



Experts in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences treated the media to pressing Halloween candy questions while also tackling more serious and tricky subjects such as megadroughts and the U.S. presidential election.

Food & Energy Systems



Time Warner Cable News: "Quarantine Research Lab to Receive Upgrades, Expansion from State Funding"
10.23.2016

Dean Kathryn J. Boor and Walter De Jong, School of Integrative Plant Science (SIPS), met with State Senator Thomas O'Mara to announce over \$1M in funding for renovations. Also featured in Albany Times Union, WENY, Star Gazette, and others.

Business Insider: "There's an Intriguing Reason Why 99% of Americans Have Never Tasted Blackcurrant but Europeans Love it"
10.14.2016

Marvin Pritts, SIPS, shows that blackcurrants can thrive under proper management now that disease-resistant varieties have proven successful.

Bloomberg: "Farm Groups Denounce Dannon's Anti-GMO 'Marketing Flimflam'"
10.17.2016

Andrew Novakovic, Dyson School, comments on the strong reaction of farm groups to Dannon's pledge to use fewer genetically-modified ingredients.

The Hill: "Paris Agreement is the Catalyst for a Clean Global Economy"
10.27.2016

Amanda Rodewald, natural resources, writes that the Paris agreement signifies a bright future if we invest in low-carbon and green energy technologies.

Social Sciences



The New York Times: "This is Probably the Least You'll Weigh All Year. Sorry"
10.03.2016

Brian Wansink, Food and Brand Lab, tracked weight gain among those in the U.S. and abroad, finding that early October is when people are likely to be at their thinnest.

NPR: "China is Ready to Step in if U.S. Retreats from Trade Deals, Author Says"
10.26.2016

Eswar Prasad, Dyson School, discusses in this interview how a more engaged China may be good for the world, but less so for U.S. influence, since the Chinese government cares little for many U.S. values.

The Christian Science Monitor: "What's Behind the Rise in Anti-Semitism Toward Journalists on Twitter?"
10.19.2016

Drew Margolin, communication, explains that social media can be a toxic environment that allows users to target a specific individual while also reaching a larger audience.

The Christian Science Monitor: "The Rise of 'Citizen Astronomers': An Era of New Discoveries and Collaboration"
10.24.2016

Bruce Lewenstein, communication, picks apart the misnomer "citizen scientist," which implies that being a citizen is on equal terms with being a scientist.

Life Sciences



BBC: "In 1925, a Remote Town Was Saved from Lethal Disease by Dogs"
10.17.2016

Heather Huson, animal science, explains that elite dogs—like the ones that transported a diphtheria antitoxin that saved the people of Nome, Alaska—are usually Alaskan Huskies with a high proportion of Siberian Husky genes.

The New York Times: "Eggs in the Refrigerated Section? Only in the U.S."
10.31.2016

Randy Worobo, food science, outlines the differences in washing and handling eggs in the U.S. and U.K. that lead to their different storage methods.

Bloomberg: "Ditching the Needle for a Less Painful Injection"
10.06.2016

Dan Luo, biological and environmental engineering, describes how this self-administered piston injector is less painful, and thus patients are less likely to skip doses when treating their chronic diseases.

Gizmodo: "What Would Happen to Your Body if You Only Ate Candy Corn?"
10.31.2016

David Levitsky, nutritional science, says that our body reacts poorly to the overconsumption of candy corn, but that usually when we eat too much we stop ourselves before we reach dangerous levels.

Environmental Sciences



Associated Press: "Looming Megadroughts in Western U.S. Would Make Current Drought Look Minor"
10.05.2016

Toby Ault, earth and atmospheric sciences, discusses how there is a 70% chance of a megadrought occurring by the end of the century. Also featured in The Atlantic, The Guardian, Popular Science, The Weather Channel, and many more.

Associated Press: "Dry Weather, Drought a Mixed Bag for Northeast Vineyards"
10.05.2016

Timothy Martinson, SIPS, describes the drought's effects on grapes, saying that although harvests were smaller this year, there were fewer crop diseases and the grapes were higher in quality.

The New York Times: "Crows and Ravens Make New York Comebacks to Caw (and Cr-r-ruck) About"
10.23.2016

Kevin McGowan, Lab of Ornithology, describes crows and ravens as increasingly comfortable living near humans.

The Christian Science Monitor: "Climate Studies: Western Wildfires Have Doubled, New York City Flood Risk Will Triple"
10.10.2016

Arthur DeGaetano, earth and atmospheric sciences, explains that climate change increases the magnitude of environmental events by changing baseline conditions.