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## MEMBERS NEWSLETTER 2(5) APRIL 2007

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### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE:**

*The academic year is about to wind down, but there are still a couple of things to do! Please do return your ballots for steering committee members if you have not already done so. Also, the last brown bag session will be this Thursday – come and join us! (see information on both below).*

*As some of you know, I have decided to step down as Director at the end of this year. It has been a rewarding experience to see the Center grow and evolve over the past two years. One of my goals as Director was to build a sense of community, and another was to enhance our educational opportunities in the interdisciplinary area of studies in science, technology and society. With your help and participation, we have come a long way with both. Our brown bag series and lectures are drawing a more diverse audience from across the university, we have begun to meet as a faculty group once each year, and the new newsletter and the beautiful new web site have helped to spread good news about our participants and students and share our activities with broader audiences, both within UW and beyond. We have increased the number of STS minor students to 11 and have increased support for graduate students working in STS. We co-sponsored several lectures, workshops and other events, connecting the Holtz Center to groups across campus, from the School of Engineering to the Visual Culture cluster. Next year, there will be even more exciting activities and opportunities in which to get involved, including a collaboration with the Center for the Humanities (which will involve a national conference, among other things) a film festival in collaboration with the Nelson Institute, and involvement with the Center for the History of Print Culture, which is planning a national conference focusing on Science and Technology. Many thanks to all of you who have been responsive to my requests for input and help with projects—I have been very appreciative of your involvement.*

*I am also extremely grateful to Edna Hutchcroft and Jay Burlingham, whose contributions have been invaluable. There is a tremendous amount of “behind-the-scenes” work that rarely gets acknowledged, but it is with the positive attitudes, creativity and good humor of people like Edna and Jay that so much has been accomplished.*

*The terrific news is that the next Director will be **Daniel Kleinman**. Daniel stood out clearly for his demonstrated leadership skills and his centrality to the development of Science and Technology Studies here at UW. Daniel is a sociologist of significant national and international stature in Science and Technology Studies. He has been integrally involved in Holtz Center activities since its inception. At UW, he has built strong ties both to the sciences and engineering departments (through his own research as well as outreach programs) and the humanities. He is highly regarded as being an effective leader with experience in a number of positions. I cannot imagine anyone better suited to take the Holtz Center on into its next phase. Please join me in congratulating him, and supporting him in his new role.*

– Linda Hogle, Director

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## NEWS FROM THE CENTER:

*Steering Committee Ballots:* Members should have received ballots for the advisory election to the two open positions on the steering committee. Please return your ballots to Edna by May 4! Many thanks to **Dan Hausman** and **Warwick Anderson** for their years of service to the committee. Dan is completing his term, and Warwick seems to think he is taking a job at the University of Sydney, so will be leaving the university at the end of the year.

*Holtz Center Travel Award Winners:* The STS graduate student travel award winners have been announced. **Michitake Aso** (History of Science) and **Ayeshah Iftikhar** (Anthropology) won funding for summer research travel, in France and the San Francisco Bay Area, respectively. Those who won funding for professional conference attendance and presentation are: **Matt Barker** (Philosophy), **Shirley Ho** (Journalism & Mass Communication), **Matthew Kopec** (Philosophy), **Tsung-jen Shih** (Journalism & Mass Communication), and **Joel Velasco** (Philosophy).

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## AWARDS, HONORS, PUBLICATIONS, AND PROMOTIONS:

**Warwick Anderson** has won a prestigious *John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation* Fellowship on the basis of his research on the science of race mixing in the twentieth century. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of

distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. This year, 189 of 2,800 applicants received awards.

**Dietram Scheufele** has been invited to be a member of the Nanotechnology Technical Advisory Group (nTAG), which will provide expert input and feedback to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology as it conducts its second biennial review of the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

For his teaching efforts in his two home departments, the School of Library and Information Studies and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, steering committee member **Greg Downey** has been selected to receive the 2007 William H. Kiekhofe Distinguished Teaching Award, the oldest award for teaching on the UW-Madison campus.

*New books:* **Elliott Sober** reports that he is finishing his book *Evidence and Evolution*, which Cambridge University Press will publish in 2008. The forthcoming (2007) edited book *Controversies in Science and Technology, Volume 2: From Chromosomes to the Cosmos*, to be published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., features editors **Daniel Kleinman**, Karen Cloud-Hansen, Christina Matta, and Jo Handelsman. Divided into five sections, this book explores several of the major controversies in science and technology today from an array of different perspectives. Writers from varied backgrounds--scientists, historians, activists and religious leaders consider: the future of stem cell research, the debate over global warming, the benefits and difficulties of space travel, the relationship between gender and biology, the power and problems of the internet.

Daniel's student, **Abby Kinchy**, has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in their Science and Technology Studies Department. Abby's dissertation is a study of anti-genetic engineering activism in Mexico and Canada, where conflicts over crop-to-crop transgene flow, or "genetic contamination," have become global controversies in recent years. Her research focuses on the shifting relationships between science and activism, as critics of transgene flow take their struggles to different venues, including the courts, intergovernmental organizations, state regulatory agencies, and their own communities.

Congratulations to all!

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## EVENTS WATCH:

*Our brown bag series: successful and soon to be even more institutionalized:*

We have had a couple of outstanding brown bag sessions in the past month! On March 29, **Perry Cabot** from the UW Chapter of Engineering Without Borders spoke on his experiences with EWB in Rwanda, showing a very interesting slide show. One particularly interesting point that came up was that the “technology transfer” itself was not simply one-way, with the EWB group showing the Rwandans engineering technology; instead, the EWB group found that they also learned from the engineering projects the Rwandans had already implemented. On April 12, **Holly Gibbs** presented a fascinating picture of the negotiations of developing countries around carbon emissions that spoke to all of us in the audience, whether we were interested in global climate change, negotiations at different power levels and across nations, environmental science policy, or transdisciplinarity.

Incidentally, we have submitted a proposal for the Holtz Center brown bag series to become a one-credit course beginning next year. Be sure to let your graduate students interested in STS-related issues know about this opportunity. It will continue to be held every other week for 1.5 hours. Others are of course welcome! If you have suggestions for brown bag presentations, please send them now to Jay ([sts@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:sts@ssc.wisc.edu)).

The last brown bag of the semester will be April 26, when **Michael Oldani** will present his work on the use of psychoactive medication as a mechanism of control of Aboriginals in Canada, “Filling (Racialized) Scripts: Psychotropic drugs, Aboriginal Children, And Proxies for the (Canadian) State.” We hope to see you there!

*Tales From Planet Earth:* On behalf of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, **Gregg Mitman** is organizing an international environmental film festival, “Tales From Planet Earth,” to take place this fall, in early November. The festival aims to show how good storytelling can rivet public attention to important environmental policy issues, and also prompt action on behalf of the environment. Films to be screened include the Disney classic *Bambi*, the Jacques Cousteau film *The Silent World*, *Nanook Revisited* (which explores an Inuit community’s relationship to the famous film *Nanook of the North*), and *Bhopal Express*, a drama about a newlywed couple whose lives are affected by the catastrophic 1984 gas leak in Bhopal, India. Featured Speakers will be the environmentalist Bill McKibben, whose 1989 book *The End of Nature* is regarded as the first on climate change for a general audience and has been

printed in more than 20 languages and Lloyd Davis, a distinguished ornithologist and award-winning scriptwriter and director of natural history documentaries who may be most well-known for writing and directing a widely distributed television documentary called *Meet the Real Penguins*.

Gregg is also teaching a course related to Environmental Film in the Fall, Environmental Studies 402, with two sections. One section will be "Green Screen: Environmental Film in History And Action" and the other will be "Documentary Storytelling: Non-Fiction Story Telling in Pictures, Moving and Still: The Basics and Beyond." For further descriptions of the courses, see [http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/courses/special/fall\\_2007/env\\_st.htm](http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/courses/special/fall_2007/env_st.htm)

For all submitted STS Fall courses, please see [http://sts.wisc.edu/education/fall\\_2007.html](http://sts.wisc.edu/education/fall_2007.html)

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEWS:

*In honor of Earth Day (Sunday, April 22), we have the following items:*

As you undoubtedly know, Sunday (April 22) was Earth Day. If you needed evidence beyond the success of Al Gore's documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* that the issue of global climate change and awareness of human impact on the environment may be reaching something of a tipping point in the US, look no further than the fact that eco-friendly home cleaning products have hit the New York City socialite scene, Tupperware party-style:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/fashion/22SOCIALITES.html>

Green building has become much more mainstream in recent years. Check out the Yahoo! Feature, "This Green House," with green building tips:

<http://events.yahoo.com/earthday07/>

Corporations have begun to invest in going 'carbon neutral,' including Yahoo!:

<http://green.yahoo.com/carbonneutral> and

<http://yodel.yahoo.com/2007/04/17/dont-even-leave-a-footprint/>

*But in the category of truly exciting news, researchers have discovered a substance identical (Kryptonite, of course, is the material, usually shown as having been created from the remains of the planet Krypton, and which has detrimental effects on Superman).*

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6584229.stm>