



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





James W. Jones, Director (UF)
Eric P. Chassignet, Co-Director (FSU)
PO Box 110570 • Gainesville, FL 32611
FloridaClimateInstitute.org
jimj@ufl.edu
echassignet@coaps.fsu.edu



### Climate Variability and Change

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



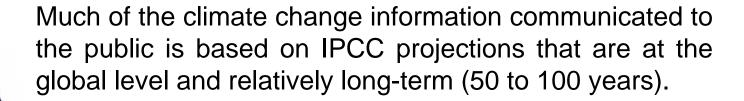
Drought, wildfires, storms with heavy rain, high winds, flooding, and freeze events cause billions of dollars in losses to the agricultural and natural resources sectors locally in Florida and globally.

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**



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.









- 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



#### **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/fcikickoff

#### Contact

fcikickoff@coaps.fsu.edu



