



2024 SECOORA Annual Meeting

May 8, 2024 | Speaker Biographies

Session 1 - Updates from U.S. IOOS and the IOOS Association and New IOOS Initiatives related to Community Engagement

Kristen Yarincik



Kristen Yarincik serves as Executive Director of the IOOS Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the successful implementation and growth of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and its mission to deliver sustained quality and timely information about our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. The IOOS Association supports the 11 regional coastal observing systems of IOOS and works within the broader IOOS enterprise to foster communication and collaboration across the program. Prior to joining the IOOS Association in October 2022, Kristen served as Vice President and Director of Research and Education at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, where she managed programs that facilitated multi-sector collaboration for advancing ocean science community priorities. Kristen has more than 20 years of experience leading community building and convening efforts around topics and issues of ocean community-wide interest, including ocean observation; marine biodiversity; ocean education and workforce development; and addressing gender-based harassment. Kristen holds a master's degree in Earth science (paleoceanography) from Boston University and a bachelor's degree in Geoscience from Boston College.

Susan Fox



Director's office.

Susan Fox is a Regional Coordinator for the National IOOS Office. She is the liaison for five of eleven of the IOOS Regional Associations (RAs), including SECOORA. She collaborates with these RAs regarding grants and cooperative agreements. Susan provides a communication link between the Office and the RAs to address project challenges and promote achievements. She co-leads the implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and Disaster Relief Supplemental Act funding opportunities provided through IOOS. She also coordinates with NOAA Office for Coastal Management (OCM) regarding Regional Ocean Partnerships and supports the IOOS

Session 2 - Building Bridges: Fostering Trust Between Communities and Scientists

Paul Sandifer



Paul graduated from Seneca High School in upstate SC and earned a B.S. in Biology from the College of Charleston and Ph.D. in Marine Science from the University of Virginia. Since 2015, he has worked part-time at the College as Founding Director of the Center for Coastal Environmental and Human Health. He also served as Deputy Director for the multi-institutional Center for Oceans and Human Health and Climate Change Interactions headquartered at USC. Prior to coming to the College, Paul worked for NOAA as Senior Scientist, Senior Science Advisor to the NOAA Administrator, and Chief Science Advisor for the National Ocean Service. Before NOAA, he served with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, working as a staff scientist, Marine Resources Director, and agency Director. He has broad experience in ecological and aquaculture research, natural resource management, environmental science, science policy, and community engagement. His most recent work has concentrated on ocean health-human health linkages, human health impacts of disasters, climate impacts in coastal areas, and disaster risk reduction capacity building in environmental justice communities, specifically with the EJ Strong project. Although a government employee for most of his career, Paul also has been involved in graduate education for most of his working life, and he is continuing to mentor MS students at the College. Peer recognition includes election as an Honorary Life Member of the World Aquaculture Society, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Fellow of the Ecological Society of America.

Najeema Washington

Keisha Long



Keisha Long is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She is an advocate for vulnerable communities and is responsible for helping environmental justice communities build capacity, identify resources, and establish collaborative partnerships.

Keisha has been with DHEC for over 25 years. Previously, Keisha worked as a DHEC Project Manager in the Superfund program and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program (RCRA). Keisha is a co-Team Leader for the EtO Emissions Team and is a former co-Chair on the advisory board of the ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council). Keisha holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and is an active Toastmaster.

Matthew Gorstein



As the Consortium's Assistant Director for Development and Extension, Matt coordinates the efforts of extension staff members. The work of the extension team encompasses a wide range of topics, including community resilience and adaptation to changing climate; natural resource planning and protection; wise use and conservation of living marine resources and coastal water resources; risk communication; and fostering sustainable economic development opportunities. Matt's additional responsibilities include documenting the market and non-market economic benefits of South Carolina's coastal and marine resources.

The goal of the S.C. Sea Grant Extension Program is to respond to the needs of stakeholders by connecting them with the best available coastal science, hands on technical support, funding opportunities, and outreach programs, among other activities – to ensure the preservation and enhance the well-being of South Carolina's coastal communities.

Matt has a B.S. in economics and a M.S. in food and resource economics, both from the University of Florida. Prior to serving as the Consortium's Assistant Director for Development and Extension, he served as the Coastal Economics Program Specialist. Before joining the Consortium, he worked as a natural resource economist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science in Charleston.

Andrew Wunderley



Andrew is Charleston's Waterkeeper and serves as the eyes, ears, and voice of local waterways.

Andrew earned his J.D. cum laude from the Charleston School of Law in 2008. During law school he was a member of the Charleston Law Review and the Moot Court Board. After graduation Andrew served as law clerk to the Honorable James E. Lockemy at the South Carolina Court of Appeals and also as a Staff Attorney at the Court of Appeals.

Prior to law school, Andrew earned a Master of Science in Environmental Policy from the Graduate School at the College of Charleston. His master's research explored the role of the public trust doctrine in South Carolina's Coastal Zone Management Plan and advocated for a more complete use of the doctrine's authority in the regulation and management of the state's coastal zone natural resources.

Before graduating from law school Andrew served as head coach of the Palmetto Masters Swim Team from 1997 to 2005. He coached Kathleen Wilson to a successful crossing of the English Channel in 2001 and four other marathon swims.

Andrew is a lifelong swimmer and surfer and has swum, surfed and paddled almost all Charleston's local waterways. He lives on James Island with his wife and two children.

Namita Koppa

Session 3 - Co-design and Translation: Strategic Product Development

Patrick Barrineau



Dr. Barrineau is a coastal scientist and project manager for Coastal Science and Engineering, Inc (CSE), performing work in the field, laboratory, and office. He manages projects from New York to Georgia, and regularly curates geophysical and geotechnical data from collection to publication in concert with CSE staff.

While at CSE, Dr. Barrineau has prepared reports and/or permit applications for projects at dozens of sites and maintains an active research program studying coastal processes and landscapes at multiple scales along the US East Coast. He has published research based on field studies in the Carolinas, Texas, New York, New Mexico, California, and Brazil. In addition to his work at CSE, Dr. Barrineau teaches Coastal Zone Management at the University of South Carolina.

Dwayne Porter



Dr. Porter holds a joint administration / faculty appointment with the Arnold School of Public Health (ASPH) and the Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences at the University of South Carolina. Within ASPH, Dr. Porter is the Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Environmental Health Sciences (ENHS). Dr. Porter is also a faculty member in the Marine Science Program and the School of the Earth, Ocean and the Environment, and administers the Geographic Information Processing Laboratory housed in the Baruch Institute. Dr. Porter also directs the activities of the NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserves System's Centralized Data Management Office (CDMO) located in Georgetown, SC.

Dr. Porter's research interests include exploring and expanding the increasingly important roles that technology and technological innovations play in monitoring, assessing, modeling and managing our coastal environmental resources and associated environmental and public health issues. Dr. Porter focuses on the use of the tools of Geographic Information Sciences (GISciences) to develop and apply spatial models to study the impacts of anthropogenic and physiographic influences to coastal resources. Dr. Porter has directed /directs several

federally-funded multi-disciplinary projects focusing on land use and land cover patterns and how changes in land-use activities impact estuarine health and associated human health concerns.

Ke'Ziyah Williamson



Ke'Ziyah Williamson has been the Coastal Watershed Community Engagement Specialist at South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium for a year. Ke'Ziyah graduated from Francis Marion University with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology in 2022. She uses her experience in community engagement and environmental science, gained through education and work experience, to collaborate with communities to build and enhance climate resilience. Ke'Ziyah's professional and personal experiences allow her to connect with stakeholders and community members, in addition to developing useful and accessible tools and products.

Brian Barnes



Brian Barnes is a Research Assistant Professor within the Optical Oceanography Lab at the University of South Florida. His research topics include development of algorithms to improve satellite retrievals in optically complex environments, satellite calibration and validation, floating matter characterization, cross-sensor continuity assessment, time series analyses, and linking of satellite data to environmental issues. A critical focus of these efforts is ensuring that the scientific advancements are available to relevant stakeholders, primarily achieved through a virtual antenna system (<https://optics.marine.usf.edu>) and the associated Sargassum Watch System.

Mary Conley



Mary Conley serves as The Nature Conservancy's Director of Marine Conservation for the southeast United States. Working in collaboration with staff from Virginia to Louisiana, she leads regional coastal and marine conservation initiatives focused around climate adaptation, ocean protection and sustainable fisheries. Her roles include strategic planning, facilitation, and partner engagement. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Mary worked with the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program and the Chesapeake Bay Program. She holds a Masters in Marine Science, with an emphasis in benthic ecology, from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, with a Geology Minor, from the College of Charleston.