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# Storm Center Brief

## Risk Management Experts Join Center Staff

The Storm Center has added Dr. Charles M. Nyce and Dr. Lorilee A. Schneider to its staff.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the addition of these two very qualified and well-respected individuals to our team," said Center Director Patrick F. Maroney. "They are already proving invaluable to our efforts to address the complex property insurance issues we are facing in Florida."

Both Dr. Nyce and Dr. Schneider hold the title of associate director.

Before coming to the Center, **Dr. Charles M. Nyce, CPCU, ARM**, served as Senior Director of Knowledge Resources at the American Institute for CPCU and the Insurance Institute of America. He is the primary author of CPCU 510 – Foundations of Risk Management and Insurance and a coordinating author on ARM 54 – Risk Assessment and INS 22 – Personal Insurance. He has taught enterprise risk management and corporate risk management classes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at LaSalle University, University of Georgia, University of Hartford and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



He has authored numerous articles on a variety of risk management and insurance topics, including title insurance, IPOs, enterprise risk management, predictive analytics and natural hazards. He is also contributing author to two books dealing with insurance and natural hazards, *Disasters by Design: a Reassessment of Natural Hazards in the United States* and *Paying the Price: The Status and Role of Insurance Against Natural Disasters in the United States*.

Prior to joining the Center's staff, **Dr. Lorilee A. Schneider** was an Assistant Professor of Risk Management and Insurance in the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University. She joined the department's faculty in 1999, and also served as the department's Director of External Relations, undergraduate program adviser and faculty adviser to the *Zeta Chapter* of Gamma Iota Sigma, a national risk management student organization. Dr. Schneider served as Assistant Professor of Finance at Georgia Southern University from 1994-1998.



Dr. Schneider's areas of research interest include business risk management decision making mod-

els, global risk issues, catastrophe risk financing and reputational risk management. She has presented numerous papers on these subjects to both academic and industry groups. Her consulting clients have included Fortune 500 companies as well as smaller companies and nonprofit organizations. Currently, she is especially involved in catastrophe risk financing programs for several companies within the utilities industry.

*Learn more about the Storm Center's staff at [www.stormrisk.org](http://www.stormrisk.org) –click "About the Center."*

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## Storm Center Releases 2008 Annual Report

The Storm Center's Annual Report is now available online at [www.stormrisk.org](http://www.stormrisk.org). The 31-page report details our activities for 2008, which was our first year of operation.

Center accomplishments are organized under headings that coincide with the legislation (*S.1004.647*) that created the Center, while other sections provide information about our ongoing research, budget, advisory board and staff.



# Meteorology, Climate Signals Are the Focus of Two Center-Sponsored Projects



*As part of its mission to promote projects that help Florida prepare for hurricanes, the Center is supporting the following research:*

• **Improved Analysis and Understanding of the Meteorology Underlying the Various Components of the Hurricane Risk Problem**

Given the growth of the coastal population, an ever increasing number of citizens who have never experienced hurricane force winds, and a growing uncertainty about the future and role of climate change, there is a greater than ever need for breakthroughs in hurricane observations, analysis, understanding, fore-

casting, and risk mitigation. This project begins with an examination of the role that wind shear plays in the genesis stage of a hurricane. The second component of this project seeks breakthroughs in improved understanding and forecasting of short-term hurricane intensity change. Finally, the third part of this project addresses the question of how to extrapolate the Doppler-radar winds, which are hundreds of thousands of feet above the ground, to the surface where we live.

The principal contact for this project is **Dr. Robert Hart**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Meteorology at Florida State University.

• **Identifying and Articulating Climate Signals in Historical Insured Property Losses**

Hurricanes at landfall generate large financial losses. Hurricane climatologists have recently developed models to anticipate the level of hurricane activity from climate conditions. Motivated by the usefulness of these models, this project proposes a way to identify and articulate climate signals in historical insured property loss data from hurricanes affecting Florida.

Results from this project will help inform Florida consumers, businesses, and public policy makers about the influence climate variability and climate change will have on future catastrophic losses.

The principal contact for this project is **Dr. James Elsner**, Shaw Professor of Geography at Florida State University.

## 2008 Speaker Series Presentations Available Online

*Did you miss the Center's 2008 Speaker Series presentations? You can see them online at: [www.stormrisk.org](http://www.stormrisk.org).*

Our Fall Speaker Series featured: **Dr. Forrest Masters, Assistant Professor of Civil and Coastal Engineering, University of Florida**

The aftermath of US landfalling hurricanes has shown the devastating effects of wind and wind-driven rain on homes and other structures. University of Florida Civil Engineer and Assistant Professor Forrest Masters discussed cutting-edge research underway that can help us understand how wind and water damage occurs by simulating in a laboratory the actual dynamics of hurricane-force wind and wind-driven rain on low-rise residential construction. Prof. Masters talked about UF's 2800 hp [Hurricane Simulator](#) as well as the [Florida Coastal Monitoring Program](#). [Watch Dr. Masters' presentation.](#)

**Mr. Steve Wilder, Vice President of Risk Management, The Walt Disney Company**  
In 2005 [The Walt Disney Company](#) was facing rising

property insurance costs for their Florida properties. Steve Wilder, Vice President of Risk Management for The Walt Disney Company and Florida State University College of Business Alum (M.S. in Risk Management) believed the company's properties were more hurricane-resistant than rates reflected and set out to prove it. In his presentation he discussed the intensive project he headed, which resulted in lower rates for the company and is an example of why Mr. Wilder has often been recognized for his creative use of insurance programs to transfer risk. [Watch Mr. Wilder's presentation.](#)

Our Spring Speaker Series featured distinguished risk management faculty from the [Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania](#).

Presentations included a discussion of the paper [Managing Large-Scale Risks in a New Era of Catastrophes](#). [Watch the presentation](#) on the paper by **Howard Kunreuther and Dr. Erwann Michel-Kerjan**. Also, view [Why We Underprepare for Hazards](#), a presentation by **Dr. Robert Meyer**.



Find news and information about Florida's property insurance issues online at: [www.stormrisk.org](http://www.stormrisk.org)