

Who's in Control?: Nature, Climate Change, and Footprints

Wednesday, October 7, 2020: 4:00-5:00 PM

Panel Presenters

Professor Andrew S. Coburn

Andy Coburn is a member of WCU's Research and Graduate Faculty where he serves as Associate Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS), Faculty Associate for Community Engagement in Sustainability, and Faculty Liaison to the Outdoor Industry. He also serves as Faculty Advisor for WCU's Student Energy Initiative and Student Chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina. Mr. Coburn currently teaches courses focused on environmental and natural resource management and policy within WCU's Political Science and Public Affairs Department and Environmental Science Program. Mr. Coburn has a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University, a B.S. degree from The Pennsylvania State University and over 30 years' interdisciplinary environmental management, policy and planning experience. Mr. Coburn has served on the NC Hazard Mitigation Planning Initiative and NOAA Beach Nourishment Steering Team, and was a member of the NC State Emergency Response Team. He has provided expert testimony on coastal hazards, management and policy to the US House of Representatives, provided guidance to US Senate and House staffers and completed over two dozen post-storm aerial damage assessment flights including Hurricanes Fran, Floyd, Katrina and Sandy.

Dr. Bora Karayaka

Dr. Hayrettin Bora Karayaka is an Engineering faculty at College of Engineering and Technology, Western Carolina University. He has worked as a Senior Engineer for smart grid and wireless communication industries for over ten years. Currently he is leading the efforts to establish electric power engineering as a discipline within the school. This has involved both developing and delivering the curriculum. Dr. Karayaka's research interests include engineering education, ocean wave energy, identification, modeling and control for electrical machines and smart grid. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Istanbul Technical University in Control and Computer Engineering and his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Brian Kloppel

Dr. Brian Kloppel is Dean of the Graduate School and Research and a faculty member in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resources. His research and scholarly interests include watershed ecology, carbon and water cycling, forest growth and dynamics, and the policies regulating the conservation and management of these resources. He enjoys working with students at the undergraduate and graduate level and empowering them with the tools and techniques, both academic and professional, to grow and develop their careers in science, health care, business, education, art, and the humanities. His organizational interests include strategic planning, graduate program development, and biological field station site review and planning. Go Catamounts!