

# **RISK AND RESPONSE: SEA LEVEL RISE SUMMIT**

**THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA AND THE COAST**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**



**JUNE 20 - 22, 2012    MARRIOTT HOTEL, BOCA RATON, FLORIDA**

**FAU**  
FLORIDA ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY



# WELCOME!

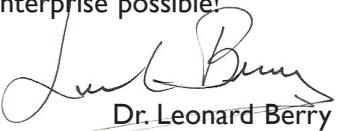
It is well-documented that sea level has risen 7-8" over the past 50 years and the virtual consensus of scientists is that this rise will continue and most likely accelerate. The exact timing and amount of future sea level rise is not clear, but it is very clear that Florida, especially South Florida, is among the world's most vulnerable regions to this phenomena. We are flat, porous, and densely and expensively populated, especially near the coast. Low-lying internal areas are not to be spared as ground water levels rise and flooding becomes an ongoing phenomena. This is often the location of low income and minority communities, who are often most vulnerable.

Sea Level Rise is a "now" problem not a future one. Now is the time to identify areas of special vulnerability, plan for mitigation and adaptation, and integrate the concept of future sea level rise into every aspect of building and planning for our future. The goal of this meeting is not to forecast gloom and doom. As I testified to the United States Senate Committee last month, the sky is not falling, but the water is rising.

How we strive to understand the issues, plan for mitigation of and adaptation to these threats is the theme of this summit. New problems need new or updated solutions and improved organizational structures. This is not news to South Florida, where counties, municipalities, and academic institutions are creating new partnerships and new alliances to begin to tackle these problems.

Welcome to this new challenge and exciting work. From the poster session on Wednesday afternoon to the seven informational and discussion sessions, and on to Michael Mann's summing up, we hope to create a portfolio of lessons learned and a stimulus for further insight and action in new policies and initiatives.

Welcome on behalf of our steering committee, our speakers, and all the staff who made this enterprise possible!



Dr. Leonard Berry

Director, Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU

## STEERING COMMITTEE:

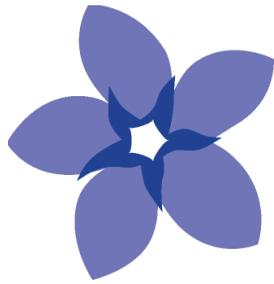
- Anthony Abbate, Associate Provost, CEO for the Broward Campuses, Professor, School of Architecture, Florida Atlantic University
- Steve Adams, Senior Advisor - Adaptation, Institute for Sustainable Communities
- Len Berry, Director, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Director, FAU Climate Change Initiative, Florida Atlantic University
- Ronnie Best, Coordinator, Greater Everglades Priority Ecosystems Science, U. S. Geological Survey
- Fred Bloetscher, Associate Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering, Florida Atlantic University
- Camille Coley, Assistant Vice President Research, Florida Atlantic University
- Carolyn Cox, University of Florida and The Florida Climate Institute
- Karl Havens, Director and Professor, Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida
- Nicole Hernandez-Hammer, Program Manager, Climate Change Initiative, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University
- Nichole Hefty, Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resources Management
- Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director, Association of Climate Change Officers
- Margaret Leinen, Executive Director, HBOI, Florida Atlantic University
- Mantha Mehallis, Management-International Business Entrepreneurship, Florida Atlantic University
- Jim Murley, Program Director, Southeast Florida Regional Partnership
- Jayantha Obeysekera, South Florida Water Management District
- Rafe Pomerance, Climate Change Strategies Consultant
- Dan Rizza, Cobalt
- Thomas Ruppert, Coastal Planning Specialist, Florida Sea Grant College Program
- Jeffrey Ryan, Professor and Chair, Geology Department, University of South Florida
- Ben Strauss, Climate Central



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THANK YOU SPONSORS!



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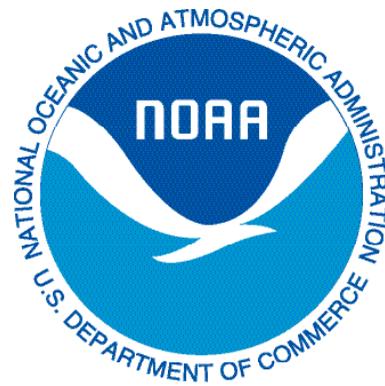
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**Florida  
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# POSTERS

## **The Problem**

- Climate Variability, Sea Level Rise and Water Management in South Florida - Jenifer Barnes
- Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project and Central Everglades Planning Project as a Counter-Measure to Sea Level Rise - Mary Crider, Kyle Dollman, Danielle Koushel, James O'Connell, Max Wallace
- Effects of Sea Level Rise on Southeast Florida's Water Resources - Barry N. Heimlich
- Sea Level Rise Impacts and Studies at Everglades & Dry Tortugas National Parks - Leonard Pearlstine
- Sea Level Rise and Forest Retreat along Florida's Gulf Coast - Francis E. "Jack" Putz

## **Impacts on the Built Environment**

- Climate Change Adaptation through Building Design Criteria – Ricardo A. Alvarez
- Climate Change and Buildings – Adaptation Or Consequences – Ricardo A. Alvarez
- An Update on USACE Guidance for Ecosystem Restoration Projects Subject to Impact by Future Sea Level Change - Glenn Landers, Mark Shafer, Dan Vogler, Kris Esterson
- The Impact of Sea-Level Rise on Housing Characteristics in Franklin County, FL - Ariana Marshall
- Holding Back the Sea: Approaches toward Shoreline Management and Planning to Reduce the Impact of Coastal Hazards - Diana Mitsova, A-M Esnard, R Shankar, F Wisinger, M Vicedo
- Development of a Methodology for the Assessment and Mitigation of Sea Level Rise Impacts on Florida's Transportation Modes and Infrastructure – Frederick Bloetscher, Leonard Berry, Thomas Romah, Nicole Hammer

## **Economic Impacts**

- Assessing Southeast Florida's Demographic Vulnerabilities to Climate Change-Induced Sea Level Rise - Keren Bolter
- Influence of climate change on insect-plant interactions: Implications for biological control in Florida - Veronica Manrique

## **Partnerships: Organizing for Climate Change**

- Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's Unified Sea Level Rise Projection - Nancy J. Gassman
- The Coastal Areas Climate Change Education (CACCE) Partnership: Development and Planning Efforts for Climate Change Education in Florida and the Caribbean - Jeffrey Ryan
- State University System (SUS) Climate Change Task Force: Science Addressing the Needs of Florida Agencies, Industry & Citizenry - Florida Climate Institute

## **Preparing for the Future: Adaptation & Mitigation**

- Geodesy for Evaluating the Impact of Sea Level Rise on NASA Centers and Facilities: Kennedy Space Center, Florida - Lynda Bell, Steven Nerem, Dallas Masters, Charles Meertens
- Incorporating Climate Change Effects into Next-Generation Coastal Inundation Decision Support Systems: An Integrated and Community-Based Approach - Justin R. Davis
- The Construction of Socio-ecological Vulnerability to Climate Change in South Florida - Emily Eisenhauer
- Wetland Mitigation Analysis in Broward County - Nicole Estevez, Brett Waldman
- Human Population Estimation in the United States from DMSP-OLS Night Light Images - Dolores Jane Forbes
- Geochemical Scenarios of Saline Intrusion Impacts on Biscayne Aquifer Water Quality and Adaptive Recharge - Yonas T. Habtemichael, Héctor R. Fuentes
- Assessing Current and Future Saltwater Intrusion in South Miami-Dade County - Nichole Hefty
- Identify and Protect Upland Habitat - Jaclyn Lopez
- Investigating Coastal Geomorphic Behavior near Critical Infrastructure along NASA Kennedy Space Center Coast, Cape Canaveral, Florida - Richard A. MacKenzie
- GIS Modeling Coastal Climate Change Policies - Charles "Tony" Nettleman, III
- A Geochemical Modeling Application to Assess Impacts of Saline Intrusion on the Fate of Mercury in FL Aquifers – Nantatorn Noosai, Héctor R. Fuentes
- Sea Level Rise and Coastal Ecosystem Services: Improving Understanding of Policy, Perceptions, and Values - Laila Racevskis
- Assessing Salinity in Whitewater Bay using Remote Sensing - Donna Selch
- A GIS Methodology to Assess Exposure of Coastal Infrastructure to Storm Surge & Sea-Level Rise: A Case Study of Sarasota County, Florida - Christopher Allen Tate
- "...no small plans." A Vision for Southeast Florida Coast 2100 - Daniel Williams

## **Education: Explaining the Problem, Sharing the Message**

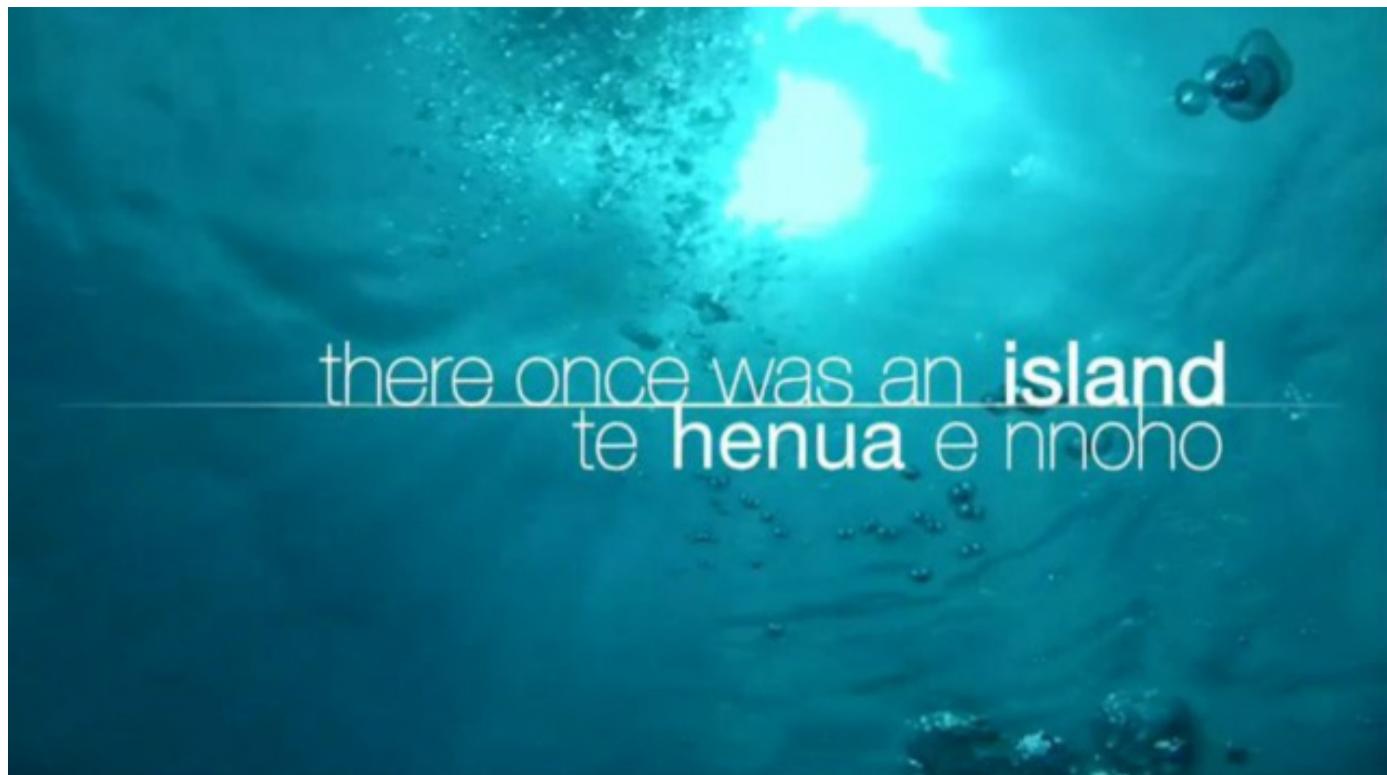
- Southeast Florida Sea Level Awareness Project Poles - Leah Booher
- Creating a Learning Community for Solutions to Climate Change (CAMEL) - Ginny Brown
- Climate Science Investigations (CSI): South Florida Using NASA Data to Improve Young Adults' Climate and Science Literacy – Julie Lambert
- CLEAN: A Collection of Vetted Educational Resources to Support Teaching About Climate Science – Tamara Ledley
- The CLEO Project - Amplifying Community Conversations on Climate Change - Caroline Lewis
- Sea Level Science, a Powerful Tool for Teaching Climate Change – Juan Millan-Ototo
- Creating High-School Teaching Materials that Interweave Sea-Level Rise Research with Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards - Leah Reidenbach
- Climate, Sea Level and Caves: An Authentic Climate Change Research Experience for Middle and High School Students at the Camuy Cave in Puerto Rico - Vanessa Vernaza-Hernández

**More Poster Information Available Online**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20 – PRE-SUMMIT KICKOFF EVENTS

3 – 5 p. m.	<b>Networking Media and Poster Reception</b> Interact with local and national professionals and researchers, VIP's, and journalists during this session. Visit 40 posters and displays that highlight collaborative efforts, research and new and innovative projects surrounding sea level rise, its impacts on urban and natural areas, and methods for education and outreach. This session will include appetizers and drinks (beer and wine available for purchase).
7 and 7:30 p. m.	<b>Special Screening of Briar March's film <i>There Once Was an Island</i></b> Join us for a special screening at the Living Room Theater on the FAU Boca Campus starting at 7:00 and 7:30 p. m. Bus transportation will be provided to and from the Boca Raton Marriott. This event is free and open to the public.

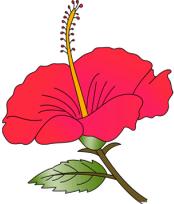
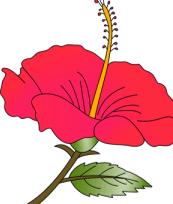


# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

9 a. m.	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gary W. Perry, Dean, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Florida Atlantic University</li><li>• Len Berry, Director, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Director, FAU Climate Change Initiative, Florida Atlantic University</li><li>• Ambassador Richard Benedick, Emeritus, President of the National Council for Science and the Environment</li></ul>
9:15 a. m.	<b>Keynote Speaker - Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation in Florida</b> Margaret Davidson, Director, NOAA Coastal Services Center
9:45 a. m.	<b>Session One</b> <b>Sea Level Rise and Florida: A Complex and Unique Relationship</b> <i>This session will look at the issues that make Florida vulnerable as well as review the current and future sea level rise science.</i> <b>Moderator:</b> Ambassador Richard Benedick, Emeritus, President of the National Council for Science and the Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jayantha Obeysekera, Hydrologic &amp; Environmental Systems Modeling, South Florida Water Management District</li><li>• Ben Strauss, COO &amp; Director, Program on Sea Level Rise, Climate Central</li><li>• Gary Mitchum, Ph.D., Physical Oceanography, University of South Florida</li><li>• Abby Sallenger, Oceanographer, US Geological Survey</li></ul>
10:45 a. m.	<b>BREAK</b>
11 a. m.	<b>Session Two</b> <b>Managing Risk: Organizing for an Uncertain Future</b> <i>This session will highlight Florida's mitigation and adaptation measures in preparing and planning for the future. How do organizations appropriately manage risk when the scope and timing of the hazard remain as unclear as with sea level rise? This session presents views on how organizations from the federal, state, and local levels seek to address the risks posed despite the lack of certainty with which we can predict the amount and timing of future sea level rise.</i> <b>Moderator:</b> Camille Coley, Assistant Vice President Research, Florida Atlantic University <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Julie Dennis, Division of Community Development, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity</li><li>• Rachel Sears, Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security</li><li>• Sheridan (Butch) Truesdale, Senior Mitigation Planner, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management</li><li>• James Beever, Principal Planner, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council</li></ul>

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

12:30 p. m.	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:30 p. m.	<p><b>Session Three</b>  <b>Economic Implications: From Insurance to Tourism</b>  <i>How do sea level rise impacts affect insurance rates, real estate, land use and Florida's coastlines? This session will focus on the issues of insurance, real estate, economic development, and tourism through the lens of risk management. Panelists from government and the private sector will share their insight and experience, and highlight steps being taken to address economic challenges posed by climate change.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mantha Mehallis, Management-International Business Entrepreneurship, Florida Atlantic University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine Ashburn, Director of Legislative &amp; External Affairs, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation</li> <li>• Jeff Williams, Director, Climate Consulting, Entergy</li> <li>• Leslie Chapman Henderson, CEO, Federal Alliance of Safe Homes (FLASH)</li> <li>• Keith McCue, Vice President, Underwriting and Assistant General Counsel, Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd.</li> </ul>
3 p. m.	<b>BREAK</b>
3:15 p. m.	<p><b>Session Four</b>  <b>Impacts on Built Environments: Urban Planning</b>  <i>How is urban infrastructure and housing both existing and new developments adapting to increases in sea level rise?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Anthony Abbate, Associate Provost for the Broward Campuses and Professor, School of Architecture, Florida Atlantic University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ricardo Alvarez, Vulnerability Assessment &amp; Mitigation, mitigat.com</li> <li>• Daniel Williams FAIA, Post Disaster Planning, Seattle WA</li> <li>• Rhonda Haag, Sustainable Program Manager, Monroe County</li> <li>• Margo Moehring, Director of Policy, Northeast Florida Regional Council</li> </ul>
5 – 7 p. m.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Tropical Green Reception</b>  Food, drinks, and music all in a Luau inspired setting!</p> </div>  </div>

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

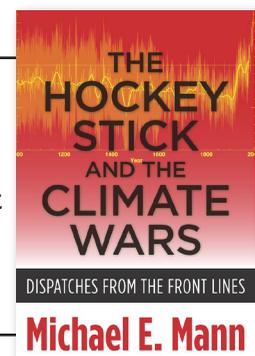
8 a. m.	<b>BREAKFAST</b>
9 a. m.	<p><b>Session Five</b>  <b>Impacts on Built Environments: Water Utilities, Energy, and Transportation</b></p> <p><i>How does sea level rise affect water utilities, water management and transportation? How are agencies adapting for an uncertain future? Organizations have, for the most part, identified Sea Level Rise as an issue and are now focused on adaptation. Often the key barrier to implementation of adaptation measures is a lack of support from stakeholders. There needs to be education at various levels to help move efforts forwards.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Fred Bloetscher, Associate Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering, Florida Atlantic University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Major, Senior Research Scientist, Earth Institute's Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University</li> <li>• Glenn Landers, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District</li> <li>• Ray Butts, Environmental Services Manager, Florida Power &amp; Light</li> <li>• Ted Devens, Project Manager, North Carolina Department of Transportation</li> </ul>
10:30 a. m.	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45 a. m.	<p><b>Session Six</b>  <b>Collaboration: Organizational Structures</b></p> <p><i>How can effective adaptation and mitigation programs develop at the regional and local level? How can we ensure that regional partnerships, university programs and local governments work together in the most effective and meaningful way?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director, Association of Climate Change Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will Travis, Senior Advisor, Bay Area Joint Policy Committee</li> <li>• Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager, City of Ft. Lauderdale</li> <li>• Nancy Gassman, Natural Resources Administrator, Energy &amp; Sustainability Program, Broward County</li> <li>• Jim Murley, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council</li> <li>• Nichole Hefty, Manager of the Office of Sustainability, Miami-Dade Dept. of Regulation and Economic Resources</li> <li>• Len Berry, Director, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Director, FAU Climate Change Initiative, Florida Atlantic University</li> </ul>

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

12:15 p. m.	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:15 p. m.	<p><b>Session Seven</b>  <b>Public Engagement: Communication, Outreach and Education</b>  <i>Find out what universities, K-12 and agencies are doing to educate students and teachers about the risks of sea level rise. How can we effectively communicate the risk of sea level rise and climate science to the general public, under-served communities and decision makers?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> James Jones, Director, University of Florida, Department of Agriculture &amp; Biological Engineering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allan Feldman, University of South Florida, Coastal Areas Climate Change Education (CACCE) projects</li> <li>• Larry Plank, School District of Hillsborough County, Florida</li> <li>• Alana Edwards, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University, NASA Project</li> <li>• Kevin Van Dien, Public Programs Supervisor, The Florida Aquarium</li> <li>• Sebastian Galindo, University of Florida, State University System Education White Paper Summary</li> <li>• Tamara Shapiro Ledley, Senior Scientist, Technical Education Research Centers (TERC)</li> </ul>
2:45 p. m.	<p><b>Michael E. Mann</b>            Author, Professor of Meteorology, Director, Earth System Science Center, Penn State  <b>Facilitated discussions</b></p>
4:30 p. m.	<b>ADJOURN</b>

## POST-SUMMIT LECTURE

7 – 9 p. m.	<p><b>The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars</b>            Renowned climate scientist Michael E. Mann will discuss his new book, <i>The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars</i>. The lecture will take place at Florida Atlantic University's Live Oak Pavilion in the Student Union. His talk is free and open to the public. There will be a book signing immediately following the lecture and books will be available for purchase.</p>
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# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Anthony Abbate, Associate Provost for the Broward Campuses, FAU, [aabbate@fau.edu](mailto:aabbate@fau.edu)**

Anthony Abbate, AIA, NCARB, joined the FAU faculty in 1996. He served as director of the Broward Community Design Collaborative from 2006 to 2011 and was the US Chair of the 3rd International Subtropical Cities Conference. He received a Master of Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture from The Catholic University of America. His research examines historical and contemporary sustainable design and construction practices in the hot-humid climate zones of the tropics and subtropics at two scales: the macro/urban and the micro/detail. In connection with this line of inquiry, and in the context of the built environment of the contemporary city, the deeper unresolved tensions between globalization and regionalism are explored as they relate to sense of place and sustainability. He has published *Subtropical Sustainable*, a monograph of the architectural and urban design work of graduate level students and the Broward County County-wide Community Design Guidebook.



**Ricardo Alvarez, Research Associate, Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU, Vulnerability Assessment & Mitigation, [mitigat.com](http://mitigat.com), [ricardoalfonso@mitigat.com](mailto:ricardoalfonso@mitigat.com)**

Ricardo Alvarez is internationally recognized as an expert, researcher, educator and consultant in the fields of: Vulnerability Assessment, Hazard Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation of the Built Environment, Hurricane-Resistant Design, Risk Management, Mitigation Planning, and The Benefit-Cost Analysis of Mitigation Alternatives. A former Deputy Director of the International Hurricane Research Center, he also serves as a member of the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee and member of the State of Florida Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee. For sixteen years he was a professor of Vulnerability Assessment and Hazard Mitigation for the Master in Construction Management program at FIU. He has also taught for the Crisis Management MBA program at FAU. He has been involved in climate change research, education and outreach since 1997. He is currently focusing on adaptation of the built-environment in coastal regions, with an emphasis on the impact of storm surge and hazards exacerbated by climate change. His academic background is in Environmental Design, Architecture, City Planning and Business Administration.



**Christine Ashburn, Director of Legislative & External Affairs, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, [Christine.ashburn@citizensfla.com](mailto:Christine.ashburn@citizensfla.com)**

Christine Ashburn joined Citizens in October 2005. As Director of Legislative & External Affairs, she oversees Legislative Affairs, the Public Information Office and the Public Outreach and Education Office. She has a diverse legislative background with experience in organizing and coordinating grassroots campaigns as well as drafting legislative proposals and proposed legislation for committee consideration. Her strength in strategic planning and experience in a variety of industries serves her well when navigating Citizens through a myriad of annual legislative changes and external situations. Before joining Citizens, she served as a governmental consultant for several well respected consultants, gaining a wealth of experience in an array of issues. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Florida State University.



**James Beever, Principal Planner, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, [jbeever@swfRPC.org](mailto:jbeever@swfRPC.org)**

James (Jim) William Beever III is expert in Natural Resources and Climate Change in southwest Florida. He is a Planner IV for the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC). His responsibilities include implementing the environmental planning review for the SWFRPC. His current research projects include: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Opportunities for Salt Marsh Types in Southwest Florida; the Development of a Functional Assessment Method to Evaluate the Water Quality Benefits of Designed Freshwater and Brackish Water Ecosystems Used for Water Quality Treatment and Measuring and Forecasting Ecosystem Services from Habitat Condition Analyses of Habitats in Pine Island Sound, Sanibel Island, and Captiva Island; coordinating Regional Wildlife Habitat Planning; review of Developments of Regional Impact, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration implementation; Southwest Florida Watershed Study (SWFWS) - wildlife resource inventory, fish and wildlife technical assistance; and 22 committees and partnerships. He has been employed protecting the natural resources of southwest Florida for 27 years.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Richard Benedick, U.S. Ambassador, Ret., [richard.benedick@pnl.gov](mailto:richard.benedick@pnl.gov)**

Ambassador Benedick played a major role in global environmental affairs as chief U.S. negotiator and a principal architect of the historic Montreal Protocol on protecting the ozone layer; Special Advisor to the United Nations, Senior Advisor at World Wildlife Fund; Deputy Director at the Washington Office of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. He is currently President Emeritus of the National Council for Science and the Environment and Visiting Fellow at Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin. He received the two highest Presidential public service awards and other U.S. and foreign honors, and was elected to the World Academy of Art and Science, the American Academy of Diplomacy, and Who's Who in America. His acclaimed book, *Ozone Diplomacy: New Directions in Safeguarding the Planet*, was cited in a McGraw-Hill anthology of "twentieth century environmental classics." He has an A.B., Columbia College, summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa; Evans Fellow, Oxford University; M.A., Yale University; D.B.A., Harvard Business School; and D.Sc. (honoris causa), North Carolina State University.



**Leonard Berry, Director, Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU, [berry@fau.edu](mailto:berry@fau.edu)**

Dr. Leonard Berry is the Founder and Director of the Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Distinguished Professor of Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and the Director of the Climate Change Initiative at FAU. He has worked on environmental research and development training programs for USAID, UNDP, UNESCO, GEF, UNEP and the World Bank. He has worked on climate change issues in Florida for the last 12 years and globally for over 30 years. He is a core member of the Inter-American Water Resources Network, The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's sea level rise technical working group, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Resilience Group, Public Water Supply Utilities Climate Impacts Working Group, National Council for Science and the Environment, and the WaterWeb Consortium, an international water information group. He is currently co-authoring the Southeastern portion of the National Climate Assessment focusing on the built environment and transportation and Chair of the planning committee for a major sea level rise summit for June 2012. In April, he testified to the United States Senate full committee on Natural Resources and Energy on the impacts of sea level rise in Florida.



**Fred Bloetscher, Associate Professor Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering FAU, [fbloetsc@fau.edu](mailto:fbloetsc@fau.edu)**

Dr. Fred Bloetscher's expertise and experience is centered on public infrastructure systems, especially with respect to adaptation issues associated with changes in water quality, changes in stormwater runoff and availability of ground, surface and wastewater opportunities and conjunctive uses. He has researched climate change impacts on groundwater, surface water, water supplies, wastewater impacts and transportation system disruption, including a more specific evaluation of climate change impacts on Florida water supplies, particularly SE Florida. His research includes evaluation of utility and regional responses and adaptations to climate change, and extended to reviews of other areas of coastal Florida. As a result, he provides a link between the ongoing observations and predictions of climate change that are a major effort in certain research circles, and research into the social and developmental impacts from long-term climatic events. He is able to merge groundwater, surface water and natural systems modeling results into solutions for adaptive infrastructure management that can be modeled to determine potential benefits.



**Rayburn L. Butts, Environmental Services Manager, Florida Power & Light, [ray\\_butts@fpl.com](mailto:ray_butts@fpl.com)**

Ray Butts is responsible for the analysis and communication of emerging environmental issues and regulations that have the potential to impact NextEra Energy Inc. He has more than 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry where he has been responsible for the development of regulations and legislation, power plant siting, permitting, licensing, construction and environmental management projects. In 2010, he was appointed by Governor Crist to the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials. He previously worked for the Southern Electric System at Southern Company Services in Birmingham, Alabama, where he served for eight years as an Engineering Geologist. While at Southern Company, he held registrations as a Professional Geologist in South Carolina and Georgia. He received bachelor's (1980) and master's degrees (1986) in Geology from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Leslie Chapman-Henderson, CEO, Federal Alliance of Safe Homes (FLASH), [leslie@flash.org](mailto:leslie@flash.org)**

Leslie Chapman-Henderson and FLASH have championed the cause of disaster-resilient construction methods through the creation of groundbreaking consumer awareness programs like StormStruck: A Tale of Two Homes® at INNOVENTIONS at Epcot® at the Walt Disney World® Resort, and Blueprint for Safety®, a popular integrated educational program on disaster-resistant construction techniques for homebuilders, homeowners and design professionals. Her civic, community and professional recognition include the 2010 designation by Cable News Network as a member of the CNN New Guard of the South – an elite group of leaders from academic, business, entertainment, government, nonprofit, philanthropy and sports fields. She and FLASH have received myriad awards including: the 2011 National VOAD Partner of the Year Award, 2011 Governor's Hurricane Conference Governor's Award, 2009 Governor's Hurricane Conference Corporate Award for StormStruck®, 2008 National Hurricane Conference Outstanding Achievement in Mitigation Award, 2008 Governor's Hurricane Conference Corporate Award, 2006 Texas Silver Spur Award for Public Education Excellence, 2006 Governor's Hurricane Conference Public Information/Education Award, 2005 National Hurricane Conference Outstanding Achievement in Public Awareness Award, 2005 National Weather Association Walter J. Bennett Public Service Award, 2005 NOAA Environmental Hero Award and many more.



**Camille Coley, Assistant Vice President for Research, Division of Research, Florida Atlantic University, [ccoley@fau.edu](mailto:ccoley@fau.edu)**

Camille Coley oversees all of the University's research federal appropriations and the operation of various research programs. In addition to her role as Assistant Vice President, she is the Associate Director of FAU's Center for Ocean Energy Technology in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. She has been with the Division of Research since 2002, serving in various capacities including Interim Director of Sponsored Programs and Director of Administrative Services. She has engaged in the University community as a member of the strategic planning committee and a co-chair of a University task force on meeting community needs and unique institutional responsibilities. Prior to joining Florida Atlantic University, she served as Project Manager/ Marine Research Associate at the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center. She received her JD from the University of Maryland - School of Law and her bachelor's degree in mass communication from Towson State University.



**Margaret Davidson, Acting Assistant Administrator, NOAA Coastal Services Center, [margaret.davidson@noaa.gov](mailto:margaret.davidson@noaa.gov)**

Margaret Davidson has been active in coastal resource management issues since 1978, focusing her work on environmentally sustainable aquaculture, mitigation of coastal hazards and impacts of climate variability on coastal resources. She earned her juris doctorate in natural resources law from Louisiana State University and a Master's degree in Marine Policy and Resource Economics from the University of Rhode Island. She served as Special Counsel and Assistant Attorney General for the Louisiana Department of Justice as well as Executive Director of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. She joined NOAA as the Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center in 1995. During this time she also served as the acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service from 2000 to 2002. In April 2012, she was appointed acting Director of the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). In this position, she plays a leading role as OCRM and the Coastal Services Center plan to join forces and bring a greater level of products and services to their constituents.



**Julie A. Dennis, Planning Analyst, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Division of Community Development, [julie.dennis@dca.state.fl.us](mailto:julie.dennis@dca.state.fl.us)**

Julie Dennis received her master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University and has worked in the private, local, state and federal government sectors of planning. She currently works as a Planning Analyst with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Division of Community Development focusing on coastal resources and technical assistance through working waterfronts preservation, post-disaster redevelopment planning, hazard mitigation and sea level rise adaptation as it relates to the local and state planning framework. She serves as the Coordinator for the Waterfronts Florida Program, Statewide Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative and the Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise Initiative.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Ted Devens, Project Manager, North Carolina Department of Transportation, [wolfpackred@bellsouth.net](mailto:wolfpackred@bellsouth.net)**

Ted Devens is a Professional Engineer and Senior Transportation Engineer at the NC Department of Transportation. A graduate of West Point, he holds a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He began his Army career as a combat engineer officer in Germany, and then served in Turkey as the NATO engineer responsible for building a major airbase. Afterward he instructed and authored technical manuals at the US Army Engineer School. He served at NC State University as Associate and Interim Director of design and construction services. At NCDOT, he played a key role in creating NCDOT's stream and wetland implementation process, pioneering some of the first large-scale mitigation efforts in North Carolina. He presently manages project teams that perform NEPA planning and environmental studies of highway projects. He is attempting to bolster NCDOT and agency awareness of Climate Change issues, with a specific emphasis on practical adaptation strategies.



**Alana Edwards, Education and Training Coordinator, Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU, [aedwards@fau.edu](mailto:aedwards@fau.edu)**

Alana Edwards has worked for Florida Atlantic University's Center for Environmental Studies (CES) since 1999. As Education and Training Coordinator for CES, she is currently working with Dr. Julie Lambert in the College of Education to develop an online curriculum for high school students called Climate Science Investigations (CSI): South Florida through a grant from NASA. In 2010-11, she worked with a team of curriculum writers to develop a secondary level curriculum, Energy from the Ocean: The New Renewable, with the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center at FAU. Since 2006, she has coordinated with FAU's School of Communication and Multimedia Studies to assist with the Scripps Howard Institute on the Environment, a week-long institute for environmental journalists. She also oversees the Robert J. Huckshorn Arboretum on the Jupiter Campus. She has developed numerous educational resources pertaining to environmental issues and is a two-time graduate from FAU. She is currently working on her doctorate in the Department of Geosciences.



**Allan Feldman, Assistant Professor Science Education Department of Secondary Education, University of South Florida, CACCE Projects, [afeldman@usf.edu](mailto:afeldman@usf.edu)**

For the past 20 years Dr. Feldman's research has focused on science teacher learning and action research. Recently, he has begun to study the ways in which people learn to become science researchers in apprenticeship situations. Although his science background is physics, most of his current work is in the area of environmental education and global sustainability. He has been PI and co-PI of numerous NSF projects, many of which have been in collaboration with colleagues in the sciences and engineering. In addition to his research activities, he teaches and advises preservice teachers and doctoral students. He taught middle and high school science and math for 17 years before obtaining his doctorate at Stanford University. He has numerous publications in the field of science education.



**Sebastian Galindo, Research Assistant Professor Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, University of Florida, [sgalindo@ufl.edu](mailto:sgalindo@ufl.edu)**

Sebastian Galindo is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC) at the University of Florida (UF). He earned his Ph.D. degree in 2009, with a concentration in extension program development and evaluation and had previously received D.V.M. degree from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the Universidad Veracruzana (Veracruz, Mexico). He is collaborator at the Center for Public Issues Education (PIE Center) of UF's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences. He is currently responsible for designing and executing the evaluation components for a variety of multidisciplinary projects in collaboration with a number of scientists inside and outside UF. He coordinates UF's Qualitative Research Community (QuaRC) and has collaborated as a consultant on methodology and evaluation for projects conducted by the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center and the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at UF. His experience also includes being the lead instructor for graduate courses on program evaluation, adult education, international extension and statistical thinking.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Nancy J. Gassman, Natural Resources Administrator, Energy & Sustainability Program, Broward County, Florida, [ngassman@broward.org](mailto:ngassman@broward.org)**

Dr. Nancy Gassman received her Ph.D. from the University of Miami working on a variety of issues impacting coastal ecosystems. She started her 16 years in public service guiding the early development of Broward's Integrated Water Resources Plan. She was promoted to Director of Environmental Monitoring where she played a critical role in the design and construction of Broward's LEED-certified environmental chemistry laboratory. Since her appointment to Natural Resources Administrator in January 2009, her main focus has been supporting the development and implementation of Broward's Climate Change Action Plan and managing Broward's Energy and Sustainability Program. She has been a major contributor to developing technical tools for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.



**Rhonda Haag, Sustainability Program Manager, Monroe County, Florida, [haag-rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:haag-rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov)**

Rhonda Haag joined Monroe County a year ago. She is currently implementing energy-saving projects for the County and developing a sustainability plan for the Keys. She is also administering and completing a \$3.2 million energy grant through the State's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) under the federally-funded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Her career includes roles with the Department of Environmental Protection as an environmental manager / public relations person and with the South Florida Water Management District, where she provided contract management and outreach services for Everglades Restoration, and was also a service center director for both the Florida Keys and the West Coast of Florida. She holds a B.B.A. in Finance and an M.B.A. in Business Management.



**Nichole Hefty, Climate Change Program Manager, Miami-Dade Dept. of Environmental Resources Management, [heftyn@miamidade.gov](mailto:heftyn@miamidade.gov)**

Nichole Hefty earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Miami in 1987. She has worked for Miami-Dade County since 1989, during most of which she managed the County's Pollution Prevention Program and climate change efforts. She served as Coordinator of Miami-Dade County's Climate Change Program from 2005 to December 2011. Her responsibilities included coordinating and facilitating implementation of county (internal) and community-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives and aligning them with regional, state, and federal resources and priorities. She is currently serving on the Steering Committee of the SE Florida Regional Climate Compact, which is a groundbreaking regional collaboration of four SE Florida counties (Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, & Palm Beach) on climate change issues, policies and strategies for the SE Florida region. She was a core team member responsible for developing Miami-Dade County's community-wide Sustainability Plan, "GreenPrint; Our Design for a Sustainable Future," and is now the manager of the County's Office of Sustainability.



**James Jones, Distinguished Professor and Director, Florida Climate Institute, University of Florida, [jimj@ufl.edu](mailto:jimj@ufl.edu)**

Dr. James Jones has built a remarkable career based on using computer simulation to integrate scientific knowledge for use in agricultural decision-making. Computer simulations are mathematical models of real-world situations. The ability of computer models to predict real-world outcomes has made them central to many fields of study. These simulations can then be used to predict what might happen under selected weather, soil, and management conditions. He became interested in developing a suite of applied models that would bring advances in climate prediction to agricultural producers. What came out of this effort was the Southeast Climate Consortium, which has grown to include research and extension workers from eight universities in five southeastern states. Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC) defines its mission in terms of providing "scientifically sound information and decision support tools for agricultural ecosystems, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, and coastal ecosystems of the Southeastern USA." These words demonstrate his vision of creating a framework that allows information tools to be brought together and used to serve the needs of a large community of related users. The tools are delivered through AgroClimate ([www.Agroclimate.org](http://www.Agroclimate.org)), a Web site where extension agents and agricultural producers can access and use the expanding collection of climate-based applications. He was co-developer of the Florida Climate Institute, a joint initiative of the University of Florida and Florida State University.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director, Association of Climate Change Officers,**  
[dkreeger@accoonline.org](mailto:dkreeger@accoonline.org)

Daniel Kreeger is co-founder and executive director of the Association of Climate Change Officers. He has vast experience establishing partnerships and collaborating with federal agencies, environmental non-profits, academic institutions and multinational corporations, and has a unique familiarity of key sustainability leaders at and efforts by most Fortune 500 companies, top 100 government contractors and government entities. He also serves on the Sustained Assessment Workgroup of the National Climate Assessment and the steering committees for the 2012 GreenGov Symposium and EPA's Climate Leadership Awards. Since 2009, he has published numerous papers and spoken at dozens of industry events on operational and workforce issues related to climate change, environmental sustainability and national security. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University with 15 years of cross-functional experience in change management, business strategies, public relations, public affairs, research and consulting within business-to-business, government and consumer-centric sectors with a particular focus on the economic and operational implications of environmental and healthcare issues.



**Glenn B. Landers, P.E., Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,**  
[glenn.b.landiers@usace.army.mil](mailto:glenn.b.landiers@usace.army.mil)

Glenn Landers is a Professional Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville, FL. He has 30+ years of combined planning, engineering and project management experience with the USACE involving large scale water resources and civil works projects. He is the Jacksonville District technical lead for sea level change and other climate related studies for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), is a technical advisor to the Southeast Florida Climate Compact counties and is active in developing climate adaptation guidance and strategies at local, state and national levels. This includes two USACE national teams - an interagency team developing planning and engineering guidance to supplement the existing Engineering Circular on Sea Level Change, plus an internal team identifying USACE projects subject to sea level change and study needs to quantify potential impacts. He has also served on a Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) team which looked at potential climate change impacts on the National Flood Insurance and National Crop Insurance Programs.



**Tamara Shapiro Ledley, Senior Scientist, Technical Education Research Center,**  
[tamara.ledley@terc.edu](mailto:tamara.ledley@terc.edu)

Dr. Tamara Ledley received her Ph.D. from the Department of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography at MIT in 1983. She conducted research program in Earth system science and climate change with an emphasis on the polar regions at Rice University for 15 years, authoring more than 30 scientific papers. More recently she has been involved in a range of Earth system science education activities that include developing museum exhibits, curriculum, and directing teacher training programs in Earth system science and climate science, developing scientific research programs for the participation of students and bringing scientific data into educational venues. She is chair of the Climate Literacy Network (<http://cleanet.org/cln>), Principle Investigator of CLEAN (<http://cleanet.org>), a collection of vetted educational resources on climate and energy science and the Earth Exploration Toolbook (<http://serc.carleton.edu/eet>) which won Science Magazine's Science Prize for Online Resource in Education ([http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-09/aaft-jg092311.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-09/aaft-jg092311.php)).



**David Major, Senior Research Scientist, Center for Climate Systems at Columbia University,**  
[dcm29@columbia.edu](mailto:dcm29@columbia.edu)

Dr. David C. Major is Senior Research Scientist at the Columbia University Earth Institute's Center for Climate Systems Research. He completed his undergraduate work at Wesleyan University and the London School of Economics and received the Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard. He has been a faculty member at MIT and at Clark University, a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge, a senior planner with the New York City Water Supply System and Program Director for Global Environmental Change at the Social Science Research Council. His principal scientific research focus at Columbia is the adaptation of transportation, water and other infrastructure critical to climate change. He is the author, co-author and co-editor of fourteen books on natural resources and infrastructure planning, adaptation to climate change, literature and biography.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Michael E. Mann, Director, Earth System Science Center, Pennsylvania State University, [mann@psu.edu](mailto:mann@psu.edu)**

Dr. Michael Mann is a member of the Penn State University faculty, holding joint positions in the Departments of Meteorology and Geosciences and the Earth and Environmental Systems Institute (EESI). He is also director of the Penn State Earth System Science Center (ESSC). He received a Ph.D. in Geology & Geophysics from Yale University. His research involves the use of theoretical models and observational data to better understand Earth's climate system. He was a Lead Author on the Observed Climate Variability and Change chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Scientific Assessment Report in 2001. He has received a number of honors and awards including NOAA's outstanding publication award in 2002 and selection by *Scientific America* as one of the fifty leading visionaries in science and technology in 2002. He shared the Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC authors in 2007. In 2012, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and was awarded the Hans Oeschger Medal of the European Geosciences Union. He is author of more than 150 peer-reviewed and edited publications, and has published two books including *Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming* and *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines*.



**Keith McCue, Vice President, Underwriting and Assistant General Counsel at Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd., [kam@renre.com](mailto:kam@renre.com)**

Keith McCue is responsible for legal support to the underwriting units at Renaissance Reinsurance Ltd. in Bermuda. He advises on a wide variety of issues including treating drafting, dispute resolution, legal and regulatory compliance, impact of legal and legislative changes and general corporate matters. Before joining Renaissance Reinsurance, he was a corporate associate at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae in New York. He began his career at the United States Agency for International Development in Moscow, Russia, where he oversaw a number of programs designed to improve the legal environment in Russia. He is admitted to practice in New York and Massachusetts. He received his J.D., cum laude, from Boston College Law School in 1994 and his B.A. in Economics, cum laude, from Saint Joseph's University in 1991. He received an Associate in Reinsurance designation in 2006. He resides in Bermuda with his wife, Maria, and two sons, Colin and Liam.



**Mantha Mehallis, Director of the Environmental MBA and the Crisis and Emergency Management MBA at FAU, [Mehallis@fau.edu](mailto:Mehallis@fau.edu)**

Dr. Mantha Mehallis received her Ph.D. from Michigan State University and began her career as an Information Communication Specialist with the State of Michigan. Subsequently, she established the Offices of Institutional Research and Planning at Broward College, Florida Atlantic University and Nova Southeastern University where she was also Director of Strategic Planning. Institutional research consists of data gathering and analysis for the purpose of executive level decision making. She is currently a professor of International Business, Cross-cultural Management, and Negotiation and Organization Behavior at Florida Atlantic University. She also serves on the graduate faculty in those areas and in Environmental Business Management. Currently, she is the PI on a Homeland Security Grant with Johns Hopkins University to develop a program inventory of existing courses nationwide and an online awareness course on disaster preparedness for national dissemination.



**Gary Mitchum, Professor, Physical Oceanography, University of South Florida, [mitchum@usf.edu](mailto:mitchum@usf.edu)**

Dr. Gary Mitchum is presently a Professor of Physical Oceanography and the Associate Dean in the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. After receiving his Ph.D. from the Department of Oceanography at the Florida State University in 1985, he spent 11 years in the Department of Oceanography at the University of Hawaii, first as a postdoctoral researcher and then as a member of the research faculty and as the Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center. He came to the University of South Florida in 1996. His research interests emphasize short-term climate changes, ranging from interannual variations such as ENSO, to decadal processes, to the long-term sea level rise problem. He has also done work on continental shelf dynamics, mesoscale eddy interactions with mean flows, internal tide generation and propagation, physical controls on fisheries variables, and storminess changes in the southeastern United States. Although he has used many types of data in his research, he is especially interested in analyses of tide gauge and satellite altimetric data, and notably proposed and developed the presently accepted method of estimating temporal drift in altimeters via comparisons with the global tide gauge network.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Margo Moehring, Director of Policy, Northeast Florida Regional Council, [mmoehring@fau.edu](mailto:mmoehring@fau.edu)**

Margo Moehring joined Regional Council staff as Director of Policy in January 2008. In this capacity, she has led Council efforts to establish a 50 year vision for growth and development in the First Coast. Prior to joining the Regional Council and RCI, she was appointed Chief of the Strategic Planning Division of the City of Jacksonville, Planning and Development Department. She was born and raised in the Bronx. Before moving to Florida in 2000, she was Executive Director of Strategic Planning with the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Division of Real Estate Services. She graduated from Jacksonville University and has a Master of Philosophy Degree in Town Planning from University College, London. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Royal Town Planning Institute.



**Jim Murley, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Planning Council, [jmurley@sfrpc](mailto:jmurley@sfrpc)**

Jim Murley has spent more than three decades working on public policy issues important to Florida. He served as Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs under Governor Lawton Chiles working on comprehensive planning, economic development, energy and emergency management issues. He has served on various state commissions including the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Florida Communities Trust and most recently served three years as the Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. He spent over 10 years with Florida Atlantic University overseeing research on urban and environmental issues. He currently holds the position of Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. In that capacity he is leading an effort to develop a Vision and Blueprint for Economic Prosperity for seven counties in Southeast Florida. Jim is a member of the South Florida Water Management District's Water Resources Advisory Commission and serves on several county level Task Forces focusing on energy and climate issues. He is a graduate of Leadership Florida and a Fellow in the National Academy for Public Administration.



**Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic & Environmental Systems Modeling, South Florida Water Management District, [jobey@sfwmd.gov](mailto:jobey@sfwmd.gov)**

Dr. Jayantha Obeysekera (Obey) is the Chief Modeler at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Dr. Obeysekera holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from University of Sri Lanka, M. Eng. from University of Roorkee, India, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University with specialization in water resources. He has more than 25 years of experience practicing water resources engineering with emphasis on computer modeling and implications of climate variability in planning and operation of complex water resources systems. He has published nearly 40 research articles in refereed journals and over 50 others in the field of water resources. He was a co-principal investigator for a US NSF funded project on the investigation of the tsunami impacts on coastal water resources in Sri Lanka. Currently, he is serving as a member of the National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC). He was recently appointed as an Affiliate Research Professor at Florida Atlantic University. Presently, he is the technical lead for climate change and sea level rise investigations at SFWMD.



**Gary Perry, Dean of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Florida Atlantic University, [perryg@fau.edu](mailto:perryg@fau.edu)**

As dean of the Charles E Schmidt College of Science, Dr. Gary W. Perry serves as the chief executive and administrative officer of the College. He is a neuroscientist by training and over the last decade he has made significant contributions to help establish Southeast Florida as the new Life Science hub in the US, including work on cooperative agreements between FAU and The Scripps Research Institute - Scripps Florida, the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies and the Max Planck Florida Institute. He was a founding member of the South Florida Bioscience Consortium, now incorporated as part of BioFlorida. He is a graduate of the Universities of London (1973) and Manchester (1975 & 1977) in the UK, and previously held research faculty appointments at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY (1981-1984) and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL (1984-1989) before joining FAU in 1989.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Larry R. Plank, Director of STEM Education for Hillsborough County Public Schools, School District of Hillsborough County, Florida, [Larry.Plank@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:Larry.Plank@sdhc.k12.fl.us)**

Larry Plank began his education at Michigan State University, earned a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Florida State University in 1997, and master's (Biological Sciences) and specialist's degrees (Educational Leadership) from the University of South Florida in 2000 and 2006, respectively. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Office of Math & Science at the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Aquarium Board of Directors, and the Education Subcommittee of the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa, FL. He directs over 15 STEM-related projects in Tampa Bay area, several of which are funded by the National Science Foundation, NASA and NOAA, including the Coastal Areas Climate Change education partnership. He has been published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at a multitude of professional conferences sponsored by the National Science Teachers Association, National Science Educational Leadership Association, American Educational Research Association, Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration, Florida Association for Staff Development, Florida Association of Science Supervisor, Florida Association of Science Teachers, and Florida Leadership Academy.



**Abby Sallenger, Oceanographer, US Geological Survey, [asallenger@usgs.gov](mailto:asallenger@usgs.gov)**

Dr. Abby Sallenger received his B.A. in Geology and Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of Virginia and is the former chief scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey's Center for Coastal Geology. He presently leads the USGS Storm Impact research group, investigating how the coast changes during extreme storms, such as hurricanes Isabel, Ivan, Katrina, and Ike. As an undergraduate at U.Va., he was a student athlete, playing four years of intercollegiate football. He and his wife live in Florida. His latest book is: *Island in a Storm: A Rising Sea, a Vanishing Coast, and a Nineteenth-Century Disaster that Warns of a Warmer World*, which has been featured in the *New York Times* and NPR's *Morning Edition*.



**Rachel Sears, Senior Policy Advisor, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, [rachel.sears@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:rachel.sears@fema.dhs.gov)**

Dr. Rachel Sears joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2004 and currently serves as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA). In this role, she provides policy advice and senior level decision support to the FIMA Administrator and the Deputy Administrators. She has previously served as the program manager for the Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) Grant Program and has supported FEMA programs in disasters deployments including assignments in Florida, Mississippi and Iowa. Rachel has also been a key member of the NFIP Reform Working Group, a team tasked with exploring policy reform options for the NFIP. She has a B.S. in Environment Sciences from Shepherd University and a Masters of Public Policy from George Mason University. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at George Mason University. Her research interests include population vulnerability to natural hazards and the valuation of natural hazard mitigation strategies.



**Ben Strauss, C.O.O. & Director of the Program on Sea Level Rise, Climate Central, [bstrauss@climatecentral.org](mailto:bstrauss@climatecentral.org)**

Dr. Ben Strauss has published multiple scientific papers, testified before the U.S. Senate, authored the *Surging Seas* report, and led development of the *SurgingSeas.org* coastal flood risk tool, leading to front-page coverage in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, appearances on NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS and NPR national programming, and extensive coverage nationwide, from AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, *USA Today* and the *LA Times*, to many hundreds of local news outlets, to numerous editorials and op eds. In earlier roles at Climate Central, he served as interim Executive Director for one year, Associate Director and staff scientist. A founding board member of *Grist.org*, he previously helped launch the Environmental Leadership Program. Prior to that, he worked for Abt Associates, co-organized the Campus Earth Summit, and authored a report on college environmental education and practices for the Nathan Cummings Foundation. He holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University, an M.S. in Zoology from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Biology from Yale University.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant City Manager, City of Ft. Lauderdale, [storriente@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:storriente@fortlauderdale.gov)**

Susanne M. Torriente joined the City of Fort Lauderdale in July, 2011 as part of the new management team focused on streamlining city services, initiating strategic management practices & performance measurement systems and integrating sustainability into city operations. She has direct responsibility for Sustainable Development, Transportation & Mobility, Public Work, Parks & Recreations and Structural Innovation. Previously, she was Sustainability Director at Miami-Dade County. Her office was responsible for policy formulation, grant management, energy management and reduction, alternative energy & fuel source options, green purchasing policy guidance and sustainable capital development process development. She led the planning effort to develop the County's first sustainability plan, GreenPrint, including the County's first climate action plan. She has been a member of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact staff steering committee since its inception in 2009, and she chairs the Compact's Transportation Work Group. She was recently selected for the 2012 ICMA Sustainable Communities Fellowship and is a member of the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Community Resiliency Focus Group.



**Will Travis, Senior Advisor, Bay Area Joint Policy Committee, [willtravis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:willtravis@sbcglobal.net)**

Will Travis is currently the Senior Advisor to the Bay Area Joint Policy Committee after a 40-year career working for California's state coastal management agencies during which he spearheaded the public acquisition of 10,000 acres of salt ponds to be used for one of the largest coastal wetland restoration projects in California's history. He has lectured at universities throughout North America, has written many articles on planning and resource management, served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the Berkeley city planning commission, and was chairman of a committee that worked with the University of California to formulate a new plan for downtown Berkeley. He is the 2009 recipient of the Jean Auer Environmental Award, presented by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, and the 2012 recipient of the Frank C. Boerger Award, presented by the Bay Planning Coalition.



**Sheridan "Butch" Truesdale, Senior Mitigation Planner, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, [struesda@pbcgov.org](mailto:struesda@pbcgov.org)**

Butch Truesdale's career encompasses more than 40 years of diversified research, consulting and staff work in the private and public sectors. Since joining Palm Beach County's Division of Emergency Management in 1999, his responsibilities have spanned a range of areas including mitigation planning and projects, floodplain management program coordination, preparedness and recovery plans and programs, community resilience initiatives and public-private partnerships. His work products have served as models for several regional, state, Federal, national and international initiatives. In 2006 Palm Beach County released a pioneering pre-event Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan which addresses long-term recovery, reconstruction, and economic redevelopment following catastrophic events. Working with the State, the soon to be released second edition will integrate sea level rise adaptation strategies. He recently received the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference for "contributions to the private and public sectors at the local, regional, state and national level."



**Kevin Van Dien, Public Programs Supervisor, The Florida Aquarium, [kvandien@flaquarium.org](mailto:kvandien@flaquarium.org)**

An avid naturalist since childhood, Kevin Van Dien received his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. He has been working in the informal science education field for over ten years, starting out his career as an instructor and marine curator at The Science Center of Pinellas County. He has been working in the education department at The Florida Aquarium since 2008. As Public Programs Supervisor, he oversees a team of educators who provide Aquarium visitors with entertaining and informative presentations about a variety of exhibits and animals. He has spent his entire life learning about and observing the natural environment and relishes the opportunity to share this knowledge with others.

# SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Daniel E. Williams, Architect & Planner, Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, [dwarehouse@msn.com](mailto:dwarehouse@msn.com)**

Dr. Daniel Williams is an internationally recognized expert in sustainable design and planning. He is a member of the experts team for the Clinton Climate + Initiative, advising on projects in Toronto and London and sat on the National Advisory Council for United States Environmental Protection Agency - NACEPT. His projects range in scale from product designs to regional master plans of thousands of square miles - these design and planning interventions integrate issues of ecosystems services, economic development, transportation, agricultural preservation, education, water resource protection, smart growth and challenges of climate change. Named Eminent Scholar and Distinguished Alumni in 2000 at the University of Florida, his book *Sustainable Design: Ecology, Architecture and Planning* was published Earthday 2007. He has taught and lectured in architecture and planning for more than 30 years and is on the Master of Sustainable Design faculty at the University of Florida's extension in Singapore.



**Jeff Williams, Director, Climate Consulting, Entergy, [jwill35@entergy.com](mailto:jwill35@entergy.com)**

Jeff Williams plays an important role helping Entergy manage carbon risk, helping business units develop strategy to prosper in a carbon constrained economy and execute future sustainable growth opportunities. He has been a strong advocate for taking proactive, responsible action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has stressed the importance of creating innovative, efficient market mechanisms for achieving cost effective greenhouse gas reductions.

## CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

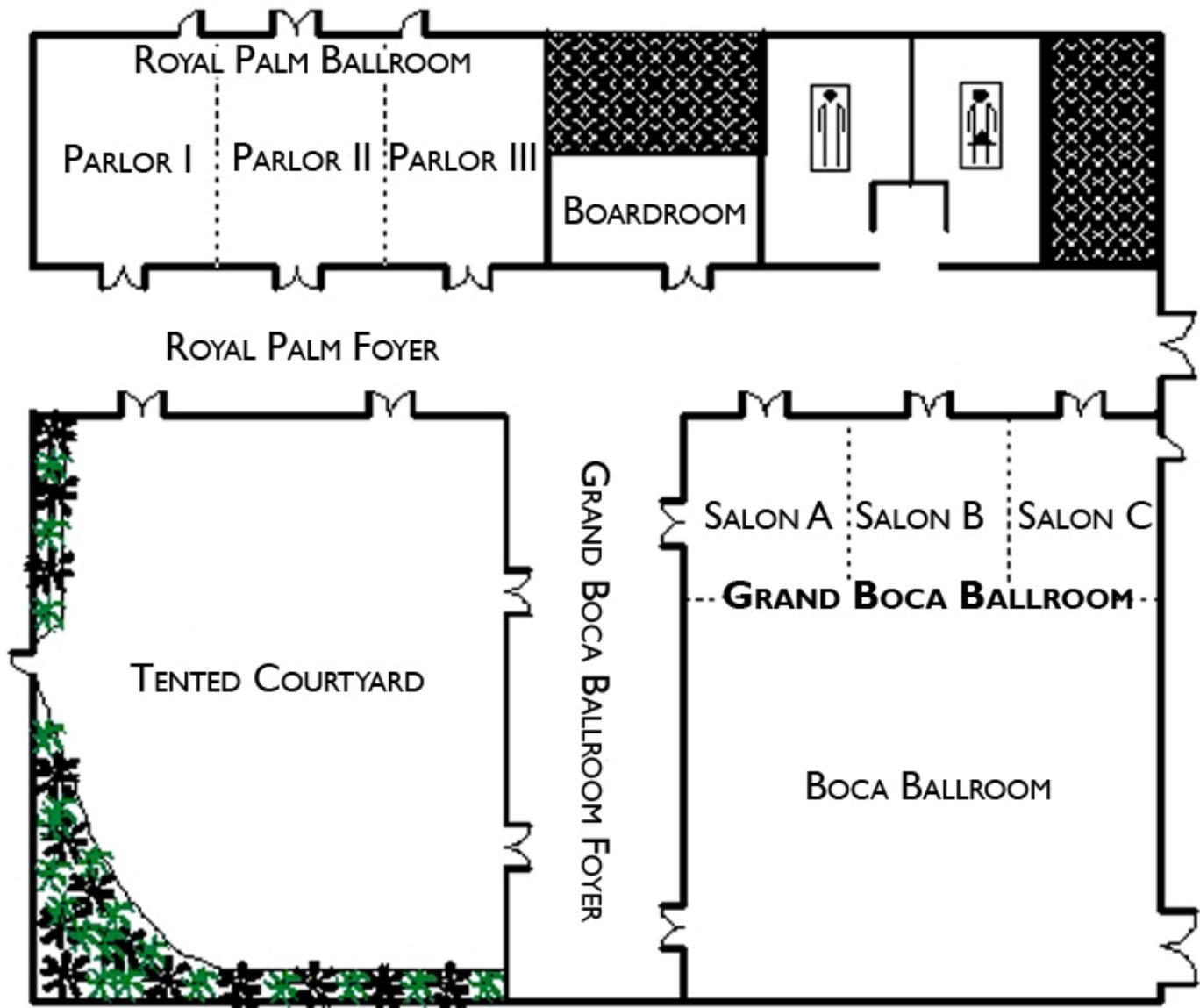


**Mary Beth Hartman, Conference & Outreach Coordinator, Florida Center for Environmental Studies at FAU, [mhartman@fau.edu](mailto:mhartman@fau.edu)**

Mary Beth Hartman came back to Florida Atlantic University in January 2012 to work as the Conference and Outreach Coordinator for the Center for Environmental Studies. Since coming to CES, her primary responsibilities have included the planning of the June Sea Level Rise Summit, along with implementing a Summit related media and outreach strategy. Prior to coming to CES, she worked for Palm Beach County's Economic Development Office administering the County's \$6.5M U.S. Department of Energy Block Grant program. From 2000 – 2010, she worked as a Research Associate for FAU's Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions administering the Florida Public Officials Design Institute and coordinating the Center's Jupiter Campus events, programs, projects and community outreach. She is a three-time graduate from FAU and a Ph.D. student in the College of Education's Adult and Community Education program.



## CONFERENCE AREA MAP





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