



# COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE

## University of Massachusetts Amherst

### **UMass Amherst Geosciences Professor Raymond Bradley to Discuss Environmental Pressures Facing Planet**

On Wednesday, April 4, UMass Amherst Distinguished Professor of geosciences Raymond Bradley delivers the talk "Our Planet, Under Pressure: Current Status and Future Prospects" at 6:30 p.m. in the UMass Student Union Ballroom at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Bradley directs the Climate System Research Center and is co-principal investigator of a \$7.5 million federal grant to establish a new Northeast Climate Science Center. He and other campus researchers lead a consortium of universities to study the effects of climate change on ecosystems, wildlife, water and other resources in the region.

"Our planet is under pressure" cautions Bradley. "Humanity's impact can be seen in even the remotest parts of the planet. Exploitation of natural resources and unregulated disposal of waste products into the 'global commons'—our oceans and atmosphere—pose serious challenges for the future." His talk urges solutions that lead to a more sustainable future, while raising the standard of living of those who are impoverished and increasingly vulnerable to environmental instability.

Bradley conducts research in climatology and paleoclimatology, with a particular focus on the post-glacial period (the last 12,000 years). He has written or edited twelve books on climatic change and authored more than 180 articles on the topic. He has been an advisor to the National Science Foundations of six countries, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Research Council, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).

For his contributions to paleoclimatology, Bradley was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Lancaster University, England, and has received the Oeschger Medal of the European Geosciences Union. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Arctic Institute of North America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2008 he was elected a Foreign Member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

Bradley's talk is the Daffodil Lecture on Sustainability and the Environment, sponsored by UMass Amherst's Commonwealth Honors College and the honor society Phi Kappa Phi. The theme of the lecture reflects UMass Amherst's leadership in green research and sustainability, including the development of biofuels and wind energy, and most recently, White House recognition of the Permaculture Initiative which is transforming small grassy lawns on campus into diverse, edible, low-maintenance gardens that supply produce, nuts and flowers to the dining commons.

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504 Goodell • University of Massachusetts • 140 Hicks Way • Amherst, Massachusetts 01003-9272  
phone 413.545.2483 • fax 413.545.4469 • info@honors.umass.edu • www.honors.umass.edu