



2025 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESILIENCY SUMMIT

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

ALAA ALI, PH.D. (aali@sfwmd.gov)

Alaa Ali, Ph.D., P.E. is a Civil Engineer at the South Florida Water Management District. He has made significant contributions to water management and restoration projects and his innovative modeling tool, the iModel, allows water managers to replicate the movement of water to benefit the Everglades - improving water flow management and natural system restoration. Dr. Ali's work has been recognized internationally, and he is involved in educational initiatives to teach hydrologic modeling at Columbia University. His expertise in water resource management is a testament to his dedication to protecting and improving the water quality and natural systems of South Florida. Dr. Ali holds a Ph.D. in stochastic modeling/optimization from Utah State University and earned his undergraduate degree from Cairo University.

MEHRSHAD AMINI, PH.D. (mehrshad.amini@uri.edu)

Mehrshad Amini is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Ocean Engineering at the University of Rhode Island. His research includes developing computational frameworks to better understand the impact of multi-hazard events on residential/commercial buildings, life safety risks, and economic resilience metrics in terms of direct and indirect economic losses for coastal communities. Before joining URI, Dr. Amini was a postdoctoral scholar at Oregon State University and has worked collaboratively with scholars at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Center for Risk-based Community Resilience Planning. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Pennsylvania State University.

JOEL CAOUE (joel.caouette@mysanibel.com)

Joel Caouette is an Environmental Biologist with the City of Sanibel, where he has been working for 14 years on several coastal resiliency projects including the City's Lighthouse Living Shoreline and Sanibel-Captiva Emergency Road Protection Project. He has also been involved in the design and permitting of tentative beach nourishment projects for Sanibel Island. Prior to that, Caouette served as a Wildlife Biologist for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), where his work focused on endangered and imperiled coastal species conservation. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Conservation Biology from the University of Rhode Island.

DAN CIARLETTA, PH.D. (dciarletta@usgs.gov)

Dan Ciarletta, Ph.D., is a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Physical Scientist at the [USGS St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center](#). His work investigates the evolution of barrier island morphology to understand how beach, dune, and marsh landscapes are connected over different timescales. To accomplish this, Dr. Ciarletta combines field approaches with numerical modeling to quantify geomorphological change through time. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Management and a Master's Degree in Geoscience from Montclair State University.

JENNIFER CODO-SALISBURY (jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org)

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury is the Executive Director of Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). She leads a dynamic and multi-functional planning team that administers programs including Resiliency, Brownfields, Hazard Mitigation, Geographical Information Systems, the Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape, military installation compatibility, local land use planning, and state and federal grant administration and coordination. She has more than 25 years of experience in urban planning, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of South Florida and is a AICP certified planner. Prior to joining the CFRPC, Ms. Codo-Salisbury managed several large-scale planning projects in the public and private sectors.

ALYSSA DAUSMAN, PH.D. (adausman@thewaterinstitute.org)

Alyssa Dausman, Ph.D., is the Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist at The Water Institute, an independent, applied research organization that advances actionable research, technology, and planning in support of science-informed decision making. Dr. Dausman began her career as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Florida after completing her M.S. at the University of New Orleans. She received her Ph.D. in Geosciences from Florida International University in 2008. In 2011, Dr. Dausman staffed to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and was a senior representative to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (RESTORE Council) and restoration monitoring for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, later serving as the Science Director for the RESTORE Council.

BRIAN GLAZER, PH.D. (glazer@hohonu.io)

Brian Glazer, Ph.D., is the Co-Founder & CEO of Hohonu, Inc. as well as a professor in the Department of Oceanography at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He serves on the National Science Foundation's Ocean Observing Initiative Facilities Board as well as the Deep Submergence Science Steering Committee. Dr. Glazer has 21 years of experience in ocean observing science, both at deep-sea volcanoes and the coastal zone. He earned a B.S. degree in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1997, as well as a M.S. in Marine Sciences in 1999 and Ph.D. in Marine Sciences in 2004 from the University of Delaware. His group has developed affordable sensors, instruments, and a web-based data platform and maintains over 130 real-time sensors in five states.

JENNIFER HECKER (jhecker@chnep.org)

Jennifer Hecker is the Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), part of the US EPA National Estuary Program. Prior to CHNEP, Hecker served as the Director of Natural Resource Policy for thirteen years at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, where she oversaw a team of policy and legal professionals working on a variety of natural resource policy issues. She holds an Environmental Studies undergraduate degree from Prescott College and a Tropical Biology and Conservation graduate degree from the University of Missouri Saint Louis. She currently serves as a Science Advisory Board member to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and as a member on the Environmental Advisory Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

MARY MARGARET HULL (MaryMargaret.Hull@swfwmd.state.fl.us)

Mary Margaret Hull is the Lead Project Manager of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) Resource Management Division. She is an accomplished communications leader with more than 20 years of experience in project management and integrated marketing in the public sector. Ms. Hull has deep knowledge of developing, implementing, and measuring communications plans with a track record of award-winning projects. She holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Rollins College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, State and Local Government from the University of South Florida.

NICOLE IADEVAIA (niadevaia@chnep.org)

Nicole Iadevaia currently serves as the Director of Research & Restoration of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP). This role oversees CHNEP's work on research and restoration project management and serves as the staff liaison to the CHNEP Technical and Citizens Advisory Committees. Her prior experience includes research science, serving as a principal investigator for the Florida Wildlife Research Institute – Fisheries Independent Monitoring and smalltooth sawfish research programs. Her experience in water quality includes project management, data collection and analysis for several surface water quality projects, including stormwater and seagrass monitoring for the EPA NPDES program. Nicole has degrees in ecology and biological anthropology from the University of Colorado.

CHARLES JACOBY, PH.D. (cajacoby@usf.edu)

Charles Jacoby, Ph.D., is the Strategic Program Director for the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation at the University of South Florida (USF). He received bachelor's and master's degrees in biological sciences from Illinois State University, a doctorate in biological sciences from Stanford University, and a master's in business administration from the University of Western Australia. During his career, he has investigated water quality, seagrasses, spring-fed systems, saltmarshes, mid-water systems, invertebrates, fish, and manatees. Drawing from his experience, he has provided advice to industry and federal, state and local governments in both the United States and Australia, including being a Gubernatorial appointment to Florida's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force.

ANA CAROLINA MARAN, PH.D. (cmaran@sfwmd.gov)

Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E. is the Division Director of Flood Control and Water Supply Planning and Chief of District Resiliency at the South Florida Water Management District. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating resilience efforts, advancing scientific research and data analysis; and, developing and implementing comprehensive resiliency projects. Prior to joining SFWMD, Dr. Maran worked as the Water Manager at Broward County, a Water Resources Specialist for the Federal Water Agency in Brazil and collaborated with International Organizations as part of technical consulting teams. She holds a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering – Water Resources from Colorado State University and a Master's Degree in Water Resources Engineering from Parana Federal University in Brazil.

BRIAN McNOLDY (bmcnoldy@miami.edu)

Brian McNoldy is a Senior Research Associate at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science where his focus is primarily tropical cyclone research, as well as sea level rise and extreme heat. He previously worked a decade at Colorado State University's Department of Atmospheric Science conducting research on a variety of topics, specializing in tropical cyclones. Brian has maintained a blog on tropical Atlantic activity since 1996, been selected as one of four hurricane experts for a New York Times blog from 2007-2010 and been the tropical weather expert for the Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang blog since 2012. He has a B.A. in physics and astronomy from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA in 1998, and a M.S. in atmospheric science at Colorado State University (CSU) in 2001.

WENDY OLIVER (woliver@volofoundation.org)

Wendy Oliver is the Executive Director of the VoLo Foundation, whose mission is to accelerate change and global impact by supporting science-based climate solutions, enhancing education, and improving health. With over a decade of experience in the philanthropic sector, she has a proven track record of managing grantmaking activities, developing strategic partnerships, and fostering collaborative relationships for outstanding results. She currently serves as Executive Director of VoLo Foundation, a private family foundation headquartered in Palm Beach

Gardens, FL. Ms. Oliver has an undergraduate degree in Communications and Business Management from Florida Atlantic University and a graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Stetson University.

DAN RIZZA (drizza@climatecentral.org)

Dan Rizza leads the Program on Sea Level Rise at Climate Central, directing a team dedicated to equipping coastal stakeholders with the tools, information, and products necessary to understand, communicate, visualize, and respond to sea level rise and coastal flooding. Previously, he worked at the Climate Policy Center of Clean Air-Cool Planet where he managed sea level rise mapping initiatives, researched public attitudes on sea level rise, and advised Congressional Committees on sea level rise and climate hearings. He was a member of the team contracted by the Department of Energy to advise and support the start-up of Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). He earned his Master's degree from Georgetown University's Graduate School of Foreign Service and his Bachelor's from Colby College.

PETER SHENG, PH.D. (pete@coastal.ufl.edu)

Dr. Peter Sheng is a Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Research Professor in Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering in the Civil and Coastal Engineering Department of Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment at the University of Florida. Dr. Sheng is a recognized leader in flood modeling and mapping, having served on National Academies Committees on New Orleans Flood Protection System and FEMA Flood Mapping. His recent research interests include Assessing the Role of Coastal Wetlands in Reducing Flood, Wave, and Infrastructure Damage; Risk Assessment; and Flood Mapping. He is currently assessing future flood vulnerability and wetlands' value for flood loss reduction in the CHNEP and SBEP region. Dr. Sheng received a Ph.D. and M.S. in Fluid and Thermal Sciences from Case Western Reserve University as well as a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from National Taiwan University.

DAWN SHIRREFFS (dshirreffe@edf.org)

Dawn Shirreffs is the Florida Director of Florida's Environmental Defense office in St. Petersburg. Ms. Shirreffs oversees a team that mobilizes key influencers and constituencies to reach and build relationships with members of Congress, as well as with key in-state constituencies to develop policy solutions that build long-term resilience to Florida's communities, economy, and environment. Prior to joining EDF, Dawn held roles at the Miami Foundation, Clean Water Action, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Everglades Foundation working on restoration of America's Everglades. Dawn holds B.A. in Growth Management and Environmental Studies from Rollins College, a M.P.A. from Florida International University, and a Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate from Georgetown University.

ALBERT SLAP, J.D. (albertslap@riskfootprint.com)

Albert J. Slap is President and Co-Founder of Coastal Risk Consulting, LLC, a flood, natural hazard, and climate change risk assessment technology company located in Boca Raton, FL. Coastal Risk's technology empowers individuals, businesses, and governments in the US and globally to accelerate resilience. Coastal Risk invented the new RiskFootprint™ cloud-based, risk assessment platform that holistically assesses the risks of any property in the US in seconds. Prior to launching Coastal Risk, Mr. Slap was a nationally recognized, environmental trial attorney and law professor. For his outstanding legal work, Mr. Slap was the recipient in 2014 of the prestigious Marjory Stoneman Douglas "Defender of the Everglades Award." He has taught at University of Cincinnati and Florida International University Colleges of Law and holds a J.D. from Villanova University and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

TIFFANY TROXLER, PH.D. (troxlert@fiu.edu)

Tiffany Troxler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth and Environment and Director of Science in the Sea Level Solutions Center in the Institute of Environment at Florida International University in Miami, FL. She is an ecosystem ecologist and sustainability scientist whose work cuts across science, policy and management of natural and urban environments. She is author of over 80 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Abroad, she was a Program Officer with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Task Force and currently serves as Chair of the International Long-Term Ecological Research Network. She holds Bachelor degrees in Anthropology and Biological Sciences, as well as Masters and Doctorate all from Florida International University.

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