

## Announcing the Florida Climate Institute (FCI)

[www.FloridaClimateInstitute.org](http://www.FloridaClimateInstitute.org)

We are pleased to announce the Florida Climate Institute (FCI), a newly approved joint venture between the University of Florida and the Florida State University. We are fortunate to have a relatively large number of faculty conducting research on climate variability, climate change, and sea level rise topics at our universities, and we have more than 10 years of successful experience working together on climate-related research and extension projects. The establishment of the FCI will increase the visibility of our current collaborations and promote additional cooperation and recognition in new areas of climate research, teaching, and outreach that will help us better understand and respond to climate challenges. The FCI was developed by faculty at both universities in a grassroots effort that has been in process for about two years. It was approved by both universities in late June 2010 and, prior to that time, we had a number of planning meetings with an interim Steering Committee made up of faculty from both universities.

The Directors of FCI are Dr. James W. Jones of UF and Dr. Eric Chassignet of FSU. The Steering Committee members are:

Jane Southworth, Chair  
Department of Geography  
UF

Vasu Misra, Co-Chair  
Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies FSU

Jeff Chanton  
Department of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science FSU

Robin Craig  
College of Law  
FSU

Wendy D. Graham  
UF Water Institute  
UF

Julie Harrington  
Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis FSU

Ellen E. Martin  
Department of Geological Sciences  
UF

July 29, 2010

Timothy A. Martin  
School of Forest Resources and Conservation UF

John Glenn Morris  
Emerging Pathogens Institute  
UF

James J. O'Brien  
Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies FSU

Now that the FCI has been approved, we will seek out effective ways for faculty from all disciplines to participate.

The following link (<http://www.floridaclimateinstitute.org/presentation/fci-facts-2010-07-28-6.pdf>) is to a brochure that summarizes the mission, goals and projects supported by FCI. We encourage you to visit our web site ([www.FloridaClimateInstitute.org](http://www.FloridaClimateInstitute.org)), to become an affiliate member, and to take part in upcoming activities and initiatives. We will first offer a seminar series starting in the fall semester so that we can all become more acquainted with the climate-related initiatives being conducted at both universities. We will also have a kickoff meeting in Tallahassee on November 16th to announce the FCI more broadly to our state officials and stakeholders.

We are looking forward to making the FCI an asset to our faculty, our universities, and the state of Florida. We welcome your ideas and comments.

Please forward this announcement to your faculty.

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Eric Chassignet, FSU, [echassignet@coaps.fsu.edu](mailto:echassignet@coaps.fsu.edu)