2015 Southeast Climate Education Workshop  
Speaker Biographies

KEY-NOTE: David W. Hastings, Ph.D.
Dr. David Hastings is a marine geochemist and chemical oceanographer. He teaches marine science, environmental studies and chemistry at Eckerd College. He started this adventure studying chemistry at Princeton University and received his Ph.D. in chemical oceanography from University of Washington. His primary research interest is paleoclimatology, and is engaged in research efforts to understand the impact of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He believes that it is important for scientists to actively engage in policy conversations with the public and elected officials. He is passionate about Florida rivers and homemade lemon sorbet.

Steve Babcock
Mr. Steven Babcock is a Nationally Board Certified teacher at LSU Laboratory School. He currently teaches an International Baccalaureate science curriculum that incorporates fieldwork, service-learning and information technology. He also developed and teaches a dual enrollment environmental science course credited through LSU. Current duties include director of Coastal Roots native plant nursery and Cub Garden Edible Schoolyard. He has worked as contributing author and curriculum developer for several organizations: Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, LSU AgCenter Youth Wetlands Program and La. Department of Natural Resources. He also serves on the Teacher Advisory Board for “Understanding Global Change Working Group”, University of California Museum of Paleontology.

Libby Carnahan
Ms. Libby Carnahan is University of Florida IFAS Extension, Florida Sea Grant Agent in Pinellas County. In her position, she provides marine education and outreach to the community, government, and marine industries. Libby facilitates the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel to support local governments as they plan for climate change and sea-level rise. She is an active member of the Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community of Practice and the Association of Natural Resource Professionals Climate Science Initiative. Libby has a BS in Biology from Truman State University (1998) and a MS in Marine Science from University of South Florida, College of Marine Science (2005).

Amy Dachino
Ms. Amy Dachino graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in Biology and Marine Science, and later received her teaching certificate from the University of South Florida. She was an integral part of developing and leading a field activity program which supported an integrated and hands-on curriculum for a charter middle school. She then moved on to Busch Gardens, and has been a part of the Education and Conservation Department for the last 6 years. She works on the School Programs and Day Camp team, and is responsible for developing and implementing curriculum and programs for field trips and camps. She recently attended a National Network for Ocean and Climate
Change Interpretation Study Circle, and has been working to incorporate climate change interpretation into the Education and Zoo Department programs and presentations.

Holly Edwards, Ph.D.
Dr. Holly Edwards is an assistant research scientist in the monitoring and assessment sub-section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s marine mammal section where she is the lead of the manatee aerial survey program. She has developed and conducted research projects on cetacean and sirenian species, in both the US and Latin America, focusing on population assessment, distribution and movements, habitat use, survival rates, health assessment, risk, and climate change. These projects have involved work conducting aerial, boat and land based surveys; manatee and dolphin captures; photo-identification; the use of satellite/GPS telemetry technology. Her more recent research involves using manatee telemetry and manatee diving data to estimate risk of collisions to manatees based on the probability of a manatee being at the surface of the water where a boat-manatee collision could occur, estimating detectability of manatees during surveys, and estimating manatee abundance from aerial surveys.

Teresa Greely, Ph.D.
Dr. Teresa Greely is a teaching faculty at the University of South Florida’s College of Marine Science She has broad research interests which encompass teaching and training about the ocean sciences with college students and teachers, and ocean literacy amongst youth and teens. She coordinates four community engagement programs and teaches a series of college courses including oceanography, marine biology, teaching STEM, and communicating the ocean sciences. To prepare for her career, she completed a bachelor's degree (B.A.) in the Natural Sciences, a Master's degree in the Marine Sciences and a PhD in Science Education. Some of her most memorable team projects have been the IMAX film Volcanoes of the Deep, a live TV series Project Oceanography, and meeting penguins in the Southern Ocean. It is her hope to inspire and educate the next generation of scientists and educators, while encouraging the 'citizen scientist' in everyone.

Frank Muller-Karger, Ph.D.
Dr. Frank Muller-Karger is a biological oceanographer who conducts research on how marine ecosystems change in time. He uses time series of observations collected by traditional oceanographic methods and by satellite sensors to study changes in water quality, primary production, and biodiversity in coastal and marine environments. This research helps in understanding how large-scale phenomena, like climate change or other disturbances, affect ecosystems including people. The focus of his present work is to assess biodiversity in the ocean and understand how life and the environment modify each other in coastal and marine waters. He is developing a system with the Florida Keys and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries to observe how biodiversity changes over time, and how this may impact the well-being of people that use these resources. He combines these observations with measurements from different satellites looking at Earth from space to measure ocean color, sea surface temperature, winds, salinity and sea surface elevation. Working with satellites helps make measurements over much larger areas of the ocean to better understand our changing planet and how this affects our life.
Ramona Madhosingh-Hector
Ms. Ramona Madhosingh-Hector is a Regional Specialized Agent in Urban Sustainability for the University of Florida IFAS Extension. 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. She 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.

Lara Milligan
Ms. Lara Milligan is the Natural Resource Agent for University of Florida IFAS Extension in Pinellas County. She is stationed at Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs, but has county-wide responsibilities. Lara works on a variety of natural resource issues with a focus in public education. Her areas of focus include wildlife, water, invasive species, backyard habitat and urban forestry. Before starting her current job, Lara attended the University of Florida where she earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Natural Resource Conservation with a Certificate in Environmental Education.

Hal Needham, Ph.D.
Dr. Hal Needham is the program manager for the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) at Louisiana State University (LSU). Much of his research is focused on data-driven storm surge analysis. He has provided leadership for the construction of SURGEDAT, the world’s most comprehensive storm surge database, which he has utilized to analyze the vulnerability of cities along the U.S. Gulf Coast and provide new knowledge on how hurricanes generate storm surge. He has degrees from Penn State University and LSU, and is interested in cross-cultural education as well as hazards research.

Jenna Seymour
Ms. Jenna Seymour graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Secondary Science Education, with a concentration in Biology. After graduating she traveled to Virginia Beach, and spent three years working at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. She supported the entire Education department, working on Whale and Dolphin Watch boat trips, Outreach Programs, Sleepovers, Scout Programs, Birthday Parties, and a grant funded program “Mentoring Young Scientists”. For the past 6 years, she has been working in the Education and Conservation Department at Busch Gardens on the Resident Camp and Sleepover Team, educating students from 2nd grade through College. She recently became a member of the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpreters and is very excited to be working climate change into her presentations!

Kristen St. John, Ph.D.
Dr. Kristen St. John is a Professor of Geology at James Madison University. She is both a marine sedimentologist, specializing in reconstructing paleoclimate histories, and a geoscience education specialist. She has participated as a scientist on several scientific ocean drilling expeditions with the ODP/IODP, including expeditions for educators (School of Rock). She regularly mentors undergraduate
Sophie Warny, Ph.D.
Dr. Sophie Warny is a professor of Micropaleontology at LSU and the Education Curator at the LSU Museum of Natural Science (MNS). Her research group is composed of 3 doctoral students and three MS students. She published several peer-reviewed scientific papers in scientific journals such as Nature Geoscience, Science, PNAS and Geology and received a NSF CAREER award to conduct research in Antarctica and to develop outreach material based on her research results. Her main education focus is the transfer of active research programs in natural science into diverse outreach components and their dissemination to the public and to the K-16 education community. Since her appointment as Education Curator in 2002, she has coordinated many large-scale outreach projects, including Museums Day (a campus-wide one-day event with ~4,000 visitors yearly), Ocean Commotion (a state-wide one-day education event with ~2,000 K-8 students and teachers yearly), Polar Palooza (a U.S. event with about 4,000 participants in Louisiana), Special Saturdays (with ~25 children and their families monthly), and numerous smaller scale education programs in Louisiana schools and libraries. She works both nationally and internationally and is fluent in French, her native language, and English.

Rebecca Zarger, Ph.D.
Dr. Rebecca Zarger is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. She teaches classes in Cultural Anthropology, Environmental Anthropology, Anthropology of Childhood, and Research Methods in Applied Anthropology. Her research efforts focus on environmental and cultural heritage, urban agriculture, public engagement in environmental policy in Central America and the Caribbean. She has a B.A. in Anthropology and English from Wake Forest University and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from University of Georgia.