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Montgomery College Hosts Spectrum Lecture on Nutrient Pollution

NOAA Researcher, Dr. Libby Jewett, to Discuss Environmental Effects of Biofuels, Oct. 14

Dr. Libby Jewett, a hypoxia researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will speak at Montgomery College-Germantown on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the College's 2009 Spectrum Lecture Series. Dr. Jewett will discuss nutrient pollution and how it threatens our nation's coastal resources. Free and open to the public, the talk will take place in Globe Hall, which is located in the High Technology and Science Center, 20200 Observation Drive, Germantown, Md.

Like all Spectrum Lectures, Dr. Jewett's presentation is designed for a non-scientific audience, enabling scientists, students and the community to learn about ground-breaking advancements in science.

Predominantly derived from agriculture, nutrient pollution has led to severe impacts such as hypoxia, or oxygen depletion, in coastal areas. The expansion in domestic ethanol production is causing great concern among coastal water quality managers. The majority of ethanol is currently derived from corn and increased corn-acreage could result in increased nutrient loading to coastal waters. Dr. Jewett will present data regarding the environmental impact of biofuels and compare this to other sources of alternative energy.

Dr. Jewett earned her Ph.D. in biology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She also has a B.A. in Latin American studies from Yale University and a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. As the hypoxia research program manager at NOAA, she is responsible for overseeing a \$5 million portfolio of extramural research focused on studying the causes and impact of hypoxia in coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

For questions or to request accommodations for physical disability, please contact Susan Bontems at susan.bontems@montgomerycollege.edu or at 240-567-7740.

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Montgomery College is a public, open admissions community college with campuses in Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, plus workforce development/continuing education centers and off-site programs throughout Montgomery County, Md. The College serves nearly 60,000 students a year, through both credit and noncredit programs, in more than 100 areas of study.

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