



News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**University of St. Thomas Presents an Earth Day Conference  
“Global Climate Change: In Search of the Science”**

**Houston (March 31, 2009)** – In recognition of Earth Day 2009, the University of St. Thomas, in collaboration with the Weather Research Center, will host a day-long symposium entitled, “Global Climate Change: In Search of the Science.” from 1 – 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21. The symposium will examine the science of climate change – what we know and don’t know.

Climate experts will consider what we, as a Houston community, can do to adapt, and how citizens can work together to plan effectively for the forthcoming climatic changes.

Keynote speaker Meteorologist Tom Wismuller’s 7 p.m. talk is entitled “Global Warming (dis)believers – Are they both two sides of the same coin?” After earning a bachelor’s degree with a dual major in sociology and political science and a concentration in meteorology at NYU, Wismuller worked as a meteorologist for the Royal Dutch Weather Bureau in Amsterdam. He also worked for NASA before, during, and after the Moon Landings. He frequently lectures on science and history and is producing a video on global warming.

In his talk, Wismuller explains that global warming is real. A distinction should be made between the manmade acceleration of global warming and the natural process that actually began about 100,000 years ago. Wismuller contends that in the last 18,000 years temperatures have risen 16 degrees Fahrenheit, about 1 degree per thousand years. Yet in the last 200 years, we’ve almost added two more degrees Fahrenheit - a stunning rise.

Featured speakers include: John Hofmeister, former president of Shell Oil and now founder and CEO of Citizens for Affordable Energy; Karl Pepple, City of Houston Environmental Programming director; and scientists from University of Houston, Rice University, Texas A&M, and Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC).

The event is free and open to the public and will be held in Scanlan Room, Jerabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon. For more information, contact Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE, UST Environmental Science and Studies chair, at 713-525-3894.

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