



NEWS RELEASE

University of Massachusetts Amherst

UMass Professor Anna Nagurney to Speak at World Science Festival

Amherst, MA, June 1, 2009 – Professor Anna Nagurney, the *John F. Smith Memorial Professor of Operations Management* and Director of the Virtual Center for Supernetworks at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, will speak at the World Science Festival to be held in New York City from June 10 – 14, 2009. Professor Nagurney will join Princeton Biology Professor Iain Couzin and Architect and Columbia Professor Mitchell Joachim in a session “!@#% Traffic From Insects to Interstates” at NYU's Kimmel Center on Friday, June 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM. The speakers will answer the question, “Can marching ants, schooling fish, and herding wildebeests teach us something about the morning commute? The session will offer a unique melding of mathematics, physics, and behavioral science in examining the creative and sometimes counterintuitive solutions to one of the modern world’s most annoying problems.

The World Science Festival was founded by Columbia Professor Brian Greene and four-time National News Emmy award-winner Tracy Day. Its mission is to cultivate and sustain a general public informed by the content of science, inspired by its wonder, convinced of its value, and prepared to engage with its implications for the future. The World Science Festival takes science out of the laboratory and into the streets, theaters, museums, and public halls of New York City, making the esoteric understandable and the familiar fascinating. The festival’s board of directors includes Alan Alda, Lee Bollinger, Judith Cox, Tracy Day, Brian Greene, and John Sexton.

The festival begins with the June 10th Opening Night Celebration at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, honoring explorer, poet and champion of the natural world, Edward O. Wilson, on his 80th birthday. The celebration will feature Harrison Ford, Glenn Close, Alan Alda, Marin Alsop, Joshua Bell, Danny Burstein, Anna Deavere Smith, James Naughton, the National Dance Institute, and the Inspirational Voices of the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

One June 11th, 12th, and 13th over 30 sessions will take place at various Manhattan venues. The festival will conclude with the World Science Festival Youth and Family Street Fair on Sunday, June 14, 2009 from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM at Washington Square Park. The extravaganza will feature interactive exhibits, experiments, games, and shows that entertain and inspire.

Professor Nagurney has been on the University of Massachusetts faculty for over 2 decades.

She is the author of 9 books and over 200 publications and presentations. Her latest book, ***Fragile Networks: Identifying Vulnerabilities and Uncertainties in an Uncertain World***, published by Wiley, and co-authored with Patrick Qiang, who received his PhD from UMass Amherst this past May will be available during the festival. She has received numerous honors, including Sweden's Kempe Prize, two Fulbright Awards, the INFORMS Award for the Advancement of Women in Operations Research / Management Sciences, the University of Massachusetts Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research and Creative Activity, and the University of Massachusetts Faculty Fellowship. She is a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International. She received her AB, ScB, ScM, and PhD Degrees from Brown University.

For more information on Professor Nagurney see: <http://supernet.som.umass.edu>

She may be contacted at 413-545-5635 or nagurney@gbfin.umass.edu

For more information on the World Science Festival see: <http://www.worldsciencefestival.com>