

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NASA SELECTS ADLER TO PRESENT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE FORUMS**  
*Series of Public Forums Held Throughout Chicago in 2006*

CHICAGO (February 14, 2006) – NASA selected the Adler Planetarium to coordinate a series of public forums throughout 2006 on a variety of Earth science topics related to global climate change. The public forums will bring together scientists and interested members of the public in a series of open dialogues about climate change.

“The Adler Planetarium is delighted to partner with NASA to bring this series of climate change forums to Chicago,” said Adler President Paul H. Knappenberger, Jr., PhD. “Current public debate illustrates the need for all citizens to have access to the scientific data on global climate change.”

In this series of interactive forums, members of the public will hear firsthand perspectives from scientists at NASA and other U.S. scientific agencies as they share details about their work and how they are solving the mysteries of Earth's climate system.

Forum presenters will share new evidence, ranging from bore holes drilled miles deep into ice sheets on Antarctica, to a fleet of space-based sensors observing our whole world from hundreds of miles above Earth's surface, to sophisticated new predictive models running on supercomputers. Together, these resources paint a picture of Earth's climate system with unprecedented clarity.

What changes are natural in origin and what changes are due to human influence? How do scientists know what they know about Earth's climate system, and how accurate are their predictions? How can we harvest this new knowledge for the benefit of society? These are some of the important questions to be tackled in the Adler Global Climate Change Forums, consisting of four events and an end symposium held at various locations in Chicago from February through August 2006.

The inaugural forum will feature well-known scientists Dr. Wallace Broecker – Columbia University; Dr. Ray Pierrehumbert – University of Chicago; and Dr. Gavin Schmidt – NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. This forum will be held at the **Adler Planetarium on Saturday, February 25, from 10 am – 12 pm Central Time**. Visit [www.adlerplanetarium.org/climatechange/gccf.html](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/climatechange/gccf.html) for reservations and additional information. The forums are free with paid general admission, but space is limited.

The Adler Global Climate Change Forums were funded in part by NASA's Earth Explorers Institute – a new national cooperative network of informal education institutions working together to help promote public literacy in Earth system science.

## **FORUM 1: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: HOW MUCH, HOW SOON, HOW DO WE KNOW?**

**Location: Adler Planetarium**

**Saturday, February 25, 2006**

**Time: 10am – 12pm**

The first forum in the series outlines a brief history of climate change through three scientific perspectives. Today, scientists use a variety of techniques to decipher the mysteries of Earth's climate changes and understand how and why the climate system changes. Armed with samples of gases and particles trapped for centuries in polar ice sheets, data collected by a new fleet of Earth-observing satellites, and sophisticated new computer models, can scientists accurately predict what our world's climate will be like in the future? What are the forces and feedbacks at work in our climate system today? Which of these forcings are natural, and which are caused by humans? And what do they portend over the next century? How do we know what we know? The panel will present the current state of the science in global climate modeling and discuss scenarios for how Earth's climate is likely to change over the next century.

### *Speakers Include:*

Dr. Wally Broecker – Columbia University

Dr. Ray Pierrehumbert – University of Chicago

Dr. Gavin Schmidt – NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies

## **FORUM 2: "IS EARTH'S OZONE SHIELD RECOVERING?"**

**The Field Museum**

**Saturday, March 25, 2006**

**Time: 10am - 12pm**

From observations to theory, to data collection, to international policy, to smoking-gun proof, the story of the Antarctic ozone hole has all the makings of a drama with a happy ending, right? No so fast! Despite ongoing expectations that the ozone hole will recover, we have yet to see evidence that a recovery is underway. Why was so much ozone lost so fast in the early 1980s? Why hasn't the ozone shield recovered? What is the status of the ozone hole today? What are the human health implications of losing stratospheric ozone? What are the chemicals that destroy stratospheric ozone, where do they come from, and what exactly makes them so destructive? Will the ozone shield ever recover and, if so, when? In many ways, the story of the Ozone Hole parallels the global warming controversy of today. How can decision makers effectively implement policy in the face of so much uncertainty? This forum will present lessons learned from the 1980s that may lend perspective to today's public discussions about climate change.

### *Speakers Include:*

Dr. Paul A. Newman – NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Stephen Andersen – Environmental Protection Agency

Former U.S. Ambassador Richard Benedick – President of the National Council for Science and the Environment

### **FORUM 3: “HUMAN FOOTPRINTS: EXPLORING THE INTERSECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND THE NATURAL WORLD”**

**Location: Northwestern University - Chicago Campus**

**Saturday, April 22, 2006**

**Time: 10am - 12pm**

Today we know that everything within Earth’s climate system is connected at some level. Humans have taken on the magnitude of a geological force in our ability to reshape our environment. Widespread changes across Earth’s landscapes have altered natural cycles at work in the climate system. This forum will explore some of the myriad intersections between human society and the natural cycles of life, energy, water, and carbon. The panel will provide stunning new insights into the ways in which humans are influencing Earth’s climate system and, in turn, how climate changes can impact society.

*Speakers Include:*

Dr. Michael Schlesinger – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Marc Imhoff – NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Nancy Maynard – NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center

### **FORUM 4: “HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO MEET OUR ENERGY NEEDS WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR FUTURE?”**

**Location: Chicago Cultural Center**

**Sunday, June 4, 2006**

**Time: 10am – 1pm**

The fourth forum will explore the ways in which humans use Earth’s natural resources to produce energy. The ancient Mayans extensively harvested and burned trees to power their ancient civilization. New evidence suggests this may have ultimately led to their downfall. What can new space-based technologies today teach us about how to use nature’s energy resources in a sustainable way? What new technologies lie ahead that will allow us to continue to grow our economies without harming Earth’s environment?

*Speakers Include:*

Dr. Tom Sever – NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center

Dr. Paul Stackhouse – NASA’s Langley Research Center

Dr. Robert Rosner – Director of Argonne National Laboratory

### **END SYMPOSIUM**

**August 2006 – Details TBD**

*Please visit [www.adlerplanetarium.org/climatechange/gccf.html](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org/climatechange/gccf.html) for more information.*

The Adler – America’s First Planetarium – was founded in 1930 by Chicago business leader Max Adler. The Adler is home to two full-size planetarium theaters, including the world’s first StarRider Theater, and one of the world’s most important antique instrument collections. The Adler is a recognized leader in science education, with a focus on inspiring young people, particularly women and minorities, to pursue careers in science.

The Adler Planetarium is located at 1300 South Lake Shore Drive in Chicago and is open every day except for Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. For more information visit [www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org).

This forum series is funded in part by NASA's Office of Informal Education and the Earth Sciences Division within NASA's Science Mission Directorate--dedicated to understanding the Earth as an integrated system and applying Earth System Science to improve prediction of climate, weather, and natural hazards using the unique vantage point of space.

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