



**Front Cover image:** PitE students created this giant water bottle exhibit from re-claimed plastic water bottles. This exhibit was displayed at many water themed events this term to raise awareness about water bottle usage and promote a petition to eliminate plastic water bottles on campus.

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## Director's Letter



We in PitE will remember this winter semester for a long time. First, PitE was one of the major sponsors, with the Exhibit Museum, the Graham Institute and the Michigan Society of Fellows for the LSA theme semester on water. We expect more than 15,000 people will have been to one or more of the more than 100 events presented by over 60 U-M units and more than a dozen community organizations. Amongst a stellar line-up, PitE brought Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to EPA on Great Lakes, Sylvia

Earle, National Geographic Ocean Explorer-in-Residence and Dr. Donald Boesch, a biological oceanographer who served on the Presidential Oil Spill Commission.

But my greatest thrill has been the engagement and energy of students across campus, including many who are PitE concentrators and minors, and some of their activities are highlighted in the newsletter. Every week, crossing campus, I run the gamut of students, their flyers and posters, rallies, tables with water-bottle prizes won by their fellows who passed a water quiz, and petitions to reduce plastic water bottles. Students also raised funds to add water stations for reusable bottles.

Second, Professor Barry Rabe was awarded an Arthur Thurnau Professorship following his nomination by PitE in partnership with the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. This prestigious award recognizes tenure track faculty members for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education. Professor Rabe was instrumental in creating PitE, and served as its second director from 2002 to 2005. His commitment to improving undergraduate education is undimmed. He continues to teach courses that student laud for the life-long skills they learn and many describe as life-changing.

Third, we finally launched our new website. Our electronic gateway is more important than ever, as this is the last paper newsletter. From here on, we are exchanging electrons for cellulose. We welcome any suggestions to develop the site to better meet your needs. Please send them to [environment.program@umich.edu](mailto:environment.program@umich.edu).

Sincerely,

Paul Webb

## Winter Semester 2011 Highlights



Dr. Sylvia Earle with members of the Water Steering Committee. PitE students with Sylvia Earle (Left to right: Poonam Dagli, Dana Rollison, Sylvia Earle, Kyle Anderson, Lauren Sopher, Carina Easley-Appleyard)



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Reception following Dr. Boesch's lecture

## Students Take (Water) Issues into their Own Hands

Each term, the College of Literature, Sciences and Arts (LSA) encourages students and faculty to explore a theme that is relevant in our world today. Special topics courses, visiting lecturers, performances, and public events around a particular theme create this LSA Theme Semester. This winter term's theme was "Water." Units within LSA engaged students and faculty to help plan the events for this semester.

To plan these events, a steering committee of U-M faculty and staff was formed. One of the first things this committee did was to organize an equivalent student steering committee. This student committee not only gave feedback about planned events, but also promoted and staffed each event. Of the eleven students on the committee, eight of them were PitE concentrators or minors.

At first, the student committee found creative ways to promote the events planned for the semester. They sent emails and Facebook messages to students, filled the U-M events calendar with water-themed events, created posters, and distributed event flyers around campus.



Kyle Anderson, Carina Easley-Appleyard, and Zach Perlstein

**"I love that I am part of something bigger during this semester."**

But as the term went on, they tapped into their individual talents and strengths to keep students and faculty engaged in the semester.

Some found their interest in educating people about water use in Ann Arbor. PitE sophomore, Dana Rollison, was often seen at the Water Semester table. "I take great pleasure in educating people on the global water crisis and introducing them to issues they may have had no previous knowledge of. [At the table,] we gave 5-question quizzes [on water facts]. If people answered enough questions correctly, they won a reusable water bottle. It is surprising to see how many well informed people don't know basic facts about their water consumption."

Some discovered their talents in event organization. PitE Junior Kyle Anderson, quickly emerged as a leader in the group. "I was the publicity chairperson for the LSA Water Semester, along with being a member of the student steering committee. In this role, I was responsible for planning and advertising the Water Careers Fair, an event that highlighted various career and internship opportunities with organizations related to water."

*Student Water Issues continued on p.6*

## Barry Rabe Awarded Thurnau

In February, Professor Barry Rabe was awarded the Arthur Thurnau Professorship along with five other university faculty members. This professorship is awarded to tenure track faculty members who demonstrate outstanding contributions to undergraduate education. Professor Rabe's nomination was fully supported by Program in the Environment and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Professor Rabe has been an integral part of the program since its inception in 2002, and in fact was the driving force behind the creation of PitE. Professor Rabe served as the director of PitE from 2002 to 2005.

Even after stepping down as PitE's second director, Professor Rabe is still very committed to improving undergraduate education. Because he is a respected scholar, Professor Rabe spends a good share of his

*Rabe Thurnau continued on p.6*



## PitE Recognizes Excellence in Teaching

With the recommendation of the PitE Advisory Committee, two awards were created this year to recognize excellence in teaching. The *Outstanding Instructor Award* recognizes instructors for their commitment to undergraduate teaching and learning, as well as their demonstrable impact through innovation, creativity, and excellence in the classroom and beyond. The inaugural recipient of the award this year is Dr. Barry Rabe. The Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award was created to recognize the role our graduate student instructors play in providing undergraduates with exceptional learning experiences. The recipients of the inaugural award are Sierra Patterson and Kat Superfisky, who are both PitE alumnae! Congratulations to all of our instructors!

### Outstanding Instructor



Dr. Barry Rabe

#### Currently:

- Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
- Professor of Environment, College of Literature, Sciences and the Arts (LSA)
- Professor of Environmental Policy, School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE)
- Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Governance Studies Program, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

#### Courses Taught:

- “Environmental Politics and Policy”
- “Climate Change Politics and Policy: Social Science Topics in the Environment”
- Climate Change Governance Seminar

### Outstanding Graduate Student Instructors



Sierra Patterson

#### Education:

- Master of Science in Terrestrial Ecosystems, School of Natural Resources and Environment, 2010
- Bachelor of Science in Environment, LSA and SNRE, 2007

#### Currently:

Fully employed with the Forest Service as a Zone Botanist of Huron National Forest in Oscoda, Michigan, surveying rare, endangered and threatened plants

#### Courses Taught:

- “Soil Ecology”
- “General Ecology”
- “Woody Plants: Biology and Identification”



Kat Superfisky

#### Education:

- Master of Landscape Architecture (SNRE) and Master of Science in Terrestrial Ecosystems (SNRE), 2012
- Bachelor of Art in Environment, LSA and SNRE, 2007

#### Currently:

Wrapping up her 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the MLA-MS program in SNRE.

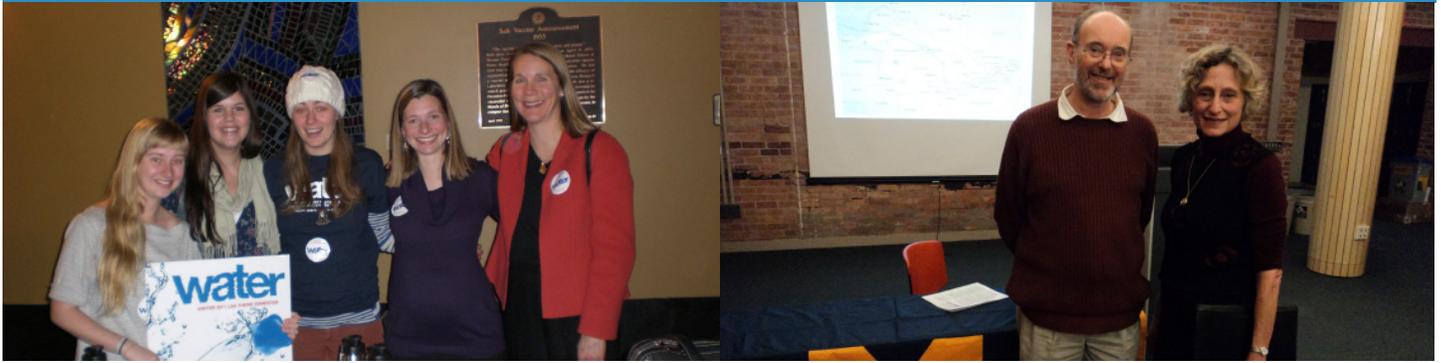
#### Courses Taught:

- “Ecological Issues”
- “The Built Environment”
- “Environmental Ethics”
- “Introduction into Environmental Education for Sustainable Development”

“My favorite part of teaching is taking students into the field so they can physically connect with their environment.”

- Sierra Patterson

## PitE's Contribution to the LSA Water Semester



Water Theme Semester Committee (Lindsey Eldredge, Maggie Oliver, Lauren Sopher, Manja Holland, Amy Harris) ; PitE Director Paul Webb with the Honorable Lana Pollack

This year, PitE teamed up with the LSA Water Theme Semester (WTS) Committee to bring in several high level scientists and policy makers to share with the PitE community the current state of water issues. These speakers also spoke with students about ways that they could make a difference. Director Paul Webb also served as one of the co-chairs of this committee.

The Honorable Lana Pollack, co-chair to the International Joint Commission, kicked-off the water semester with a visit in November. In early January, Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to EPA on Great Lakes water issues provided a status update of the condition of the Great Lakes, and what actions are needed to restore freshwater ecosystems. At the end of January, Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Ocean Explorer-in-Residence spoke as the theme semester keynote speaker, to an audience of five hundred students, faculty, and community members. This presentation was made possible by the generous contributions of the Goldring Family Foundation.

In March, ecological artist Betsy Damon presented how the waterparks she creates in urban areas serve the dual purpose of water purification and work of art. The PitE Speaker Series finished strong with a presentation by biological oceanographer Dr. Donald Boesch who also serves on the Presidential Oil Spill Commission. He gave a detailed account of oil spill disaster from before the first barrel of oil was extracted, to how the gulf ecosystem was affected.

Bringing in high profile speakers offered PitE the opportunity to continue the tradition of collaborating with other units in LSA. For the several years, PitE and the Exhibit Museum of Natural History have teamed up to bring in scientists for a public presentation. "It was great to work with PitE staff on the behind-the-scenes details for these events," said Amy Harris, the director of the Exhibit Museum. "Both Dr. Earle and Dr. Boesch were terrific speakers who contributed important new information and ideas to the Water Theme Semester." In addition to the Exhibit Museum, PitE also partnered with the Penny Stamps Lecture Series through the School of Art and Design and the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute. For the first time, PitE also worked with the Center for the Education of Women, ADVANCE, Women in Science and Engineering, and the University of Michigan Alumni Association to host other speaker events.



### PitE Commencement Speaker

Lyndsay DaLee De Carolis was the PitE senior selected to give a speech to this year's graduating class. Lyndsay will address the PitE and SNRE graduates at the SNRE-PitE Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

### DID YOU KNOW...

that that 5 liters of water are required to produce 1 liter of bottled water?

### TRUE OR FALSE?

The average American consumes most of his/her water through drinking.

(Answer on p. 6)

*Rabe Thurnau continued...*

time teaching graduate courses and focusing on research. But what sets Professor Rabe apart from his colleagues is his commitment to teaching undergraduates. For his past eight terms, Professor Rabe has managed to teach one (sometimes two) undergraduate environmental policy courses. And he has done so without the assistance of graduate student instructors, who often work with professors to grade student work.

Professor Rabe is held in high regard by not only his colleagues, but by his students as well. In order to nominate Professor Rabe, students and alumni were asked to provide letters of nomination. The number of student letters submitted in support of Professor Rabe for this award far exceeded the number required for the nomination.

Professor Rabe also participates in PitE activities. He was among the panelists at the second annual Environmental Careers Panel. Professor Rabe can also be seen at several of the visiting PitE speaker series events, a tradition that he created in 2002 that continues in PitE to this day.



Professor Rabe shares his experience about environmental policy with PitE students at the Environmental Career Panel in March. Joining him on the panel (from left): Errol Wint (Career Center), Molly Notarianni (A2 Farmers Market Manager), Andrew Brix (City of Ann Arbor Energy Coordinator and PitE Alum), Barry Rabe and Sally Churchill (Environmental Law Lecturer)

Professor Rabe often teaches “Environmental Politics and Policy”, which has become a staple of PitE’s environmental policy course offerings. PitE alumni might recall this course as Environ 312. Professor Rabe has also taught “Climate Change Politics and Policy—Social Science Topics in the Environment” and a policy seminar course on Climate Change Governance.

*Student water issues continued...*

Several students, like PitE junior Carina Appleyard-Easley, were surprised to learn about the vast number of resources, events, and opportunities that are available to Michigan students. “Before this semester I did not know that the theme semesters had events, lectures, activities, etc. I only knew that there were courses offered focused around the theme. Now I will be more aware about future LSA theme semesters and their activities.”

But all were happy to work with a diverse group of students and community members to bring awareness of water issues to the forefront. “I love that I am part of something “bigger” during this semester,” says Kyle. “The actual goals of the water semester are things that I regularly do as an environmental studies major, but it is satisfying to have the support of the College of LSA and the university community.”

#### **PitE Students on WTS Student Steering Committee:**

- Kyle Anderson (PitE Concentrator, Global Change minor)
- Taylor Coyne (PitE Concentrator)
- Robin Czerwinski (PitE Concentrator)
- Poonam Dagli (PitE Minor, Business Major)
- Carina Easley-Appleyard (PitE Concentrator, Global Change minor)
- Lindsey Eldredge-Fox (Dual Degree: LSA (PitE) and School of Art and Design)
- Zach Perlstein (PitE Concentrator, Global Change minor)
- Lauren Sopher (School of Art and Design and PitE minor)

### **Posthumous Degree for Jillian Drow**

In our last issue, we recognized Jillian Drow, a PitE senior who died in a hiking accident in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming last summer. We are happy to share that Jillian be posthumously awarded her Bachelor of Science in Environment this April.

### **ANSWER: FALSE**

Nearly 95 percent of your water use, your “water footprint,” is hidden in food, energy use, products, and services.

(Question on page 5)

## Water Beyond the Campus

Even before the kick-off of the LSA water theme semester, PitE students were seeking ways to learn how water issues affect the local community. Dana Rollison, a PitE sophomore, completed a summer internship with "Reef Relief," a non-profit organization in Key West, Florida dedicated to preserving and protecting coral ecosystems. Dana has always been interested in oceans, and is taking many natural science based classes. However, Dana's internship required more than just skills and techniques learned in her laboratory based classes.

**Here are some of other water related internships held by PitE students:** Mentor and Research Assistant, Cape Eleuthera Institute, FL; Field Assistant and Volunteer Coordination Intern, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Marine Protected Area Management Internship, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, MA; Environmental Health Aide, St. Clair County Health Department, MI; Salmon Hatchery Intern, Cronin National Salmon Station, MA; Research Assistant, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, OR

*"While I am pursuing a B.S. in PitE, I believe the social sciences are pertinent to bring about major change. The Deepwater Horizon Spill occurred several days before I started my summer internship, so my activities varied from reading and summarizing studies on the effect of dispersants on coral reef reproduction to planning educational activities for children attending the annual "Coral Camp." I was able to apply the interdisciplinary education provided by PitE to create effective pamphlets, press releases, articles, and other resources, and develop my skills of interacting with people of all scientific backgrounds. Through this internship I have made multiple contacts with people in my intended field and I was offered a job at the non-profit. It was a fantastic and lasting experience."*

– Dana Rollison



Dana Rollison takes a dip during her internship with "Reef Relief" in Key West, Florida.

## New Funding for PitE Students

This winter term, PitE established the Undergraduate Initiatives Fund to assist PitE students who are seeking opportunities beyond the classroom.

PitE students who are participating in a conference or activity with an environmental theme as part of a U-M student group may apply for the PitE Student Group award. These funds can be used towards conference registration, travel expenses, lodging, food, facilities, or equipment rental costs. The first group to receive an award was the North American Summer Service Team. These students will participate in a service-learning experience through World Hunger Relief, a non-profit organization committed to alleviating hunger, at a farm in Texas during May 2011.

The Individual Academic Enrichment award is available to PitE students who are completing an experience to enhance their PitE education. This includes funding for honors theses and independent research. The first recipient of this scholarship was PitE concentrator Katie Thudium. Katie will use the funds for her environmental policy internship this spring term in Washington D.C.

Monies for these awards come from the LSA Departmental Award for Contributions to the Undergraduate Initiative, presented to PitE in 2008.

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**Back Cover image:** PitE students Lauren Sopher, Lindsey Eldredge-Fox, and Maggie Oliver sport reusable water bottles, distributed by the LSA Water Theme Semester.

