



MARY ANN SWETLAND  
CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# The Swetland Scoop

**May 2020**

## News & Announcements

### The Swetland Center Welcomes Owusua Yamoah!



Welcome to the newest member of the Swetland team Owusua Yamoah! Owusua is a recent graduate of the University of Toledo, holds a PhD in Spatially Integrated Social Sciences and holds a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Development Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. At the Swetland Center, she will develop methods to engage community members in food systems planning and decision-making using systems and contextualized approaches. She brings her experience in mixed methods, spatial econometrics, and geospatial analysis to the team. Welcome, Owusua!

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**An Epicenter of Change:  
Earth Day in Cleveland 50 Years Later**

panelists to celebrate Earth Day as this year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Cuyahoga River burning. The virtual town hall addressed the multiple, intertwined crises faced today with the COVID-19 pandemic, societal inequities, and climate change. In particular, Dr. Freedman focused on a vision for Cleveland with regard to environmental and public health, as well as health equity. There was a reflection on historically recognized inequalities in access to greenspace, clean water, air, and fresh and healthy foods. Panelists urged for investigation and action upon these inequities given their rising presence among ethnic and minority populations that are experiencing disproportionate representation of COVID-19 hospitalizations. Additionally, lessons learned from research for food systems change were used as a call to action to address the “complex web structuring environmental injustice”.

The panel concluded with a call to action to share a story using **#EarthDayCLE**, which can be viewed on social media platforms.

A video recording of the event can now be accessed [HERE](#).

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### Swetland PostDoc Eun Kyung Lee Published in Science of The Total Environment Journal



Congratulations to our own Swetland Center Postdoctoral Scholar, Eun Kyung Lee who's publication; 'Projecting life-cycle environmental impacts of corn production in the U.S. Midwest under future climate scenarios using a machine learning approach' was published in the [Science of the Total Environment Journal](#).

The demand for agriculture is expected to increase to meet the food needs of our growing population and the national renewable energy mandates. At the same time, increasing demand for agriculture and climate change will likely worsen environmental quality. This study examined the

environmental impacts associated with corn production in the U.S. Midwest (where more than 80% of the US corn are being produced) in future years (2022–2100) under various climate scenarios. This study also identified top polluting counties to target and support regulations and implementation of environmental mitigation strategies.

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*Be sure to keep up with Swetland news through our online [News & Events](#) page!*

## Events & Opportunities

### The Swetland Seminar Series Goes Virtual!

As we all continue to adapt to our new normal, the Swetland Center is more committed than ever to sharing updates on our research, information, and resources. Beginning in May, the Swetland Seminars will be hosted over Zoom. All seminars are free and open to the public and no registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to learn about our recent virtual events, including the *Environmental Health Law Seminar* and *An Epicenter of Change: Earth Day in Cleveland 50 Years Later Town Hall with Senator Sherrod Brown*.

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### May Swetland Seminar: Participatory Modeling in Community-Based Research

Join us on **Tuesday, May 26th (9:00–10:00 am)** to learn about participatory modeling and stakeholder engagement techniques, and how they can be used to address complex problems. **Presenters:** Jennifer King, Ph.D. & Dominique Rose, Ph.D. – Swetland Center for Environmental Health.

**Access the seminar via Zoom – [HERE](#)** (please note a Zoom account is required). If you do not have a Zoom account, create one [HERE](#).

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### CWRU Entrepreneurship Alumni Roundtable

Join the CWRU Entrepreneurship Alumni Series for a Roundtable Discussion on May 21st from 1–2 pm with Rachael Paul, Founder of [Rachael Paul Nutrition LLC](#), CWRU MS in Nutrition and Dietetics ('13) alumna, and Ph.D. ('17) on Behavioral Nutrition. Rachael will discuss her career journey, entrepreneurship, and two-sided marketplaces. The conversation will be facilitated by Roberto Martinez, a Swetland Center pre-doctoral fellow who

## Helpful Resources

### Ohio Produce Perks 2019 Impact Report

Produce Perks is Ohio's SNAP incentive program that operates at farmers' markets and retail locations across the state to increase access to healthy foods for under-served communities. SNAP recipients receive a \$1 to \$1 **match** at participating sites when customers shop using an Ohio Direction Card. For more information about the Produce Perks program and participating locations, visit Produce Perks Midwest's [website](#). The **2019 Impact Report** and information about the evaluation research lead by CWRU can be found [HERE](#).



### Pediatricians Speak out on how #CLIMATECHANGESHEALTH

As the world fights COVID-19, we also mark the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. In this "AAP Voices" collection, pediatricians describe the health impacts of climate change they're already seeing in young patients and call on communities to heed lessons learned to create a healthier environment for children.

- [Climate Change: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [David's Arthritis: A Climate Story](#)
- [Wildfire Smoke a Growing Threat to Vulnerable Children](#)
- [Safe Water for Families](#)
- [Using Tools We Have Now to Ensure a Healthy Climate for Children](#)

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*Have an opportunity you'd like us to feature in our next newsletter? We are accepting content submissions! You can find the submission form [HERE](#).*

## Swetland Spotlight

**Best Wishes to Our May 2020 Graduates!**

celebrate; publications, new team members, and four new graduates! It is a bittersweet transition, but this month we say goodbye to four of our Swetland Center students who are moving onto the next phase of their journey and careers. **Megan Schmidt-Sane, Gabriela Arima, Haley Tolerton** and **Colleen Bailey** are all ending their time with us. We would like to thank them for their meaningful contributions and encourage you to read more about their experiences at Swetland as well as their future plans [HERE](#).

### Former Swetland Center MD Student, Alexis Davis Begins Residency



Congratulations to Alexis Davis, a former Swetland Center MD student who completed her thesis on the FreshLink Ambassador Program. Alexis was recently accepted into a three year Family Residency Program at the University of Rochester. Although a unique and challenging time to be a physician, Alexis is excited about the opportunity this residency brings and to be closer to family in Buffalo, NY. Of her time spent at the Swetland Center, Alexis shares “My time with the Swetland Center was one of the most memorable experiences of my medical school career. Witnessing the amazing work the FreshLink ambassadors did in the community taught me so much about community outreach and affirmed my desire to center my career on advocacy and community health.”

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