Appalachian Studies Conference 2017

“EXTREME Appalachia”

DR. JAMES HANSEN
PROGRAM ON CLIMATE SCIENCE, AWARENESS & SOLUTIONS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 10, 2017
4:00-5:15 p.m.
Squires Colonial Hall
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA

This lecture is free with limited public seating. Plan to arrive early!

ABOUT

Dr. James Hansen

Dr. James Hansen, formerly Director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's Earth Institute, where he directs the Program on Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions. He was trained in physics and astronomy in the space science program of Dr. James Van Allen at the University of Iowa. His early research on the clouds of Venus helped identify their composition as sulfuric acid. Since the late 1970s, he has focused his research on Earth’s climate, especially human-made climate change. Dr. Hansen is best known for his testimony on climate change to congressional committees in the 1980s that helped raise broad awareness of the global warming issue. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1995 and was designated by Time Magazine in 2006 as one of the 100 most influential people on Earth. He has received numerous awards including the Carl-Gustaf Rossby and Roger Revelle Research Medals, the Sophie Prize and the Blue Planet Prize. Dr. Hansen is recognized for speaking truth to power, for identifying ineffectual policies as greenwash, and for outlining actions that the public must take to protect the future of young people and other life on our planet.

KEYNOTE

A Peaceful Revolution: Global Justice for Young People Requires a New Approach

Young people have the power to influence elections, and thus, in principle, the world they will live in – as evidenced in the rise of Obama in 2008 and Sanders in 2016. However, the issues that young people should care about, which make their generation the first in memory to face diminishing prospects, have not been addressed. Climate change, which has not been addressed in a sensible way by either political party, is just one of those issues. However, analysis of what is needed to solve the climate and energy problem, and the reasons that neither party has sensibly addressed this problem, reveals what is fundamentally wrong with our democracy, how the political parties have begun to serve themselves rather than the public. Sending a wrecking crew to Washington to "drain the swamp" addresses only the symptoms of the problems. I believe that my experiences in Washington and in more than a dozen countries can provide young people information that helps them chart a more successful course.

The Appalachian Studies Conference Keynote Address is co-sponsored by:
Appalachian Studies Association, Appalachian Studies Program, Applied Interdisciplinary Research in Air Lab, Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology, College of Natural Resources & Environment, College of Science, Department of Political Science, Fralin Life Science Institute, Global Change Center at Virginia Tech, Pathways Grant from the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Sigma Xi, Virginia Water Resources Research Center.