

Oil spill science seminar: Building resilient communities

September 27, 2016 – Long Beach, MS

A BIT ABOUT TODAY'S SPEAKERS...



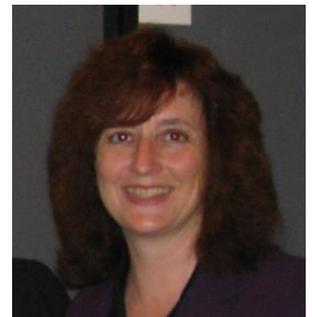
David Abramson is an Associate Professor at NYU's College of Global Public Health and the director of NYU's Program on Population Impact, Recovery, and Resilience. A former magazine journalist and paramedic, he has spent the past 25 years in academic public health and the past decade conducting disaster research on such events as Hurricane Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, the Joplin tornado, Hurricane Sandy, H1N1, and the Zika virus, among others.

Emily Blejwas is the Director of the Gulf States Health Policy Center, housed at BayouClinic in Bayou La Batre, AL. She previously worked in research and community development for the Community Foundation of South Alabama and the Economic & Community Development Institute at Auburn University. She currently serves as Chair of the Mobile United Health Task Force and as Vice President of the Bayou La Batre Chamber of Commerce.



Ayanna V. Buckner is the chairperson of the Coordinating Committee of the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program, which is a series of integrated, five-year projects developed as part of the Deepwater Horizon Medical Settlement to strengthen healthcare in Gulf Coast communities. She also serves as the principal of Community Health Cooperative, a health consulting firm that assists organizations with the design, implementation, and evaluation of community-based health programs.

Katie E. Cherry is a Professor of Psychology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge with research expertise in adult development and aging. Her work has been funded by the LA Board of Regents, Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, and the National Institute on Aging. In 2002, she was awarded the Emogene Pliner Distinguished Professor of Aging Studies professorship for her contributions to the field of adult development and aging. She is currently the Executive Director of the LSU Life Course and Aging Center.



Melissa Finucane is a Senior Social and Behavioral Scientist at the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute. She is also Director of the Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities, funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. Dr. Finucane's research aims to integrate scientific and decision maker perspectives to assess and address human dimensions of environmental health risks.

David J. Gauthe is a former Senior Community Organizer with BISCO, Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing. He is married to the Director, Sharon, and although he is retired, he remains a very active volunteer. He has worked in this role for ten years and is often sought as a community representative because he can tell the story in a way that makes an audience understand what's happening and want to jump right in and help.



Duane A. Gill is Professor and Interim Head of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Disasters and Extreme Events at Oklahoma State University. He was part of a research team that investigated impacts of the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and he led a research project to document and understand impacts of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in coastal Alabama. Dr. Gill's research activities generally seek to understand community capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, as well as ways to enhance community preparedness and resilience.

Daniel Hahn is the Plans Section Chief for the Santa Rosa County Florida Division of Emergency Management, and the coordinator of SAFER Santa Rosa, the county COAD. He is a Certified Emergency Manager through International Association of Emergency Managers. Daniel earned his master's degree in emergency and disaster management with American Military University. Daniel also has an MBA with a specialization in homeland security policy and leadership. Daniel teaches emergency management for 3 institutes of higher learning, and is the Academic Coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management program at Barry University.



Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling is a Professor of Psychology at the University of South Alabama. She is currently the Director of the Gulf Coast Behavioral Health and Resiliency Center, where the mission is to expand capacity for mental and behavioral health services to children, families, and vulnerable populations. Her main research and clinical focus is on individual and community resiliency. She also teaches a clinical and counseling psychology graduate course in Positive Psychology, Resilience, and Response to Trauma.



Janel Lowman has over a decade's worth of experience in community outreach and education at the University of South Alabama. Since 2012, she has served as the Training and Outreach Coordinator for the USA Coastal Resource and Resiliency Center. Ms. Lowman maintains an active academic research agenda, presenting papers at conferences and publishing in outlets such as the Journal of Applied Social Science. She also serves as co-chair of the American Public Health Association's Community Health Workers Award Committee.



Ariane Rung is currently an Associate Professor in Epidemiology at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Public Health in New Orleans. Her research interests center around the effects of the physical and social environment on health. Her work on the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill involves following a cohort of 2800 women in southern Louisiana to study the mental health effects of the oil spill and how social characteristics influence recovery.



LT Elizabeth Tatum is with Coast Guard Sector Mobile's Incident Management Division. Members of her unit are the Coast Guard's first responders to pollution cases in the area. They work with local, state, and other federal agencies to ensure pollution responses are effective and well-managed. She also serves as Sector's Public Affairs Officer, coordinating information provided to the public in all Coast Guard mission areas.

Robert Turpin is a Resources Manager for Escambia County (Florida). His major programs include Artificial Reefs, Waterways Access, Waterways Management, and Special Projects. Robert developed Escambia County's Local Action Plan for the MC262 spill, and represents Escambia County on Area Contingency Plan Area Committee. He is a marine biologist and holds USCG Captain License and EPA Scientific Diver rating. He also has completed National Incident Management System and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training and will complete Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique training next month.



Lauren N. Weathers is a clinical psychology doctoral student at the University of Mississippi. Her research interests include exploring the relationship between meaning in life, resilience, and post-traumatic growth and how these concepts affect psychological and health factors. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in psychology at the Queens University of Charlotte in 2011 and completed her Master of Arts in psychological sciences at Western Kentucky University in 2013.

Thao Vu serves as Director for the Mississippi Coalition for Vietnamese-American Fisher Folks and Families (MSCVAFF), a non-profit organization. She has ten years experience in disaster recovery work and is well versed in a broad range of social and environmental needs, resources, and policies that define coastal disasters and community recovery. In 2010, after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, she co-founded MSCVAFF, and has since been engaged in advocacy work to address inequitable claims, coastal restoration, and health policies.

