

Designer Organisms: a citizen's deliberation with high school students

Hot News Now

Citizen deliberation about synthetic biology

Students at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, have been deliberating about the implications for society of synthetic biology – and the direction of research and development in this emerging field. Using publicly available information, the students have discussed their concerns face-to-face and then online with real world experts in ecosystems, bioengineering, ethics, social systems, bio-economy, funding, regulation, and civil society to develop their consensus opinion. They have prepared testimony and will share their views with a **mock interagency panel on March 7**, 6-8pm, at CSPO in Washington, DC, 1834 Connecticut Avenue, NW. You are invited to attend. The panel members will be Parag Chitnis, National Science Foundation; Daniel Drell, US Department of Energy; Mark Segal, Environmental Protection Agency; Jeff Schloss, National Institutes of Health; and Rachel Levinson, Arizona State University. In its second year – the first year focused on geoenvironment – this ongoing citizen's deliberation project with students builds on CSPO's efforts to provide innovative education and develop techniques for technology assessment to help ensure that public values play a meaningful role in deliberations and decisions about science and technology. We hope you will join us and the students for this year's mock interagency panel. Please RSVP by March 3 to cspodc@asu.edu. [\[Download invitation\]](#)

The Biggest Issues for the Smallest Stuff

This is the year that regulation of nanotechnology will move from a hypothetical possibility to a real issue for companies in virtually every industry sector benefitting from this new science. Such regulation will raise profound policy, business and legal issues. These issues will be examined at a **conference** on March 21, "The Biggest Issues for the Smallest Stuff: Regulation and Risk Management of Nanotechnology," co-hosted by ASU's Center for Nanotechnology in Society (**CNS-ASU**). The conference, presented by *Jurimetrics: The Journal of Law, Science, and Technology*, will feature top national and international experts from government, industry, non-governmental organizations, the insurance industry and academia, including Steve Owens, assistant administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency, Robert Falkner of the London School of Economics and LSE Global Governance, and **Elizabeth Corley**, co-principal investigator with CNS-ASU and associate professor in the School of Public Affairs. The conference, at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix, is sponsored by ASU's **Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law**. [\[Info and registration\]](#)

Deadline to submit papers to S.NET 2011 has been extended

The Third Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies – S.NET – will be co-hosted by **CNS-ASU** and CNS-UCSB in November 2011 at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel. S.NET, which includes diverse communities and viewpoints, has extended the deadline to submit papers to **March 21, 2011**, and invites contributions from scholars and practitioners interested in the societal aspects of emerging technologies. [\[More info\]](#)



[\[more\]](#)

Ponder Now

Making Stuff

CSPO's **Ira Bennett** and **Jamey Wetmore** trained and led a cadre of graduate student volunteers in demonstrating interesting things about nanotechnology for more than 300 adults and children during the recent weekend **"Making Stuff Festival"** at the Arizona Science Center. The festival was held in conjunction with the PBS series "Making Stuff" and drew quite a crowd. Bennett and Wetmore have been meeting informally with science and engineering graduate students every two weeks to help them learn how to communicate their work to the public, and training them to conduct engaging demonstrations. In turn, the graduate students then volunteer their time at the Arizona Science Center and elsewhere, applying what they've learned.



CSPO collaborates with new solar PSM

CSPO is collaborating with the new **Professional Science Master's in Solar Energy Engineering & Commercialization** at ASU, directed by **Patrick Phelan** at the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. It is the only program of its kind that enables students to not only develop improved understanding of solar energy technologies, but also the business, policy, and nontechnical aspects necessary for successful development and commercialization. The program's faculty includes CSPO's **Clark Miller**, **Jamey Wetmore**, **Joe Herkert**, **Ira Bennett** and affiliate **Jonathan Posner**. This summer, the PSM's students also will attend a solar energy themed session of CSPO's annual **Science Outside the Lab**, an intensive two-week summer workshop on science and technology policy in Washington, D.C. This new PSM joins others established at ASU, including the Professional Science Master's in Science and Technology Policy, housed by CSPO.

Climate Change Narcissism

CSPO co-director **Dan Sarewitz** gets real about the fear of an on-rushing climate apocalypse vs. sensible adaption in his current blog post on CSPO's **Soapbox**. "I assume that climate survivalism is not the version of adaptation that most people who are concerned about climate change would advocate," says Sarewitz. "Yet the attention of climate change policy advocates (as well as climate change researchers) has never seriously focused on sensible approaches to adaptation."

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Read Now

The President and the E-Word

CSPO's **Gregg Zachary** discusses Eisenhower's farewell address, the fact that the words "engineer" and "engineering" were absent from that speech, and how the times have changed in an opinion piece in the February 2011 issue of *IEEE Spectrum*. A version of this article first appeared in Zachary's online column for *Spectrum* called The Scientific Estate. [\[Read now\]](#)

Watch & Listen Now

Here be dragons... and you can watch

On February 3 & 4, **Future Tense** convened a number of leading scientists, Internet thinkers, governance experts and science fiction writers to grapple with the challenge of governing a technologically uncharted future, including **Michael Crow**, ASU president; **Dan Sarewitz**, CSPO co-director; and CNS-ASU affiliate **Gary Marchant**, professor of law and executive director of the **Center for Law, Science & Innovation** at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and senior sustainability scientist at the Global Institute of Sustainability. If you missed it, you can watch the recorded webcast on New America Foundation's **Web site** and read synopses of the presentations. Future Tense is a partnership among ASU, New America Foundation and *Slate* magazine, and is co-directed by CSPO affiliate faculty member **Joel Garreau**. [\[Watch now\]](#)

[\[more\]](#)

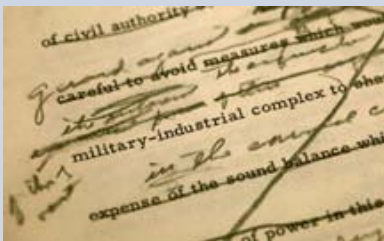


Photo: Charlie Riedel/AP Photo

Nano Nano and Guston on SETI Institute radio program

Dave Guston, CSPO co-director and CNS-ASU director, is featured in the current edition of SETI's radio program and podcast "Are We Alone," which airs on some NPR stations and online. This episode of the show, "Nano Nano," focuses on nanotechnology and Dave talks about the work of CNS and nanotechnology's implications for society. Joining Guston on the program are: Bill Flounders, executive director of the Marvell Nanofabrication Laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley; Joseph DeSimone, professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and chemical engineering at North Carolina State University; Stan Williams, senior fellow and founding director of the Information and Quantum Systems Lab at Hewlett-Packard; and Michael LeBarbera, professor in organismal biology, anatomy and geophysical sciences, University of Chicago.

[\[Listen to interview\]](#) [\[Listen to entire show\]](#)



Learn Now

Deadline looming for Science Outside the Lab in Washington, D.C.

Science and engineering graduate students from around the globe have an unparalleled opportunity this summer. Now in its sixth year, **Science Outside the Lab** is a hands-on and on-location experience in Washington, D.C. An intensive 2-week immersion in the policy and culture of our nation's capital, participants will have access to the people who fund, regulate, shape, critique, publicize and study science. There will be three sessions to choose from this year, and the \$3,500 program fee includes all program activities and materials, lodging, food and transportation while in Washington, D.C. Make your plans now, or pass this on to those who might be interested, because these popular sessions fill up quickly. Applications will be accepted through **April 1**.

[\[More info\]](#) [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Application\]](#)

One-year graduate program in science and technology policy

A one-year degree program, the **Professional Science Master's in Science and Technology Policy** housed by CSPO is the only one of its kind in the country. It is for those seeking focused graduate training with an internationally-regarded faculty. Today, employers in government, business and NGOs are looking for professionals who can critically assess and enhance the value of science and technology for societies around the globe. Through active learning and proximity to innovative research, this program will equip students with the essential knowledge and skills to succeed.

[\[Find out more\]](#)

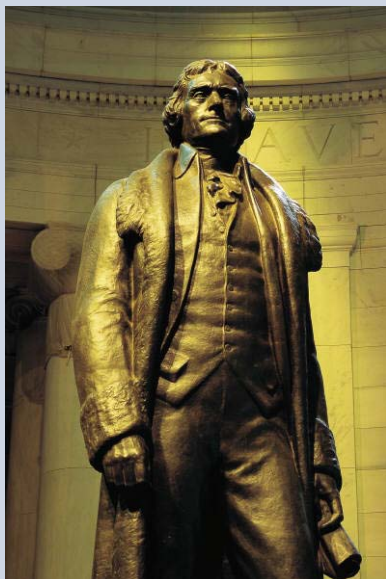
People Now

CNS-FSE Fellow selected

Together with ASU's **Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering**, CSPO and other ASU units, the Center for Nanotechnology in Society (**CNS-ASU**) is creating new kinds of inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations in research, education and outreach, such as the opportunity to be a CNS-Fulton Schools of Engineering Fellow. The purpose of this program is to train students to work in cross-functional teams toward real-world outcomes, integrating engineering with the social sciences and humanities to understand societal implications of research in science and engineering. CNS-FSE Fellows develop unique research and participate in CNS-sponsored curricular and co-curricular activities. This fall, we are pleased to welcome the first CNS-FSE Fellow, **Jeff Moran**, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering with a research focus on nanomotors, and an NSF Graduate Research Fellow.



Jeff Moran



[\[more\]](#)

Consortium for Science, Policy and Outcomes

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*“Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen
and thinking what nobody has thought.”*

- Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893 - 1986)