

## **LAST CALL AT THE OASIS**

by Debbie Belvedere (GESTAR/MSU), Guest Contributor,  
and NASA Water and Energy Cycle Focus Area Liaison

“Water is everywhere.” “The water in my tap is clean, at least here in the United States.” “Desalination will provide infinite and cheap freshwater into the future.” “Bottled water is more regulated than tap water.” “Recycled sewage water is unhealthy and gross.” “There is a water crisis somewhere else, but not here.” Sound familiar? These are just some of the myths that *Last Call at the Oasis* tries to debunk. The NASA/GSFC/Morgan State/GESTAR/UC Irvine team of six (D. Belvedere, L. Lilienfeld, J. Beck, M. Lewis, J. Wilkens and R. Murillo) along with CUAHSI (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.) will present this new water documentary on **Thursday, October 18, at 3:30pm sharp** at the Bldg 3 Auditorium. A small reception and discussion of the movie will follow. This film presents a powerful argument for why the global water crisis will be the central issue facing our world this century. View the trailer here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0j3hqn4Vc8>.

Hydrologists often discuss water as a technical, sustainability, or even security issue in our own field, but this documentary allows for these challenges and research to be shared with a broad audience. The future of water is in our hands and in our ability to convince the world that sustainable, science-based management is needed now. We hope you will join us for the screening of this film, which *Indiewire*'s Christopher Campbell claims is “Easily on track for a deserved Oscar Nomination. Necessary viewing for anyone on the planet who drinks water” and is called “Informative, Fast-Moving and Scary” by the *New York Times*' A. O. Scott.

*Last Call at the Oasis* was made by Participant Media, the same company that produced *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Food Inc.*, *Waiting for Superman*, and *The Help*. Academy Award-winning director Jessica Yu (*Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien*), and Academy Award-nominated producer Elise Pearlstein (*Food Inc.*) present the many complexities surrounding sustainable water management from scientific, political, and psychological perspectives. UC Irvine Professor Jay Famiglietti, Pacific Institute President Peter Gleick, UC Berkeley Biology Professor Tyrone Hayes, University of Arizona Law Professor Robert Glennon, and environmental activists Erin Brockovich and Lynn Henning are some of the “characters” in the 90-minute-long film.

CUAHSI enables the university water science community to advance understanding of the central role of water to life, Earth, and society. They include over 130 affiliate university professors spread across the U.S., Europe and Asia. They also provide expertise to localized “**Let's Talk About Water**” (LTAW) events, identify particular problems and solutions, and compose panel discussions that enliven the discussion.

Ms. Linda Lilienfeld, creator and project coordinator of LTAW, has 35 years of experience as a film and picture researcher specializing in science and history and is a member of the steering committee and pre-screening committee for the International Water and Film Events. In 1992, while working on an exhibit on global warming at New York City's American Museum of Natural History, Linda was inspired to create the LTAW project. She realized that efforts to solve environmental crises such as global warming were hindered by a lack of clarity in the science and a need to communicate the subject to the public. For Linda, “water knits it all together”; as an advocate of the power of film to communicate, she created a “water and film” library of over 300 films. These films have been screened in a variety of settings, such as university campuses, the House of Representatives' Water Caucus, and a four-day theatrical program at the World Water Forum 2012 in Marseille, France.

*The GESTAR Newsletter is published by GESTAR/USRA. Any comments/suggestions/ideas can be forwarded to Amy Houghton, Editor at [ahoughton@usra.edu](mailto:ahoughton@usra.edu).*