

EARTHWEEK

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EarthWeek Plenary Talk

“Entering the Era of the Geosciences”

Friday, April 11

4:00 pm

Student Union,
North Ballroom

Marcia McNutt, Editor-in-chief of *Science* and former director of the U.S. Geological Survey

“We can attribute the major advances in human society during various periods of the past century and longer to discoveries in select fields of science. In the early part of the 20th century, physics was front and center, with breakthroughs that won world wars, took us to the skies, the Moon, and beyond, and eased everyday tasks. The latter part of the 20th century was the age of biology, where new understanding of the basis for complex life allowed new drug therapies, treating previously intractable disease and extending lifespans. Now, I would argue, we are entering the age of geosciences. The previous revolutions have, by expanding quality of life and decreasing mortality, taxed our planet to the limit. We need to find new, more sustainable sources of and ways to use energy, water, raw materials, and other essential ingredients for civilization.”

EarthWeek is a four-day annual conference organized by graduate students from the six departments in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) at the University of Arizona.