Welcome to the CN Forum

Putting the Arctic in Plain Sight

Michigan State University’s Canadian Studies Center is the longest serving center of its kind in the United States. Its mission is to engage the campus and the broader community in learning and research that is linked to the vast nation of Canada, second largest nation in land mass following its neighbor, Russia.

The center advocates for alliances between MSU and Canada’s institutions whose mission and expertise reflect MSU’s land grant ethic of teaching, research and outreach. While the center highlights the importance of U.S. and Canada connections — particularly in the university’s’ backyard where international trade, labor exchanges, and border security partnerships are critical — it also aligns with the goal of advancing development worldwide with our Canadian cohorts.

One of the center’s leading campus partnerships with units across campus is the Arctic Research Platform. The platform engages the scholarly community as well as policy and business leaders who are interested in Arctic challenges and opportunities. It is the job of the center to reach across these various audiences to connect curiosity, talent and resources that aim to solve problems and improve people’s lives. In this case, we are focused on the Arctic where our work may have impact across the globe.

A warming trend in the Arctic has caught the eye of a broad area of research expertise. It also has seen more tourists passing through, along with more sea and air traffic. While these trends may highlight opportunity, they also present unfamiliar challenges that need more observation in order to proceed wisely into the future.

We are glad you could join us for this important discussion.
LAWSON BRIGHAM, PHD

Distinguished Professor of Geography & Arctic Policy, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Senior Fellow, Institute of the North in Anchorage

Dr. Brigham is the former chair of the Arctic Council’s Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment and Vice Chair of the Council’s working group on Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment. Dr. Brigham is a career U.S. Coast Guard officer retiring with the rank of Captain. He has participated in more than 15 Arctic and Antarctic expeditions, including *Polar Sea*’s crossing of the Arctic Ocean in summer 1994. Dr. Brigham has been a research fellow at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a faculty member of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the Naval Postgraduate School, and Deputy Director of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. He is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (BS), a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College, and holds graduate degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (MS) and the University of Cambridge (MPhil & PhD). His research interests span three decades and focused on the Soviet/Russian maritime Arctic, Arctic climate change, marine transportation, sea ice remote sensing, Arctic environmental protection, and polar geopolitics.

JAMES BLANCHARD
Partner, DLA Piper Global Government Affairs Practice Group
Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Michigan Governor, and U.S. Congress Member

Governor James Blanchard joined DLA Piper upon conclusion of his duties as United States Ambassador to Canada in April 1996. Governor Blanchard was named ambassador to Canada, after serving two terms as governor of Michigan and four terms as a member of the United States Congress. During his tenure as ambassador, Governor Blanchard managed a broad range of trade, natural resources, environmental and national security issues between the United States and Canada, providing support critical to the passage of both NAFTA and the Open Skies Agreement. Governor Blanchard chairs the Canada-United States Law Institute and is Honorary Board Chair of the longest serving Canadian Studies Center in the U.S. at Michigan State University, his alma mater.

DOUGLAS GEORGE
Consul General of Canada in Detroit
United States

Douglas George is the Consul General of Canada in Detroit, and is responsible for the States of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. He is a career diplomat with over 30 years of experience, and most recently served as Canada’s Ambassador to Kuwait. Recognized as a trade policy expert, Mr. George has worked in numerous economic posts at Global Affairs Canada, including the Commercial Policy Division, the GATT Division, and the US Trade and Economic Policy Division. Abroad, Consul General George has directed trade policy issues at the Canadian Mission to the European Union in Brussels as well as serving as a negotiator at the Canadian mission to the GATT/World Trade Organization in Geneva.

JIANGUO (JACK) LIU
University Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University
Director, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability

A human-environment scientist and sustainability scholar, Dr. Liu holds the Rachel Carson Chair in Sustainability. He is University Distinguished Professor of fisheries and wildlife at MSU and serves as director of the Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability. Dr. Liu serves on various international and national committees, is a Board Member of Reviewing Editors for *Science*, and a coordinating lead author of the global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services organized by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. He is the founder of the International Network of Research on Coupled Human and Natural Systems (CHANS-Net.org) and past president of the U.S. International Association for Landscape Ecology.

DAVID J. CLOSS

Dr. Closs is the John H. McConnell Chaired Professor of Business Administration in the Department of Supply Chain Management at MSU. His experience has been in the development and application of computer models and information systems for logistics operations and planning, including location analysis, inventory management, forecasting and routing general consumer products, and the medical, pharmaceutical, and parts industries. Dr. Closs has contributed to logistics executive seminars across North America, and in South America, Asia, Australia and Eastern Europe. His primary interests are supply chain strategy, information systems, security, and planning techniques. He is a principle researcher in two studies completed by MSU investigating world-class logistics and supply chain capabilities.

ANNMARIE SCHNEIDER
Director, Canadian Studies Center, Director, Program Planning & Development, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

Ms. Schneider leads one of the first and the longest serving centers focused on Canada in the U.S. The Center has expanded its international research interest with more MSU travelers to Canada than any other country in the world. More recently, it has extended its network to include two of Canada’s main ARCTIC research campuses, University of Manitoba and University of Calgary. The One Health Challenge, CN Forum, Great Lakes International Trade and Transport Initiative, and Arctic Research Platform are signature partnerships of MSU’s Canadian Studies Center.

Global Environment...
CN Forum — Putting the Arctic in Plain Sight

Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Networking and Poster Reception, Red Cedar Room

5:30 p.m.  Registration

5:45 p.m.  Opening Remarks
AnnMarie Schneider, Director, Canadian Studies Center

Welcome
The Honorable James Blanchard, Partner with DLA Piper Global, Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada and Michigan Governor

Consult General of Canada in Detroit, Douglas George

Arctic Orientation
Professor Frederick (Fritz) Nelson, Department of Geography, College of Social Science, Michigan State University

Dr. Lawson Brigham, Distinguished Fellow and Faculty, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks

6:15 p.m.  Networking and Poster Session

7:30 p.m.  Adjourn

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16
CN Forum, Big Ten C Room

8:00 a.m.  Registration and Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  Welcome
AnnMarie Schneider, Director, Canadian Studies Center

8:50 a.m.  Introduction
Dr. Jack Liu, University Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University

9:00 a.m.  Keynote Address: The Maritime Arctic: New Global Connections and Challenges
Dr. Lawson Brigham, Distinguished Fellow and Faculty, International Arctic Research Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks

9:45 a.m.  Research Needed and Opportunities Available
Panel Topic: North American Competitiveness and the Arctic

Joining Dr. Brigham will be:
The Honorable James Blanchard, Former U.S. Ambassador to Canada & Michigan Governor

Mr. Douglas George Consul General to Canada in Detroit

Professor Jack Liu, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability Director, MSU

Professor David Closs, McConnell Endowed Chair, Supply Chain Management, MSU

10:15 a.m.  Closing Remarks

10:30 a.m.  Adjourn
The Arctic Research Platform at Michigan State University

Campus Units Represented on the Arctic Research Platform

Anthropology Department
Canadian Studies Center
Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies
Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Communications Arts and Sciences
Earth and Environmental Sciences
Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP)
Fisheries and Wildlife
Geography Department
Geological Sciences
Institute for Public Policy and Social Research
Institute for Water Research
International Studies and Programs
James Madison College
Journalism Department
MSU Global Connections
Native American Institute
Political Science Department
Sociology Department

If you are interested to participate in the Arctic Research Platform and are not already receiving invitations to discussions and other activities, please send your contact information to csc@msu.edu.

Thanks to the following people for their contribution and leadership to help build the Arctic Research Platform, in addition to the work of the Canadian Studies Board of Advisors:

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