

MIT Club of Chicago

Fall 2007 Newsletter

Professor Lindzen on Global Warming by Gerald Berstell

On October 10th, the MIT Club of Chicago kicked off its new membership year with a presentation, "Some Thoughts on Global Warming," by MIT meteorology professor Dr. Richard Lindzen. Over 80 MIT alums and guests attended, along with environmental faculty and students from IIT, which hosted our event in its West Loop graduate campus.



Prof. Lindzen is definitely skeptical of global warming as a "crisis." He presented a wide variety of statistics and models to prove his points, but also cited human behavior that has led to errors. For instance, world climate statistics report a sharp jump in recorded temperatures in the first half of the 1990's. He asked the question, "What happened in the world that might have caused this?" No one in the audience came up with his answer: "the demise of the Soviet Union." Our puzzled audience then learned that a large number of the world's temperature reporting stations are in Siberia, put there during the Communist regime as the heart of a system that centrally allocated fuel supplies based on recorded temperatures. Siberian recorders were

strongly motivated by their own comfort needs to make it seem colder than it was. When that system ended, recorded temperatures at these many stations quickly rose.

Prof. Lindzen feels that human motivations and agendas are key to the current designation of global warming as a "crisis." "The issue of agendas is hardly trivial. Consider, for example, the consequences of a sudden discovery that global warming is a negligible problem:

- Science – especially in its official representation – would be disgraced.
- Climate science would be treated with suspicion for years to come.
- The artificial field of climate impacts (which constitutes the bulk of what are called climate scientists) would largely disappear.
- The environmental movement would be discredited and its fund raising ability would collapse.
- Tens of thousands of bureaucrats and media drum-beaters would be without function.
- Clever industrial plans to game the proposed systems would come to naught.
- The UN would be without what it now claims to be its major cause ("The danger posed by war to all of humanity and to our planet is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming" – Ban Ki-moon.)
- Many alternate energy startups would fail.
- Numerous speculators would be ruined.
- Trial lawyers working to make carbon the next tobacco would have to look elsewhere.
- Even more numerous individuals who have adopted this issue as a matter of personal faith and vindication of their virtue and intelligence would be disillusioned and depressed.
- There would also be little interest in a presentation like this."

Our Club looks forward to further exploring this key issue of our time.

Upcoming Events

What: MIT Club of Chicago Board Meeting - ALL are welcome to attend!!!

When: December 5, 2007 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Where: 180 N LaSalle St, Suite 2700

Event Contact: Peter Burke (PeterBurke@marketinganalytics.com)



What: Annual Holiday Party

When: December 27, 2007 , 6:30 PM -9:00 PM

Where: Bella Bacinos, 75 East Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL

Event Contact: Steve Swibel (swibel@alum.mit.edu)



Volunteer Opportunity

Jones College Prep High School, Chicago's premier college prep public high school, is looking for volunteer mentors to work with 9th-12th grade students in a new and innovative academic and social support program.

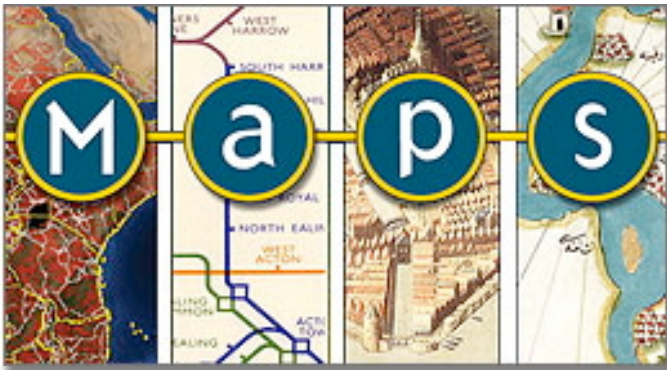
Your role can be critical in helping them be successful in high school, grow as individuals, and prepare for college and their futures!

Opportunities are available immediately. If you are interested in volunteering at least one hour a week or would like more information, please contact Andy Brake at the Jones Counseling Department at abrake@jonescollegeprep.org. Please indicate your preferred topic for mentoring - Science, Math, English, etc. (including non-academic topics of interest). Mentors can meet with students during Homework Club from 3:00-4:30, or during our lunch periods (approximately every 45 minutes during the day from 11am to 2pm).

Jones is conveniently located in downtown Chicago, at Harrison and State Streets. To learn more about Jones, visit www.jonescollegeprep.org.

Maps: Finding Our Place in the World by Peter Haag

Cartography aficionados from MIT and Princeton University were treated to a gala private viewing, dinner and lecture at the Field Museum on November 12th. The exhibit at the Field Museum is ground central for Chicago's city-wide Festival of Maps, which has displays and lectures at over 30 museums throughout the city. After 10 years of planning, the museum managed to borrow maps, globes and other cartographic material from Queen Elizabeth, the Vatican, the Newberry Library and other private and public collections from all over the world. The goal was to try to exhibit history's 100 most significant maps. To a large degree this goal was achieved.



Some 90 MIT alums, together with a similar number from Princeton, attended. The event was so popular that unfortunately a number of would-be attendees had to be turned away due to space limitations. After viewing the exhibit, the group enjoyed a gourmet buffet dinner with open bar. This was followed by a talk by Dr. Diane Dillon, Assistant Curator at the Newberry Library: As is their tradition, Princeton alums ended by singing their school song. MIT did not reciprocate.

Highlights of the exhibit included:

- Original works by Ptolemy, Leonardo da Vinci, JRR Tolkien, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson

- Charles Lindbergh's original navigation chart for his 1927 flight from NY to Paris
- A 6-foot high atlas created for the private use of the Great Elector in 1665
- A map of London printed on a glove
- Mercator's 1569 world map
- An Inuit map of Greenland's coast, carved in wood
- A Portuguese portolan map, one of the first ocean navigation charts

We wish to thank the Princeton Club of Chicago as the primary organizers of the event and plan to hold other joint events in the future.

Although our viewing was a private after-hours affair, the exhibit is open to the public during the museum's regular hours and runs through January 27, 2008.

Rock Climbing by Rubi Rajanshi

Young alumni from MIT, Berkeley and Stanford met at Fitness Formula Club Old Town on Saturday evening, Nov 17th to rock-climb. The two hour event was oversold and more would have attended but the gym only had capacity for 30 people.

There were climbers of all experience levels and all had a great time. The gym personnel were very impressed by the level of enthusiasm exhibited by the participants.



Officers

President: Peter Burke
 Secretary: Chandrasekar Papudesu
 Treasurer: Gerald Berstell
 Webmaster: Peter Haag
 Chair, Career Transition: Laurence Feder

Officers

Chair, MIT 10: Frank Bentley
 VP, Programs: Connie Sadowski Dinning
 VP, Membership: Leiming Bian
 VP, Communications: Mark Dinning
 Past President: Robert Cohen

Directors

Norman Eckstein
 Paul Fricke
 Steven Swibel
 Evita Vulgaris