



*"Is forecasting technology really like forecasting the weather?" poses Chad Monfreda in his current Soapbox post.*



*"Mentoring curious, creative and motivated young students is an inspiration and a privilege," says Dan Sarewitz.*

## Ponder (and comment) Now

### CSPO's Soapbox becomes grown-up blog

CSPO launched "Soapbox" in January 2009. And, it is just what you imagine it might be: a place where CSPO people can get on their...soapbox...and talk about what's on their minds in the world of science, technology, policy and life around us. Until now, however, it didn't accept comments from you. Now, you can chime in with your thoughts, ideas, questions and responses on any of the Soapbox posts.

CSPO's interesting combination of humor and intelligence makes it a fun place. Soapbox is a place for an eclectic mix of first-person reflections and perspectives on the world around us that share CSPO's particular way of looking at things – from thoughts on science policy to sci-fi film critiques, from reactions to something in the news to reactions to some simple enlightenment bestowed on us by our kids. Soapbox posts are meant to be an easy read and easily digested over a morning cup 'o joe. They aren't academic papers or didactic in nature. Be they serious or humorous, they always are thought-provoking. We hope you take a moment to post comments and join the discussion. If you have feedback or suggestions about Soapbox, send an e-mail to CSPO. [\[Go to Soapbox now\]](#)

### CSPO faculty to mentor Obama Scholars

ASU faculty and staff, including those at CSPO, will be mentoring about 1,100 students in the newly-established **Barack Obama Scholars Program**, and helping them adjust to college life. "One of our faculty members, **Clark Miller**, suggested we get involved in this mentoring program and everyone agreed it was a great idea," said **Dan Sarewitz**, CSPO's co-director. "As a group, we are committed to helping young people understand how to think about and deal with an increasingly complex world. Mentoring curious, creative and motivated young students is an inspiration and a privilege. Perhaps the most rewarding and hopeful aspect of being a university faculty member is participating in the process by which the next generation develops its own intellectual identity and capacity to engage the challenges of tomorrow's world." [\[Find out more\]](#)

### Energy innovation systems

Much of what is known about technological innovation and progress has yet to be captured in discussions of climate change mitigation. Successful mitigation of climate change is not about finding "a solution," but developing appropriate institutional and policy options for technological innovation. A new CSPO project undertaken in partnership with the Clean Air Task Force, **Energy Innovation Systems From the Bottom Up: Technology Policies for Confronting Climate Change**, will produce a report later this summer that will offer a



*"This radio show was in response to a suit recently filed by the ACLU and other plaintiffs, challenging patents on the breast cancer genes. The suit has been filed against Myriad Genetics, which owns the patents, and the U.S. patent office," says Shobita Parthasarathy.*



*Please apply for CSPO-DC's associate director position, so we don't have to hire this guy. [Dwight on the TV show "The Office" on NBC]*

## Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes

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bottom-up, integrated policy approach to address both well-tested and new policies and arrangements for creating an energy innovation system able to lead to carbon stabilization. It will include sufficient specificity to guide the development of United States federal agency initiatives, legislative vehicles and private sector investment strategies. The project is supported by the Bipartisan Policy Center. The project is designed by **Dan Sarewitz**, CSPO co-director, and **Armond Cohen**, executive director of Clean Air Task Force. [\[Find out more\]](#)

## Listen Now

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### Patenting genes

The genetic material in our cells make us who we are. But since 1982, the U.S. Patent and Trade Office has issued tens of thousands of patents to private companies for gene-related products. The biotechnology industry says these patents are necessary to spur innovation. Opponents say they actually stifle science. On June 4, CSPO visiting scholar **Shobita Parthasarathy**, was part of a panel on NPR's Kojo Nnamdi Show that examined the intersection of cutting-edge genetic research and intellectual property. [\[Listen now\]](#)

## Congratulate now

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### CSPO "end-to-end" Ph.D.

CSPO's first end-to-end Ph.D. student, **Mark Neff**, successfully defended his dissertation, "Producing Environmental Knowledge: Ecology, Research Priorities, and Policy," on June 2, 2009. Mark joined CSPO as a graduate research associate in the fall of 2005 and has supported the Science Policy Assessment and Research on Climate (**SPARC**) project. For his dissertation, he investigated the types of research questions ecologists value and why they value them. This work is important because ecologists and their values play important and under-studied roles in shaping the way we understand the environment and environmental problems. Mark will be awarded his Ph.D. in August from ASU's School of Life Sciences. He will spend the coming year as a post-doctoral research associate on the SPARC project. Congratulations, Dr. Mark Neff!

## Work now

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### CSPO is seeking an associate director for DC office

CSPO is accepting applications for associate director of its Washington, D.C., office to help implement an agenda of science policy analysis, engagement and education applicable to a broad range of critical social policy challenges. The incumbent will work with the director to assess and develop relationships with key science policy actors, communicate CSPO ideas and products, and design and manage Washington-based projects. Application deadline is July 17, 2009. [\[Find out more\]](#)

## Support now

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### Recommend journal for inclusion in ISI databases

**Science and Public Policy**, published by Beech Tree Publishing, is a leading refereed, international interdisciplinary journal on public policies for science, technology and innovation, and their implications for other public policies. **David Guston**, CSPO's co-director, is its North American editor and CSPO faculty member **Daniel Barben** is its associate editor. Because of its world-wide reputation, many believe the journal is in the Web of Science, the Social Science Citation Index, JCR and other ISI databases. Remarkably, it is not, although it regularly is in the top 60 or 70 most-downloaded publications on Ingenta – out of 32,000. The

journal is applying now for inclusion and asks for your assistance by recommending SPP. You will be asked to provide the publication's URL, which is <http://www.scipol.co.uk/>. If you have questions, send an e-mail to Bill Page at Beech Tree Publishing. **[Recommend SPP now]**

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***"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."***

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)