



Florida Climate Institute

A joint venture between the University of Florida and the Florida State University



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Climate Variability and Change

Climate variability and change pose significant **economic, food security, health, and environmental risks** worldwide.



Drought, wildfires, storms with heavy rain, high winds, flooding, and freeze events **cause billions of dollars in losses** to the agricultural and natural resources sectors locally in Florida and globally.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that by the year 2100 **global average temperature is likely to increase** by 2 to 11.5° F, **global mean sea level will rise** from 7 to 23 in, and there will be **increased risks of both flooding and drought**.





Climate Information Challenges



Much of the climate change information communicated to the public is based on IPCC projections that are at the global level and relatively long-term (50 to 100 years).

There is tremendous uncertainty regarding the regional and local impacts of global change.

Climate stakeholders, including policy makers, farmers, and the public, need information at local to regional levels and at shorter time scales.





Mission of the Florida Climate Institute

- Improve understanding of the processes and effects of ***climate variability, climate change, and sea level rise*** on the economy and on natural and human-built systems
- Develop technologies and information for reducing economic and environmental/health risks in managed and natural systems and supporting environmental policies
- Engage society in research, extension and education programs for enhancing adaptive capacity and responses to associated climatic risks





Why an Institute?

- Lack of understanding of how society should respond to climate change information at local to regional scales and at multiple time scales over which decisions, policies are made
- Many questions without answers in Florida on climate change, sea level rise, and associated decisions and policies
- Large number of faculty at FSU and UF conducting relevant research
- Success of the Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC) during the last 10 years





Our Goals

- **Disseminate science-based information** on regional climate variability and change to a diverse audience.
- Use climate change information to **build resiliency and adaptive capacity**.
- **Enhance understanding** of the interrelationships among climate, natural resources, ecosystems, health, and society.
- **Promote and support effective partnerships** between university faculty and stakeholders.





Project Examples

- Using seasonal climate forecasts to reduce risk in regional **public water supply** management.
- Negotiating water management in the **Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) river basin**.
- Reducing the risk of climate change effects and human disturbances on **snowy and piping plovers**.
- Studying the impact of climate on **ciguatera fish poisoning**.
- Advancing student knowledge of global climate change through **teacher education**.





Project Examples

- Decision support system for **reducing agricultural risks** cause by climate variability.
- Science and partnerships for **adaptation and resilience** to climate change and climate variability.
- **Reducing drought risks** in the southeast USA: quantification of drought information value, development of drought indices, and communication of drought information.
- Investigating **offshore wind power** potential in the Northern Gulf.





Governance

- Director – J. W. Jones (UF)
- Co-Director – Eric Chassignet (FSU)
- Steering Committee –10 people (5 at UF and 5 at FSU)
- Advisory Board – appointed by the VPs for Research to ensure comprehensive performance and accountability. Comprised of 5 representatives from public (state and national agencies) and private sectors to a 5 year term
- \$500K as seed money for 2 years across both campuses from VPs of Research and colleges at the universities



FSU Steering Committee Members

- Dr. Vasu Misra – Co-Chair, Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies (COAPS and EOAS)
- Dr. James J. O'Brien, (COAPS)
- Dr. Jeff Chanton, Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science (EOAS)
- Dr. Julie Harrington, Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis (CEFA)
- Dr. Robin Craig, College of Law



UF Steering Committee Members

- Dr. Jane Southworth, Chair, Department of Geography
- Dr. Wendy Graham, Water Institute
- Dr. Ellen E. Martin, Department of Geological Sciences
- Dr. Timothy A. Martin, Department of Forest Resources and Conservation
- Dr. J. Glenn Morris, Emerging Pathogens Institute



Please join us for the

Florida Climate Institute

K I C K O F F

Keynote Speakers • Special Guests • Poster Session • Reception

Date

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

Time

2:00pm – 7:00pm

Location

FSU Alumni Center
1030 W. Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL

Registration Information

Please register by October 1 at
www.coaps.fsu.edu/fcickickoff

Contact

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UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

