

## Press Release

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### **MARINE SCIENCE LECTURE SERIES LOOKS AT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND POLITICS**

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y., September 18, 2009 – The School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) and Stony Brook Southampton will present an interesting environmental talk as part of its popular Public Lecture Series. These events regularly attract up to 120 audience members.

“The Politics and Policy of Climate Change” with Prof. Sultan Hameed of Stony Brook University will take place on Friday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m. in Duke Lecture Hall. A reception will follow. For further information, call 631-632-5046.

Life first evolved in oceans devoid of free oxygen. Anoxia was the norm for microbes, the only life forms for the first 3.5 billion years of Earth’s history. Then, photosynthetic single-celled bacteria, the cyanobacteria, changed all that about 2.5 billion years ago and algae later helped raise oxygen to current levels over the next 1.7 billion years. Only then did complex multicellular life forms arise. The ocean has fluctuated in and out of anoxic states throughout geological history. Today, anoxic and oxygen-stressed marine environments appear to be expanding as a consequence of global climate change. As part of a long-term observation program (CARIACO), we have been exploring the unique biological and chemical features of the permanently anoxic Cariaco Basin off the Caribbean coast of Venezuela. While the Basin is inhospitable to almost all animals, our results reveal an astonishing diversity of microbes, making a living in very innovative ways. During my lecture, I’ll explore how this system may be a window into our ocean’s dark anoxic past as well as one into its not-too-distant future.

The event is free and open to the public.

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**For Further Information, Contact Darren Johnson at 631-632-5088 or 631-316-1873**