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CONTACT: Alex Dery Snider, Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs

aderysnider@bennington.edu, 802-440-4399

Will Climate Change Melt Vermont's Winter Economy?

On [Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 PM](#), Earth Scientist **Dr. Elizabeth Burakowski** will present her latest research on climate change's projected impact on Vermont's economy. This event will take place in the CAPA Symposium at Bennington College.

As part of the [Spring 2018 Science Workshop Series](#), on [Friday, March 30 at 1:00 PM](#), Burakowski will be speaking on "The Climate Impacts of Mid-1800s Deforestation and Subsequent Reforestation." This event will take place in Dickinson 232 on the College's campus. Both events are free and open to the public.

Burakowski, a research assistant professor at the University of New Hampshire, studies the contributions of forest dynamics on climate systems in the Northeast United States. Creatively bringing together climate models, remote environmental sensors, and citizen science, Burakowski is advancing a new understanding of the relation between climate and society in New England.

In her latest research project, Burakowski is collaborating with economists to better understand how decreases in snowpack will affect the multi-billion-dollar winter sports industry.

"Given the importance of winter sports to Vermont's economy, this presentation should be of great interest to people in the Bennington area," Geology Faculty member **Tim Schroeder** said.

The United States ski industry has become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including decreased snowpacks, warmer temperatures, and more winter precipitation falling as rain instead of snow. Climate model projections suggest that winter climate trends will continue to follow a pattern of warmer, less snowy winters, challenging winter resorts to adapt their operational strategies.

In her talk, Burakowski will present case studies from six popular winter destinations across the United States and report their adaptation strategies to recent warm winters. Resorts are diversifying in-season and off-season programming, partnering with neighboring resorts, improving snow management techniques, and educating clients on climate science.

Burakowski will also discuss how we might place economic value on albedo as a climate-regulating ecosystem service.

Thurs. March 29 | 7:00 - 8:30 PM

[The Economic Contributions of Winter Sports in a Changing Climate](#)

CAPA Symposium

Join Elizabeth Burakowski, Ph.D. (University of New Hampshire) for this discussion.

Fri. March 30 | 1 - 2 PM

[The Climate Impacts of Mid-1800s Deforestation and Subsequent Reforestation](#)

Dickinson 232

Part of the [Science Workshop](#) series

Elizabeth Burakowski, Ph.D. will evaluate the effects of the mid-1800s deforestation and subsequent reforestation on surface albedo (reflectivity), evaporative cooling, and canopy roughness-induced turbulence.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Located in picturesque Southwestern Vermont, Bennington College holds a distinguished place among American colleges and universities. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education. It is the only college to require that its students spend a term—every year—at work in the world.

Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at bennington.edu.