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Student Myth Busters Debunk Climate Myths in Published Research Paper.

Anthony Buonasera of Patchogue, Robert Necci of Bohemia and Michael Santalucia of Bethpage are three climatological myth busters whose student research papers are being featured on the Skeptical Science website (<http://www.skepticalscience.com/Three-perfect-grade-debunkings-climate-misinformation.html>) where the trio debunk climate myths.

The three are students of Professor Scott Mandia and conducted the research and wrote the papers as a part of his Global Climate Change class last semester.

Anthony Buonasera refutes the myth that scientists were predicting a coming ice age in the 1970s by explaining that the origin of the myth comes from two stories in the popular press (TIME and Newsweek) and not from peer-reviewed scientific journals. From 1965 to 1979, there were a total of seven peer reviewed studies that predicted global cooling while 42 studies predicted global warming.

Mike Santalucia describes how the planet is being warmed due to greenhouse gas emissions, leading to increased ocean temperatures and higher sea levels. These two factors are leading to more powerful and damaging hurricanes. The author challenges the myth of ‘no trend in hurricanes’ by citing research finding “increasing cyclone numbers has led to a distinct trend in the number of major hurricanes and one that is clearly associated with greenhouse warming.” Even if the number or intensity of hurricanes were not changing, rising sea levels due to global warming will make every hurricane more damaging via increased storm surges.

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Robert Necci's *Countering the 'It's the Sun' Argument* began his paper by providing an explicit warning mentioning the myth, useful in avoiding the Familiarity Backfire Effect:

This argument is deliberately misleading; intended to shift public opinion by instilling doubt over the validity of climate science in the United States. The objective of this action is to create controversy and debate, allowing for any regulations on greenhouse gas emissions to be delayed for as long as possible.

Necci explains concepts such as radiative imbalance, total solar irradiance (TSI) and the greenhouse effect. He reveals that TSI has decreased in the past few decades while global air temperatures have been increasing. The increased greenhouse effect is the only physical explanation for the modern day warming.

Professor Mandia said the three papers will also be featured in an upcoming peer-reviewed paper in *Journal of Geoscience Education*.

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