

Philly:Chilly. Earth:Still warming up.

Physical Sciences Division dean David Oxtoby gave a Harper Lecture to the Philadelphia alumni club on global warming.

Mitchel Sosis, SM'72, PhD'74

This is my first-ever alumni event. Hopefully it'll be the first of many. I came out because the topic is of interest to me, and the speaker is a chemist. The parking price wasn't bad either.



Maybe I'll try to get to the one in Princeton that's coming up.*

* English professor David Bevington "Shakespeare Faces Retirement" —JA

Victoria Farmer, AB'83, Philadelphia club president

I developed our happy hour into "Chicago Chats," which is happy hour with a twist. We invite local alumni to speak to the club. I've been doing that three years, and this is a small club. It just became my turn to be club president for a year.



The alumni club gives you a place to show up when you move to a new city. You start to meet people, you know you will be welcome. You know there will always be conversation. Sometimes too much, but...

Oxtoby's style was clear and friendly, imparting information without panic. I, for one, appreciated that.

If we have a cold winter, you hear a lot of people saying, essentially, "Well, so much for the greenhouse effect."



Temperatures do oscillate. They oscillate on an 11-year cycle having to do with El Niño; they oscillate based on solar forcing. But the greenhouse effect is *linear*.

Science proves theory by repeating experiments in carefully controlled situations. But we have only one earth. We *are* doing an experiment on it, but we can't repeat the experiment to test the results on some other planet. There is no "control" planet.



I've given lectures to alumni a number of times. I enjoy it. Sometimes I run into my old students. And I've been at Chicago long enough that some of them really ARE old.



Of course, the College students get younger every year.