

Houston Philosophical Society Dinner and Lecture

Cohen House, Rice University

15 February 2018

6:00pm cocktails - 9:00pm close

At 8:00 pm President Hall called the meeting to order and welcomed all. He reminded all that the Executive Committee will review applications for membership at the March meeting and to please have all nominations submitted before then. Voting will be held at the April meeting.

He also requested suggestions for speakers for next year's programs.

President Hall announced that Member, Past President and Rhodes Scholar Pat Murphy had passed away.

Guests of members were then introduced.

President Hall then introduced Dr. Dan Cohan, who presented the program on "Solving the Climate Challenge. Please see the attached Abstract for the Speaker's biography and program contents.

After questions and answers from the members, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Abstract:

Climate science conclusively shows that the Earth is warming, and that manmade emissions are the dominant cause. The Paris Agreement aims to limit warming to "well below 2°C." What will it take to meet that goal? Globally, achieving the Paris aims will require reining in emissions immediately while leaving most fossil fuels forever unburned. Nationally, a blueprint released in the waning months of the Obama Administration set a path for

achieving deep decarbonization by 2050. Even as President Trump seeks to exit the Paris Agreement, actions by cities and states along with market forces are sustaining fragile progress toward our nation's pledge. This talk will examine those nascent efforts, and the deeper transformations that will be required to stave off the most dire scenarios for climate change.