WaTER Drops

Newsletter for the OU WaTER Center

New faculty position

The University of Oklahoma Water Technologies for Emergin Regions (WaTER) Center invites applications to fill a tenure-track faculty position in Sanitation Technologies and Approaches for Emerging Regions. This new position reflects the strong commitment of the University of Oklahoma to expand the pioneering work of the OU WaTER Center (WaTER.ou.edu) in response to the UN Millennium Development Goals (specifically Target 7.c). The WaTER Center is targeting applications at the Associate Professor level but will consider other ranks for highly qualified applicants.

Click Here to Read More...

Students Receive Hands-On Training

Undergraduate students involved with OU's Sooners Without Borders (SWB) were actively involved in well-drilling training, aquifer testing, and water quality analysis as part of their preparation for work in developing countries.

Click Here to Read More...

Sabatini Spends World Water Day at UN

Dr. David A. Sabatini spent March 22, World Water Day, at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. As part of a conference hosted by Italian and U.S. collaborators, Dr. Sabatini presented a seminar on sustainable water solutions in developing countries. The Infopoverty World Conference links development and technological innovation, while addressing each of the Millennium Development Goals in this context. Dr. Sabatini highlighted the WaTER Center's research areas which simultaneously address appropriate technology, entrepreneurship potential, cultural specificity, and behavioral change.

Click Here to Read More...

K12 Outreach: Water Rally

On February 22, 2012, the WaTER Center participated in a Help for Haiti Water Rally at Roosevelt Elementary School in Norman, Okla. Help for Haiti was a fundraiser organized by a Roosevelt parent whose son is adopted from Haiti. Students at Roosevelt raised over $11,000, which will purchase 250 ceramic pot water filters. Roosevelt Elementary hosted a rally to celebrate their accomplishments, and the WaTER Center was invited to give a presentation on the need for clean water in Haiti.

Click Here to Read More...

Student Travel: Cope to Cambodia

WaTER Center Master's student and NSF Fellow Chris Cope is studying the adsorptive capacity of iron-amended rice husk char for removing arsenic from groundwater. Arsenic is a naturally occurring contaminant in much of the groundwater used for drinking water worldwide. Although mitigation techniques exist, they often are not cost-effective for people in developing countries. Cope, under the guidance of Dr. David Sabatini, traveled to Cambodia to test the effectiveness of the media at filtering arsenic in June of 2011 and will return this June.

Click Here to Read More...

Partners - Catholic Relief Services

Dr. Dennis Warner, Senior Technical Advisor for Catholic Relief Services, spent a busy 36 hours in Norman last December, visiting with OU students, faculty and WaTER Center staff. Dr. Warner has over 40 years of experience in international development, working on water supply, sanitation, environmental health, and emergency relief. He studied history and engineering at the University of Illinois, and earned a PhD in civil engineering at Stanford University. Dr. Warner has held professional positions with the Peace Corps, University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Duke University, the World Health Organization, World Bank USAID and several engineering consulting firms.

Click Here to Read More...

Upcoming Events

WaTER Center personnel are gearing up this spring for upcoming summer travel to various points abroad. Research, in accordance with the WaTER Center's mission, includes greater cultural understanding, assessment of business potential, and scientific research on various in-country approaches to providing clean drinking water to rural areas.

Click Here to Read More...

About the Water Center

Developing Countries are replete with interventions that fail due to:
1. use of inappropriate technologies,
2. failure to consider cultural/human factors, and
3. failure to mobilize local entrepreneurs.

The WaTER Center seeks to develop sustainable solutions that we believe are only possible through integrating technology, business and social understanding.

Vision: The vision of the WaTER Center is to pioneer integrated solutions that revolutionize development and adoption of sustainable water and sanitation technologies for developing countries through teaching, research and service innovations. We will do this through integrating technological, business and human factors in pursuit of sustainable water and sanitation solution.

Mission: The mission of the WaTER Center is to promote peace by advancing health, education, and economic development through sustainable water and sanitation solution for impoverished regions, using innovative teaching, research, and service/leadership activities.

Related Links

OU Water Center

School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science

OU WaTER Center | Carson Engineering Center | Room 334

Phone: (405) 325-5913 | Fax: (405) 325-4217 | WaTER.ou.edu