



# Florida Climate Institute

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

**UF** | UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**



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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

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## 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](http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/fcickickoff)

### Contact

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