

Jared Diamond – 2011 Annual Oration

The Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania
and the [Provost's Year of Water](#) are proud to announce a public lecture:

A Talk by Dr. Jared Diamond

Washed Up: The Role of Water in the Collapse of Civilizations

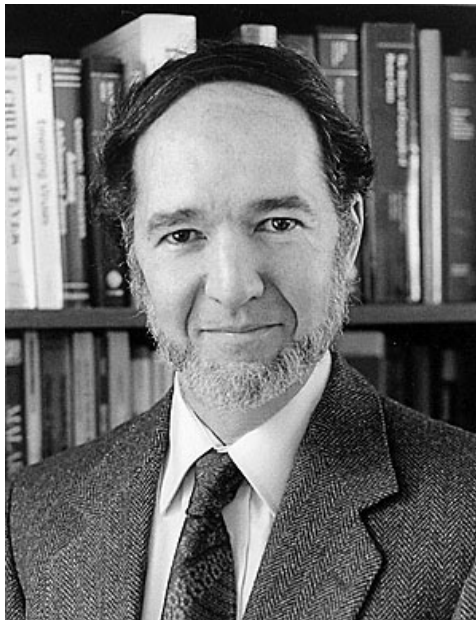
Date: April 6, 2011

Time: 7:00PM

Location: Irvine Auditorium, 3400 Spruce Street

Tickets available by lottery at www.philomathean.org/aotickets.

Information about Dr. Diamond and the talk, as well as our co-sponsors, after the jump.



Jared Diamond is a major American public intellectual and leading scholar of physiology, ecology, conservation biology, and history. A recipient of the [National Medal of Science](#), he is also the author of numerous widely-acclaimed books, including *Guns, Germs, and Steel* (recipient of the [Pulitzer Prize](#)), *Collapse*, *The Third Chimpanzee*, and *Why is Sex Fun?*. This talk promises to be an exciting and valuable opportunity to engage with a figure of international renown and interest.

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After the talk, a public reception for Jared Diamond will be held in the Philomathean Halls (College Hall, 4th Floor), to which all are invited.

Abstract: The ruined cities, temples, and statues of history's great, vanished societies (Easter Island, Anasazi, the Lowland Maya, Angkor Wat, Great Zimbabwe and many more) offer more than idle conjecture: the social collapses were due in part to the types of environmental problems that beset us today. Yet many societies facing similar problems do not collapse. What makes certain societies especially vulnerable? Why didn't their leaders perceive and solve their environmental problems? What can we learn from their fates?

Co-Sponsors: [The Social Planning and Events Committee \(SPEC\) Fully Planned Fund](#), [SPEC Connaissance](#), [The Undergraduate Assembly](#), [The Student Activities Council](#), [The Department of Earth and Environmental Science](#), [The Department of Chemistry](#), [The Nursing School](#), [The Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership](#), [The Law Program in the Department of Legal Studies and Business Ethics](#), [The Department of Political Science](#), [The Roy and Diana Vagelos Program of Life Sciences and Management](#), [The Department of Classical Studies](#), [Harrison College House](#), [Center for Ancient Studies](#), [The Department of Psychology](#), [The Department of African Studies](#), [The Department of History](#), [The Green Campus Partnership](#), [The College of Arts and Sciences](#), [The Department of History and Sociology of Science](#), [Penn Professional Staff Assembly](#), [The Department of English](#), [Center for East Asian Studies](#)

CONTACT: Alec Webley (moderator@philomathean.org) with any questions.