IHC Update

Summer 2002

What's inside?

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IHC Relocates

The IHC will be moving to a new building called the Management & Advanced Research Center (MARC), which is located on FIU's University Park campus. The Center, including all four laboratories, will be located on the third floor. The move is scheduled to take place sometime in mid-August.

Hurricane Andrew +10 Summit

The IHC hosted the ANDREW+10 SUMMIT at the Graham Center on FIU's University Park campus on May 30-31, 2002. More than 300 researchers, educators, emergency management practitioners, public officials, representatives of community and faith-based organizations and others participated in this one-of-a-kind event. FIU President Mitch Maidique officially welcomed Summit participants. Invited speakers addressing this conference included Senator Bill Nelson via videotaped message, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mr. Kenneth Burris FEMA Region 4 Director, Dr. Peggy Demon representing Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Mr. Steve Shiver Miami-Dade County Manager, Mr. Scott Gudes NOAA Associate Director, Dr. Bob Sheets, former director of the National Hurricane Center, Mr. John Pistorino, P.E. and Mr. Bob Epling Chair IHC Board of Trustees. The ANDREW+10 Summit received cash grants and in-kind support from USF Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Broward County Emergency Management Agency, Miami-Dade County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and from International Swiss Re — one of the largest and most respected reinsurance companies in the world.

The event focused on issues of science and technology, engineering and design, the human impact of hurricanes, vulnerability and mitigation, the role of government, and education and outreach. Through a series of topical sessions and group meetings, participants discussed what has changed over the past ten years and with what consequences. Participants also looked at future change that is still needed to reduce potential damages in vulnerable communities. Field trip participants toured several actual mitigation projects that have been implemented throughout Miami-Dade County.

Shoreline Mapping

In a cooperative partnership with Southampton College and the U.S. Military Academy, IHC researchers will employ airborne laser technology in July 2002 to update the shoreline position database for the south shore of Long Island, New York.

Andrew Research Makes Headlines

The "Hurricane Andrew 10 Years Later: Implications for Disaster Mitigation Research Project" has received a lot of attention. A front-page story in

the *Orlando Sentinel* in early June described the work and quoted three IHC researchers — Nicole Dash, Dario Gonzalez and Juanita Mainster. A similar story appeared in the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* and was featured on several local television stations. The *Miami Herald* has met with the staff to plan future stories as the work progresses.

This project, headed by Betty Hearn Morrow and Walter Peacock, is funded by the National Science Foundation. It focuses on the lasting legacies of Hurricane Andrew, examining demographic, economic and political changes to the region, as well as long-term effects on individuals and families.

Early data collection results were presented at the National Hurricane Conference, the Governor's Hurricane Conference, and the Andrew + 10 Conference.

Airborne Laser Project in South Florida

The Windstorm Simulation and Modeling Project, funded by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), is in its second of three years. IHC researchers have improved the morphology filter for terrain, vegetation, and building detection based on the airborne laser data. Emphasis was placed on flooding effects that follow terrain gradients, including variable flood velocities. Improvements in water, building, and vegetation animation have also been achieved. The enhancement of computer simulation will eventually help the public visualize a potential hurricane impact through high-end graph-

Developing a Culture of Mitigation through Education

Ricardo A. Alvarez, IHC Deputy Director, received a grant funded by the USF Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CDMHA). Isabelle Simon from CDMHA and Marcia R. Alvarez (FIU Master of Science in Education) are co-PIs on the project "*Developing a Culture of Mitigation through Education"*

The grant, which runs through September 15, 2002, provided $140,000 plus an additional $50,000 of in-kind support to include content about natural hazards, vulnerability, disasters and mitigation within existing programs at K-12 schools. The research team is working on the thesis that by exposing school children to the concept of hazard mitigation, their parents and eventually the larger community will implement practices that will reduce the potential for damage from future impacts of hazards on vulnerable areas. Four schools have delivered lesson plans on these topics, and they have also held school-wide "mitigation expos*"* and other events involving students and their parents. Participating schools are: St. Lawrence School — a K-8 parochial school in North Miami Beach, the Maritime Science and Technology Academy (MAST) — a public high school in Miami that has earned a blue ribbon of excellence at a national level, the "Escuela Estado de Israel" — a primary school in San Jose, Costa Rica and the Savanna-la-Mar Primary School in Jamaica.