

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Professor acts constructively to highlight scientific issue

By Kaye Maloney
Staff Reporter

Global climate change is a fascinating problem to one Purdue professor because it involves more than one area of science.

Kevin Gurney, associate director of Purdue's Climate Change Research Center and professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, is one of 2,500 international scientists to share the Nobel Peace Prize with former vice president Al Gore.

Gurney is a member of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change, which is an organization that Gore is giving half of the \$1.5 million prize money to.

The organization is one that searches for information relevant to understanding climate

change, Gurney said. He became a member in the mid-1990s.

But Gurney's interest in resolving the climate crisis does not stop with being involved in the organization.

He is attempting to develop a global digital system that will quantify data about greenhouse gas emissions. With this data, it will be possible to identify the amount of emissions and where they are coming from.

The system, named Heftia, is still in its developing stages. Gurney is in Washington D.C. this week talking to policy makers, senators and industry representatives.

"We need everyone involved," he said.

The Cyber and Energy Centers in Discovery Park are also involved with Heftia, and

the participation will not stop there.

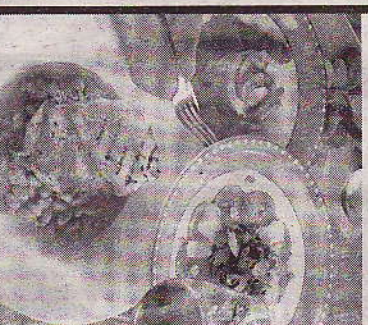
"(I) hope to involve people throughout the whole world," Gurney said.

He said most scientists think scientific facts are at the key to solving the climate change problem, and Heftia is one way to do so.

"We are at a very exciting moment," Gurney said. "We are building an important project; (it's) constructive action on climate change to do something about it."

Leigh Raymond, an associate professor of political science, said as a political scientist he is enthusiastic about Heftia.

"(It) can be very exciting to know where emissions are coming from," he said. "(It can) help policy makers to make better policies."



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