This session will focus on the importance of the Great Lakes to Michigan’s economy, and on the critical role that environmental quality plays in ensuring that these valuable resources remain viable and an enduring aspect of the quality of life in Michigan. We will also explore UM’s role in conducting research, outreach and education activities that support environmental quality. Please join us in welcoming our distinguished panel for this dynamic and enlightening discussion about the Great Lakes and our Great Lakes State!

John Austin is a Non-resident Senior Fellow and directs the Great Lakes Economic Initiative for the Brookings Institution, designed to improve the economic vitality of the Great Lakes states. Mr. Austin is also a resident scholar at the University of Michigan - Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy (IRLEE). He has authored key Brookings reports that have directly shaped the region’s economic development agenda: “The Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region,” “The Vital Connection: Reclaiming Great Lakes Economic Leadership in the Bi-National Great Lakes Region,” and “Healthy Waters, Strong Economy.”

Dr. Allen Burton is the newly appointed Director of NOAA’s Cooperative Institute of Limnology and Ecosystem Research and a Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. Recently, he was Professor and Chair of the Earth & Environmental Sciences Department at Wright State University, in Dayton, Ohio. While at WSU, Dr. Burton directed the Institute for Environmental Quality, started the PhD program in Environmental Sciences, and was the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research. His research on aquatic ecosystem stressors has taken him to all seven continents and Visiting Scientist positions in New Zealand, Italy and Portugal.

Dr. Jim Diana is Director of the Michigan Sea Grant, appointed in March 2009. He is involved in leading the statewide program in its research, education and outreach efforts on critical Great Lakes issues, such as sustainable coastal development, fisheries, and other issues. Also, he is a Professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. He currently teaches a senior course on fish ecology and an introductory course in environmental sciences. Dr. Diana is the 2006 recipient of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society’s Justin W. Leonard Award of Excellence for his contributions to fisheries education, research, and management in Michigan.

Dr. Don Scavia is the UM Graham Family Professor of Environmental Sustainability, Special Counsel to the UM President on Sustainability, Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, and of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Director of the Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute. He was the director of the Michigan Sea Grant from 2004-2009, SNRE Associate Dean for Research from 2004-2006, and Director of the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research from 2004-2007. Dr. Scavia holds Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate degrees in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Michigan. Also, he has published over 70 articles in the primary literature and books, and led development of dozens of interagency scientific assessments and program development plans.

**MORE ABOUT THE WOLVERINE CAUCUS**

University of Michigan Alumni and friends who work in and around the State Capitol are welcome to participate in the Wolverine Caucus. Our mission is to provide diverse forums at which University of Michigan friends can meet one another, enjoy fellowship, exchange views, and learn from the world-class talents of the University of Michigan.

To receive announcements of upcoming programs, call the UM Lansing Service Center at (517) 372-7801 or email veronicj@umich.edu or amccullu@umich.edu and ask us to add your name or the names of associates.