March 28 Dr. William Chameides, Chief Scientist, Environmental Defense, - "Why an Academic Left the Hallowed Halls to Advocate Action on Climate Change" - It seems that scientists overwhelmingly agree: We should act now to avert dangerous climate change. Yet the debate rages on the public arena. What we actually know about climate change and the need and prospect for mitigating action are presented from the perspective of a former academic.

April 4 Janie Schwab, Dudley Observatory – "Stars and Dust: The Dudley Observatory of Albany" The Dudley Observatory has been supporting Astronomy in the Capital Region for over 150 illustrious years. Changing needs of the scientific and local communities over time have resulted in periodic reassessments of its purpose and place. The new Dudley Observatory will focus on public education in astronomy, recognizing it as a readily accessible, imagination-provoking stepping stone into the world of science.

April 11 No Lecture – Spring Break

April 18 Dr. Stephen Schwartz, Senior Scientist, Brookhaven National Laboratories – "The Greenhouse Effect and Your Family's Contribution to it" - The "greenhouse effect" is an essential feature of Earth's climate as we know it. But is there too much of a good thing? Human activities are increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and changing our climate. We are all contributing to this phenomenon, some of us more than others.

April 25 Dr. Larry J. Schaaf, Rock House, Baltimore MD – "Beauty of Another Order: When Science First Met Photography" Announced to the public in 1839, photography immediately underscored the contradiction between the eye of man and the truth of nature. Within its first decade, the new “art/science” emerged as a tool for scientists and scientific illustrators. Photography changed what we see, and how we see it, fundamentally altering the relationship between natural history and time.

May 2 Professor Peter Brimblecombe, University of East Anglia, - "Future Environmental Threats to the Past" The environment affects humans, animals and plants. It also affects our material heritage, yet we hope that this heritage will survive long-term changes in climate, pollution and development. Heritage cannot adapt to change, but our management strategies can. This lecture will explore the heritage environment and assess the threats (both physical and aesthetic) from future change.

May 9 Professor Kerry Emanuel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, – "Hurricanes and Climate" There are about 90 tropical cyclones worldwide each year, but little is known about what controls this number or the intensity that these storms achieve. In this talk, I will discuss new evidence that tropical cyclone activity is sensitive to the climate state and also argue that tropical cyclones have an important feedback on the climate system.