Science and Technology Seminar

**The Impact of NWS Weather Forecast Office Culture on Tornado**

**Warning Performance in the Wake of the Joplin and Tuscaloosa Tornado Disasters**

**Stephan Smith**

 **Office of Science and Technology**

**Meteorological Development Laboratory**

**Silver Spring, Maryland**

The talk will discuss the impact of individual office cultures or “idiocultures” in National Weather Service forecast offices (WFOs) on tornado warning performance. A statistical analysis of the results of an employee satisfaction survey and tornado warning performance metrics (particularly False Alarm Rate), reveals the significant and enduring impact of culture on performance. A model of how WFO culture affects performance is proposed and strategies for improving performance based on changes to office culture are discussed.

**Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**2:00 – 3:00 p.m. E.T.**

**SSMC2, Room 2358**

**Wednesday,**

**September 7, 2011**

**2:00 - 3:00 p.m., E.T.**

**SSMC#2, Room 2358**

(Contact: Bob Glahn at (301) 713-1768)