A special screening of "Ice and the Sky" in Houston on April 7 with French scientist Dr. Jérôme Chappellaz

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An exceptional series of two screenings of the French movie “Ice and the Sky” will be held on April 6-7 in Atlanta, GA and Houston, TX in presence of the scientific director of the movie and world-renowned glaciologist Dr. Jérôme Chappellaz. In Houston, this screening is organized in partnership with Rice University and will be held on April 7th.

- When: April 7, 6:30pm-9:30pm
- Where: James A. Baker III Hall, Suite 120 - Rice University - 6100 Main Street Houston, TX 77005
- Register here for this free event

Ice and the Sky is a 2015 French documentary film about global warming, from Oscar-winning French director Luc Jacquet (March of the Penguins) and selected as the closing piece of the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. Set in Antarctica, this movie delves into the incredible story of Dr. Claude Lorius, a pioneering French glaciologist who began studying Antarctic ice in the 1950s, and in 1965, was among the first scientists to become concerned about the impact of human activity on our climate. Accompanied by breathtaking landscape photography and a fascinating array of archival footage from Lorius’ many expeditions, "Ice and the Sky" reflects on Lorius' life’s work - the great successes and the punishing hardships suffered during his decades on the ice.

To be held three weeks before the signature of the Paris Climate Agreement (following the Climate Conférence – COP21 in Paris last December) in New York on April 22nd, this event will resonate strongly with the current call-to-action to mitigate humankind’s devastating impact on the Earth’s climate.

Dr. Claude Lorius is a Director Emeritus of Research at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and a member of the prestigious Academy of Sciences in France. He has published more than a hundred scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals including Nature, and his work has been recognized through numerous international awards. In 2002, he received France’s CNRS Gold Medal for his work on ice cores, highlighting the close link between the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and climate change. He has spent more than 6 years of his life at extreme latitudes through 22 scientific polar expeditions, mostly in Antarctica.
Program:
- 6:30 pm: Reception
- 7:00 pm: Introduction of the movie.
- 7:15 pm: Screening of the movie *in French with English subtitles.*
- 8:45 pm: Discussion with Dr. Jérôme Chappellaz, glaciologist at the French Center for National Research (CNRS) in Grenoble, France and scientific director of the movie, Dr. Neal F. Lane, Rice University, Senior Fellow in Science and Technology Policy Malcolm Gillis University Professor at Rice University and Dr. John B. Anderson, Rice University, Earth Science Dept. Maurice Ewing Professor of Oceanography Academic Director for the Shell Center for Sustainability. The event is chaired by Dr. André Droxler, professor of earth science at Rice University and Rice Faculty Scholar at the Baker Institute.

About the speakers:

Dr. Jérôme Chappellaz is a French glaciologist at the Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environnement in Grenoble, France (CNRS – Université Joseph Fourier). His research focuses on glaciology and climate science.

Analyzing the composition of ice cores drilled in polar ice caps and mountain glaciers, he and his team have been able to reconstruct the evolution of atmospheric greenhouse gases levels dating back to 800,000 years ago and establish a correlation between those gases levels and the Earth’s climate. Dr. Chappellaz has also taken part in scientific expeditions at extreme latitudes, including five campaigns to Antarctica.

Currently, he leads an ambitious European project to access very old ice cores and analyze them precisely to better understand a major shift in the period of climate cycles that took place about one million years ago. His work has been recognized through national and international awards, including the Niels Bohr medal of honor, the bronze and silver medal of French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), and the Nicholas Shackleton award. He has been a Knight in the French national order of merit since 2010. Additionally, he chaired the international expert committee overseeing the scientific content of both the movie Ice and the Sky and of the associated educational project.

Dr. Neal F. Lane, Ph.D., is the senior fellow in science and technology policy at the Baker Institute. He is also the Malcolm Gillis University Professor at Rice University and professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Previously, Lane served in the federal government as assistant to the president for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) from August 1998 to January 2001, and he served as director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and member (ex officio) of the National Science Board from October 1993 to August 1998. Before his post with NSF, Lane was provost and professor of physics at Rice, a position he had held since 1986.

He first came to the university in 1966, when he joined the Department of Physics as an assistant professor. In 1972, he became professor of physics and space physics and astronomy. He left Rice from mid-1984 to 1986 to serve as chancellor of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Additionally, from 1979 to 1980, while on leave from Rice, he worked at the NSF as director of the Division of Physics.

Lane has received the National Academy of Sciences Public Welfare Medal, the American Institute of Physics K.T. Compton Medal, the Association of Rice Alumni Gold Medal and the Distinguished Friend of Science Award from the Southeastern Universities Research Association. In 2013, the National Science Board presented Lane with the Vannevar Bush Award, which recognizes exceptional, lifelong leaders who have made substantial contributions to the nation through public service activities in science, technology and policy. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and other honorary and professional associations. Lane received his Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. in physics from the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. John B. Anderson received his B.S degree in 1968 from the University of South Alabama, his M.S. degree in 1970 from the University of New Mexico, and his Ph.D. in 1972 from Florida State University. He began his professional career at Hope College in 1972, where he was an assistant professor. In 1975, John joined the faculty at Rice University, where he is currently the Maurice Ewing Professor of Oceanography. He
served as chairman of the department from 1992 through 1998. John has conducted research on various aspects of Antarctic marine geology since his first visit there as a student in 1970. He has participated in 24 scientific expeditions to Antarctica. The culmination of this research was published in "Antarctic Marine Geology" by Cambridge University Press. Anderson's other research has focused on the evolution of the northern Gulf of Mexico Basin (see Late Quaternary Stratigraphic Evolution of the Northern Gulf of Mexico Margin, Society of Sedimentary Geology Special Publication No. 79), and the response of coastal systems to global change. His most recent book is entitled "The Formation and Future of the Upper Texas Coast" and he recently co-edited a Geological Society of America Special Paper entitled "Response of Upper Gulf Coast Estuaries to Holocene Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise". John received the 1992 GCAGS Outstanding Educator Award, the 1996 Rice University Graduate Teaching Award, 2004 Rice University Presidential Mentoring Award, and was the 2007 recipient of the Society of Sedimentary Research Shepard Medal. He has served as associate editor for Geology, the American Geophysical Union Antarctic Research Series, American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, Sedimentology, and Marine Geology. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and past president of the Society for Sedimentary Research. John has served on the AAS-Polar Research Board, on the 1997 NSF Oversight Panel for Polar Programs, and is currently chairman of the Antarctic Research Vessel Oversight Committee. He is also the Academic Director for the Shell Center for Sustainability.

This event is brought to you through the partnership between the Office for Science and Technology of the French Consulate in Houston and Rice University.

For any enquiry regarding this event, contact Robin Faideau, Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology at the French Consulate in Houston at deputy-phys@ambascience-usa.org