



2024 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CLIMATE SUMMIT

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

SARA AYERS-RIGSBY (sayersrigsby@fau.edu)

Sara Ayers-Rigsby is the Director of the Southeast/Southwest Regions Florida Public Archaeology Networks and specializes in cultural resources management and historic preservation. In her role, Ms. Ayers-Rigsby is responsible for designing educational outreach and programming for Florida's southernmost 9 counties. Prior, she spent 10 years working as an archaeologist throughout the United States, with a regional focus on the archaeology of the southeast and Mid Atlantic. She earned her M.A. in Archaeology for Screen Media from the University of Bristol, UK, and her B.A. in Classical Archaeology from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She is certified as a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).

MAYOR NATHANIEL BIRDSONG (nbirdsong@mywinterhaven.com)

Mayor Nathaniel J. Birdsong, Jr., has been a long-standing respected public servant serving on Winter Haven's City Commission. He was elected to Seat Number 2 in 2002 and re-elected in 2007, 2011, 2015, and 2019. He served as Mayor in 2006 & 2007, 2014 & 2015, 2019, and 2024, as well as served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2004 & 2005, 2011, 2013, and 2017-2023. A Winter Haven native, Mayor Birdsong holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Florida A&M University and an MBA from Nova Southeastern University. He is also the Executive Director of the Florence Villa Community Development Corporation.

WESLEY BROOKS, PH.D. (Wesley.Brooks@eog.myflorida.com)

Dr. Wesley Brooks, a native of Miami, has served as Florida's Chief Resilience Officer since November 2021. In that capacity, he leads the Statewide Office of Resilience on behalf of Governor Ron DeSantis to enhance agency coordination on resilience, and bolster flood protection and mitigation efforts across inland and coastal communities throughout the state.

He is also an appointed state representative to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group and the Chair of the multi-agency Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team. Dr. Brooks earned his Ph.D. in Ecological Science from Rutgers University and Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Political Science from Duke University. He has co-authored 18 peer-reviewed scientific papers with a primary research focus on invasive species and restoration ecology in South Florida. Previously, he was the Director of Federal Affairs for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and served as a senior advisor on energy and environment, water resources, and trade policy to Senator Marco Rubio, Congressman Brian Mast, and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

JENNIFER CODO-SALISBURY (jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org)

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury is the Executive Director of Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). In that capacity, 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.

JOSHUA DASKIN, PH.D. (jdaskin@archbold-station.org)

Dr. Joshua Daskin is the Director of Conservation at Archbold Biological Station where he promotes the use of science in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. He leads development and implementation of Archbold's conservation strategy connecting researchers with agencies, landowners, NGOs, and science collaborators to grow the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation actions from Archbold's own 20,000 acres to the statewide Florida Wildlife Corridor and beyond. Since 2021, he has led the scientific arm of the campaign to conserve the Corridor. Dr. Daskin earned a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Brandeis University, a M.Sc. in Zoology while a Fulbright Scholar at James Cook University in Australia, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University. Prior to his current position at Archbold, he researched the impacts of war on African wildlife and helped reestablish scientific capacity in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique following the country's civil conflict. He was also Donnelley Postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and a biologist in the US Fish and Wildlife Service headquarters office.

PATRICK DOTY (patrick.doty@watermatters.org)

Mr. Doty has worked as a professional planner and floodplain manager since graduating in 2014, mainly at the municipal level until taking a position with SWFWMD in 2022 as a Senior Planner and the Resilience Coordinator. Doty has a Bachelor of Science in Ocean and Coastal Resources from Texas A&M University at Galveston and a Master's degree in Urban Planning

from Texas A&M University. He is a Certified Planner (AICP) and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHANNON ESTENOZ (tasha_l_robbins@ios.doi.gov)

Shannon Estenoz is the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the U.S. Department of Interior. Prior, she was most recently the Chief Operating Officer of The Everglades Foundation, served as Interior's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, and Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Assistant Secretary Estenoz's 24-year career in conservation includes roles with the World Wildlife Fund and the National Parks Conservation Association, and appointments by three Florida Governors including to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District. She is a fifth generation native of Key West, Florida, and holds degrees in International Affairs and Civil Engineering from Florida State University.

MICHAEL FLOOD (Michael.Flood@wsp.com)

Michael (Mike) Flood has over 30-years of consulting experience and is the national resiliency lead for the WSP consulting firm. In this role, Mike has led most national projects focused on determining the risks of extreme weather and climate change and developing potential strategies for addressing those risks. This work has included assessing potential impacts on buildings and facilities in the northeast and southeast, transit and transportation facilities across the United States. Mike's recent work has focused on developing methods, tools, and strategies to help agencies make effective decisions in adaptation to extreme weather risks through the development of prioritization processes.

JENNIFER HECKER (jhecker@chnep.org)

Jennifer Hecker is the Executive Director of the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP), part of the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. In the past 7 years of her serving in that capacity, the CHNEP has expanded its service area and membership to include 10 counties, written a new strategic plan, and more than doubled its funding. Prior to that, Hecker served as the Director of Natural Resource Policy for 13 years for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, where she oversaw a team of policy professionals and legal consultants to work on water, endangered species, environmental lands, natural resource extraction, and Everglades policy issues. Hecker had previously been a scientist working for governmental and environmental consulting firms. She holds an Environmental Studies undergraduate degree from Prescott College, as well as a graduate degree in Tropical Biology and Conservation from the University of Missouri Saint Louis. She 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.

DEPUTY MAYOR KEITH KEENE (kkeene@arcadia-fl.gov)

Deputy Mayor Keith Keene is serving his third term on the Arcadia City Council. During his tenure, he has been Mayor four times. He represents Arcadia on the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, where he served two years as the council Chairman. Keene earned his BA degree from the University of South Florida after graduating from DeSoto County High School in 1971. He is a graduate of the Center for Disease Control Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute. Deputy Mayor Keene retired in 2018, as the Environmental Health Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in DeSoto and Highlands Counties. He began his career as an Environmental Health Specialist at the FDOH in Charlotte County in 1989. He has served on many public health associations and boards, including the Florida and National Environmental Health Associations, the Florida Public Health Association and the National Association of City and County Health Officials. Additionally, Deputy Mayor Keene has served on many local efforts including Arcadia Main Street, DeSoto County Economic Development advisory committee and the City of Arcadia Planning & Zoning Board.

COMMISSIONER SCOTT KIROUAC (Skirouac@highlandsfl.gov)

Commissioner Scott Kirouac serves District 3 of Highlands County. He has been a resident of Sebring since 1977, graduating from Sebring High School in 1980. He has been employed since 2008 with Hillary Peat Co., located in Groveland and Avon Park, as a sales consultant. He is also vice-president of Big Sky Growers Inc. Scott is the founder and chairman of Ag Angels, Inc. (agangels.org), a Not-for-Profit 501c3 Charity, in Sebring, Florida. Ag Angels was created in 2007 and has raised over \$975,000 - with 100% of donations going to schools and organizations to purchase Christmas gifts and other needs for less fortunate children. Commissioner Kirouac also volunteers his time with a number of other organizations to support local community and agricultural industry.

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

Dr. Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E. is the Chief of District Resiliency with the South Florida Water Management District. In her role, she is responsible for coordinating resilience efforts across federal, state, regional and local agencies, advancing scientific research and data analysis to ensure the District's resilience planning and projects are founded on the best available science; and, developing and implementing comprehensive resiliency projects to mitigate and adapt to the challenges facing the District's infrastructure from sea level rise and other climate change impacts. Dr. Maran has more than 20 years of experience working on water and climate resiliency; water resources planning, management, and regulation; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, decision support systems and GIS; water allocation rules and conflict resolution. Prior to joining SFWMD, she was the Water Manager at Broward County, worked over 10 years as 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. Currently, she

serves on the Florida Water and Climate Alliance Steering Committee, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact Steering Committee, and on the Board of Directors of South Florida Hydrologic Society and the Resilient Utility Coalition.

DOUG MARCY (doug.marcy@noaa.gov)

Doug Marcy is a Senior Coastal Hazards Specialist at the NOAA Office for Coastal Management in Charleston, SC. He has been with the NOAA 23 years working on flooding and sea level rise geospatial mapping projects, storm surge assessments, and coastal hazards assessment projects contributing to more disaster resilient communities. Mr. Marcy worked as a Hydraulic Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District from 1999 to 2002, where he focused on flood control projects, H&H modeling, flood inundation mapping, shoreline change analysis, and coastal engineering. From 1997 to 1999 he worked at the South Carolina Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. Mr. Marcy has a M.S. in marine geology (1997) from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a B.S. in geology (1994) from the College of Charleston. His current interests include using geospatial technology combined with meteorological, hydrological, and coastal modeling (including sea level change) to enhance mapping, risk assessment, and adaptation planning.

LORI MILLER (lori_miller@fws.gov)

Lori Miller implements sea level rise analyses and other climate environmental trends into refuge management throughout the Gulf Coast Refuge Complex, the State of Florida, and the Caribbean refuges as a climate scientist. She is also the Acting Project Leader of the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. Ms. Miller is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Technical Oversight Committee member overseeing Consent Decree water quality standards and compliance in Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park. She is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative on the President Biden White House subcommittee, Interagency Council on the Advancement of Meteorological Services, that includes weather, climate, climate change, hydrology, and ocean science. She was recently chosen to represent the agency in a President Biden new U.S. - ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asia Nations) initiative to decrease greenhouse gas emissions with wetland and forest restoration. Ms. Miller came to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after a career in private weather forecasting and climate studies, television meteorology, and in hydrology and water management with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She was awarded the national Person of the Year in Climate Change in 2014 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the national Individual of the Year Environmental Leadership award for the Department of Interior in 2015. Ms. Miller received a Master of Environmental Engineering degree in Water Resource Planning and Management from the University of Florida and a Bachelor's degree in Meteorology from the University of St. Thomas.

JAMES MURLEY (james.murley@miamidade.gov)

James F. Murley is the Chief Resilience Officer for Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County, together with the Cities of Miami and Miami Beach, launched their Resilient 305 Strategy in May 2019. Mr. Murley previously served as Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs under Governor Lawton Chiles and was appointed Chair of the Florida Energy and Climate Commission by Governor Charlie Crist. Additionally, he served as Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Florida, spent over 10 years with Florida Atlantic University overseeing research on urban and environmental issues, and served as Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council. Mr. Murley is a founding member of the American Society for Adaptation Professionals and Resiliency Florida, a Board member of The Florida Ocean Alliance and the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association. He serves as Mayor Levine Cava's designee on the Miami River Commission. He is also a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

JAYANTHA OBEYSEKERA, PH.D. (jobeysek@fiu.edu)

Dr. Jayantha Obeysekera has extensive national and international experience in the planning and management of water resources systems with particular emphasis on modeling and implications of climate change with particular emphasis on sea level rise and changes in rainfall patterns. Before joining the Florida International University, he managed a large group of hydrologic and environmental modelers, directed the modeling associated with the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, as well as research on sea level rise and other implications of climate change. He chaired the committee which developed the 2019 Unified Sea Level Rise projections for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. Dr. Obeysekera was a member of the federal advisory committee which directed the development of the 2014 National Climate Assessment and co-authored several sea level rise projections reports published in 2012, 2017, and more recently in 2022 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He recently developed estimates of future changes in extreme rainfall for the Florida Building Commission and is currently assisting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop new methods for incorporating sea level rise and rainfall patterns for the planning of future Transportation Infrastructure in the State of Florida. Currently, Dr. Obeysekera serves as a statewide co-director of the Florida Climate Institute. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida, holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Sri Lanka, M. Eng. from the University of Roorkee, India, and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University.

CURTIS ESTEBAN OSCEOLA (EdwardO@miccosukeetribe.com)

Curtis Esteban Osceola serves as the Chief of Staff for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Prior to his work in Tribal government, Mr. Osceola worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Miami Dade County's Felony Division and as an Associate Attorney at the Moskowitz Law Firm, where he successfully litigated an opioid mass torts case on behalf of his Tribe against the third largest opioid distributor in the United States. Prior to his legal education

at the University of Miami, Mr. Osceola headed a business development project in Overtown and directed the Slot Department of the Miccosukee Casino & Resort. He also graduated from the University of Miami with a BBA in Finance as a member of the Hyperion Council, an honor council oriented to promote corporate social responsibility. Mr. Osceola's work now involves the supervision of the Tribal administration and the management of the Tribe's internal and external policy agenda.

FRANCISCO PEÑA, PH.D. (fpena@sfwmd.gov)

Dr. Francisco Febronio Peña is a Resiliency Project Manager at the SFWMD with expertise in compound flooding interactions. With a strong professional background in flood risk management, complex 2D hydraulic modeling, geomorphology, large-scale fluvial studies, resilience planning, GIS, flood damage assessments, and disaster risk reduction, Francisco has collaborated with renowned research centers and international organizations across Mexico, USA, France, Italy, and Switzerland. Dr. Peña holds two Ph.D. degrees in Earth Systems Science from Florida International University and Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Florence (Italy). In addition to his academic achievements, he actively collaborates to advance knowledge and promote international partnerships, including scientific research, and facilitates the establishment of bilateral agreements for Mexican universities. Currently, Francisco serves as the compound events expert for the FIU UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Security and is the Co-Chair of the International Policy Committee for the Association of Floodplain State Managers (ASFPM).

JOHN PETRONE (jpetrone@petronerisk.com)

John Petrone has over 30 years' experience as a practicing attorney. He leads Petrone Risk's legal risk management and security programming services. He implements the development of best practices, oversees legal risk management analysis, SAFETY Act initiatives and emergency preparedness planning. The scope of his risk management practice includes professional athletic organizations, event service contractors, security program entities, as well as municipal, governmental, not-for-profit, and for-profit organizations. Mr. Petrone has overseen matters in both civil and corporate litigation that formed the basis of his law practice. His areas of expertise also include civil litigation encompassing commercial litigation, commercial transactions, areas of general insurance defense, general liability, malpractice, labor law, municipal law and property damage, professional liability litigation, managed care facility litigation, officers and directors' litigation, employment practices litigation, environmental litigation/mass toxic torts in the areas of asbestos, lead and mold, and risk management. He is a current member of the SMA Emergency Preparedness Committee, IAVM COVID-19 Industry Advisory Group, board member of the Sports and Entertainment Risk Management Alliance (SERMA) and the Syracuse University Board of Athletics. Previously, he has served as Chairman of Fund Raising for SUNY Marcy Athletic Complex, co-director and board member of the National Long-Distance Runners Hall of Fame and member of the Syracuse University College of Law Board of Visitors. Mr. Petrone is a graduate of Manhattan College and attended Syracuse University College of Law where he attained his Juris Doctorate.

CATHERINE PRINCE (Catherine.Prince@wsp.com)

Catherine Prince has 18-years of professional experience working to enhance the quality of life of the current and future generations by leading with people-centered solutions to achieve long-term elevated standards of equity and climate resilience. Ms. Prince presently leads the Florida Resilience and Sustainability practice for WSP consulting firm. She assists public agencies with developing and prioritizing climate-resilient strategies. Prior, she served in public service for over a decade at Miami-Dade County and the City of Fort Lauderdale. She worked hands-on and directly with communities at these entities to develop safe, resilient infrastructure. She also worked with underserved communities to create integrated solutions ensuring equitable outcomes. Ms. Prince is working with several Florida communities on roadway and building projects to integrate resilience using a risk-based framework.

DAVID RATHKE (david@rathkeenterprises.com)

David Rathke is the Executive Director of Resiliency Florida, who works to help Florida communities plan and adapt for extreme weather and sea level rise. Mr. Rathke also owns Rathke Enterprises LLC, a consulting firm specializing in government affairs, public relations, business process improvement, human resource best practices, and strategic planning. He has worked with various aspects of environmental and public policy, media relations, strategic planning, and finance throughout his career and is a graduate of the University of Central Florida.

SENATOR MARCO RUBIO (<https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>)

Senator Marco Rubio has served Florida since 2010 in the United States Senate, serving now his third term. He is a member of the Bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus, formed in 2019. He is also a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as Member of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issue, Senator Rubio continues to fight for human rights and to uphold democracy around the globe. Senator Rubio is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, where he provides oversight over the U.S. government's Intelligence Community and national security apparatus. Additionally, Senator Rubio is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for allocating federal funding. Senator Rubio is the former Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, serving as the former Chairman.

MICHAEL SAVARESE, PH.D. (msavarese@fgcu.edu)

Dr. Michael Savarese is a Distinguished Professor of Coastal Geology, Climate Resilience, & Preparation within the Department of Marine and Earth Sciences within Florida Gulf Coast University's Water School. He has degrees in geoscience with background in coastal geology, paleontology, and sedimentology & stratigraphy. He has been a faculty member at FGCU since the University's opening in the fall of 1997. Dr. Savarese's teaching and research interests

concern the history of environmental change in coastal settings, particularly in response to human development, climate change, and sea-level rise. Throughout his years at FGCU, he has served as a liaison between scientists and managers/decision-makers, serving in the past as the Chairperson of the Big Cypress and the Southwest Florida Restoration Coordination Teams. More recently, he has served as a community liaison to foster coastal resilience and climate-change preparedness efforts throughout Southwest Florida and beyond, working closely with natural, urban, and cultural resource managers and elected officials within local, state, and federal government.

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

Dr. Peter Sheng is a Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Research Professor in Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering, Civil and Coastal Engineering Department, Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment at the University of Florida. 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. Since coming to Florida in 1986, Dr. Sheng has conducted extensive research with funding from NOAA, USGS, USEPA, USACE, DOI, NSF, FDEP, SFWMD, SJRWMD, SWFWMD, as well as industries and local governments. He 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 Climate Change Impact on Coastal Urban and Natural Ecosystems; Assessing the Role of Coastal Wetlands in Reducing Flood, Wave, and Infrastructure Damage due to SLR and Storms; Ecosystem Valuation; Harmful Algal Bloom; Oil Spill; Numerical Simulations of Complex Coastal Problems; Risk Assessment; and Flood Mapping for Future Climate. He is currently leading an EPA funded project on assessing future flood vulnerability and wetlands' value for flood loss reduction in the CHNEP and SBEP region.

JOHN STAMM, PH.D. (jstamm@usgs.gov)

Dr. John Stamm received his B.A. in Geology from the State University of New York, his M.S. in Geology from The Pennsylvania State University, and in 1991 his Ph.D. in Applied Geology from Kent State University. His Ph.D. research was the development of a statistical downscaling model for the southwest U.S. to simulate last-glacial climate. He was a postdoc at Princeton University where he implemented improved models of surface hydrology into the GFDL global climate model. He served as a faculty member at California State University Monterey Bay and Western Colorado University. In 2008 he joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) South Dakota Water Science Center where his research included dynamical climate modeling (Weather Research and Forecasting Model), hydrology, and geomorphology. In 2015 he became a Supervisory Hydrologist with the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center.

JIM STRICKLAND (stricklandranch@gmail.com)

Jim Strickland is the owner of Strickland Ranch and managing partner of Big Red Cattle Company and Blackbeard's Ranch, a 4,430-acre cow/calf operation that borders Myakka River State Park. Mr. Strickland is with the Florida Climate Smart Agriculture Work Group, a collaboration between the Solutions from the Land and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), focused on identifying and implementing climate smart agriculture solutions and ecosystem services that benefit the public, producers, and the planet. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Florida Conservation Group, who educates, supports, advises landowners, and facilitates conservation easements and other conservation incentive programs. He is also the Past President of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the Past Chairman of the Florida Cattlemen Foundation, and was awarded the Sustainable Rancher of the Year award in 2019 by Audubon Florida.

MARK THOMPSON (mthompson@sccf.org)

Mark Thompson is a Research Associate with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation in their Marine Lab. He has worked prior as an engineer for private industry including AT&T and at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) working with sea turtles, oysters, and estuarine fishes. He later worked with hard clams, leeches, and other interesting marine creatures and then joined the Marine Resources Research Institute, where he participated in oyster reef research, headed their horseshoe crab program, and helped with water quality monitoring in the ACE-Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). He served as a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Horseshoe Crab Management Plan development team. He subsequently moved to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FL DEP), where he monitored and analyzed southeastern Florida's waters using biological, chemical, and physical indicators. His work also included taxonomy, data management, laboratory work, and resulting publications. Mr. Thompson received his B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Purdue University and an M.S. in Environmental Science from the College of Charleston-Medical University of South Carolina's joint graduate program. He also served in the U.S. Peace Corps, where he spent three years teaching Coastal Resource Management (CRM) at a small college and developing a CRM research program. He and his numerous student researchers did baseline assessments of coral reef, seagrass, and mangrove habitats as well as the state of local fisheries while there.

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