

**Presidents' Forum on Meeting Coastal Challenges
Speaker Information**

Waleed Abdalati

Head of the Cryospheric Sciences Branch
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
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Waleed Abdalati has been Head of the Cryospheric Sciences Branch at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland since January 2004. His research focuses on determining contributions to sea level rise from the Earth's ice sheets and glaciers. From 2000-2006, he managed NASA's Cryospheric Sciences Program, overseeing NASA-funded research efforts on glaciers, ice sheets, sea ice, polar climate and sea level. During that time, he also served as Program Scientist for NASA's Ice Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite (ICESat), which seeks to determine the contributions of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets to sea level rise. From 1996-2000, he worked as a research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado's program in atmospheric and ocean sciences in 1996, a M.S. in aerospace engineering sciences from the University of Colorado in 1991 and a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Syracuse University in 1986. He received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from the White House in 1999 and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 2004.

Virginia Burkett

Coordinator, Global Climate Change
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Virginia Burkett is the Coordinator of Global Climate Change Science at the U.S. Geological Survey in Lafayette. She received a Ph.D. in forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1996. She was a Sea Grant research associate from 1975-1977. She has served as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Assistant Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey. She worked at the National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette for 16 years and has published extensively on the topics of global change and low-lying coastal zones. Nominated by the U.S. government, she was a Lead Author on the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report in 2001 on global climate change and its impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems. She serves as a Lead Author of the IPCC 2007 report on climate change impacts, which will be published in September.

Sally Clausen

President
University of Louisiana System

Sally Clausen has served as Commissioner of Higher Education, Secretary of Education for the Office of the Governor, President of Southeastern Louisiana University, and President of the University of Louisiana System, a position she assumed in July 2001. The UL System has eight universities under its governance: Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana Lafayette and University of Louisiana Monroe. These universities serve more than 84,000 students, with a total annual operating budget of approximately \$800 million. In addition to her leadership in Louisiana, Clausen is an active participant in higher education policy at the national level. She serves as Vice President of the National Association of University System Heads, Council of Presidents Chair for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, and on the Nominating Committee of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Additionally, she is a participant in The College Board's Center for Innovative Thought, the mission of which is to develop "courses of action on matters that would enhance national educational wellbeing." In 2004, she was inducted into the Louisiana State University Alumni Association Hall of Distinction and in 2007 was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

Paul Coreil

Vice Chancellor
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Paul Coreil is Vice Chancellor of the LSU AgCenter and Director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service. He received his Ph.D. from LSU in 1995. Coreil served as both a Louisiana Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agent for 14 years and a Sea Grant Wetland and Coastal Resources Specialist for six years. His interests include community engagement and natural resources policy.

Windell A. Curole

General Manager/Executive Secretary
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Windell Curole has worked on coastal issues in South Louisiana for 36 years. Twenty-six of those years he has worked with the South Lafourche Levee District as its General Manager. He has been a Member of the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee for more than 13 years, served as Chairman of the Management Conference for the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program for seven years, and served on the Governor's Coastal Restoration and Conservation Advisory Commission for four years. He twice received the National Hurricane Conference Award.

Thomas W. Doyle

Ecologist

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Thomas Doyle is a Research Ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in systems ecology and environmental science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has 20-plus years of field and modeling experience relating hurricane effects and history in temperate and tropical forest ecosystems of the southeastern United States and Caribbean. His research disciplines focus on wetland ecosystem analysis and modeling, forest stand and landscape simulation, hurricane and climate change science, tree ring analysis, plant competition and growth modeling, and disturbance ecology. He has developed several landscape simulation models for various federal parks and refuges across the southeast to forecast potential threats of habitat loss or conversion by natural and man-induced disturbances including hurricanes, sea-level rise and future climate change.

David R. Easterling

Chief of Scientific Services

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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David Easterling is Chief of the Scientific Services Division at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. He received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987 and served as an Assistant Professor in the Climate and Meteorology Program, Indiana University-Bloomington from 1987-1990. In 1990, he moved to the National Climatic Data Center as a Research Scientist, was appointed Principal Scientist in 1999, and Chief of Scientific Services in 2002. Easterling has authored or co-authored more than 60 research articles on climate change issues in journals such as *Science*, *Nature* and the *Journal of Climate*. He was also a Contributing Author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Second and Third Assessment Reports. He is currently a Lead Author for the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and a Convening Lead Author for the U.S. Climate Change Science Plan (CCSP) Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP) 3.3 on Climate Extremes. His research interests include the detection of climate change in the observed record, particularly changes in extreme climate events.

Wynecta Fisher

Deputy Director

Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, New Orleans

Wynecta Fisher has been the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Environmental Affairs, City of New Orleans since 2004. The office manages the city's brownfields, coastal restoration, environmental justice and climate initiative programs. Her focus, post-Katrina, has been researching and utilizing mechanisms that will deter the depletion of the city's natural coastal barriers. As a member of Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE), she continues to lobby both the state and federal governments for an increase in coastal restoration funding for the City of New Orleans and South Louisiana. In 2000, she served as the Education Manager for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), a 7,200-member organization of private and public industry solid waste professionals. She managed the training and certification programs for the association. Fisher earned a bachelor's degree in communications with a concentration in public relations at Clark Atlanta University.

William Jenkins

President

Louisiana State University System

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William Jenkins became President of the LSU System in 1999. The system includes nine institutions on 10 campuses in five cities, as well as 10 public hospitals in 10 cities. A native of South Africa, he studied at the University of Pretoria, where he received his professional veterinary medicine degree in 1958 and specialist credentials in 1968. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1970. He moved to the United States in 1978 and joined the faculty in the Department of Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M University. He was appointed Dean of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine in 1988 and was named LSU's Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in September 1993.

Barry Keim

Associate Professor

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State Climatologist

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Barry Keim was born in New Orleans and raised in Chalmette. He earned a B.A. in geography from the University of New Orleans and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in geography/climatology at LSU. He was on the faculty at the University of New Hampshire from 1994-2002, while also serving as the New Hampshire State Climatologist. He returned to Louisiana in 2002 and is now on the faculty at LSU, while also serving as Louisiana State Climatologist. His research interests center on climate extremes and global and regional climate change.

J. Wayne Leonard

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Entergy Corp.

Wayne Leonard has served as Chairman of the Board for Entergy Corp. since August 2006 and was appointed CEO in 1999. Under his leadership, Entergy implemented a new strategy emphasizing core competencies in the areas of power development and nuclear generation; renewed attention to the core utility business; and achieved the highest total shareholder return in the industry over the last eight years. He has built a foundation for constructive regulatory relations by calling for major upgrades to reliability and customer service in the core utility business, and published articles on innovative competitive market structure alternatives and unique perspectives on low-income and environmental issues. Awards and honors he has received include the 2005 Family Service of Greater New Orleans Ten Outstanding Persons, 2004 Diversity Best Practices CEO Diversity Leadership Award, 2003 Platts Global Energy Award CEO of the Year, 2003 Georgetown University Business Leader of the Year, and Foundation for the Mid-South 2000 Corporate Leadership Award. He earned a B.S. in accounting and political science from Ball State University and a MBA from Indiana University.

Hassan Mashriqui

Assistant Professor
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Hassan Mashriqui is a licensed professional engineer in civil engineering. He holds a doctorate degree in civil engineering from LSU and is currently developing coastal hydrologic/hydraulic modeling capabilities for the LSU Hurricane Center. His research interests include coastal and inland flooding due to hurricanes, hydrodynamic and sediment transport modeling, wetland restoration, river management, and using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology-based environmental modeling. He is actively involved with the Coastal Ecology Institute at the LSU School of the Coast and Environment in support of numerous coastal restoration research efforts.

King Milling

President
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King Milling earned a bachelor of arts degree from Washington & Lee University in 1962 and a bachelor of laws degree from Tulane University in 1965. He began working as a Legal Assistant with the firm of Milling, Saul, Sanders, Benson & Woodward in 1965. Since 1984, he has served as the President of Whitney National Bank and Whitney

Holding Corp. in New Orleans. He is a Member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Charlotte Randolph

Parish President

Lafourche Parish

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Charlotte Randolph is the President of Lafourche Parish. She has owned Randolph Publications, a public relations and advertising company, since 1996. Previously, she was Editor of the *Lafourche Gazette*. She is a former President of the South Lafourche Chamber of Commerce; former Chairperson of the Chamber of Lafourche and the Bayou Region; former Member of the Bayou Industrial Group Board of Directors; a Charter Member of Leadership Lafourche, Lafourche Safe Kids, and Harvest of Thanks; and a Member of the Government Committee of the South Central Industrial Association.

Randy Roach

Mayor

City of Lake Charles

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Randy Roach was first elected Mayor of the City of Lake Charles in 2000. As mayor, he has worked closely with city and parish governments and other agencies to form partnerships and pool resources that benefit the Imperial Calcasieu five-parish area. He served two terms as a State Representative to the Louisiana Legislature representing District 36, which included part of Calcasieu and Cameron parishes. In the Legislature, he served on the Civil and Law Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and was Chairman of Natural Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Coastal Restoration. He was a Member of the Advisory Panel on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and a Member of the Governor's Task Force on Judicial Selection and Louisiana Drug Coordinating Council. He earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from Louisiana State University and his law degree from LSU. He is a Member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Ducks Unlimited and the Chamber Southwest Louisiana.

Kerry St. Pe'

Program Director

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

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Kerry St. Pé, for the past 10 years, has been the Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, a nationally recognized effort dedicated to preserving and restoring the 4.2 million-acre area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in Southeast Louisiana. He worked for 23 years as a Field Biologist and Regional Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. He has conducted several major studies on the impacts of oilfield wastes on Louisiana wetlands as well as studies of clam shell dredging in several Louisiana lakes. He serves on numerous national, state and local advisory boards and is a frequent public speaker. His wetland restoration work has been featured in the best-selling book *Bayou Farewell, The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast* by Mike Tidwell, and most recently in the PBS documentary, *Washing Away: Losing Louisiana*. He grew up in Port Sulphur during the '50s and '60s, where the vast coastal marshes surrounding his home inspired him to become a marine biologist. He graduated from Nicholls State University in 1973.

Robert E. Stewart Jr.

Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies
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Bob Stewart currently serves as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He is accountable for the vitality and quality of the graduate programs throughout the university and is responsible for enhancing, expanding, and encouraging the research mission and programs of the ULL. He is responsible for coordinating all research and grant proposals and advising faculty and other scientists of research opportunities, as well. He is also responsible for developing and managing the university's intellectual property. He serves as a Commissioner on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Restoration and Conservation and a Trustee on the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA). Stewart has been instrumental in the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE), a state-of-the-art data visualization and computing technology facility, and serves as the Chair of the LITE Commission that is responsible for the development, operation, and maintenance of LITE. He worked 30 years for the U.S. Department of the Interior, 25 of them as Director of the National Wetlands Research Center. Stewart began his federal career in 1974 working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on national energy policies in Washington, D.C. In 1979, he became the leader of the Service's National Coastal Ecosystems Team in Slidell. The team evolved into what is now the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, housed since 1992 in the University Research Park of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Richard L. Thomas

Senior Vice President
Domestic Brokerage Group

American International Group

Richard Thomas joined American International Group in 1985 as a Senior Vice President of the American Home and National Union Insurance Companies. He currently is the Senior Vice President and Chief Underwriting Officer for the Domestic Brokerage Group of AIG. Prior to this assignment, he was responsible for Year 2000 Strategic Planning and Implementation for AIG casualty underwriting worldwide. Thomas is AIG's representative on the Board of the Workers' Compensation Research Institute and to the M-200, a risk management association for global corporations. He also serves on advisory boards for RAND Corp.'s Center for Terrorism Risk Management Policy and Wharton's Risk Management and Decision Processes Center. He is a Member of the Financial Services Roundtable Blue Ribbon Commission on Mega Catastrophes. He has testified before the U.S. Treasury Department on insurance issues related to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and CERCLA, the "Super Fund" act. He has testified before the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Committees on workers' compensation reform and AIG's response to the September 11 terror attacks, and before the Commerce Committee of the U.S. Senate on insurance programs for large construction projects. He graduated from Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio, with a B.A. in 1969.

Robert R. Twilley

Professor

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Robert Twilley is a Professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences and Director of the Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute at Louisiana State University. He serves part time as Associate Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development to develop the Coastal Systems and Society program at LSU. Most of his research has focused on coastal wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico, throughout Latin America, and in the Pacific Islands. He has published more than 90 articles, including several documents on global climate change, and edited a three-volume report with 63 other authors titled *Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration (CLEAR) Model of Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan*. He was recently selected as Distinguished Professor in Louisiana Environmental Studies at LSU and was the recipient of the 2000 Distinguished Professor Award at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he founded the Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology. He received his doctorate in 1982 in plant and systems ecology from the University of Florida, and performed his post-doctoral studies at the University of Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay.

Peter J. Webster

Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology

Peter Webster is Professor of earth and atmospheric sciences and environmental engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. For the last 20 years he has concentrated on the investigation of tropical atmospheres and oceans with an emphasis on the monsoons of Asia, fluid dynamics of wave propagation through heterogeneous states, and ocean modeling. In recent years, he has directed the Climate Forecast Applications in Bangladesh (CFAB), which is aimed at producing forecasts of rainfall and floods on time scales from seasonal to daily and at introducing modern predictive techniques to developing countries. Part of the CFAB effort is to forecast hurricanes in regions of low technical resources. Most recently, Webster has worked on the role hurricanes and tropical storms play in the heat balance of the planet and how their characteristics may be changing in a warming world. Most of his research combines theoretical and modeling techniques, although he has organized many field experiments including TOGA Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere Response Experiment (a multinational experiment in the western Pacific Ocean), the Equatorial Mesoscale Experiment (in North Australia), and the Joint Air-Sea Monsoon Interaction Experiment (in the Bay of Bengal). He received undergraduate degrees from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia and his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Webster has received numerous awards including the J.G. Charney and the Carl Gustav Rossby medals from the American Meteorological Society, the two highest research awards presented to an atmospheric scientist in the United States. In addition, he has received the Adrian Gill Prize of the Royal Society, two special creativity awards from the National Science Foundation, and a senior Humboldt Research Award. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, the Royal Meteorological Society, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Charles A. Wilson, III

Executive Director

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Charles A. "Chuck" Wilson, III is the Executive Director of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and Vice Provost in the Office of Academic Affairs, Louisiana State University. He is a Professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences (DOCS) at LSU's School of the Coast and Environment. During his 21-year tenure at LSU, he has also served as Chair of DOCS (1995-2002) and Director of the Coastal Ecology Institute (2001-2002). Wilson's diverse and rigorous research program on the biota of the northern Gulf of Mexico has resulted in more than 70 publications in the primary literature and scores of technical reports.