



**Social Aspects of Resilience: identifying key areas of social vulnerability and enhancing resilience**

**October 4-5, 2017**

**Location: University of South Florida, St. Petersburg  
Room: University Student Center (USC) Ballroom  
200 6th Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701**



**SIERRA CLUB**



PRESENTED BY:



**USFSP Student chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU)  
Presents:**

**iCAR Executive Board**

Dr. Barnali Dixon (PI and Executive Director of iCAR)  
Dr. Donny Smoak (Director of Research, Climate Science)  
Dr. Rebecca Johns (Director of Community Outreach and Education)

**iCAR Advisory Panel**

Maya Burke (TBEP)  
Graham Tobin (SGC USF)  
Libby Carnahan (SEA GRANT)  
Mark Hafen (SPA USF)  
Gary Mitchum CMS USF)  
Jamie Serino (OceanSpace, TSIC)  
Heidi Stiller (NOAA)  
Tonya Clayton (Aqueous Media)  
Ryan Moyer (FWRI)  
Siobhan O'Kane (Urban Land Institute)

**iCAR 2017 Workshop Advisory Panel**

Maya Burke (TBEP)  
Libby Carnahan (SEA GRANT)  
Gary Mitchum CMS USF)  
Jamie Serino (OceanSpace, TSIC)  
Brady Smith (TBRPC)  
Heidi Stiller (NOAA)

## **Introduction:**

This 2-day workshop, hosted by the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR), USF St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council ONE BAY Resilient Communities Working Group, will engage participants in discussion about social and physical vulnerabilities to coastal hazards, and efforts to build regional resiliency. Through a series of presentations and followed by facilitated discussions between experts from the national level, South Florida, and Tampa Bay regions, participants will explore potential regional solutions and approaches for addressing the resilience and adaptations of coastal cities to climate change.

## **Workshop Objectives:**

- ✓ The conference will build-on previously identified research, data, and policy gaps and find strategies to link research agendas to public policy formulation that emphasizes solution-oriented approaches for coastal cities, with a particular focus on social aspect of resilience.
- ✓ Explore social vulnerability, viz. examine effects of climate change on society and many facets of social aspects of vulnerability and resilience.
- ✓ Explore the relationship between vulnerability, awareness of flood hazards and the potential for increased flood events due to climate change, and a neighborhood's ability to prepare for flood-related disasters (including accessibility and affordability of flood insurance).
- ✓ Explore ways to reduce socio-economic marginalization by improving engagement, social capital and appropriate messaging.
- ✓ Publish a proceeding called 'Social Aspects of Resilience'.

## **Workshop Topics:**

1. Explore current research to identify short-term climate change effects in the Tampa Bay Region and identify key areas of concern for planners and communities over the next few years;
2. Frame vulnerability in the context of climate change and associated impacts to the society, built-environment, and public health.
3. Explore and identify key factors in social vulnerability in the region, such as:
  - a. socio-economic marginalization;
  - b. flood insurance and real estate: risk and climate change;
  - c. health risks associated with immediate climate change effects;
4. Explore and identify factors that enhance social resilience such as:
  - a. Strong social networks
  - b. Community appropriate educational outreach
  - c. Access to resources
5. Discuss and identify practical goals for the region in terms of research and outreach.
6. Publish conference proceedings

**Who should attend:**

- Citizens, and Representatives from Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Civic organizations
- Businesses including but not limited to Insurance Industry, Real Estate, Consulting Firms
- NGOs (including interested in environmental and social justices) and social service providers (religious organizations, affinity organizations)
- Students, Faculty & Researchers
- Elected Officials & Government Administrators
- Professionals involved in coastal resilience: Transportation and Urban Planners, Floodplain Managers, Emergency Managers, Public Works, Health Professionals, Natural Resource Managers, Engineers & Scientists.

**Benefits:**

- ✓ Network and share information with other individuals engaged in coastal resilience planning throughout Florida
- ✓ Shape research agendas and future climate adaptation efforts in the Tampa Bay region and beyond

For additional workshop details (program, logistics, registration etc.), please visit <http://www.usfsp.edu/icar/upcoming-events/>.

## Schedule

Day 1, Oct 4th	
11:30 AM – 12:00 Noon	<b>Registration</b>
12:00 Noon	<b>Welcome</b> , USFSP Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock
12:05 PM	<b>Welcome</b> , Barnali Dixon, USFSP
12:10 PM	<b>Overview of iCAR and the Conference Schedule</b> , Rebecca Johns, USFSP
12:15 PM	<b>Introduction to the Inaugural Speech</b> , Jamie Serino, OceanSpace, TSIC  <b>Inauguration</b> , Charlie Crist (pre-recorded)
12:20 PM – 1:15 PM	<b>Opening Keynote:</b> <i>The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Reshaping of the Civilized World</i> :  Jeff Goodell, Aresty Speaker
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>Q&amp;A for Opening Keynote</b>
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	<b>Opening Panel:</b> <u>Social Vulnerability: Effects of Climate Change on Society</u>  <i>Tracking Climate Change Effects for Tampa Bay in the Near Future</i> , Gary Mitchum, USF College of Marine Science  <i>Identifying Factors that Influence Social Vulnerability</i> , Rebecca Johns, USFSP  <i>Climate Justice</i> , Jacqueline Patterson, Director, NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program
2:30 PM – 2:50 PM	<b>Q&amp;A for the Panel</b>

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM	<b><u>Coffee Break</u></b>
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	<p><b><u>Panel II:</u></b> Climate Conversations: Learning What Matters to Neighborhoods</p> <p>Noah Taylor, City of St. Petersburg Community Ratings Coordinator</p> <p>David Delrahim, President, Shore Acres Neighborhood Association</p> <p>Brother John Muhammad, President, Childs Park Neighborhood Association</p> <p>Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, UF/IFAS</p> <p>Zelalem Adefris, Program Manager, Catalyst Miami</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Libby Carnahan, IFAS</p>
3:50 PM – 4:00 PM	<b><u>Q&amp;A for the Panel</u></b>
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	<p><b><u>Panel III:</u></b> The Flood Insurance and Real Estate: Risk and Climate Change</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Greg Ruggiero, Bouchard Insurance</p> <p>Lisa Foster, Pinellas County Floodplain Coordinator</p> <p>Jeff Brandes, Senator</p> <p>Brandi Gabbard, Smith and Associates Realtors</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Brady Smith TBRPC</p>
4:50 PM – 5:00 PM	<b><u>Q&amp;A for the Panel</u></b>
5:00 PM	<b><u>Adjourn</u></b>
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	<b><u>Reception at Cage Brewing (Cash Bar)</u></b>

<b>Day 2, Oct 5th</b>	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<p><b>Panel IV:</b> Health and Climate Change: Water Issues (clean drinking water; marine contamination; nuisance and sunny day flooding):</p> <p>Michael Green, Executive Director, Climate Action Business Association</p> <p>Lynette Cardoch, PhD, Vice President, HDR</p> <p>Lily Swanbrow Becker, Climate Adaptation Coordinator, FWC</p> <p>Carlos Frey, P. E., ENV SP, Design Manager, Stormwater and Environmental, City of St. Petersburg</p> <p>Christine Owen, Senior Manager, Tampa Bay Water</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Jamie Serino, OceanSpace, TSIC</p>
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>Q&amp;A for the Panel</b>
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>Coffee Break</b>
10:30 AM – 11:20 AM	<p><b>Panel V:</b> Health and Climate Change: Temperature related illness and death; Vector-borne diseases, Extreme Events; Access to food, Mental Health, Air Quality :</p> <p>Dr. Lynn Ringenberg, Physicians for Social Responsibility</p> <p>Dr. Kenneth Bryant, President, Minority Health Coalition of Pinellas</p>

11:20 AM – 11:30 AM	<p>Dr. Maria Sgambati, Consultant</p> <p>Janice Booher, Director of Rising Together: Temperature, Water, Health and Strength.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Marybeth Dunn, Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility/Florida</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A for the Panel</b></p>
11:30 AM – 12:30 AM	<p><b><u>Breakout session:</u></b> Area Concerns and Outreach/Engagement Opportunities</p> <p><b>Session Leaders:</b> Maya Burke, TBEP and Heidi Stiller, NOAA</p>
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	<p><b>Lunch Provided</b></p> <p>Art by USFSP Students on display: Confronting Climate Change through Digital Design</p>
2:00 PM – 2:50 PM	<p><b><u>Panel VI:</u></b> The Importance of Social Networks; Identifying and Enhancing Informal Communication</p> <p>Russell Meyer, Pastor, Florida Council of Churches</p> <p>Rebecca Zarger, USF Tampa</p> <p>Claire Stiles, Lakewood United Church of Christ</p> <p>Rev. Manual Sykes, Bethel Community Baptist Church</p> <p>Jessica Lewis, Executive Committee, Suncoast Sierra Club</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rebecca Zarger, USF</p>



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2:50 PM – 3:00 PM	<b>Q&amp;A for the Panel</b>
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	<b><u>Coffee Break</u></b>
3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	<p><b><u>Panel VII:</u></b> Assessing Climate Change Education and Community Outreach: Plans for Improvement</p> <p>Libby Carnahan, Sea Grant Agent, Pinellas County</p> <p>Rebecca Johns, USFSP</p> <p>Oksana Shcherba, Institute of the Golden Gate</p> <p>Siobhan O’Kane, Urban Land Institute</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Kelli Hammer Levy, Director, Division of Environmental Management, Pinellas County</p>
4:15 PM – 4:25 PM	<b>Q &amp; A for Panel</b>
4:25 PM – 4:50 PM	<p><b>Large Group Discussion:</b> Brainstorming Research Needs</p> <p><b>Session Leaders:</b> Heidi Stiller, NOAA and Maya Burke, TBEP</p>
4:50 PM – 5:00 PM	<b><u>Closing Remarks:</u></b> Barnali Dixon, USFSP

This event is sponsored by  
**GTU, USFSP, USF and OPEN (Open Partnership Education Network), as well as  
One Bay Resilient Community, HDR and Sierra Club**

**Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) is an international honor society in geography**

## Speakers/Moderators and iCAR Executive Committee Members



**Zelalem Adefris** ([zelalema@catalystmiami.org](mailto:zelalema@catalystmiami.org)) is the Climate Resilience Program Manager at Catalyst Miami. She holds an MPH in Global Environmental Health from Emory University and a Bachelor's degree in Community Health from Brown University. Her previous work experiences include environmental justice organizing at the Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island and conducting emergency preparedness research at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At Catalyst Miami, Zelalem works to educate Miami-Dade County residents on climate threats, build climate leadership in Miami-Dade County's low- and middle-income communities, implement programs that strengthen community resilience, and advocate for proactive climate policies.



**Lily Swanbrow Becker** ([lily.swanbrowbecker@myfwc.com](mailto:lily.swanbrowbecker@myfwc.com)) joined the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as the Climate Adaptation Coordinator in December 2016. In her role, she works with agency staff and a broad network of conservation partners in developing and supporting climate research, communication, planning, and on-the-ground adaptation projects. Prior to joining Florida Fish and Wildlife, Lily worked in curriculum development at Florida State University where she developed educational materials focused on topics covering conservation ecology and climate change. She has a B.S. from the University of Michigan in Environmental Science and a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Texas State University.



**Janice T. Booher, MS** ([JLBooher@comcast.net](mailto:JLBooher@comcast.net)) is the Director of Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida's Climate Resilience Ministry. She has created a Community Tool Kit with stepwise methods and materials to help congregations partner with vulnerable low income communities in coastal Florida to educate residents about the health effects of climate change, and to build community capacity by placing community members in positions of responsibility in educating their neighbors, surveying and documenting climate impacts in the community, and connecting the trained leaders to the public officials and staff working on climate resilience. These methods create social networks and relationships with community leaders and Officers of Resilience and Sustainability. Current work in Shorecrest, Miami in partnership with the National Library of Medicine/NIH Community Health Mapping Initiative and Florida International University's Sea Level Solutions Center is developing materials and methods for citizens to collect and map data about the depth, salinity, and presence or absence of coliform and E. coli in floodwaters.



**Sen. Jeff Brandes** (<http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s24>) is a lifelong resident of St. Petersburg, a Veteran, and a local businessman. After serving in the Army from 1999 to 2006, he joined his grandfather in the family lumber business. He was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2010 and quickly earned a distinguished reputation for finding innovative solutions to deal with issues in Education, Job Creation and Transportation. He was elected to the Florida Senate in 2012, reelected in 2014 and 2016, and chairs the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal Justice. Brandes and his wife, Natalie, have three children: Charlotte “Lottie”, Colin, and Conor.



**Dr. Kenneth R. Bryant** ([imhptep2@aol.com](mailto:imhptep2@aol.com)) is the Chief of Urology at Bay Pines Veterans Administration Medical Center. He is founder and president of The Minority Health Coalition of Pinellas, Inc., a coalition of organizations dedicated to highlighting health disparities and promoting health education in minority and disadvantaged communities. He is a graduate of Putnam County, Florida public schools, Mercer University and the University of Florida College of Medicine



**Maya Burke** ([mburke@tbep.org](mailto:mburke@tbep.org)) is the Technical Projects Coordinator for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program. She manages multi-entity habitat restoration, water quality improvement, ecosystem protection, and environmental policy projects. She also facilitates working groups, serves on advisory boards, develops grant proposals, and creates documents and tools that translate Tampa Bay-specific research for a broader audience. She has spent more than 10 years working in water resource management, regulatory compliance, land acquisition, and environmental land use planning. Prior to working at the Estuary Program, Maya coordinated the Agency on Bay Management and the ONE BAY Resilient Communities Working Group for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and she worked for the Southwest Florida Water Management District. She is a graduate of New College of Florida (Political Science and Environmental Studies, 2005) and a native Floridian.



**Lynette Cardoch, PhD. ([Lynette.Cardoch@hdrinc.com](mailto:Lynette.Cardoch@hdrinc.com))** is the Director of Coastal Resiliency, HDR. Dr. Lynette is a coastal ecologist who brings over 20 years of valuable knowledge and experience in environmental policy and regulation, coastal restoration, and coastal zone management. She serves as HDR's National Director in Coastal Resiliency. In this position she is responsible for developing and leading HDR's vision and strategy in coastal resiliency, as well as coordinating the necessary technical resources to grow a broad-based resiliency practice that includes consulting and engineering services. This also includes interaction with a variety of coastal clients such as coastal utilities, port authorities, national and state restoration agencies, and non-governmental organizations, such as the Rockefeller

Foundation, ASCE, and The Nature Conservancy. Projects have included natural infrastructure, such as living shoreline restoration, as well as built structures, such as enhanced sea walls. It also includes the impacts of climate variability on water supply, adaptation and resiliency planning, and coastal restoration & infrastructure protection. Most recently, Lynette was assigned to lead the company-wide Resiliency Task Force at HDR where she coordinates with leaders across all service lines to develop and deliver Resiliency Solutions.



**Libby Carnahan ([lcarnahan@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:lcarnahan@co.pinellas.fl.us))** is the UF/IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant Agent in Pinellas County. Libby is playing a leading role in Tampa Bay in helping citizens, governments, and industry make well-informed choices in the face of a changing climate. Libby facilitates the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel, is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community of Practice, and a leader of the UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Work Action Group. Libby holds a BS in Biology from Truman State University (1998) and an MS in Marine Science from the University of South Florida (2005).



**David Delrahim** ([david.delrahim@gmail.com](mailto:david.delrahim@gmail.com)) has served as the president of the Shore Acres Civic Association for the past three years representing the 2200 homes and has lived in Shore Acres since 2012. He graduated from the University of Central Florida and holds a JD from Stetson University College of Law where he served as the chair of the Go-Green Committee and Student Body Vice President. Mr. Delrahim is a business and real-estate litigation attorney at Englander Fischer and serves on several not for profit boards.



**Barnali Dixon** ([bdixon@mail.usf.edu](mailto:bdixon@mail.usf.edu)) is a professor of GIS and Remote Sensing at the Univ. of South Florida Saint Petersburg. She is also the Director of the Geospatial Analytics lab. She has extensive experience in the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing and approximation tools such as fuzzy logic for environmental modeling. Specific research interests and projects include: risk assessment and environmental modeling for soil, water and landuse interactions, as well as surface and ground water quality and quantity. She earned her PhD in Environmental Dynamics from the University of Arkansas in 2001. Dr. Dixon's study areas include Florida, Malaysia, India, Iran, Greece and Turkey. She has over 50 refereed publications and 5 monographs. She recently published a text book titled '*GIS and Geocomputation for Water Resource and Science Engineering*'. She is the Executive Director of iCAR and PI of the Conference Grant and research project related to iCAR. <http://www.usfsp.edu/espg/dixon/>



**Marybeth Dunn, MPH** ([marybeth@psrflorida.org](mailto:marybeth@psrflorida.org)) is the Co-Founder and Chapter Director of PSR/Florida. She manages the Chapter's program and policy activities which focus on moving away from fossil fuels and promoting safe energy programs. She provides education and outreach to the healthcare community to educate them on the health implications of fracking and climate change so they can become advocates for their patients and the community at large. Ms. Dunn serves on the steering committee of Floridians Against Fracking, a coalition that includes a wide range of environmental, health, social justice and business organizations working to ensure fracking and other unconventional oil and gas extraction methods do not pose serious health and environmental risks to the state of Florida. Ms. Dunn received a Master's Degree in Environmental Public Health from Boston University in 1999.



**Lisa Foster** ([ldfoster@pinellascounty.org](mailto:ldfoster@pinellascounty.org)) is the Pinellas County Floodplain Coordinator, Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA) Director at Large, and Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA) Vice President. She has a BS in Biology from the University of Tampa, an MS in Engineering Science from the University of South Florida, and is a Certified Floodplain Manager. Her professional experience is centered on watershed management planning, floodplain management planning and NFIP CRS coordination, water quality management planning, and education and outreach. Lisa works across departments within the County, and with residents, business professionals, municipalities, and other stakeholders to identify and implement floodplain management practices that are best suited for the County

and its stakeholders as a whole.



**Carlos Frey, P.E., ENV SP** ([Carlos.Frey@stpete.org](mailto:Carlos.Frey@stpete.org)) is the Design Manager, Stormwater and Environmental, City of St. Petersburg Engineering and Capital Improvements. Carlos is a professional engineer with degree in environmental engineering and has over 35 years of experience in engineering design, environmental permitting and addressing water quality issues. He has been with the city for 11 years in the Engineering and Capital Improvements Department. His emphasis is stormwater, water quality and other environmental concerns within the city. He represents the city as a member of various professional organizations such as the Nitrogen Management Consortium, Tampa Bay Estuary

Program and the Florida Stormwater Association.



**Brandi Gabbard** ([bgabbard@smithandassociates.com](mailto:bgabbard@smithandassociates.com)) has been actively involved with her community ever since she and her family relocated to St Petersburg 14 years ago. A successful real estate broker with Smith and Associates Real Estate in St Petersburg, she has served for over a decade in leadership with the state, local and national real estate associations. Most notably, she was Chairman of the Board of the Pinellas Realtors® Organization in 2014 and was awarded Realtor® of the Year in 2015. Testifying before the Governor of Florida and his cabinet in 2013 regarding the effects of flood insurance affordability led Gabbard to her current

position as Vice Chair of the National Association of Realtors® Insurance Committee. Locally, Gabbard serves as Vice President of the Barclay Estates Homeowners Association. She is a member of the City of St. Petersburg Program for Public Information Task Force on Flood Insurance and is involved with the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, serving on both their Public Policy Council and their Transportation Task Force. She is also currently a candidate for St Petersburg City Council, District 2.



**Jeff Goodell** (<http://www.lyceumagency.com/speakers/jeff-goodell/>) is an investigative reporter and a prominent expert on climate change and energy policy. His forthcoming book *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Reshaping of the Civilized World* is an immersive look at the global crisis of rising oceans. Former Secretary of State John Kerry praised *The Water Will Come* as “an eye-opening portrait of humankind's dilemma... *The Water Will Come* brings together compelling anecdotes from all over the globe and shocking expert assessments that should make the world's few remaining skeptics reconsider.” Steeped in scientific research and on-the-ground reporting, *The Water Will Come* is written in the tradition of environmental classics like *The World Without*

Us. Goodell is a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* and the author of five books, including *How to Cool the Planet: Geoengineering and the Audacious Quest to Fix Earth's Climate*, which won the 2011 Grantham Prize Award of Special Merit. Goodell's previous books include *Sunnyvale*, a memoir about growing up in Silicon Valley, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and *Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America's Energy Future*. He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Our Story: 77 Hours That Tested Our Friendship and Our Faith*, based on the experience of the Quecreek miners. This is the Aresty Speaker for the iCAR event.



**Michael Green** ([michael.green@cabaus.org](mailto:michael.green@cabaus.org)) leads Climate Action Business Association (CABA) as an award winning advocate for climate policy and environmental action. Since 2012, he has served as a representative to the United Nations focusing on international climate science and policy. Recognized as a Champion of Change by President Obama in 2016, Michael was honored for his focus on climate change as an equity issue. He has played strategic roles in several of the national and global campaigns dedicated to fighting climate change. Michael is a Northeastern University graduate with degrees in international affairs and environmental studies, course work at the University of Edinburgh's MSc Program in Environmental Protection and

Management and Harvard Business School's CORE Program. He sits on the Board of Boston area non-profits as well as a policy advisor to national business associations on energy leads Climate Action Business Association (CABA) as an award winning advocate for climate policy and environmental action. Since 2012, he has served as a representative to the United Nations focusing on international climate science and policy. Recognized as a Champion of Change by President Obama in 2016, Michael was honored for his focus on climate change as an equity issue. He has played strategic roles in several of the national and global campaigns dedicated to fighting climate change. Michael is a Northeastern University graduate with degrees in international affairs and environmental studies, course work at the University of Edinburgh's MSc Program in Environmental Protection and Management and Harvard Business School's CORE Program. He sits on the Board of Boston area non-profits as well as a policy advisor to national business associations on energy



**Ramona Madhosingh-Hector** ([ramona.m.hector@ufl.edu](mailto:ramona.m.hector@ufl.edu)) is a Regional Specialized Agent at the Urban Sustainability Center located at Pinellas County's Extension office. In this capacity, she is tasked with developing educational programs that support and advance the county's commitment to sustainability. She currently manages a community energy program as well as a sustainability series for citizens. Ramona has a MSP in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University, a MS in Environmental Science from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and a BS in

Agriculture from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago.



**Rebecca Johns** ([rebakrishnaswami@usfsp.edu](mailto:rebakrishnaswami@usfsp.edu)) is the Frank E. Duckwall Professor of Florida Studies and an associate professor of geography. She received her Ph.D. from Rutgers University and her M.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, both in geography. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Stanford University. She is currently the secretary of the Florida Society of Geographers. Dr. Johns' recent publications focus on local scale problems related to Florida's social and environmental landscapes, including issues of native plants, residential yardscapes, and lawns, and food deserts. She is currently working issues related to the

intersection of environmental education, outdoor programming, and environmental and social justice. She serves as the Director of Education and Outreach for iCAR and the Senior Editor for the iCAR Workshop Proceedings.



**Kelli Hammer Levy** ([klevy@pinellascounty.org](mailto:klevy@pinellascounty.org)) has worked in the Tampa Bay area for 20 years and is currently the Director of Pinellas County's Division of Environmental Management. Her areas of responsibility include environmental monitoring, watershed assessment, coastal management, environmental permitting, outreach and education, and compliance activities. She received her B.S. in Marine Science from Eckerd College, her M.S. in Marine Science from the University of South Florida, and is currently pursuing her M.P.A. from Florida International University. Kelli serves as a Co-Chair of the Tampa Bay Estuary

Program Technical Advisory Committee and St. Petersburg College's Suncoast Sea Level Rise Collaborative, is on the Board of Directors and chaired the Legislative and Agency Relations Committee for the Florida Stormwater Association, and is a member of the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Council.





**Jessica Lewis** ([j.olivia.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:j.olivia.lewis@gmail.com)) is a biologist and community organizer, and serves on the local executive committees for Suncoast Surfrider Foundation and Suncoast Sierra Club. She was a leader in the team that brought the Integrated Sustainability Action Plan and 100% clean energy commitment to St Pete. Jessica currently works in avian research, and volunteers with a dedicated team to foster conservation, sustainability, and community engagement initiatives, particularly through the lens of inclusivity. This North Carolina native brings her passion for green and blue spaces into any work she does. She leads the social media efforts for multiple local non-profits and actively seeks to engage underrepresented groups in our region.



**Rev. Dr. Russell L. Meyer** ([rmeyer@floridachurches.org](mailto:rmeyer@floridachurches.org)) is the Executive Director of the Florida Council of Churches and pastor of St. Paul & Faith Lutheran Churches in Tampa. He is the convener of the Florida Interfaith Climate Action Network, now planning its fourth assembly for early 2018. He serves as community co-chair of the Suncoast Sea Level Rise Collaborative at St. Petersburg College with the Institute of Strategic Policy Solutions. He is active in state and national climate and moral policy movements. His academic work applies social field theory to generate conversation among heterogeneous groups that leads to new collaborative action. He is ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



**Gary Mitchum** ([mitchum@usf.edu](mailto:mitchum@usf.edu)) is presently a Professor of Physical Oceanography and the Associate Dean in the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. After receiving his PhD from the Department of Oceanography at the Florida State University in 1985, he spent 11 years in the Department of Oceanography at the University of Hawaii, first as a postdoctoral researcher and then as a member of the research faculty and as the Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center. He came to the University of South Florida in 1996. His research interests emphasize short-term climate changes, ranging from interannual variations such as El Nino, to decadal changes, to long-term sea level rise.



**Bro John Muhammad** ([95atonement@gmail.com](mailto:95atonement@gmail.com)) has been involved in grassroots organizing and community outreach since joining the Nation of Islam in 1997 at age 21. He has a passion for uniting people and developing the next generation of leaders. He was instrumental in the establishment of the 2020 Plan which led to the development of the South St. Pete Community Redevelopment Area as part of their plan to reduce poverty. In 2011 he was elected President of the Childs Park Neighborhood Association. As President he has increased membership and led the group to be recognized as "Neighborhood of the Year for Civic Engagement." In response to the violence that was going on the City, he co-founded the St. Pete Stop The Violence Coalition in 2012. The group was recognized by President Barack Obama and received back to back National Volunteer Service Awards from

his office in 2013 and 2014. Bro John is also the Co-Founder of the Community Development And Training Center Inc, which a Florida Non-Profit Corporation that helps individuals and groups develop their potential and accomplish their personal and professional goals by connecting them with resources and opportunities they may not be aware of. He is facilitator of the New Image Project which teaches importance of personal branding and helping them redefine what is "cool." Their "Smart is the New Gangsta" program was featured on Bay News 9 and has helped dozens of young men transition out of "street life" into doing positive work in the community. He has lead Peace Walks, Town Hall Meetings, Family Fun Events to promote healthy living, while also assisting with weekly Neighborhood Clean ups as part of the "Adopt A Block" initiative. He prides himself on giving his community a voice and showing them what can be accomplished when they are united and organized.



**Siobhan O'Kane** ([siobhan.okane@uli.org](mailto:siobhan.okane@uli.org)) is Senior Manager of the Tampa Bay District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI), a global nonprofit education and research institute with a mission to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in sustaining and creating thriving communities. The ULI Tampa Bay District Council provides technical assistance to communities and sponsors educational forums and events such as trends conferences, transportation and housing programs. Prior to joining ULI, Siobhan was the Principal Planner in the State of Rhode Island for the HUD Sustainable Communities grant program on new strategic housing and economic

development plans. Before her position in Rhode Island, Siobhan was the Program Director for The Sir Peter Blake Trust in New Zealand, and worked as a policy planner for the Auckland Regional Council of New Zealand and as an environmental planning consultant for AKRF Inc. in New York. Siobhan has a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University and was a Fulbright Scholar at Waikato University in New Zealand.



**Christine Owen** ([cowen@tampabaywater.org](mailto:cowen@tampabaywater.org)) is the Water Quality Services Senior Manager for Tampa Bay Water. She has worked in drinking water for more than 26 years and her work focuses on integrating applied research, water quality, treatment and public policy. She has presented or published more than 100 papers and is active in the water industry as a member of the American Water Works Association, the WaterReuse Association, the Water Research Foundation and the American Membrane Technology Association. She served two terms on the USEPA SAB Drinking Water Committee and the USEPA NACEPT Subcommittee for Policy and Technology. Presently she is a Trustee for AWWA's Water Science and Research Division and serves on the Board of Directors for the American Membrane Technology Association. She recently was named the AWWA AMTA Water Quality Person of the Year for 2017.



**Jacqui Patterson, MSW & MPH** ([jpatterson@naacpnet.org](mailto:jpatterson@naacpnet.org)) is currently the Director of Environmental and Climate Justice at the NAACP and has worked on international and domestic issues including gender justice, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice, with organizations including Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, IMA World Health, United for a Fair Economy, ActionAid, Health GAP, and the organization she co-founded, Women of Color United. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Center for Story Based Strategy, the US Climate Action Network, The River Network, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, as well as on Steering Committee for Interfaith Moral Action on Climate Change, and the Advisory Board for the Center for Earth Ethics and the Climate Resilience and Urban Opportunity Initiative.



**Lynn Ringenberg, MD.** ([ring46@me.com](mailto:ring46@me.com)) is an Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Her academic career spanned 20 years at USF with 13 years in private practice. She co-founded Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)/Tampa Bay in 2008, which expanded to PSR/Florida in 2012. She is the faculty advisor for the Student Chapter of PSR @ the University of South Florida Morsani School of Medicine. Her passions lie in medical education, underserved health care, climate change & health and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Dr. Ringenberg is the immediate past-president of national PSR in Washington D.C, a board member of PSR/Florida, and a retired U.S. Army colonel.



**Greg Ruggiero** ([gregruggiero@bouchardinsurance.com](mailto:gregruggiero@bouchardinsurance.com)) specializes in managing insurance programs for businesses and condominium associations throughout the state of Florida. Along with his insurance licenses, he is an Accredited Advisor in Insurance (AAI) & Licensed Community Association Manager (LCAM). Greg is an active member of Community Association Institute (CAI) West Florida and Building Managers International (BMI) Southwest Florida. He currently serves as chair of the CAI Young Professionals committee and is a member of the Community Outreach committee. Greg is experienced in writing complete insurance coverage packages for businesses and condominium associations including property, wind, liability, directors & officers, workers compensation, crime/fidelity bond, mold & sewer back-up and flood.



**Jamie L. Serino, MSM/MBA** ([jamie.serino@outlook.com](mailto:jamie.serino@outlook.com)) is the CFO of OceanSpace Technologies and the Executive Director of Take Stock in Children of Manatee County. He has earned more than 20 awards for achievements in such areas as conservation planning, marine conservation, education, campaign development, fundraising and marketing. He has held the positions of Director of NOAA's National Under Search Center, Caribbean Region, the Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program for Florida, the Director of the Everglades Research and Restoration Division for SFWMD and the Director of Philanthropy and Marketing for The Nature Conservancy. Jamie holds a MSM/MBA from National Louis University in Chicago, IL and a BS in Marine Science from Eckerd College, St Petersburg, FL.



**Maria Sgambati, M.D.** ([maria@mariasgambati.com](mailto:maria@mariasgambati.com)) a South Florida native left to study Biology at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina in 1981. She trained as a Hematologist-Oncologist (Bowman Gray -Wake Forest University School of Medicine) and spent 10 years working at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland. During that time, she worked in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics and several other groups and gained a deep understanding of epidemiological and clinical research. Her passion for the natural world led her to become an independent consultant in Washington DC, where she helped develop citizen capacity in issues related to water quality as well as a variety of biomedical related projects. Maria returned to Florida in 2013, living first in Cedar Key and working for the U. of Florida's Seahorse Key Marine Lab as Assistant Director/Education and Outreach

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**Oksana Shcherba** ([oshcherba@parksconservancy.org](mailto:oshcherba@parksconservancy.org)) has a background in public administration and policy, with an emphasis in environmental policy. She has worked with local governments, including the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, as well as environmental advocacy groups such as the Environmental Defense Fund on initiatives ranging from outlining open space needs in underserved neighborhoods to promoting sustainable fishing practices. At the Institute, Oksana manages the Climate Change Education Program. Oksana holds a Bachelor's in Politics from the University of San Francisco and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

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**Joseph M. Smoak** ([smoak@mail.usf.edu](mailto:smoak@mail.usf.edu)) is a professor of biogeochemistry at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg. He has over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, and has received research funding from numerous regional, state and federal agencies including the National Science Foundation. Dr. Smoak has conducted research at sites ranging from Florida to locations around the world including Antarctica, Australia, Brazil, China, Iran, Mexico and Venezuela. He has examined lakes, freshwater wetlands, coastal ecosystems, continental margins and deep-sea sediments. Dr. Smoak's current research focuses is on how coastal wetlands respond to climate change and sea-level rise. Specifically, his work examines carbon burial (i.e., sequestration) in coastal wetlands, and how that

burial might change and influence the global climate. <http://www.usfsp.edu/espg/smoak/>. He serves as the Director of Research, Climate Science for iCAR.



**Claire A. Stiles**, Ph.D., ([stilesca@eckerd.edu](mailto:stilesca@eckerd.edu)) is a Professor Emerita of Human Development at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL received her Ph.D. in Mental Health Counseling with a specialty in Health Counseling at the University of Florida in 1987. She served as a counselor, health promoter, and full-time faculty member in the Human Development discipline at Eckerd College for 38 years before retiring in May of 2015. Three of her numerous publications are in the field of effective health risk communication and how to motivate people to take action to safeguard their health and safety in the face of risk. Currently she is pursuing volunteer work in support of environmental sustainability while serving as a

member of the Suncoast Sea Level Rise Collaborative at SPC, Health and Climate Change Group of the collaborative, the Sierra Club, and Creation Justice Task Force at Lakewood United Church of Christ. An avid lifelong outdoors woman, Dr. Stiles is passionate about preserving the natural world for future generations.



**Heidi Stiller** ([Heidi.Stiller@noaa.gov](mailto:Heidi.Stiller@noaa.gov)) With a background in public policy, coastal management, and sociology, Ms. Stiller has been with NOAA since 2001. She is focused on the Gulf of Mexico and Southeast regions, and is based in St. Petersburg. Before joining NOAA, Ms. Stiller worked for the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, and spent three years at the Florida Coastal Management Program. In recent years, NOAA has had a growing focus on the topic of resilience -- working to identify and promote activities that enhance the resilience of the built, natural, and social environments of coastal communities. Ms. Stiller has

been involved in efforts to identify resilience factors, and to provide data and tools to help communities address and communicate coastal inundation risks. Land use planning that

incorporates hazard mitigation, climate adaptation, and natural resource sustainability is a focus of Ms. Stiller's work.



**Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes** ([drmlsykes@gmail.com](mailto:drmlsykes@gmail.com)) is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, who served in the Air Force before starting his college education. Dr. Sykes graduated from Luther Rice Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983. He later attended Drew University in Madison New Jersey and received his Masters Degrees in Divinity and Philosophy focusing on Religion and Society. Dr. Sykes received his Ph.D. in Religion and Society from Drew University in 2000. Dr. Sykes also received his Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Counseling from the St. Petersburg Theological Seminary in 2010. In 1992 Dr. Sykes entered a Clinical Pastoral Education internship at the University Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida; while completing this program he was called to serve the Bethel Community Baptist Church her in St. Petersburg, Florida. Since moving to St. Petersburg, Dr. Sykes has served as a Chaplain at the VA Medical center, St. Anthony's and Bayfront Hospitals. In January 2006, Dr. Sykes was named president of the St. Petersburg Theological Seminary. Prior to ascending to this post, he served as the seminary's Dean of Graduate Studies. He also served as an adjunct professor of African American History and Ethics at St. Petersburg Junior College. His aim is to provide the highest standards in Pastoral, educational, and community service.



**Noah Taylor** ([Noah.Taylor@stpete.org](mailto:Noah.Taylor@stpete.org)) is the Community Rating System Coordinator for the City of St. Petersburg. His area of expertise is coordinating activities that educate the public on flood hazards, flood insurance, and encouraging sound floodplain management. This is accomplished through public engagement, training programs, and facilitating cooperation of city departments with respect to floodplain management. Noah holds a BS in Geology from Eastern Kentucky University and has over 10 years of environmental experience dealing with water treatment, water quality, water conservation, and floodplain management. Noah is a Certified Floodplain Manager, an Envision Specialist, and is a regional director for the Florida Floodplain Mangers Association.



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