FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the Chi Conference?
The Chi Conference is a day-long conference for Stanford graduate students and postdoctoral fellows whose work focuses on environmental issues. The conference goal is to bring together environmental scholars and researchers from across Stanford for innovative dialogue and productive collaboration. During the conference, a select group of Stanford graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will participate in a dynamic exchange of ideas, interests, and real-world problem-solving strategies.

Who should attend?
Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Stanford’s seven schools (Business, Earth Sciences, Education, Engineering, Humanities & Sciences, Law, and Medicine) are invited to attend.

What is the agenda?
The Chi Conference agenda is available here.

Who will the presenters be?
The two morning sessions will be dedicated to presentations. Each presentation session will consist of several short (five-to-seven-minute) presentations organized by focal area as described by conference participants who apply to do a presentation. We have grouped the topical areas by the themes earth, water, wind, and fire, and we have grouped the skill set areas by reading, writing, arithmetic, and art. The conference planning team will select presenters based on their application and proposed abstract. (NOTE: Not all conference participants will give presentations or posters, and you may apply even if you do not wish to conduct a presentation or display a poster.)

Earth, water, wind, fire? Where does my area fit in?
We have loosely categorized focal areas to provide some structure to the first morning session: Earth (such as, for example, the built environment or natural and human resources); Water (for example, water resources, distribution, wastewater, and sanitation); Wind (for example, atmosphere, air quality, wind power, and climate change); and Fire (for example, alternative energy and sustainable technologies). Presentations may fit into one or all of these categories.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, art? Where do I fit in?
The second morning session is organized by research methods or skill set. Again, the categories are broad and participants may span one or more classification: Reading (for example, social science, humanities, and behavioral studies); Writing (for example, public policy, law, and literature); Arithmetic (for example, natural sciences, engineering, or statistics); and Art (for example, photography, music, GIS and other data visualization techniques).
Why do I need to commit for a full day?
The conference is of, by, and for Stanford graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Participants are encouraged to make lasting connections, which is more likely to occur if people spend the day together instead of coming and going. We expect more people to apply than we can accommodate and participants will represent all schools and many programs and departments on campus. Since we will have to turn away some applicants, we ask selected participants to commit for the full day.

The morning sessions of the conference is organized around participant presentations that showcase the breadth and depth of current environmental research at Stanford. The afternoon sessions consist of small, focused, interdisciplinary working groups.

I understand I need to apply if I want to present or give a poster. How will students be selected?
The morning sessions are organized by focal area and skill set. Presenters will be selected based on their overall application, the clarity and quality of their abstract, and their proposed topical and methodological foci. We will select a diversity of presenters to represent a variety of topics and methods. Participants are invited to apply to submit a poster. Poster presentations will be held at the end of the day in conjunction with the social event.

Do I need to apply if I want to attend the Chi Conference, but I don’t want to present?
Yes! If you would like to participate in the conference, but you are not interested in presenting your past, current, or future research, you must still submit an application to attend.

Can I sign up later?
Unfortunately, no. The deadline to apply is November 24, 2010. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Will faculty attend?
The mission of the Chi Conference is to bring together graduate students and postdoctoral scholars who are still in the process of developing their own career objectives. Although faculty and staff support is appreciated, the conference is intended for graduate students and postdocs. The morning presentations and afternoon working groups are for participants only, but all students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend the social at the end of the day.

Who can attend the social at the end of the day?
All faculty, staff, and students interested in viewing the poster presentations and attending the social at the end of the day are invited to do so!