

The Department of Geography presents

The 2017 Hammond Lecture

Dr. Amy Hessel

Department of Geology and Geography

West Virginia University

**“Pluvials, Droughts, and Empires: How Nomads Survived
Extreme Climate Variability to Conquer Asia”**



March 2, 2017 in Walters Life Sciences, Room M309, 3:40-5:00

Dr. Hessel is Professor of Geography in The Department of Geography and Geology at West Virginia University. She directs the university's Montane Forest Dynamics Laboratory which focuses on interactions between climate variability, ecosystem processes, and human activities in forested systems. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology (UCal-Berkeley 1992), a B.S. in Conservation and Resource Studies (UCal-Berkeley 1992), a M.A. Geography and Recreation (Wyoming 1996), and a Ph.D. in Geography and Regional Development (Arizona 2000). She is currently leading a multi-disciplinary NSF-CNH project on the human ecology of the Mongol Empire of the 13th century using tree rings, lake sediments, historical documents, and ecosystem modeling. Her research has been published in *BioScience*, *Climatic Change*, *Ecological Applications*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Journal of Climate*, *Professional Geographer*, and *Water Resources Research*, among many others.