

David O. Prevatt, Ph.D., P.E. (MA) Assistant Professor – University of Florida

After earning his Ph.D. degree from Clemson University in 1998, Dr. David O. Prevatt worked for seven years with the Boston-based ENR500 consulting engineering firm, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. in building envelope system design and remediation. He joined the faculty of Clemson University in 2004 as an Assistant Professor and directed the Wind Load Test Facility, conducting wind tunnel tests on low-rise building models and investigating of post-hurricane damage to residential buildings. In May 2007, Dr. Prevatt joined the University of Florida's Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering where his research focuses on the mitigation of extreme wind damage to low-rise construction. Dr. Prevatt recently led the damage assessment teams that documented damages caused by the 2011 Tuscaloosa, AL and Joplin, MO tornadoes. More recently, he was a member of the NSF RAPID team evaluating damage to residential buildings and the ASCE-sponsored survey team evaluating schools and commercial structures, following the 20 May 2013 tornado in Moore, OK.

Dr. Prevatt was recently awarded an NSF CAREER research grant to develop more tornadoresilient homes and communities. His current research continues to understand and predict the structural load paths in light-framed wood structural systems, and building envelope components using experimental and analytical modeling techniques. His research vision is to advance 21st century housing that will be the sustainable backbone of hazard-resilient communities. Dr. Prevatt is a professional engineer (registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in Trinidad and Tobago) with over 20 years consulting experience in structural engineering and building investigations. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the on the Board of the American Association for Wind Engineering, and a member of the UK Wind Engineering Society.

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