

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Value of Science in a Troubled World**

*Oliver Benediktson Lecture Series*

*Grand Forks, ND* – Science is an integral part of the culture of all developed countries and many developing ones. It is one of our most creative activities. Two trends are worrisome: science has come under assault in the United States; and a partial cause for the assault could be a low level of science literacy. In a democracy, where citizens have the responsibility to decide major issues, and in a culture where nearly every issue has a scientific component, these trends need to be reversed.

Dr. George Seielstad, Director of Northern Great Plains Center for People and the Environment at the University of North Dakota, will discuss what science is and how it is conducted on **Wednesday, October 11 at 4:00 pm in Clifford Hall Auditorium, room 210, on the UND campus. The presentation will be webcast live at [www.umac.org](http://www.umac.org).** Refreshments will be served prior to the presentation at 3:30 pm.

Dr. Seielstad will also present how science's core values have universal applicability that every modern society should accept. In particular, the process by which science advances, if used in other arenas of society, might offer an alternative means of dispute resolution than forced coercion. Some changes in the ways of science will be suggested. A major question is what will science do? Will it alleviate global humanitarian concerns, or will it deliver more and more, better and better, to fewer and fewer wealthy people?

The presentation is part of the Benediktson Lecture Series, named for Oliver Benediktson, a UND alumnus who generously endowed a Chair of Astrophysics. Dr. Seielstad is the first recipient of the Benediktson Chair. In appreciation, he is presenting public lectures on the wonders of science.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Karen Katrinak at 701.777.2482, or [katrinak@aero.und.edu](mailto:katrinak@aero.und.edu).

***About the Northern Great Plains Center for People and the Environment and UMAC***

*The Northern Great Plains Center for People and the Environment was established at the University of North Dakota in April 2001. It is the core component of the Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium (UMAC), which includes participants from academia, industry, and government in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. The vision of the Center is to build and nurture learning communities, creating an integrated view of all Earth's systems, in order to serve humankind's needs and desires for a sustainable and prosperous future. For more information about UMAC visit <http://www.umac.org>.*



**Upper Midwest Aerospace Consortium**

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