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June 14, 2014 / GreenPolicy360

Remember the discovery of CFCs w resulting 'ozone holes' & depletion of atmospheric protection from UV rays... Do u know who Sherwood Rowland is? He's a hero whose science work benefitted all. UC Irvine 'Anteaters' at work -- Zot Zot Zot

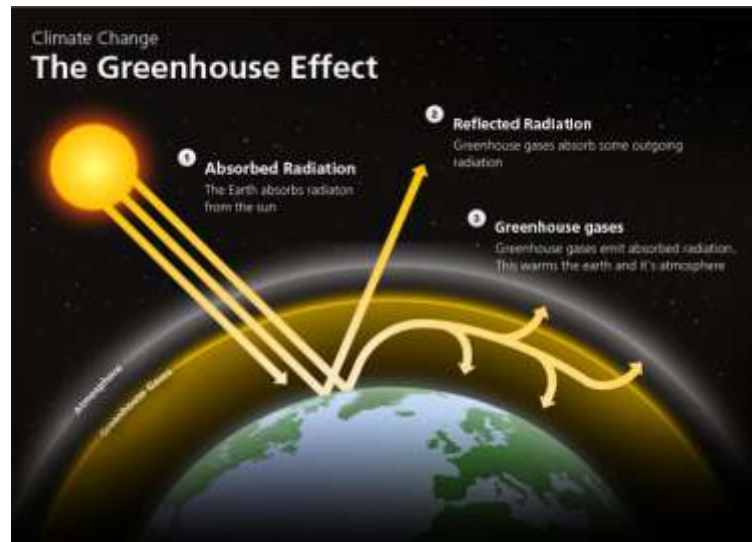


[LA Times](#)

<http://touch.latimes.com/#section/1780/article/p2p-80508732/>



[Barack Obama challenges UC Irvine grads to join climate-change fight](#)



President Obama on Saturday challenged the 2014 graduates of UC Irvine to build on the legacy of their Orange County campus, which was among the first to show that man-made chemicals were harming the atmosphere.

Speaking to more than 30,000 in attendance at the commencement ceremony held at Angels Stadium in Anaheim, Obama urged the graduates to combat global warming and not be swayed by "a stubborn status quo, people determined to stymie your efforts to bring about change."

President Obama says denying climate change is like arguing the moon is made of cheese, as he issued a call to action on global warming to Saturday's graduates of the University of California, Irvine.

"When President Kennedy set us on a course for the moon, there were a number of people who made a serious case that it would be too expensive, that it would take too long," he said. "But nobody ignored the science. I don't remember anyone saying the moon wasn't there, or that it was made of cheese."

In a broadside to congressional climate-change deniers, he said, "There are some who duck the question by saying, 'Hey, I'm not a scientist.' Let me translate that for you: what that means is, 'I accept that manmade climate change is real, but if I admit it, I'll be run out of town by a radical fringe that thinks climate science is a liberal plot.'"

His remarks were frequently met with boisterous applause and whistles, and several standing ovations.

Far from being a job-killer, tackling global warming will spur innovation and economic opportunities, much like the space race launched in the Kennedy era, the president said.

"We need scientists to design new fuels," he said. "We need farmers to help grow them. We need engineers to invent new technologies. We need entrepreneurs to sell those technologies. We need workers to operate assembly lines that hum with high tech, zero-carbon components. We need builders to hammer into place the clean-energy age."

"We can do this," he exhorted the assembled students, but also speaking to the legions of other graduates streaming from U.S. universities this month to start their careers. "We can make a difference. You can make a difference. And the sooner you do, the better."

Sociology major Jacqueline Rodriguez, 24, of Hacienda Heights, welcomed the president's words.

"I'm up for challenge," said Rodriguez, who is going on to a PhD program in education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Many people my age find it easy to ignore critical issues, and focus instead on self interests. I say, 'Be passionate about your work and mindful of the repercussions of your actions.' "

Obama's appearance kicked off UCI's 50th anniversary celebrations and was a measure of how far the relatively young campus has come since it was dedicated in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson in a field surrounded by undeveloped Irvine Co. ranchland.

Today, UCI is Orange County's second-largest employer and has produced three Nobel laureates, *including F. Sherwood Rowland, a professor of atmospheric chemistry, for his discovery that aerosol propellants could destroy the Earth's ozone layer.

"When the President mentioned UC Irvine's Nobel prize and Sherry's groundbreaking work, we were thrilled," said Donald R. Blake, a professor of chemistry and atmospheric sciences and longtime collaborator of Rowland's.

"I was proud to be an Anteater today," he added, referring to the school's mascot.

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President Obama, in an address speech to UC Irvine graduates Saturday, took aim at congressional Republicans and others who dispute climate change, saying they posed a threat to the future.

The president told those gathered at Angel Stadium in Anaheim for the university's 50th anniversary commencement ceremony that there was a pattern to those who said climate change was not tied to humans.

"They say when they're asked about climate change, 'Hey, look, I'm not a scientist.' " Obama said to applause. "I'll translate that for you. What that really means is: 'I know that man-made climate change really is happening, but if I admit it I'll be run out of town by a radical fringe that thinks climate science is a liberal plot, so I'm not going to admit it.' "

The president said he actually preferred those who say climate change is a hoax.

"Their view may be wrong," he said, "and a fairly serious threat to everyone's future, but at least they have the brass to say what they actually think."

He noted that even those who objected to President Kennedy's goals for the space race never denied the moon existed or claimed it was made of cheese.

Obama, who used the appearance to announce the creation of a \$1-billion competitive fund for states affected by severe weather, complimented his audience.

"Since this is a very educated group, you already know the science," he said. "Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide traps heat. Levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere are higher than they have been in 800,000 years."

"The question is whether we have the will to act before it's too late, or we fail to protect the world we leave not just to my children, but to your children," he said.

Touting his new \$1-billion initiative, Obama said the effort "should not be a partisan issue."

"After all, it was Republicans who used to lead the way on new ideas on how to improve our environment," he said, citing the passage of the Clean Air Act under Richard Nixon and the push to develop national parks by Theodore Roosevelt.

Obama called on college students to get involved in the fight for environmental reform and focused largely on his administration's successes in an address that clocked in at around 29 minutes.

"I'm here to tell you that you are right to be optimistic. Consider this, since the time most of you graduated from high school, fewer Americans are at war, more have health insurance, more are graduating from college."

Standing before graduates and proud parents, Obama opened his remarks to a roar of approval at UC Irvine's 50th anniversary ceremony.

"Hello, Anteaters!" the president, sporting a purple graduate's robe, said to cheers. "That is something I never thought I'd say."

Obama said the campus had "the inside track" in earning his visit because one of his assistants is a UC Irvine graduate. He had fun with the crowd early on, pumping up the college's baseball team and congratulating students on the recruiting blitz that drew him to the ceremony.

"I'm here for a simple reason," he said. "You asked."

Obama's appearance was the product of a yearlong recruitment drive by campus officials and students who sent the president postcards and video invitations.

The campus spent \$2 million on the anniversary and commencement ceremony, and Obama's appearance marked the third time a White House resident has visited a UC ceremony. Lyndon B. Johnson attended the campus' 1964 dedication, and First Lady Michelle Obama spoke at UC Merced's 2009 graduation.

The president closed his remarks by repeating his excitement to see what becomes of a generation he called the country's most optimistic and educated.

"I cannot wait to see what you do tomorrow," he said.

As the president stepped down, the throng of students in the crowd directed him to hold his hands up in classic Anteatater form and led him in the school's "Zot! Zot! Zot!" chant.

<http://www.latimes.com/.../la-me-ln-obama-live-20140614...>

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — [President Obama](#), appearing emboldened after his recent [move to cut carbon emissions](#) from coal-fired power plants, on Saturday ridiculed members of Congress who deny [climate change](#) or plead scientific ignorance as an alibi for avoiding an uncomfortable truth.

Speaking in gleefully sarcastic terms to a commencement ceremony at the University of California, Irvine, Mr. Obama likened those who deny climate change to people who would have told John F. Kennedy, at the dawn of the space program, that the moon "was made of cheese."

He saved his most scathing words for lawmakers who say they are not qualified to judge the issue because they are not scientists. These people, the president said, recognize the truth but will not utter it for fear of being "run out of town by a radical fringe that thinks climate science is a liberal plot."

"I'm not a scientist either," Mr. Obama told this young audience, "but we've got some good ones at NASA. I do know the overwhelming majority of scientists who work on climate change, including some who once disputed the data, have put the debate to rest."

The president also said he had hit upon a novel way to speed up and improve the nation's response to hurricanes, floods, droughts, tornadoes, wildfires, mudslides and other natural disasters: Make states and cities compete for grants from a \$1 billion fund.

Mr. Obama announced the competition, saying it would award funds to state and local authorities with the most innovative plans for rebuilding in a way that protects against future disasters. The money would come from existing federal recovery funds, with \$180 million of the total reserved for states devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

"We also have to realize, as hundreds of scientists declared last month, that climate change is no longer a distant threat, but 'has moved firmly into the present,' " the president said. "In some parts of the country, weather-related disasters like droughts, fires, storms and floods are going to get harsher, and they're going to get costlier."

Mr. Obama's remarks came during a four-day visit to the West Coast that has been shadowed by the crisis in Iraq. The White House said the president spoke by phone with his national security adviser, Susan E. Rice, on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Ms. Rice and other aides were meeting in Washington to develop military options for Mr. Obama.

Determined not to let the crisis paralyze his trip, Mr. Obama kept the focus firmly on climate change Saturday. This month he announced regulations that would cut carbon-dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Mr. Obama can push through this measure without legislation, though lawmakers might try to block it. So in speeches to friendly crowds like this one, he has reveled in portraying his Republican opponents as a sort of flat-Earth society.

"Today's Congress," he declared, "is full of folks who stubbornly and automatically reject the scientific evidence. They will tell you climate change is a hoax or a fad. One member of Congress actually says the world might be cooling."

Lest his message veer too much into partisan sniping, Mr. Obama added, "I want to tell you this to light a fire under you. As the generation getting shortchanged by inaction on this issue, I want to tell you that you cannot accept that this is the way it has to be."

The ceremony was held under bright sunshine before a crowd of about 30,000 at Angel Stadium, and came 50 years after President Lyndon B. Johnson spoke at the dedication of this campus.

[ANAHEIM, Calif.: Obama lambastes climate change deniers as 'radical fringe' in California speech...](#)

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/06/14/4178569/obama-lambastes-climate-change.html>

Graduates should be optimistic...

"We are Americans. That's what we do. Even when our political system is consumed by small things, we are a people called to do big things. Progress on climate change is a big thing..."



June 14, 2014 C-SPAN -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG50-T71jSc&app=desktop>