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Outreach

Events

The Pardee Center's monthly seminars during the 2014-15 academic year included topics ranging from energy efficiency in urban housing to water politics in the Nile basin. The Center also co-hosted a full-day conference called "The Future is Now: Urban Asia in the 21st Century," and a two-day conference called "Sea Level Rise & the Future of Coastal Cities." In addition, the Pardee Center hosted a two-day meeting of 16 international experts, co-chaired by Director Anthony Janetos, to kick off a collaborative research project on the potential for multiple breadbasket failures in various regions of the world.



The Pardee Center concluded the academic year with its annual Distinguished Lecture, featuring Calestous Juma, the Director of the Science, Technology, and Globalization Project and Professor of the Practice of International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School. He spoke on "Technological Innovation and Development: Long-Range Perspectives for Africa."



Publications

The Pardee Center published a Task Force Report and a policy brief during the academic year. Prof. Kevin Gallagher, a Pardee Center Faculty Fellow and co-director of the Global Economic Governance Initiative (GEGI), oversaw development of the Report, titled "Capital Account Liberalization in China: The Need for a Balanced Approach." 2014 Graduate Summer Fellow Laurie Wissler authored an *Issues in Brief* paper titled "Smallholder Challenges in the Growing Palm Oil Industry" in May 2015.

Education

The Pardee Center welcomed its seventh class of Graduate Summer Fellows in 2014. The Fellows spent 10 weeks at the Center writing research papers and participating in programs featuring Pardee Faculty Fellows and others. The seven outstanding doctoral and master's students represented several schools and departments from across the university, including Earth & Environment, International Relations, Political Science, History, and Public Health.





Research

The Pardee Center continued its commitment to interdisciplinary research and policy analysis during the year, collaborating with more than 50 experts from various fields, including BU faculty as well as other academics and practitioners. The active research programs during the 2014-2015 academic year include:

Coupled Human and Natural Systems

The Center is investigating how governance, social, and economic systems are intricately connected to natural systems, and the trade-offs that confront those making resource management decisions in developing world contexts.

The Future of Energy Systems in Developing Countries

A project examining the best options for achieving energy security in a select number of developing countries based on a variety of factors – including available technology, financing mechanisms, political and societal conditions, and geographic realities.

The Pardee Center Task Force on Regulating Capital Flows for Long-Run Development

In association with BU's Global Economic Governance Initiative (GEGI), a project led by Pardee Faculty Fellow Kevin P. Gallagher that looks at whether and how capital investments between developed and developing countries should be "regulated" or "managed." The Center published the Task Force's third report in October 2014, written by experts examining the benefits and risks of accelerated capital account liberalization in China.

Enhancing Energy Efficiency for Urban Housing

An interdisciplinary research project led by a team of BU faculty experts that spans engineering, econometrics, business, and social science disciplines. The study identifies the factors that drive energy use and determine effective programs that can achieve greater energy efficiency in an urban, low-income housing complex, while considering residents' comfort levels and desired energy-use needs.

Multiple Breadbasket Failure

A multi-disciplinary collaborative research project co-chaired by Prof. Janetos, which kicked off with a two-day meeting of 16 international experts in November 2014. The project's goal is to assess the potential for multiple breadbasket failures in various regions around the world, examining the potential for various types of "shocks" (natural disasters, market failures, political upheaval, etc.) that could disrupt production in key breadbaskets that would create major food security issues. In particular, this project will work to identify important "signals" that decision-makers could use to anticipate such events and possibly mitigate the impacts by taking early actions.





About the Center

The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University conducts interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research on a wide range of issues that contribute to long-term improvements in the human condition. Through programs of scholarship and outreach, the Pardee Center works to disseminate the collective knowledge and experience of scholars and practitioners in an effort to ensure that decisions made today lead to better outcomes tomorrow.

The Pardee Center's mission can be defined along three dimensions:

Research: To facilitate intellectual inquiry and generate scholarly discourse and policy options on longer-range challenges and to seek to identify, anticipate, and enhance the potential for human progress in the longer-range future (a few decades to a century).

Education: To cultivate a new generation of scholars working on interdisciplinary, policy-relevant, future-oriented, and global (or multi-national/regional) research that contributes to improvements in the human condition in the longer-range future.

Outreach: To establish linkages between the worlds of scholarship and practice so that scholarly insights on the possibilities of improved human well-being can be translated into practical programs of action.



The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future at Boston University was established in 2000 through the generosity of Frederick S. Pardee. Mr. Pardee, a Massachusetts native, received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from BU, and he pursued his passion for analyzing trends for the future as a systems analyst and an economic forecaster.

In 2013, an additional gift from Mr. Pardee created the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.

Both the Pardee Center, a university-wide research center, and the Pardee School, are motivated by Mr. Pardee's global sensibility and his dedication to the creation of a better future for all of humanity.

Analysis for a better tomorrow, today.



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