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Science Distilled: Environmental History Written into the Ice

World-renowned scientists explore evidence of industrialization, plagues, and wars hidden in polar and glacial ice

RENO, Nev. (Sept. 6, 2018) – Hear from world-renowned scientists in the DRI Ultra-Trace Ice Core Chemistry Laboratory at “Science Distilled: Environmental history written into the ice” Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Patagonia Outlet, 130 S. Center St. in downtown Reno. Attendees will learn about how lead in the ice, for example, tells stories of industrialization, plague and wars, as well as the impact that humans have had on the environment in recent historical record.

Ice cores are one of the many ways of looking back in time to garner clues from unwritten history. These long, cylindrical samples – containing layers of hundreds to thousands of years of snow and ice – record details on past climate and atmospheric conditions, including pollution. Lead traces in the ice tell particularly interesting stories because its isotopes can be traced back to the unique mines from which it was extracted. This means that lead in Antarctic or Greenland ice can be linked back to the specific times and locations in history, such as Greek and Roman eras, or World War II.

Special guest speakers are Monica Arienzo, PhD, who uses chemical tools to understand how climate has changed in the past and how humans have impacted the environment, and Joe McConnell, PhD, an environmental and climate researcher who has made more than 30 trips to the polar regions to collect ice cores and conduct environmental studies. His research has documented substantial impacts on the remote polar environment from human activities during recent centuries.

The Science Distilled lecture series, created by the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum (The Discovery), makes cutting-edge science approachable through presentations on current and curious topics held at hip locations in a social atmosphere. Started in 2016, Science Distilled has grown to five events this year, covering topics ranging from the air we breathe to personal energy independence.

Tickets for Science Distilled are \$10 for museum members and \$15 for nonmembers. Science Distilled is presented with support from Reno News & Review, IMBIB Custom Brews and Patagonia. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit sciencedistilled.org.

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About The Discovery

The Discovery creates interest and engagement in science for all. Through unique, hands-on programs and exhibits, The Discovery creates learning experiences that range from simple curiosity to deep understanding, empowering a community of critical thinkers. The Discovery is a locally founded nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. To learn more about The Discovery and how you can help support the museum’s mission, visit www.nvdvm.org.

About DRI

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is a recognized world leader in investigating the effects of natural and human-induced environmental change and advancing technologies aimed at assessing a changing planet. For more than 50 years DRI research faculty, students, and staff have applied scientific understanding to support the effective management of natural resources while meeting Nevada’s needs for economic diversification and science-based educational opportunities. With campuses in Reno and Las Vegas, DRI serves as the non-profit environmental research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education. For more information, please visit www.dri.edu.