

# NEWS RELEASE

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY

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## ***The University of Rhode Island Announces a New, Interactive Website on Hurricanes - Hurricanes: Science and Society ([www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org))***

New Orleans – Oct. 25, 2010 – The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (URI/GSO) will launch an unprecedented and comprehensive interactive website, *Hurricanes: Science and Society* (HSS; [www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org)), in concert with the opening of the Louisiana State Museum (LSM) exhibition, *Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond*. The HSS website ([www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org)), and its associated educational resources will provide information on the science of hurricanes, methods of observing hurricanes, modeling and forecasting of hurricanes, how hurricanes impact society, and how people and communities can prepare for and mitigate the impacts of hurricanes. In addition to in-depth science content, the website includes educational resources, case studies, and a historical storm interactive. All content has undergone rigorous peer review by an esteemed panel of hurricane experts.

Members of the HSS Development Team and Advisory Panel as well as several other scientific experts, including the Director of the National Hurricane Center, Bill Read, Dr. Mark Powell, Leslie Chapman Henderson and Jean May-Brett will be available to speak with the media in advance of the symposium, as well as at the *Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond* exhibit opening on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010, at 10:30am (Jackson Square, New Orleans).

The launch of the HSS website ([www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org)) will take place during The Hurricane Science and Education Symposium at the Tulane/University Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research in New Orleans. This event will bring together the nation's leading hurricane researchers and forecasters, preparation and mitigation experts, as well as formal and informal educators from across the United States to discuss the vital need to advance hurricane safety through science and education. The Director of the National Hurricane Center, Bill Read, will offer opening remarks. "I am very impressed by the scope of scientific content in the *Hurricane Science and Society* website," said Mr. Read. "I believe it will become a nationwide classroom tool for anyone interested in teaching or learning hurricane science."

*Hurricanes: Science and Society* will play a critical role in the effort to educate both students and adults about the science and impacts of hurricanes and the importance of pre-hurricane planning and mitigation. The HSS website ([www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org)) will give educators the tools around which curricula and public education materials about the importance of hurricane pre-disaster planning can be developed. It will contain information tailored for specific audiences, including middle school through undergraduate educators and students, the general public, and the media.

### **About Hurricanes: Science and Society**

The development of the HSS website ([www.hurricanescience.org](http://www.hurricanescience.org)) was led by URI's Gail Scowcroft and Isaac Ginis and designed in coordination with Raytheon Web Solutions. Both the website and key elements of the LSM exhibition have been made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

### **About the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography**

The URI Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) is located on the University's 200-acre Narragansett Bay Campus. On Narragansett Bay's West Passage, with a deep-water pier and easy access to the open Atlantic, the campus offers an ideal location from which to explore the world ocean. Members of the GSO community meet research challenges that confront the nation and the world. GSO faculty and facilities address such issues as climate change, hurricanes, pollution, fisheries depletion, and the need for new technology for undersea research and exploration.