

**Fall 2009 UMF-wide Forum on Climate
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (revised 9/22)**

October **15** Thursday noon, **Thomas Auditorium (Preble 117)**

Dr. Drew Barton

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

How did changing climate affect life in the past? Is there already a detectable fingerprint of climate change on living systems today? What might we expect in the future?

The last part of the talk will focus on Maine and New England.

October 24 Saturday all day, Farmington Community Center & UMF Education Building

350.org and local affiliates & UMF Sustainable Campus Coalition

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

Farmington Conservation Fair 2009: Sustainable Practices for Farms, Businesses, & Community

<http://www.350.org/o24/action/5301>

<http://www.350.org/o24/action/4874>

October 29 Thursday noon, Lincoln Auditorium (Roberts C131)

Drs. Linda Beck, Scott Erb, and James Melcher & Nancy Varin

CLIMATE, PEOPLE, AND POLITICS

How can political systems, at the international, national, and local levels, realistically contribute to solving the problem?

November 5 Thursday, all events in Lincoln Auditorium (Roberts C131)

4pm: Dr. William Ruddiman

DID EARLY FARMING PREVENT A NEW ICE AGE? THE ANSWER: YES!

Noon: Dr. Paul Mayewski

CLIMATE CHANGE:
PERSPECTIVE, SURPRISES,
OPPORTUNITIES

- What is climate?
 - Why does climate change?
 - How fast does climate change?
 - Have humans impacted climate?
 - How small a change in climate is important?
 - Is recent climate change part of a natural process or in a “new state”?
 - Where do we go next?
 - What do we do next?
- Greenhouse-gas trends in recent millennia differed from those of previous interglaciations.
 - Previously, they had always gone down; this time they went up.
 - These unexpected reversals in gas trends coincide with the spread of agriculture.
 - Conclusion: humans started interfering with (and warming) climate thousands of years ago.
 - Modeling experiments suggest these gas emissions stopped the onset of a new ice age.
 - CO₂ levels then dropped significantly during the cooling into the Little Ice Age (1200-1800 A.D.).
 - Pandemics that killed tens of millions of people were a major cause of these drops.
 - As farmers died, forests reclaimed the land and took up large amounts of CO₂.
 - So: pandemics were a significant factor in causing the Little Ice Age.

7pm: Panel discussion with Drs. Ruddiman and Mayewski moderated by UMF Provost Allen Berger

November 19 Thursday, Lincoln Auditorium (Roberts C131)

Dr. Thomas Eastler

THE TIGHTLY INTERLINKED PROBLEM OF ENERGY

Energy is the fundamental limiting factor. Solutions to the energy-climate problem include: using less, greater efficiency, non-fossil sources, and (if carbon is sequestered) carbon-based sources.