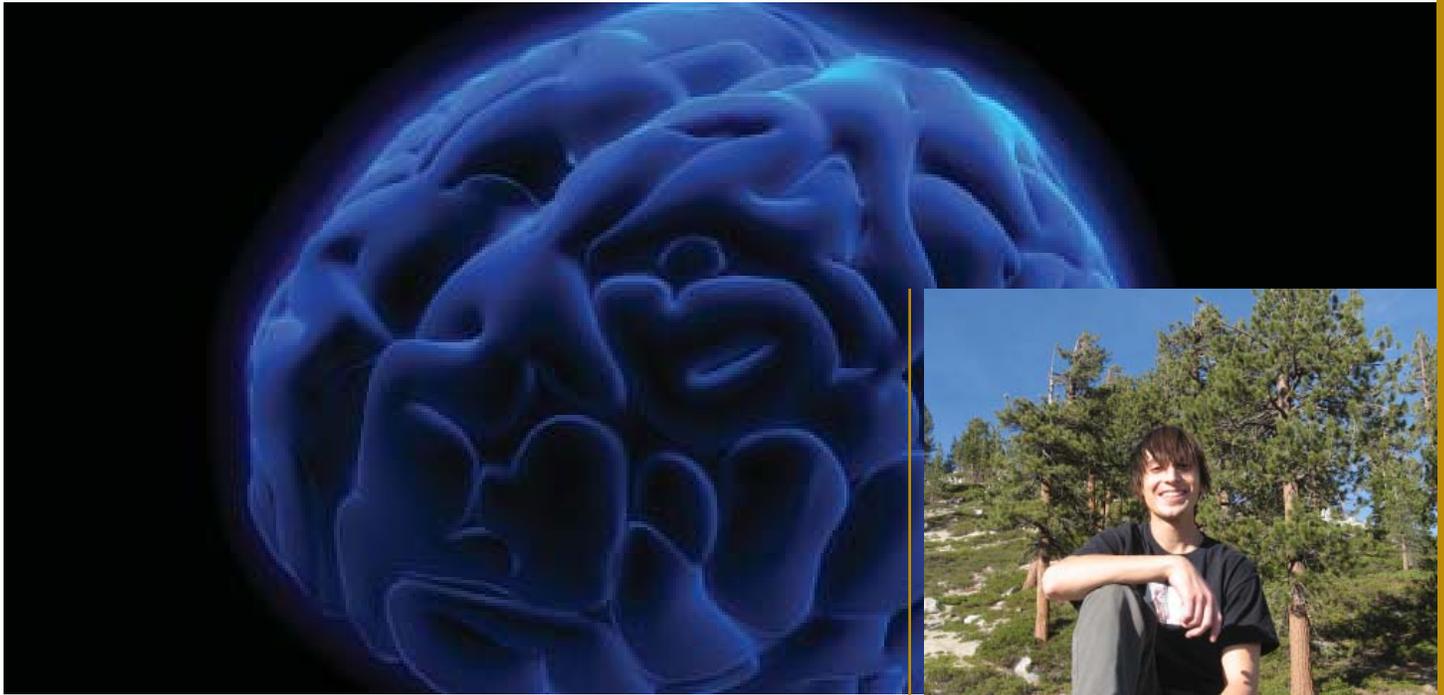


DRUGS, PLASTICS AND YOUR BRAIN

PRESENTATION BY ARTHUR SEELIG (UC DAVIS)

PRESENTED BY THE UC DAVIS TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER



Date: Thursday, January 29, 2009
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Lecture begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5 donation requested. No-Host Bar.
Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141,
Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences
291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, Nevada
(on the campus of Sierra Nevada College)



Arthur Seelig completed his master's degree in neuroscience at the University of Massachusetts. His work there focused on the effects of light on mood-altering chemicals in the brain. Following this he worked as a researcher at Harvard Medical School where he studied the neurobiology of narcolepsy in mice with the disorder. Since then his interests have shifted to work on the formation of sex-differences in the brain. In September 2008 Arthur joined the Tahoe Environmental Research Center's (TERC) education and outreach team as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Among other things he is helping to manage the Youth Science Institute, an afterschool program for high school students interested in science careers.

Pollutants such as Bisphenol A (a chemical found in plastics) as well as agricultural pesticides have become a ubiquitous presence in our environment. Exposure to these chemicals, especially at critical periods in development, may cause permanent changes in the brain and behavior. Arthur will summarize the current state of knowledge on some of the most common and infamous environmental pollutants as related to brain development.

Recreational drugs produce their effects through actions on the

brain. The past decade has seen a loosening of regulations on the study of these substances and a concomitant burst in our knowledge of their actions and effects on the brain. Interest in the study of marijuana, MDMA (ecstasy), and psilocybin have been on the rise both within the biological and psychological sciences resulting in a passionate debate about the place of these substances in society and medicine. Arthur will discuss the impact that these substances have on the brain and the arguments that are driving the current debate.