

# Research Matters

A Monthly Publication of RAE

## April 2023

### *Notes from Beneath the Blue Awning*

Hello UWF,

With Spring Break behind us, the campus has turned its attention to completing and celebrating the accomplishments of the academic year. It was a privilege to participate in the 2023 Honors Convocation where RAE awarded six Distinction in Faculty Scholarly, Creative, and Research Activities Awards. I thank all of the chairs and deans who nominated faculty from across the University and congratulate this year's awardees:



- Ajay Lajmi (Chemistry)
- Joe Spaniola (The Dr. Grier Williams School of Music)
- Ashok Srinivasan (Computer Science)
- Brandy Strahan (Nursing)
- Mengying Xiao (Mathematics and Statistics)
- Tarek Yousseff (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

I have been focusing a lot of energy on exploring opportunities to create and enhance partnerships between UWF researchers and industry, municipal, and government entities. While attending last fall's Power Up Energy Expo, I met a representative of the America Security Project, and we discussed the National Climate Security Tour. A fortuitous meeting has resulted in the April 24 panel discussion event that Jeffrey Cassidy describes below. Please consider joining the regional community at [this event](#) exploring how to ensure resilience of military installations and their supporting communities in the face of climate pressures.

Have a great April and best wishes with final papers, exams, and theses. See you soon (!) at UWF Commencement.

Matt Schwartz  
Professor and AVP of Research Administration

P.S. We still have some spots open for the Pilot-to-Proposal workshop May 10-12, 2023. If you are looking for time and assistance in securing resources to expand your pilot project into a scholarly program, please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/xnMsjZd7uuRXK7cp8>.

**Photo:** Schwartz, left, and University Provost Gary Liguori attend the 2023 Honors Convocation.

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## Experts to discuss climate change, military resilience at roundtable event

By **JEFFREY CASSADY**

*RAE Staff Writer*

[jcassady@uwf.edu](mailto:jcassady@uwf.edu)

The University of West Florida will play host to Climate Security in Northwest Florida: Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Military Resiliency at 5:30 p.m. April 24 at the Museum of Commerce at [201 Zaragoza St.](#) in downtown Pensacola.

The roundtable event, organized by the **American Security Project**, will focus on how climate change and extreme weather events affect military installations in Northwest Florida and the nation's security interests broadly.

The panel will consist of retired Navy Capt. Tim Kinsella, retired Navy Capt. Rick Miller, Dr. **Haris Alibašić**, associate professor and public administration program coordinator at the University, **Dr. Brian Crisher**, associate professor in the Reubin O'D. Askew Department of Government at the University, and Eric Christianson, a planner with the **Emerald Coast Regional Council**.

"I am proud that UWF can help gather this panel with diverse expertise to examine a topic that is vital to Northwest Florida," said Dr. Matthew Schwartz, associate vice president of research administration at the University. Schwartz will moderate the panel discussion.

"By hosting discussions on important topics like the policy and science of ensuring resilience of military and municipal assets, UWF is fulfilling its mission to 'advance the body of knowledge and enhance the prosperity of the region and the state,'" Schwartz said. "We invite the entire community to join us for an engaging discussion."

The American Security Project is a bipartisan Washington D.C.-based nonprofit organization that promotes awareness and discussion of the shifting, modern challenges, such as climate change, that face the country's security interests.

"Conversations like these are especially important because Northwest Florida epitomizes the risks posed by climate change to U.S. national security," said Tucker Hamilton, research and programming assistant with the American Security Project. "The region is home to some of the U.S. military's most vital installations, yet they are simultaneously among the most vulnerable to climate-induced extreme weather phenomena and sea-level rise. ASP is honored to co-host this important event exploring these challenges and potential resilience solutions."

Admission to the event is free. To reserve a seat, visit the [event's webpage](#).

## New publications

If you or your students have a new publication you'd like to see highlighted in a future edition of Research Matters, email Jeffrey Cassady at [jcassady@uwf.edu](mailto:jcassady@uwf.edu) and include the names of the researchers, the name of the publication, the journal or book in which it appears, and a link to the article or a link to an abstract. Also, please identify any authors who work for or attend the University of West Florida.

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