



# INITIATIVE ON COASTAL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE (iCAR)

## FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

### iCAR OFFICERS:

Dr. Barnali Dixon, Executive Director

Dr. Rebecca Johns, Director of Community Outreach and Education

Dr. Donny Smoak, Director of Research

Crystal McClendon, Student Assistant

iCAR’s missions and goals include: i) Use research and education to provide the understanding and ideas needed to make critical decisions regarding our changing and vulnerable coasts. ii) Engage stakeholders to facilitate adoption of policies and practices focused on coastal adaptation and resilience, iii) Examine the interactions between climate change, water systems, land use, the built environment and ecosystem functions by engaging the sciences, engineering, policy and social sciences and iv) Find multi-dimensional and flexible solutions using an integrative but flexible decision support system. Information on iCAR can be found at [www.usfsp.edu/icar](http://www.usfsp.edu/icar).

The two main areas of focus of iCAR are research and community outreach:

iCAR organizes workshops in which academic, community-based groups, NGOs, local businesses, consulting firms, planners, and state and local governments and policy makers come together to brain storm issues of resilience and conduct fundamental and applied research to enhance community resilience and we use these workshops to disseminate our research findings and shape our future research agendas.



**Community-based Research Phase I completed:** We are just ending an 18 month community-based research project (iCAR Phase I). iCAR’s community-based study of patterns of biophysical and socioeconomic vulnerability to climate change, attitudes and awareness of flood related hazards, and ability to prepare and recover from weather-related events has closed and the data is now being



written-up and submitted for publication. Drs. Dixon and Johns presented the preliminary results from this project at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) conference in New Orleans, LA in April; Florida Society of Geographers, Melbourne, FL, at the USFSP April Town & Gown luncheon, and at the Frank E. Duckwall Lecture, also in April.

This project identified diverse challenges in distinct neighborhoods; engaged communities in assessing their vulnerabilities and strengths in responding to major storm events and ongoing climate related threats; and evaluated the use of crowdsourced digital technology as a communication vehicle between citizens and policy-makers.

Phase II is in preparation and will be launched in January, 2019. The research team included students Rachelle Pontes, Melissa Keles, Amada Fernandez, Margaret Gaughan and Alison Senne. We appreciate all of their hard work. Scope of the iCAR Phase I project can be found at [http://www.usfsp.edu/icar/files/2017/08/ICAR\\_Project.pdf](http://www.usfsp.edu/icar/files/2017/08/ICAR_Project.pdf)

**Summer 2018 Community Engagement Events:** on July 14, 2018, iCAR organized a *Hurricane Preparation and Recovery Day* at Child's Park Recreation Center with the Child's Park Neighborhood Association. This event provided information from critical agencies such as Pinellas County Emergency Management, Florida Department of Health, and the Red Cross to residents, and provided an opportunity for dialogue about our recent experiences with Hurricane Irma and possible improvements for response and recovery. A raffle



was sponsored by Vision Ace Hardware and prizes of hurricane-prep materials were given away.



***iCAR Annual Workshop: Reports from the Frontier II - Lessons Learned from Hurricanes: Preparation, Recovery and Resilience.*** This year’s two day workshop will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in the USFSP ballroom on the second floor of the University Student Center (USC). The workshop is sponsored by the GTU (Gamma Theta Upsilon), the Tampa Bay One Bay Resilient Communities, and OPEN. Panels include First Responders Report after Irma, Harvey and Maria; Safety Following a Natural Disaster; Energy Recovery and Resiliency; Identifying Structural Barriers to Recovery and Resilience; Innovative Technology for Effective Communication and Engagement and Community Wellbeing: Building Health Resilience and Addressing Emotional Trauma. Breakout sessions will provide opportunities for audience input and dialogue. More information about the upcoming workshop can be found at <https://www.usfsp.edu/icar/icar-2018/>.

***Community Climate Change Education Series:***

iCAR launched its community education and conversation series on **October 2, 2018 at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve and Education Center located at 1101 Country Club Way S. St. Petersburg, FL 33705.** This series entails a once-a-month event, in cooperation with the City of St. Petersburg, to be held at the education center at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve. Flyers for the first two events, one in October and a second in November can be found at <https://www.usfsp.edu/icar/community-outreach-and-education/>. We will be skipping December and starting up again in January. The series will run through April. The format of the monthly events will vary, and will include films, speakers, interactive workshops, discussions, "tell your stories" events, and other possible formats. This series will feature a range of topics and formats, designed to provide critical information about climate impacts on our area and to offer an opportunity for residents to engage in dialogue about these pressing issues.



The purpose of this series is to bring scientifically rigorous information about various impacts of climate change on our area to the community in an accessible format and to encourage citizen participation in conversations about climate change and resiliency.



Our research on barriers and opportunities for building climate resiliency in Pinellas County, conducted over the past 18 months, has highlighted the need for community based programs, particularly in southern Pinellas County and south St. Pete. We are very excited to be working with the city to provide this educational service to our neighbors.

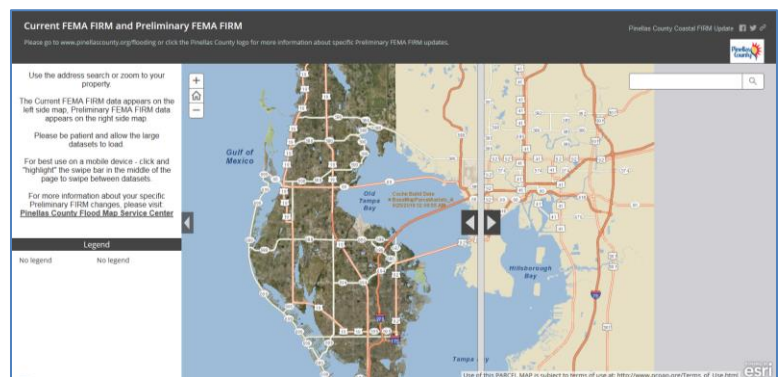




**The first event (Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve) featured the NOVA film, *Decoding the Weather Machine*, and a demonstration by Dr. Brad Rosenheim, an associate professor of geological oceanography at USF. Dr. Rosenheim demonstrated a 3-D printed model of the Tampa Bay region using high resolution USGS data from the bay and from land. The model provides a tangible demonstration of the vulnerability of our coasts here in Tampa Bay, and answers the common question of why someone in Florida should care about what is happening in Antarctica. The event was very successful, with community members and students engaging in a productive discussion with Dr. Rosenheim.**



**The second event (Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve) is a presentation on impacts of flooding, with an opportunity for residents to view flood maps presented by Pinellas County after the event. Kelli Hammer-Levi of Pinellas County and Tamara Marshall, Florida Department of Health will be the speakers. Representative from the Pinellas County office will be present with up-to-date flood maps, and will help participants locate their homes on the maps.**



The series resumes in January of 2019 and runs through April, and is co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department and Boyd Hill

Nature Preserve. More information can be found at <http://www.usfsp.edu/icar/community-outreach-and-education/>