



2022-2023 Faculty Colloquium Series

Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Escalante Hall, Room 128

“Save the Rainforest: How robotics, AI, and other technologies could rescue tropical biodiversity.”

Dr. Thomas Walla
Professor of Biology



“SAVE THE RAINFOREST!” has been a rallying cry for advocates who value the diversity of life on the planet. Nonetheless, the last 50 years have marked a steady decline in tropical rainforests around the world. In a monumental push to enact global change in rainforest conservation the XPRIZE Foundation has launched the XPRIZE Rainforest Competition. The competition fosters teams of professionals and dreamers to build cross disciplinary relationships to solve problems on the cusp of breakthroughs. Learn how Team Waponi, based here at CMU, is learning to apply artificial intelligence, DNA technology, and robotics to develop new tools for rainforest research. The field of ecology is going through a major technological revolution. See how it affects the way our students related to nature in our own habitats close to home.