

# A-State plans to host world summit in 2008

**BY ALDEMARO ROMERO  
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SPECIAL TO THE SUN

**JONESBORO** — Arkansas State University has been selected to host the 2008 Environmental Studies Summit.

The event gathers academics from numerous universities in the United States and even some international representatives to discuss numerous issues that concern teaching and research in different areas of environmental studies around the world, but more specifically in the U.S.

Besides several academic units at Arkansas State University, this summit is sponsored by the U.S. Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD) and the Na-

tional Council for Science and Environment (NCSE).

Among the topics usually discussed in these meetings are how to encourage greater communication across the many disciplines (physical, biological and social sciences and the humanities) that deal with environmental problems and solutions, how to take stock of teaching and research in Environmental Studies and how to develop a professional association focusing on undergraduate and graduate environmental education and research.

The summit provides a great opportunity for faculty engaged in environmental research and pedagogy to ex-

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Arkansas State University graduate student Irene Mundali works at the Ecotoxicology Facility on the Jonesboro campus. This is one of the environmental research areas at ASU.

## ASU: Summit providing opportunity

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change experience.

This is a great opportunity for ASU to showcase its Environmental Science program and its future plans. Faculty from the program have been involved with National Academy Summits and National Science Foundation sponsored workshops geared towards the development of research-based undergraduate courses that cross the many and varied disciplines of the Environmental Sciences.

More and more the lines between the disciplines get blurred and students must work across disciplines. Hence ASU faculty and students are leaders in the integration of the sciences and humanities to provide training and research opportunities that address real-world environmental issues. Due to ASU's location in the Mississippi Delta, faculty and students in the program are excited about the opportunities presented by the summit.

The two previous summits were convened at the University of California at Santa Barbara and Syracuse University in New York.

With this summit taking place here in May 2008, ASU will be placed on the map of the great U.S. institutions of higher education that have solid environmental academic programs which enhances not only the reputation of the institution but also attracts more support and students to the university.

For more information contact the ASU Dept. of Biological Sciences at [biology@as-tate.edu](mailto:biology@as-tate.edu).

Dr. Romero is chairman and professor at the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University, and Dr. Hannigan is the director of graduate program in environmental sciences, holds the Judd Hill Chair of Environmental Sciences at Arkansas State University and is associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics.