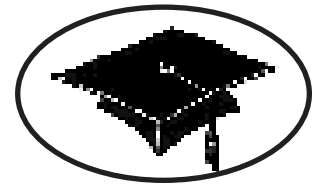

Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



May 2008

Professor Wayne Getz

Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management

“Emerging Infectious Diseases: What, Where and Why?”

Saturday, May 3, 2008

The Faculty Club

Professor Getz received his academic training in Johannesburg, South Africa, with his final degree a Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 1976. He came to Berkeley in 1979 as an Assistant Biomathematician and in 1987, he was promoted to the rank of Professor. From 1996-2001, he served as the Chair of the Division of Insect Biology in the College of Natural Resources. Among his academic honors include a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (2003), a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences (2000), a UC Berkeley Chancellor’s Professorship (1998-2001), a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (1997) and an Alexander von Humboldt Research Award for Senior US Scientist (1993). Current research projects in his laboratory include the ecology of an environmentally maintained episodic disease (anthrax), movement ecology and analysis and modeling of the HIV epidemic in South Africa.

Short notice about annual elections:

At the May 3rd luncheon meeting, the annual election of the Association will be held for members of the Executive Committee. We are still seeking nominations for new members for the Executive Committee, and if you have suggestions, please send them to: dickm@nature.berkeley.edu.

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2007-2008

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“ No man is an island ----- therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” (John Donne – Meditation XVII)

On March 15, 2008 Visiting Scholar Robert Collier presented at the UCBEA luncheon a talk titled “China’s Role in Global Warming: Why Beijing’s Regulatory Clout Must be Strengthened, Not Weakened, to Save the Planet”.

Collier, a reporter with extensive experience writing from foreign assignments, presented a view of China’s limited ability to regulate carbon dioxide emissions that is counter to our impression of a powerful monolithic central authority in Beijing. In the social and political realm the government may well be powerful, but Chinese economic power is dispersed among units that are nearly independent of government regulation. Apparently, economic power trumps government authority, i.e., money rules, old news here.

Our speaker presented data showing the growth of China’s economy and carbon emissions that are amazing. Projections of this growth made early in the 21st century all grossly underestimated it. Forty percent of the world’s steel is now made in China, and cement production has a similar fraction. The emphasis on heavy industry, much fueled by coal, results in emissions that visibly pollute the atmosphere (unlike invisible carbon dioxide). Collier began his talk with a photograph taken from his hotel room on an officially pronounced “clean air day” in a Chinese city of 9 million (name quite unfamiliar to Americans). Adjacent buildings loomed dimly out of a dark gray atmosphere that limited visibility to about 300 yards.

Chinese carbon emissions now equal those of the United States and their annual growth is staggering. The consequences for global warming are ominous and it is the interest of all people that it be reduced. This common interest should prompt cooperation between governments and scientists to reduce CO2 loading of the atmosphere; we all share one common atmosphere. The Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory is among American groups engaged in cooperative activities with the Chinese, but efforts are only modestly funded.

Our speaker conflated visible air quality with CO2 emissions and its presumed effects on global warming. The two problems are related, but have been treated separately in the US and elsewhere. In California we have had considerable success in improvement of air quality with catalytic converters, vehicle smog tests, confining volatile hydrocarbons (e.g. gasoline fumes), etc. One need only recall the situation in the late 1950’s. In that period Los Angeles smog was killing trees in the mountains around the basin, and even in Berkeley plant research had to be conducted in glasshouses with air filtered over activated charcoal. However, these valuable ameliorative measures did not reduce California’s carbon emissions, and the California Air Resources Board is currently struggling, without success so far, with the federal EPA to have CO2 defined an atmospheric pollutant and thus subject to regulation. CO2 is invisible, has no direct public health consequences at current or projected levels, but the many other products of combustion (suspended particles, ozone, sulfides, etc.) that constitute smog are definitely hazardous to health. Some athletes have expressed concern about participating in the upcoming Olympics in Beijing, and one champion marathon runner has withdrawn. This adverse international publicity may stimulate the Chinese government to take measures to reduce the visible products of

Campus Happenings

The Spoken Word

Lunch Poems – Student Reading

Morrison Room - Doe Library

Thursday May 1 12:10 – 1 p.m.

The Spoken Word in the evening...

Lytle Shaw

Holloway Series – Poetry Readings

315 Wheeler, Maude Fife Room

Thursday May 1 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Performing Arts

Current Trends in Improvisation

Department of Music Noon Concert Series

Hertz Concert Hall

Friday May 2 12:15 – 1 p.m.

Javanese Music & Dance: Gamelan Sari Raras

Hertz Concert Hall

Saturday May 3 8 p.m.

Paul Lewis, piano

Hertz Concert Hall

Sunday May 4 3 p.m.

New Music

Department of Music Noon Concert Series

Hertz Concert Hall

Friday May 7 12:15 – 1 p.m.

University Symphony Orchestra:

Ravel, Strauss and New Music

Hertz Concert Hall

Friday May 9 8 p.m.

Collier, Continued

combustion, but may do little to reduce total carbon emissions, a much more serious concern with global consequences.

China will soon lead the world in total carbon emissions, but can point out that on a per capita basis its emissions are only half those of Europeans and one-quarter those of Americans. Further, China while

lifting millions out of poverty with industrial development also has made serious efforts to stem population growth. However, it behooves both the United States and China to not waste effort in assigning blame for being the greater offender in carbon emissions, but to follow California's lead in treating carbon dioxide as a pollutant and bringing it under regulation.

Larry Waldron

Parking Update

I recently received the message below from the Director of Parking and I hope this will make it easier for all to obtain their campus parking permits in the future.

Dick Malkin

Dear Professor Malkin,

Your request that UC retirees be offered options to renew their parking permits other than having to come to the Parking Office is a reasonable request which is not difficult to accomplish. That being said, I have requested the Interim Customer Services Manager, Alesia Woods, to offer the following options to all UC retirees effective immediately:

Credit Card Payment

Renew with a Credit Card by calling 510/643-6093

Parking Permit will be mailed to the retiree

Check Payment

Renew by mailing a check to:

Parking & Transportation

Customer Services

2150 Kittredge St. #5746

Berkeley, CA 94720-5746

Parking Permit will be mailed to the retiree

While online renewal services are not currently available to emerit, the IT department will be contacted to make this payment feature available in the future.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance. You can reach me at 510-642-7471.

Sincerely,

Noel Pinto

Director, Parking and Transportation

