmful toxins into the atmosphere. Pearl breaks down the costs and methods in order to construct better buildings; stating that times have changed since we were able to disregard the effects that buildings have on the environment.

[Watch Robert's Seminar](#)



Brett Houk

The Ancient Maya History

The Mayans lived in an area where rainfall was seasonal and there was little available surface water. The Mayans developed technology to store water, but when they reached their peak population a series of droughts occurred and led to the collapse of the Mayan civilization.

[Watch Brett's Seminar](#)



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