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# STETSON UNIVERSITY

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## **Stetson University's Gillespie Museum Presents Science Café on the Coastal Consequences of Sea-Level Rise**

*Jason Evans will discuss the southeastern Coastal Plain's climate issues and resilience efforts*

**DELAND, Florida**, March 5, 2020 – More severe storms and sea-level rise are causing increased flooding of coastal communities around the world due to climate change. One of the hardest hit areas is the Coastal Plain region in the southeastern United States, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Florida and other coastal states in the southeastern U.S. are the most vulnerable to flooding and long-term risks of tidal inundation from surging seas, which has increased efforts for developing resilience planning initiatives.

Learn more about climate adaptation planning and sea-level rise during a free Science Café, featuring [Jason Evans, PhD](#), associate professor of environmental science and studies at Stetson, who will be discussing “Facing Down Disaster: Selected Tales of Resilience Planning from the Southeastern Coastal Plain” on Thursday, March 19, 7-8:30 p.m., at [Gillespie Museum](#) on [Stetson University's](#) campus.

“Most coastal communities are still in the very early stages of grappling with the socio-economic and environmental implications of sea-level rise,” explains Evans, who is Stetson’s interim executive director of the [Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience \(IWER\)](#). “Drawing on several years of applied resilience-planning work with local governments across Florida and the southeast region, this presentation will feature a suite of local results, key lessons learned and a few suggestions for moving forward with eyes wide open.”

IWER focuses on water and environmental research and using innovative approaches for tackling complex challenges, and offering policy options for protecting natural resources. IWER’s faculty members are currently partnering with researchers and coastal communities in Florida, Georgia and North and South Carolina to develop climate resilience projects based on a green infrastructure model.

The Gillespie Museum’s Science Café series provides the community with free monthly opportunities to learn about current scientific research by Stetson University faculty and visiting scholars. Visitors can also view current exhibits, including “Agatized Coral and Other Silicified Fossils of Florida,” which features 140 fine specimens of agatized coral, through Wednesday, May 6.

### About Stetson University

*Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.*

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