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Contacts: Althea Brooks
(434) 243-2379
althea@virginia.edu
Tasha Cherry
(434) 982-2708
tasha@virginia.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Internationally Recognized Expert to Give Free Public Lecture on
Hurricanes and Climate change**

How has hurricane intensity changed in response to dramatic climate changes in the last fifty years?

In 2005 the Atlantic hurricane season was the busiest on record—a trend most likely to continue. The season included 28 named storms, including 15 hurricanes in which seven were major Category 3 or higher. José D. Fuentes, Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences, will discuss some historic hurricanes and how hurricanes impact the eastern coast of the United States in his talk “Hurricanes and Climate Change” at the Roanoke Higher Education Center on Friday, November 3, 2006 at 6:00 pm. The lecture is free and open to the public. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Please register online at www.virginia.edu/engagingthemind/ or call toll-free 1-866-UVaOutreach (1-866-882-6887).

José Fuentes is a tenured associate professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, where he has worked for 11 years. His research attracts considerable federal funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior. He has generated numerous publications, manuscripts, journals, book chapters, conference/symposium proceedings and technical reports. Professor Fuentes is often invited to present lectures and seminars at prestigious national and international universities and laboratories, including NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, Risø National Laboratory in Denmark, and Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais in Brazil. Due to his successful undergraduate teaching, he has received several awards at U.Va., including the Cavaliers’ Distinguished Professorship. Fuentes is a founding member of the steering committee for the U.Va. Excellence and Diversity program, which helps attract and retain minority faculty. Fuentes is an internationally recognized expert in the field of atmospheric science.

About the *Engaging the Mind* lecture series

Coordinated by the UVa Office of the Vice President and Provost in partnership with the Faculty Senate Speakers Bureau and sponsored by Virginia National Bank, the series provides opportunities for people throughout Virginia to engage with UVa's top scholars and teachers in a free public forum. Faculty speakers engage in public conversations with local communities across the state. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Since 2001, over 5,000 people have attended the Engaging the Mind lectures in 12 different cities across Virginia. "Our faculty members really enjoy the opportunity to interact with people of diverse backgrounds and experiences," said UVa Vice President and Provost Gene Block. The University of Virginia serves over one million people every year through more than 400 public service and outreach programs. UVa is proud to be part of Virginia's rich tradition of higher education and aims toward making a vibrant future for all Virginians. From world-class health care and stronger local governments to excellent schools and lifelong learning, UVa values its contribution to communities throughout the Commonwealth. The Office of Public Service and Outreach works to support, promote, and enhance the University of Virginia's commitment to public life.

Audience member testimonials:

- "This lecture was outstanding! I appreciated the language being accessible (as I am not an expert)."
- "I've so enjoyed these events. Learning so much in an evening. Some that influence the way I see things."
- "Quality speaker. Excellent presentation. Overall quality event."

For additional information on the UVa Engaging the Mind lecture series:

- <http://www.virginia.edu/engagingthemind/>

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