



Café Scientifique Previous Events

2016 Events:

Everyday Racism: The Discourse of Difference, Glenda Bivens, Community and Economic Development Field Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

The Roots of Racism: Where Science and History Intersect, Karen Leroux, Associate Professor of History, Drake University

Green Flag: Racing's Eco-Friendly Future, Catherine Kummer, NASCAR Director of Green Innovation

Fast Physics: Teaching STEM on the Track, Manager, Growth Segment Marketing, NASCAR

The Power of Pollinators, Brianna Patrick, Environmental Educator, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

The Mechanics of Meditation, James Miller, founder of Adamantine Yoga

Making Music in the Classroom and Clinic, Patricia Izbicki, research assistant and PhD student in neuroscience at Iowa State University, and Andrew Zaman, research assistant and PhD student in kinesiology/psychology at Iowa State University

Turbine Talk: How Iowa Wins at Wind, John Boorman, Vice President of the Iowa Wind Energy Association, and Bill Cox, retired physics professor

Making Music in the Classroom and Clinic, Patricia Izbicki, research assistant and PhD student in neuroscience at Iowa State University, and Andrew Zaman, research assistant and PhD student in kinesiology/psychology at Iowa State University

Biology, Behavior & Brain Health, Emir Malovic, PhD student in biomedical sciences at Iowa State University, and Matthew A. Jefferson, M.S., PhD student in neuroscience at Iowa State University; Gregory Mlynarczyk, PhD student in neuroscience at Iowa State University

Nitrogen: Streams, Society & Statewide Impact, Dr. Peter Levi, assistant professor of environmental science and policy, Drake University

Puzzling Particles & Quantum Physics, Dr. Braxton Pulley, chiropractor at East Village Chiropractic

2015 Events:

Counting Votes: The Paradoxical Mathematics of Elections, Dr. Russ Goodman, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Central College



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Hormones of Happiness, Jolie Pelds, Adjunct Biology Instructor at DMACC Urban Campus

The End of Hunger: Feeding Nine Billion, Keegan Kautzky, Director of National Education Programs, The World Food Prize

Trash Talk — How Waste Isn't Wasted, Reo Menning, Executive Director of Metro Waste Authority

Small Loans, Big Change: Microfinance in the Metro, Ana Mancebo, Program Coordinator, Solidarity Microfinance

Avian Flu and the Path to Prevention, Jim Roth, Professor of Venterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine, Iowa State University

Designing Better Streets, Zach Young, Senior Transportation Planner, Des Moines Area MPO; Mike Armstrong, Associate Transportation Planner, Des Moines Area MPO

Vaccines: Fighting Fear and the Flu, Ana Coppola, Community Health Educator, Polk County Health

Women in STEM: Advancing Nutrition & Agriculture to Feed the World, Dr. Ruth Oniang'o, chair of the Sasakawa Africa Association

Low-Head Dams: Sleek Design, Secret Danger, Nate Hoogeveen, Director of River Programs, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Jerusalem: The Making of a Sacred City, Jodi Magness, Vice President, Archeological Institute of America

2014 Events:

Primitive Patterns: Environment + Evolution, Jill Pruetz, ISU Biological Anthropologist & [National Geographic](#) Emerging Explorer

Café Scientifique — Animal Attraction, Amy Worthington, graduate student, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University

Farming Tumors: Engineering Approaches to Oncology, Ian Schneider, PhD, Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Iowa State University

Marriage Isn't Queer, Brian Adams-Thies, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Drake University

Driving Drugged, Gary Milavetz, Pharm.D., Associate Professor at The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy

Bizarre Guitars, Dr. Alex King, Director of the Critical Materials Institute, The Ames Lab, U.S. Department of Energy

What's Around the Riverbend? Presenter: Nate Hoogeveen, Director of River Programs, Iowa Department of Natural Resources



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Game-Based Learning: An Education Intervention, Desmond Bonner, MS candidate in Human Computer Interaction at Iowa State University

The Science of Embalming, *Travis L. Carrico, Professor of Mortuary Science, Des Moines Community College*

Nutrition Label: Decoded, Bailey Pudenz, Nutrition Specialist at Eurofins Nutritional Analysis Center

West Africa & Ebola: A Healthcare Perspective, Marcus Alan Barlow, Program Coordinator, Integrated Health Homes at Child Health Specialty Clinics

2013 Events:

Monsters in the Mattress, Laura S. Higgins, Ph.D., Entomologist

Maxed Out: Working Memory & the Brain, Dr. John P. Spencer, University of Iowa Director, Get Ready Iowa Director, Child Neuroimaging Facility Member, Delta Center

Hot Chicks & Cool Dudes: When Sex Is More Than X & Y, Rory S. Telemeco and Bob Litterman -Ph.D. candidates in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Iowa State University

2012 Events:

Autism Today, Dr. Maria Valdovinos, Associate Professor of Psychology at Drake University and Director of the Drake Undergraduate Science Collaborative Institute, Amy Walter, Clinic Supervisor/Program Coordinator at The Homestead, Susan Smith, Director of Iowa Program Assistance Response Team (I-PART), Woodward Resource Center

Particles Collide & Wreckage Flies, Thomas Meyer, –Recently retired (2010) ISU Adjunct Physics Professor and now Gentleman Physicist

Special Café Sci: Science of Kissing, Sheril Kirshenbaum

Excavating for Information: Uncovering Egypt, Ana Tavares, Joint Field-Director, Ancient Egypt Research Associates (AERA)

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Urban Archaeology in Metropolitan Des Moines, John Doershuk, Melody Pope, Bill Whittaker, Shirley Schermer, Robin Lillie, and Joe Artz, The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist



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SOS: Sustaining Our Streams, Jan Thompson -Professor, Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management, ISU, Tim Stewart -Assistant Professor, Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management, ISU, Rebecca Christoffel-Assistant Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist, ISU and Allen Pattillo-Fisheries Extension Specialist, ISU

Precision Farming: Can a tractor drive itself? Dale Pellatz, Senior Systems Engineer -John Deere, Doug Blum, Robotics Systems Engineer -John Deere

Deflecting Disaster: Preventing an Asteroid Apocalypse, Bong Wie-Vance Coffman Endowed Chair Professor and Director of the Asteroid Deflection Research Center, Iowa State University

Mankind vs. Mother Nature, Bill Stowe, Des Moines Public Works Director

Special Event with NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson

Food Science: A Weapon for Food Safety, Dr. Betty Bugusu, Purdue University and Dr. Suzanne Nielsen, Purdue University

Spill the Beans: The Science of Coffee, Daniel Bosman, Mars Cafe head barista

2011 Events:

CSI: Iowa – Real Life as a Forensic Scientist, Amy Pollpeter, Criminalist at the Iowa DCI Crime Lab.

Bizarre Guitars, Dr. Alex King, Director, U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory at ISU.

Crisis In Japan and Being Prepared In Iowa, Leslie Schaffer - Executive Director, American Red Cross Central Iowa; Sri Sritharan – Professor, Civil, Structural and Earthquake Engineering - Iowa State University; Ken Kerns – Associate Director, Environmental Health and Safety - Iowa State University; Kathryn Szramek - Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Policy - Drake University; Rich Singer - Project Manager, Nuclear Facility Silting Study - MidAmerican Energy.

The Ancient Craft of Papermaking, Timothy Barrett, Director, University of Iowa's Center of the Book Paper Facilities.

Stems, Pints and the Science of What's in the Glass, Mason Grober, Jasper Winery Winemaker and Madhouse Brewing Co. Head Brewer

Severe Weather 101, Roger Vachalek - Lead Forecaster, Jacob Beitlich - Meteorologist Intern, Kevin Deutsch - Meteorologist Intern, Kevin Skow - Meteorologist Intern, The National Weather Service Team



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Exe(Rx)cise: Your Best Antihypertensive Drug, Julia A. Moffitt, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Des Moines University

Saving Apes (or Orcas or Orchids); Who Cares, and Why? Dr. Benjamin Beck, Director of Conservation at Great Ape Trust

The Athletic Heart, Julia A. Moffitt, Ph.D. Associate Professor from Des Moines University

Vibration, Velocity and Visual: The Science of Percussion, Matthew Coley, Iowa State University Faculty, and Ronni Kot Wenzell, Carl Nielsen Academy Faculty

Indulge In Your Morbid Curiosity: Mortuary Science, Robin Walter, Iles Funeral-Dunn's Chapel, Funeral Director and Chapel Manager

Autism Today, Dr. Maria Valdovinos, Associate Professor of Psychology at Drake University and Director of the Drake Undergraduate Science Collaborative Institute. Amy Walter, Clinic Supervisor/Program Coordinator at The Homestead. Susan Smith, Director of Iowa Program Assistance Response Team (I-PART), Woodward Resource Center

Particles Collide and Wreckage Flies, Thomas Meyer – Recently retired (2010) Iowa State University Adjunct Physics Professor and now Gentleman Physicist

2010 Events:

Getting to the Heart of Matter, Dr. Thomas Meyer, Iowa State University.

Cancer: What's Happening Inside Your Cells?, Dr. David Strom, Des Moines University.

Innovations Of A Green City, Mayor Frank Cownie & Director of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Don Tripp.

Quasars: Black Holes In Action, Dr. Charles Nelson, Drake University.

Racial Identities: Who Are We?, Rekha Basu, Ph.D, Columnist for the Des Moines Register, Dr. Jennifer Harvey Associate Professor of Religion, Drake University; Sandra Patton-Imani – Associate Professor of American Studies, Department for the Study of Culture and Society, Drake University.

Cultural Diversity Through Youth Exchange, Beth Flynn – Field Director for Greater Iowa Youth For Understanding; Mary Wennerstrum – District Coordinator for Recruitment and Development for Youth for Understanding.

Soybean Plant Diversity: Genetic Diversity In Plants, Dr. Paul Stephens, Sr. Research Director, Soybean Product Development, Pioneer Hi-Bred; Jordan Spear, Sr. Research Associate, Pioneer Hi-Bred



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Embryo Transfer: Reproductive Life In The Fast Lane, Dr. Curtis Youngs, Associate Professor of Animal Science, Iowa State University.

Human Origins: Old Bones Speak, Tafline Crawford, Ph.D, Des Moines University, Department of Anatomy.

Leonardo the Universal Genius: What The Universe Teaches, Nancy C. Andreasen, MD, PhD. Andrew H. Woods, Chair of Psychiatry University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Rare Earths: What's The Attraction?, Dr. Thomas Lograsso, Director, Division of Materials Science and Engineering at the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory.