

Dear Klaus,

I'm sorry I can't be there in person. Martin has kindly agreed to give you this "Grussbotschaft" from sunny California....

Klaus, you have been (and remain) a remarkable mentor. You had a huge influence on my scientific career. When I started work at MPI in the fall of 1987, I was rather unhappy and despondent. After six months at MPI, I handed in my resignation. You refused to accept it! You asked me to work with you on the identification of human effects on climate. This was a big turning point in my life. Even now, well over a decade later, I still remember how thrilling it was for me to spend time in your office - generally in the company of both Wolfgang Brueggemann and "Karo Tee". Wolfgang and I would try to wrap our minds around the intricacies of the your optimal detection ideas. We often needed a little "Nachhilfeunterricht", which we obtained during very enjoyable visits to your house in Kayhude. In a trip to the bathroom during one of these Kayhude visits, I discovered that my wedding picture was on the bathroom wall, together with other miscellaneous snapshots of MPI scientists...

After I left MPI, in my IPCC days, you always had a sympathetic ear and sound advice. When things got really nasty following the publication of the IPCC Second Assessment Report (in the summer of 1996), you told me something I never forgot: "The best defense (against all of the critics) is doing good science". You were right. This was the best piece of career advice I ever received.

So even though I won't be physically present, I'll think a lot about you on August 28th. You've touched the lives of many people in significant ways. Mine was one of those lives. You've had a "discernible influence" on this world - through your scientific contributions, through the students you've taught and inspired, and through your "Menschlichkeit". I wish you and Susanne all the best, and hope that work on the "final inch" of metron theory is going well.

With very best wishes,

Ben Santer

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