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Live from the Greenland Ice Sheet: Academic Orientation 2007

Environment and Global Warming Are Focus of Chapman University's Freshman Academic Orientation, Thursday, Aug. 23 at 11 a.m.

Event Features Live Q&A Between Students and a Noted Scientist Direct from the Greenland Ice Shelf

ORANGE, Calif., Aug. 15, 2007 -- An opportunity for students to engage in a live Q&A session with a leading environmental scientist broadcast by satellite hookup from Greenland's ice sheet will be the highlight of this year's freshman Academic Orientation at Chapman University, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 23 at 11 a.m. in the Memorial Hall auditorium.

All incoming Chapman freshmen were assigned over the summer to read *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change*, a book by former *New York Times* writer Elizabeth Kolbert (based on her acclaimed *New Yorker* articles) that documents the warming world and environmental disasters that are currently occurring. Academic Orientation will open with Dr. Christine Hughey, assistant professor of chemistry at Chapman, presenting an overview on climate change, and will then spotlight a live conversation with Dr. Konrad Steffen, the legendary climatologist from the University of Colorado who has spent his summers in the high Arctic for the past 27 years. Dr. Steffen will be broadcast via a live satellite connection from Greenland, where he is monitoring the Greenland Ice Sheet with state-of-the-art instrumentation that lets the world know, hour by hour, how much ice is melting. The live feed will allow students to ask him questions directly.

After a lunch break during which students will dine with Chapman faculty members and talk about the choices and ethical dilemmas posed by global warming, an afternoon session in Memorial Hall will focus on Chapman students who have tackled sustainability projects, from student films presented by their directors to students who'll speak live and on tape about their environmental work in the U.S. and abroad.