



# Sustainability Perspectives

## Oxygen and Early Animals:

### *Modern Implications of Ancient Geological Records*

**Shuhai Xiao**, professor of Geobiology at Virginia Tech, will explore “*dead zones*”, low-oxygen areas in the oceans, which can become a more prominent ecological problem as global warming continues. However, animals evolved in periods when atmospheric oxygen levels were much lower. How do geologists learn about oxygen levels in the ancient geological past and how early animals dealt with hypoxia? Were their physiology and ecology limited by lower oxygen levels? When did pO<sub>2</sub> levels rise to near modern levels and did this rise make a visible impact on the biosphere? Dr. Xiao will present paleontological data that tell us about the ecology in a low-oxygen world, as well as reflect on modern environmental implications of these ancient geological records.



This talk is in conjunction with the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar residency.

Monday, October 24, 2016 ~ 12:20 – 1:20PM  
deWitt Lecture Hall, Zabriskie Hall Room 106

All *Sustainability Perspectives* series events are free and open to the public.  
The series explores the concept of ‘*sustainability*’ from a variety of viewpoints.

Wells is committed to providing access to all events; anyone needing assistance should contact Marian Brown, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, at 315-364-3304 or by email at [mbrown@wells.edu](mailto:mbrown@wells.edu), as soon as possible.



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