Speaker Information

Mike Sprayberry, Director, NC Emergency Management. Mike Sprayberry joined N.C. Emergency Management in July 2005 as the Deputy Director and Operations Section Chief. In February 2013, Sprayberry was appointed director of the North Carolina Emergency Management Division. During his tenure as deputy director, Mr. Sprayberry spearheaded the development and implementation of several plans that help to better prepare and protect North Carolinians during disasters including the coastal region evacuation and sheltering plan, and the long term care facility disaster plan. He serves on the boards of the National Emergency Management Association and the State Emergency Response Commission. In September 2015, he was appointed to a three-year term on the FEMA National Advisory Council as the emergency response providers’ representative.

Ron Mitchelson, Provost, ECU. Dr. Mitchelson was appointed Provost in February, 2015. A geographer, Dr. Mitchelson has been at ECU since 1999. He chaired the geography department and served as interim chair of the English department. In 2011, he was appointed to chair ECU’s Program Prioritization Committee, which evaluated programs campus wide and examined the university’s academic structure. Mitchelson also spent two years as interim associate vice chancellor for research and chief research officer in the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

Brandon Bolinski – FEMA Region IV. Brandon Bolinski is a hurricane program manager with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV. He is a member of the Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT), whose role is to ensure the rapid communication of hurricane forecast information to emergency managers and to support the partnership between the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and federal, state and local agencies. As hurricane program manager, Bolinski is responsible for making certain that state and local officials get the tools, training and support they need for planning and making the best decisions for their community when hurricanes threaten the coast. Bolinski joined FEMA in July 2005 after three years as a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Tallahassee, Fla. Prior to that, he served for three years as all-hazards planner and meteorologist with Florida’s Division of Emergency Management.

Nate Johnson, WRAL, is a meteorologist and executive producer at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, NC. He has worked for the last nine years alongside other meteorologists in shaping how forecasts and weather information are communicated on TV, web, mobile, and social media. Prior to moving to Raleigh, he was the data services meteorologist for Baron Services in Huntsville, AL, where he developed a first-of-its-kind system to diagnose road conditions based on current and antecedent weather conditions. He is also a panelist on the weekly weather podcast WeatherBrains, contributor to the Digital Meteorologist blog, and Council and Broadcast Meteorology Committee Chairman with the National Weather Association.

Candice Boling, WNCT, is a life-long NC native who traded in the foothills and mountains for the coastal plain and beaches. She joined WNCT 9 On Your Side as the weekend evening meteorologist in December of 2014. Candice graduated cum laude from The University of North Carolina at Asheville with a B.S. in Atmospheric Sciences. She currently is pursuing a Master’s degree at East Carolina University. Learning about the atmosphere is a passion for her. She’s had experience calibrating rain gauges in the Great Smoky Mountains, data collection, research, weather balloon launching, and more.

Donna Kain, ECU, is an associate professor of technical and professional communication. She joined the ECU faculty in 2004. Her research includes risk communication and natural hazards including severe weather and sea level rise, the rhetoric and instrumental discourse of the Americans with Disabilities Act and related public policies, information technology applications for the classroom, and the uses of genres in professional settings. Dr. Kain is currently editor of Technical Communication Quarterly. Writing. Dr. Kain is also co-assistant director the Center for Natural Hazards Research.
Speaker Information

Bob Boyd, NCEM, Natural Hazards Branch Supervisor, has a diverse background with over 15 years of experience in planning, program management, and customer service. Mr. Boyd served in the military, transitioned to the corporate world, and currently work in government. His background includes extensive supervisory and leadership experience and he is well versed in technical and scientific matters. His specialties include program management, planning, global supply chain, purchasing, negotiation, public speaking, military, government, disaster preparedness, meteorology, and geosciences.

Gary Thompson, Chief, NCEM Geodetic Survey/Risk Management, is the Chief of the North Carolina Geodetic Survey/Risk Management/NC Emergency Management. He has held a professional license as a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) in North Carolina since 1980. He has served as president of both the North Carolina Society of Surveyors (NCSS) and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS). He is currently serving as treasurer of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), chair of the North Carolina Boundary Commission, an emeritus member of the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBELS), and a commission member of the ABET Applied Science Accreditation Commission.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Eric Litchfield, Market Manager, Walmart Stores, Inc.

Eric Litchfield is the current Market Manager of Market 302, in Jacksonville, NC with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. As Market Manager, Eric leads a large format Market of 9 Supercenters and 2,500 associates that delivers Walmart’s mission of “saving people money so they can live better”. Under his leadership with a focus on Clean, Fast, and Friendly, Market 302 generates sales of more than $700 million annually. Last year, Eric was named Market Manager of the Year for North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic Division.

Prior to joining Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. in 2008, Eric served on active duty for 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. Highlighting some of his assignments are Operations Officer for Base Support Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Executive Officer, Third Recruit Training Battalion; Aide-de-Camp for Commanding General Fleet Marine Forces Pacific/Central Command; Operations/Plans Officer, Marine Forces Central Command; Information Officer, Marine Forces Pacific; and Military Escort to the 43rd President of the United States during 2001 Inauguration. Some of Eric’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, and two Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medals as well as numerous campaign medals and service awards.

Michelle Covi, Old Dominion University and Virginia Sea Grant, is Climate Adaptation & Resilience Assistant Professor of Practice. Dr. Covi is charged with helping move science to decision-makers on challenging adaptation and resilience issues. She completed her Ph.D. in Coastal Resources Management from East Carolina University (ECU) on sea level rise risk perception, communication, and policy-making in NC. She has an M.S. in zoology with a focus on marine ecology (University of Georgia) and a B.S. in biology and geology (University of Rochester). For five years, Michelle served as Outreach Coordinator for the NC Coastal Atlas program, an online mapping system that combines physical, ecological, and human use data to support education, management and decision-making, managed at ECU.


**Speaker Information**

Shawn Talmadge, Homeland Security and Resilience Staff Director, Commonwealth of Virginia, brings significant experience in emergency response operations, the U.S. Army, and the Virginia National Guard to his post. He served within the state and local emergency response field as a paramedic, firefighter, and hazardous materials technician in various volunteer and career departments across the Commonwealth, ultimately achieving the rank of Battalion Chief in the Hanover County Fire-EMS Department. While at the Virginia Department of Transportation, Mr. Talmadge conducted security reviews and improvement projects to help better protect our infrastructure. In 2009, Shawn reported for active duty in the National Guard where he served in various leadership roles including Battery Command, Deputy Commander of the CBRNE Enhanced Response Force, Chief of the Joint Operations Center, and Executive Officer for the state’s only Field Artillery Battalion. Shawn has coauthored national level, interagency response protocols to large-scale incidents, responded to numerous regional and state level disasters, and presented at conferences on various homeland security topics.

Erin Sutton, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Virginia Beach, has over 15 years of experience in emergency planning and preparedness with Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, Virginia Beach Department of Public Health, and the City of Virginia Beach. His experiences in leadership, organization, coalition building and communication skills developed while teaching and training over the last twelve years. Mr. Sutton has over 8 years of experience planning, designing and managing HSEEP compliant exercises; most recently the City of Virginia Beach Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise March 2013. He was presented with Governor’s Award for Workplace Safety and Health May 2008.

John Dorman, NCEM, Risk Management Chief, is the Assistant EM Director for Geospatial and Technology Management in the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. In this capacity, he is responsible for the design, acquisition, analysis, and dissemination of data, models, systems and applications associated with hazard and threats. Mr. Dorman has facilitated and managed the statewide acquisition of LiDAR-derived elevation data, digital orthophotography, building footprints, and special flood hazard areas. Mr. Dorman is currently managing three national risk management demonstrations: Integrated Hazard Risk Management; Digital Flood Risk; and, Sea Level Rise Impact Study.

David Glenn, Meteorologist & Tropical Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Newport/Morehead City, NC, is a North Carolina native from Wilmington, NC, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Mr. Glenn credits the hurricanes of the 1990s that impacted NC as his reason for wanting to learn more about tropical storms and hurricanes. He completed a Masters in Geosciences (emphasis in operational meteorology) from Mississippi State University in 2005 and attended the University of South Carolina from 2005-2008 where he studied early 19th century hurricanes. Mr. Glenn began his career with the National Weather Service in 2008 at the Weather Forecast Office in Columbia, SC, then spent nearly 2 years in Portland, ME, as a Meteorologist Intern. Mr. Glenn accepted the General Forecaster position at the Weather Forecast Office in Newport/Morehead City in 2010. He has been active in science and outreach activities throughout his career.

Jamie Kruse, Director, Center for Natural Hazards Research, ECU, is Thomans Harriot College of Arts and Sciences THCAS Distinguished Professor of Economics, Director, Center for Natural Hazards Research, and a senior scientist with the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. Dr. Kruse’s primary research areas include risk and decision making, experimental economics, industrial organization and regulation, natural hazards economics, insurance and risk mitigation, and interdisciplinary research that integrates economic analysis with engineering, ecology, and the geosciences.
Poster Program

Tropical Storm Kyle (2002) and Cold-Air Damming: Their Interactions and Impacts on Heavy Rainfall in the Carolinas
   Jose M. Garcia-Rivera, Yuh-Lang Lin, and Yevgenii Rastigejev; North Carolina A&T

Comparing Environmental Differences on Hurricanes Floyd (1999) and Sandy (2012)
   Julian Gordon and Yuh-Lang Lin; North Carolina A&T

Orographic Influence on Basic Flow and Cyclone Circulation and Their Impacts on Track Deflection of an Idealized Tropical Cyclone
   Yuh-Land Lin, Shu-Hua Chen, and Liping Liu; North Carolina A&T

Effects of Impinging Location and Angle of an Idealized Tropical Cyclone on a Long Mountain Range
   Liping Liu, Yuh-Lang Lin, and Shu-Hua Chen; North Carolina A&T

They had the Facts, Why didn’t they act?
   Burrell Montz, Rachel Hogan Carr, Keri Maxfield, Stephanie Hoekstra, and Kathryn Semmens; East Carolina University

Storm Surge Vulnerability along Cape Hatteras National Seashore
   (series of 6 posters)
   Mike Flynn, Tom Allen, and Burrell Montz; East Carolina University