



From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience



CHANCELLOR'S LECTURE SERIES:

From Climate Crisis to Climate Resilience

November 9, 2023

Campus Center Ballroom, University of Massachusetts Boston

Opening Remarks **Melissa Hoffer**, *Massachusetts Climate Chief,
Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience*

Chancellor's Remarks **Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, *UMass Boston*

Lecture **Bending the Curve and Bouncing Back to Climate Resilience**
Dr. Veerabharan (Ram) Ramanathan, *Distinguished Professor
Emeritus of Climate Sustainability at Scripps Institution of
Oceanography & Climate Solutions Scholar, Cornell University*

Panel Discussion Moderated by **Reverend Mariama White-Hammond**,
Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, City of Boston

Panelists

Melissa Hoffer, *Massachusetts Climate Chief,
Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience*

Kannan Thiruvengadam, *Director, Eastie Farm & Loeb Fellow*

Sommer Heyman, *UMass Boston Undergraduate Student,
Major: BS Environmental Science & Community Development Minor*

Closing Remarks **Gina McCarthy**, *Former White House Climate Advisor*

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Guest Lecturer Biography

Dr. Veerabharan (Ram) Ramanathan

*Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Climate Sustainability at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Climate Solutions Scholar, Cornell University*

Dr. Ramanathan is the distinguished professor (emeritus) of climate sustainability at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego; and Cornell Climate Solutions Scholar at Cornell University. In 1975, he discovered the greenhouse effect of chlorofluorocarbons and other heat trapping pollutants. In 1980, he teamed up with National Center for Atmospheric Research meteorologist Roland Madden and predicted that global warming would be detected by 2000. This prediction was verified by IPCC in 2001. He led international field campaigns and developed unmanned aircraft platforms for tracking brown clouds worldwide. He was the chief scientist for the Indian Ocean Experiment, which discovered the widespread atmospheric brown clouds over Asia and the Indian Ocean. His findings on super pollutants (methane, HFCs, ozone and black carbon) have led to several successful climate mitigation actions worldwide, including the formation of Climate and Clean Air Coalition by the United Nations to mitigate these pollutants. His findings also led to several successful climate mitigation actions in California and worldwide.

He served as the science advisor for Pope Francis' Holy See delegation to the 2015 UN Paris Climate Summit and the 2016 UN Climate Summit in Marrakech. He also advised CA Governor Jerry Brown on climate actions. He was the founding chair of University of California's Bending the Curve: Climate Solutions for All education protocol, taught at many campuses. His focus now is on bouncing back from the climate crisis to climate resilience. In 2023, he coedited and coauthored *Resilience Of People and Ecosystems Under Climate Stress*, published by the Vatican Press.

He has received many global honors including the 1997 Volvo Prize, 2009 Tyler Prize, 2013 UN's Champion of Earth, 2014 Top 100 Global Thinkers by *Foreign Policy*, 2018 Tang Laureate, and the 2021 Blue Planet Prize for his work on Short Lived Climate Pollutants. His other honors include council member of Pontifical Academy of Science; Royal Swedish Academy of Science (which awards the Nobel Prizes); the American Philosophical Society; the US National Academy of Science; and an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from UMass Boston in 2023.



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Presenter Notes

Melissa Hoffer

Massachusetts Climate Chief, Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience

Melissa Hoffer is Massachusetts' first ever Climate Chief. She joined the Biden Administration as a Day 1 political appointee, serving as the acting general counsel and principal deputy general counsel of the Environmental Protection Agency. She led the EPA's Office of General Counsel through the transition until November 2021, and continued to serve as principal deputy general counsel.

Reverend Mariama White-Hammond

Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, City of Boston

Since April 2021, Reverend Mariama White-Hammond has overseen policy and programs on energy, climate change, sustainability, historic preservation, and open space in the City of Boston. Over the course of her time with the city, she has supported the amendment of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BER DO) to set carbon targets for existing large buildings and convened a city-led green jobs program.

Sommer Heyman

UMass Boston Undergraduate Student

Major: BS Environmental Science & Minor in Community Development

Kannan Thiruvengadam

Director, Eastie Farm & Loeb Fellow

Kannan Thiruvengadam leads Eastie Farm, an urban farm in East Boston that fosters food security, regenerative land use, and environmental stewardship. Kannan grew up in a farming family in southern India where life was inextricably linked with land and agricultural adages were part of everyday parlance. After an early career in technology, he responded to his calling and returned to his agrarian roots.

Gina McCarthy

Former White House Climate Advisor

Gina McCarthy is an American air quality expert who served as the first White House national climate advisor from 2021 to 2022. She previously served as the thirteenth administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from 2013 to 2017. A Massachusetts native, McCarthy holds degrees from the University of Massachusetts Boston and Tufts University. She was a civil servant in the Massachusetts state government, holding various environmental roles and serving as an environmental advisor to the governor of Massachusetts. She served as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection from 2004 to 2009 before joining the EPA in 2009.

*The Chancellor's Lecture Series is presented in partnership
with the School for the Environment.*

