**INTRODUCTION**

Georgetown’s Global Futures Initiative is a university-wide exploration of four global issues critical to the future of humanity: development, governance, security, and the environment.

Over the course of 2015 and 2016, the initiative invited faculty and students to address these issues through support for teaching, research, and dialogue with world leaders in the public sector, business, and civil society. Global Futures draws on Georgetown’s distinctive character—its strengths across academic disciplines, its Catholic and Jesuit identity, and its presence in Washington, D.C.—to develop the model of a global university in service to the wider world.

During the fall 2016 semester, Global Futures addressed the topic of “The Global Future of the Environment.” A series of lectures by public figures, framed as structured conversation with faculty, students, and a global audience, explored key environmental challenges and how to address them in the decades to come. Speakers included Secretary of State John Kerry; Rachel Kyte, chief executive officer of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative; and Anote Tong, former president of the sinking island nation of Kiribati. The initiative supported a range of other events related to the environmental theme in collaboration with faculty and students from Georgetown’s schools and environment-related organizations.

Global Futures continued to support innovation in teaching at Georgetown through the Global Future(s) Curriculum Studio, a collaboration with the Designing the Future(s) of the University Initiative, and fostered an online global dialogue through a blog connecting the Georgetown community with wider conversations about the future of the environment.

The Global Futures focus on the environment followed semester-long conversations on global development (spring 2015), governance (fall 2015), and security (spring 2016). More information about two years of initiative activities is available at globalfutures.georgetown.edu.
Drawing on Georgetown’s distinctive character—its strengths across academic disciplines, its Catholic and Jesuit identity, and its presence in Washington, D.C.—Global Futures seeks to deepen our understanding and our ability to address some of today’s most pressing global challenges.

JOHN J. DEGIOIA
PRESIDENT, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE-INDUCED MIGRATION

Anote Tong, former president of the island nation of Kiribati, addressed the impending threat rising sea levels pose to the livelihoods and homes of the people of Kiribati. During his lecture and later discussion with Aaron Silberman (SFS’18) of the Environmental Future(s) Initiative, President Tong explored how his home country can support “migration with dignity” to avoid relocation of Kiribati residents as climate refugees.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE?

Chief Executive Officer of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative Rachel Kyte called for rapid, radical changes in the global economy in order to effectively combat climate change. During her conversation with Melanne Verveer, executive director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Kyte addressed the steps she believes governments and non-state actors must take to honor their commitments to de-carbonize the economy.
OUR OCEAN, ONE FUTURE: LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

The U.S. Department of State, Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service, and the Sustainable Oceans Alliance co-hosted the “Our Ocean, One Future Leadership Summit,” a student conference aimed at protecting our ocean into the future that was held as a parallel event to the “Our Ocean” conference at the State Department.

As part of the conference, Georgetown hosted a high-level foreign government panel featuring Ségolène Royal of France, Susana Malcorra of Argentina, Isabella Lövin of Sweden, and Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado of Panama, and moderated by Vice President for Global Engagement Thomas Banchoff. The panel was followed by a moderated Q&A with Secretary of State John Kerry, actor Adrian Grenier, and SFS Dean Joel Hellman. The sessions aimed to catalyze actions to protect our ocean from threats and to empower a new generation to lead the way toward a healthy and sustainable ocean.

For decades, even centuries, we have been polluting and pillaging the resources of the sea with devastating consequences for our coastal communities and our marine ecosystems... However, in recent years, after decades of denial and neglect, we have begun to chart a new course. The global community has begun to demonstrate a willingness to honor the responsibility that we have to future generations.

JOHN KERRY
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE
To celebrate the opening of its new home on the Georgetown campus, the Georgetown Environment Initiative, in collaboration with the Walsh School of Foreign Service and the Science, Technology and International Affairs (STIA) Loewy Lecture Fund, brought Brazilian artist Denise Milan and her exhibition, *Mist of the Earth*, to the university. Documenting the Brazilian Atlantic Forest and its indigenous people, the exhibition urges and enables its audience to envision and reflect upon the environmental and cultural challenges of development and sustainability. At the exhibition opening, the artist gave remarks, followed by a roundtable dialogue with audience members and panelists in the fields of art, science, Portuguese studies, and conservation.
THE PAST AS PROLOGUE: LEARNING FROM CLIMATE CHANGES IN PAST CENTURIES

Climatologist Michael E. Mann addressed what we know about far-reaching climate changes the earth has undergone in the past and what they could tell us about the future. Mann, distinguished professor of atmospheric science at Penn State, described how analyses of tree rings and other sources have contributed to understanding both past and present causes of climate change.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs co-hosted the “Colloquium on Ethics in Environmental Policymaking,” which sought to uncover the different perspectives, values, and interests of environmental policymakers with disparate moral commitments. (September 30)

Georgetown’s Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues hosted a two-day research dialogue on climate change at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing, China. (October 10-11)

As part of the Energy and Climate Policy Research Seminar series, Professor Leslie Ries discussed the topic of “Monarchs and Climate: The Implications of Global Climate Change on Monarch Butterfly Population Dynamics.” (October 25)

The Walsh School of Foreign Service and the Center for Latin American Studies screened When Two Worlds Collide, an award-winning film that highlights an Amazonian leader’s environmental activism. (November 14)
A delegation of students and one faculty member from Georgetown, organized by the Environmental Future(s) Initiative, attended the twenty-third Summit of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation’s (CEC) Council in Mexico. The CEC is a tri-national organization dedicated to addressing North American environmental concerns.

Several student leaders involved in environment-related activities at Georgetown crafted posts for the Global Futures blog. Bloggers included the president of the Georgetown Renewable Energy and Environmental Network, which serves as a student conversation group, and the founder of the Sustainable Oceans Alliance, an organization that empowers millennials to work toward a healthy ocean.
A collaboration with Georgetown’s Designing the Future(s) of the University Initiative and the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship, the Global Future(s) Curriculum Studio provides a space for faculty to experiment with teaching and learning models around global issues.

During the fall 2016 semester, faculty participants worked on creating an interdisciplinary curriculum pathway centered on climate change. Through concerted methods of inquiry across a suite of seven-week courses, students will have an opportunity to explore the complexity of climate change, focusing on patterns of conflict and displacement; factors of development and economics; theological and ethical queries; literary and cultural themes; geographical and geological processes; and sociopolitical implications, among other pertinent domains.

An undergraduate team of Core Pathway Fellows worked alongside faculty as they developed these offerings, providing rich perspectives from the student experience and lending key support for curriculum design.
Over the course of the semester, a Global Futures blog brought Georgetown faculty, students, and international colleagues into an extended conversation with world leaders about contemporary environmental challenges. Excerpts from the blog include:

**Climate Change and the Oceans: Challenges Ahead**  
By John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State  

“I like to think that particularly with the two largest emitters—regrettably, China and the United States—joining together, we’ve begun to set a mark that can, in fact, indicate the seriousness of purpose of the most significant emitters. We have to make a sustained and universal commitment to keep moving forward in every way that we can for as long as we have the power to do so. And like ‘Our Ocean’ conferences in the years past, this gathering is not about just talking. It’s about catalyzing specific steps that we will take.”

**The Global Challenge of Climate-Induced Migration**  
By Anote Tong, Former President of Kiribati  

“Climate change is the greatest moral challenge that has faced humanity at any time in history. We know that our actions are detrimental to the future survival of humanity, and we know that we have the capacity to save that future. So the question is: Are we willing to do something about it? Nature has clearly indicated that it no longer has the resilience to withstand the abuses that we inflict upon it in the name of economic development and our unsustainable lifestyles. We are destroying the very foundation of our existence, believing that we can recreate it through the technologies we have developed. We are living witnesses of the progressive destruction of our homeland.”

**Big Challenges Demand Political Will**  
By Vicki Arroyo, Executive Director of the Georgetown Climate Center  

“Americans understand that our climate is changing. But many people see the threat as being too big or too distant to address now. They often don’t know what they—or their representatives in government—can do to make a tangible difference. The path to overcoming these obstacles is clear. We need strong and consistent political will at all levels of government. Reducing the emissions that cause climate change and adapting to the many impacts of a warming world, such as record-breaking extreme weather events, must be a priority of our government leaders. Political leadership and policy changes are needed to promote technological and behavioral shifts, engage the public, and implement change.”
GEORGETOWN ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

The Georgetown Environment Initiative plays an important role in Georgetown University’s environmental efforts. The initiative is a multi-campus effort to advance the interdisciplinary study of the environment in relation to society, scientific understanding, sound policy, and the broad and complex challenges we face as stewards of the planet’s natural resources. Through a major gift, the initiative enables the university to hire new faculty who are leaders in their fields, bring experts to campus to discuss their latest findings, provide startup funding for interdisciplinary research projects, and build an even broader capacity for education and scholarship. The goal of the initiative spans the campus: to plan and set priorities, to reinforce foundations, and to set directions for the university’s future scholarship and education efforts in environment and sustainability.

With its newly established space on campus, the Georgetown Environment Initiative fosters collaboration between students, faculty, and staff, resulting in a unique and innovative approach to solving complex environmental issues.

ROBIN DILLON-MERRILL
MCDONOUGH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, GEI CO-CHAIR
The Science, Technology and International Affairs program in the Walsh School of Foreign Service equips students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to engage with modern-day challenges and opportunities. Students follow the regular SFS core curriculum, enroll in core science courses, and develop an in-depth understanding of one of the following areas: energy and environment; business, growth, and development; biotechnology and health; or science, technology, and security.

As a Jesuit and Catholic university located in our nation’s capital, Georgetown encourages its students to engage with the world around them. The Science, Technology and International Affairs program prepares these future leaders to explore and solve environmental challenges in the face of globalization and technological innovation.

MARK GIORDANO
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES
THE WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE CENTENNIAL

The Walsh School of Foreign Service has emerged as a campus leader on environmental issues. In anticipation of its one-hundredth anniversary, the school is organizing an annual Centennial Event Series. Each year leading up to the 2019-2020 centennial year, the SFS will choose an important theme around which to plan programs. Events will feature experts and practitioners in international affairs and other disciplines intersecting with the theme. The 2016-2017 Centennial Event Series theme is “The Environment,” and it has featured events with Secretary of State John Kerry (see page 5) and artist Denise Milan (see page 6).

"Because the Walsh School of Foreign Service is heading to its centennial anniversary in 2019 and 2020, there’s a real openness on the part of the faculty and alumni and students to think about what we’ve achieved in the past and what we need to do to address climate change and other global challenges in the future."

JOEL HELLMAN
DEAN OF THE WALSH SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE(S) INITIATIVE

The Environmental Future(s) Initiative (EFI) was founded in early 2016 and comprises a dedicated group of students and faculty members. The EFI’s mission is to increase the latitude for students and youth, both at and beyond Georgetown, to engage with global environmental challenges.

GEORGETOWN CLIMATE CENTER

The nonpartisan Georgetown Climate Center—led by Executive Director Vicki Arroyo—seeks to advance effective climate and energy policies in the United States and serves as a resource to state and local communities that are working to cut carbon pollution and prepare for climate change. As part of Georgetown Law, the center works extensively with government officials, academics, and an array of stakeholders. It analyzes the provisions of federal policy relevant to state and local government, works with states on developing innovative new policies, and encourages policymakers to learn from state experience.
MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

The major in environmental biology offers a rigorous program of study in science related to the environment. This major is designed to provide students with a foundation in population, whole organism, and evolutionary biology, as well as environmental science, chemistry, and mathematics.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Office of Sustainability was established in 2013 as a resource and catalyst to advance the university's sustainability mission and goals. The office builds upon Georgetown’s Sustainability Initiative, an effort that coordinated various programs on campus to enhance sustainability at Georgetown, and builds further on President DeGioia’s commitment to environmental stewardship and social justice.
The Georgetown Global Futures Initiative

Over the course of four semesters, the Global Futures Initiative explored four issues critical to the future of humanity:

Spring 2015 — The Global Future of Development
Fall 2015 — The Global Future of Governance
Spring 2016 — The Global Future of Security
Fall 2016 — The Global Future of the Environment

Learn more at globalfutures.georgetown.edu