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## **Energy Production and Global Change Expert Joins Georgia Tech as GRA Eminent Scholar in Global Climate Studies**

*Van Cappellen Brings Global Carbon Cycle Research Together with Power Generation*

**ATLANTA, November 12, 2008** – Philippe Van Cappellen, Ph. D., an internationally renowned environmental geochemist, has joined the Georgia Institute of Technology as a Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) Eminent Scholar.

Dr. Van Cappellen is the Georgia Power GRA Eminent Scholar in Global Climate Studies in Georgia Tech's School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. In this position, he is investigating the connection between human activity, including power generation, and global environmental change. In particular, Van Cappellen is studying how the key nutrient elements nitrogen, phosphorus, silicon and iron, affect the global carbon cycle on the continents, in coastal areas and in the oceans.

"Energy is and will continue to be a central research topic in our nation and the world," said GRA president and CEO C. Michael Cassidy. "Dr. Van Cappellen will greatly contribute to an already outstanding team of energy and climate investigators at Georgia Tech and help make our state a leader in these matters."

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Van Cappellen at Georgia Tech," said Dr. Paul Houston, Dean, College of Sciences. "He was an assistant professor and an associate professor at Tech between 1991 and 1999, so we welcome him back to Atlanta. I am confident that he will be highly successful as the Georgia Power GRA Eminent Scholar in Global Climate Studies."

Prior to his appointment, Van Cappellen served as the chair of geochemistry at Utrecht University in The Netherlands for nine years. While there, he earned numerous accolades, including the Pioneer Award from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research and the André Dumont Medal from the Belgian Geological Society. He was also the founding director of Utrecht University's Center for Soil, Water and Coastal Resources. Additionally, Van Cappellen served as associate editor for the *American Journal of Science* from 1999 to 2003, as co-editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Hydrology* from 1996 to 2004 and is currently associate editor of *Geomicrobiology Journal*.

"I am excited to return to Georgia Tech as the Georgia Power GRA Eminent Scholar in Global Climate Studies," said Van Cappellen. "A better understanding of what affects the global climate is essential for effective environmental stewardship and energy policy."

Van Cappellen received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Geology and Mineralogy from the Free University of Brussels in Belgium, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Geochemistry from Yale University.

### *About GRA*

A model public-private partnership between Georgia research universities, business and state government, the Georgia Research Alliance helps build Georgia's technology-rich economy in three major ways: through attracting Eminent Scholars to Georgia's research universities; through

helping create centers of research excellence and through converting research into products, services and jobs that drive the economy. To learn more about GRA, visit [www.gra.org](http://www.gra.org).

*About Georgia Tech*

The Georgia Institute of Technology is one of the nation's premiere research universities. Ranked seventh among *U.S. News & World Report's* top public universities, Georgia Tech's more than 19,000 students are enrolled in its Colleges of Architecture, Computing, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Management and Sciences. Tech is among the nation's top producers of women and minority engineers. The Institute offers research opportunities to both undergraduate and graduate students and is home to more than 100 interdisciplinary units plus the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

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