



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
GUND INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENT

January 29, 2021

Welcome back, everyone!

New year, new President, and a refreshing sense of hope. Wishing you all a hearty Gund welcome to the Spring 2021 semester. Our team has an exciting, packed semester in store for you. [As Taylor Ricketts wrote last week](#), we are doubling our efforts to strengthen our community and increase collaboration in what we hope is our last semester of COVID protocols.

As always, we've collected the key details into one message to reduce email traffic, so please take a few minutes to read through.

Virtual Events (Mark Your Calendars):

- [GundxChange](#): Our weekly public Friday speaker series starts Feb. 12, 12-1:30 pm.
- [Mauricio Bellon, Macmillan Scholar Lecture](#): Feb. 12, 12-1:30 pm
- [Gund Panel on Environmental Justice](#): Mar. 3, 1-2:30 pm
- [Bathsheba Demuth, Eric Zencey Prize Winner Lecture](#): Mar. 10, 1-2:30 pm
- [Gund Leadership Academy—Productivity](#): March
- [Gund Leadership Academy—Media training](#): April
- [Gund Faculty Fellows Meeting](#): Mar. 29, 2-3:30 pm
- [Carolyn Finney, Macmillan Scholar Lecture](#): Apr. 16, 12-1 pm
- [New: 30 minutes of social time added after Friday events](#)

For Zoom links and event updates, bookmark our [events page](#) and the [Gund website](#).

New Faces

We welcomed several new colleagues over the last semester. Please help us make them feel welcome.

- **Masters**: Sarah Brickman
- **PhD**: Alison Hall, Isabella Bennett, Amaya Carrasco, Bailey Kretzler, Ollin Langle, Daniel Pratson, Qing Ren, Sarra Talib
- **Postdocs**: Tafesse Estifanos, Carlos-Andres Gallegos-Riofrio, Melissa Pastore, Alissa White
- **Affiliates**: Liz Doran, Brittany Mosher, Kristen Underwood

Money and Opportunities

- **Gund Enrichment Funds are available.** Faculty Fellows and students can request enrichment funds using the link on the bottom of the [enrichment funds](#) webpage.
- **Macmillan Scholars in Residence Program** funds are available for Faculty Fellows who want to host visiting scholars to collaborate and engage with the UVM community. Virtual visits are allowed. Submit nominations [here](#).
- **Gund Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)** are available for your UG students. Learn more and apply for SURF awards on the Office of Fellowships, Opportunities, & Undergraduate Research's [webpage](#).

Social Events

To provide more social opportunities, we're trying something new: 30 minutes of social time after every Friday talk, starting at 1 pm. These are informal with no agenda. We will experiment with small breakout rooms and other formats, based on your feedback. Please feel free to join, even if you can't make the actual talk.

The Gund Culture Club is busy creating other opportunities to virtually gather and collaborate, and we are excited to announce those soon.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Thank you to our growing [Gund Diversity Committee \(members listed online\)](#), for helping us to make good on our five goals:

- **Building equity and justice more explicitly into Gund research themes**, which guide our investments in research, outreach, and people.
- **Expanding diversity and equity training, with a focus on racial justice.** This past fall, we brought Carolyn Finney and Michael Dorsey. Carolyn will be back this spring to work mainly with faculty Fellows
- **Amplify voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) scholars through Gund events.** We have set explicit goals for representation in our GundxChanges and MacMillan Visiting Scholars Please keep suggesting speakers!
- **Continue to emphasize diverse backgrounds and voices in our recruiting.**
- **Grow our DEI webpage into more of a community resource.** With input from our Committee and others, we will post select resources, and may select a core set of expected readings for the Gund community.

Gund Leadership Academy

Stand by for invites to this semester's two [leadership academy](#) events:

- March: "Streamlined Productivity – Getting un-stuck & staying focused" by Productivity Vermont
- April: Media training by Basil Waugh, Gund Communications Director

Communications and Policy

If you've got newsworthy publications or projects coming out, please [contact Basil](#) as far in advance as possible (soon after journal acceptance is best).

If you're testifying before a government committee, please contact Stephen, who has launched our [Policy and Partnership page](#), and added a Policy Outreach Toolkit on our [Resources for Fellows page](#).

Please also follow and amplify the Gund on social media. We're on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). You can also subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel to watch GundxChange talks and more, and subscribe to [Gund event podcasts](#) in [iTunes](#).

Farrell Hall Access

Farrell Hall is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 6 p.m. [Building COVID safety protocols](#) remain the same: enter one-at-a-time using your CatCard, and check-in with Nora for a daily health check (CoVerified, etc.) and temperatures, masks required (except for your office). Faculty, staff and postdocs must complete daily health checks by 9 am (unless working 100% remote). Contact Nora for temporary office space.

We can't wait until Farrell Hall is full and noisy again, so we can get back to collaborating in person. In the meantime, we wish you all a great semester. Let us know how we can best support you and your amazing work.

Taylor Ricketts

Director, Gund Institute for Environment
Gund Professor, Rubenstein School
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