



News Release

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Century College to Host Climate Change Author Elizabeth Kolbert March 10

Century College will host journalist Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change*, on Tuesday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the West Campus Theatre. She also will give a shorter presentation at 10 a.m. that same day in the West Campus cafeteria conference room. Both events are free and open to the public.

Kolbert, a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine, traveled from Alaska to Greenland to get to the heart of the debate over global warming. Her book, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, grew out of an award-winning three part series she wrote for The New Yorker.

Kolbert's book was named the Century College 2008-2009 Common Book selection because it makes the topic of climate change vivid, readable and accessible. For example, she opens her book by writing about the little island town of Shishmaref off the coast of Alaska. In 2002, villagers voted to move the village to the mainland because the island's coast is eroding due to retreating sea ice.

“We do know what is causing this and we do know where it’s heading,” Kolbert said in an interview. “If we just sit twiddling our thumbs and saying, ‘Who knows?’ we are consigning our children and our children’s children to a truly disastrous situation.”

Kolbert said it is a fact that if you put more carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, you get a warmer world. “The only debatable issue is how warm it will get,” she said.

Kolbert maintains that the situation is not hopeless. “With just a little effort, we can do a tremendous amount to curb global warming,” she said. “With a little more effort, we can achieve an extraordinary amount.”

For more information, please contact [Sue Klecker](#) at 651-773-1792.