

Speaker and Moderator Biographical Sketches

JONATHAN OVERPECK is the Samuel A. Graham Dean of the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) at the University of Michigan. At Michigan, he is the William B. Stapp Collegiate Professor in SEAS, a Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, and a Professor of Climate and Space Science and Engineering. He was a post-doctoral fellow and Research Scientist at Columbia University and NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, before being appointed as the Founding Head of the NOAA Paleoclimatology Program. He served as the Founding Director of the World Data Center for Paleoclimatology, before moving to the University of Arizona where he was a Professor of Geosciences the Director of the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth and a Founding Co-Director of the Institute of the Environment. Overpeck is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Academy for the Advancement of Science and is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Other awards include the US Dept. of Commerce Gold Medal, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Walter Orr Roberts award of the American Meteorological Society, and the Quivira Coalition's Radical Center Award. Overpeck earned his PhD and MSc from Brown University and BA (honors) from Hamilton College.

BRIAN FUCHS joined the NDMC in 2005. Before coming to the NDMC, he worked for 5 years for the High Plains Regional Climate Center as a regional climatologist. Brian worked extensively with weather/climate data during this time. He worked extensively on development of the ACIS (Applied Climate Information System) and applied data products. Brian's responsibilities with the NDMC include working as a climatologist for the center, with various duties related to this position. Brian participates with other NDMC staff in the production of the U.S. Drought Monitor, and he serves as a media contact for climate- and drought-related topics.

JOHN NIELSEN-GAMMON is a Regents Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He has served as the Texas State Climatologist since the year 2000 and as the Director of the Southern Regional Climate Center since 2021. His research focuses on extreme weather events in the context of climate change, with a particular focus on droughts and extreme rainfall. He is the immediate Past President of the American Association of State Climatologists.

LAURA EDWARDS was appointed as the South Dakota Extension State Climatologist in January 2017. Her office is at the Extension Regional Center in Aberdeen, SD. Previous to her appointment as State Climatologist, she had been the SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist from 2011 to 2017. Her previous experience includes 8 years as a research climatologist at the Western Regional Climate Center in Reno, Nevada and 2 years as the Assistant State Climatologist in Maryland. She holds a Master's degree in Meteorology from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree in Physics and French from the University of Minnesota.

RUSS SCHUMACHER is a professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University, and serves as the Colorado State Climatologist and Director of the Colorado Climate Center. He received his M.S. in 2003 and Ph.D. in 2008 in Atmospheric Science at CSU. His research and teaching interests include extreme precipitation, weather prediction, the climatology of precipitation, and Colorado's weather and climate.

YUSUKE KUWAYAMA is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a Fellow at Resources for the Future (RFF) in Washington, DC. He studies the economics of water resource and ecosystem management, with a focus on federal and state regulation of ambient water pollution, water management to protect aquatic species habitats, and sustainable water use in agriculture. He is an at-large appointee to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), serves on the Water Science and Technology Board at the National Academies, and serves on the steering committee of AquaWatch, a water quality initiative within the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). He previously served as Director of the Consortium for the Valuation of Applications Benefits Linked with Earth Science (VALUABLES), a cooperative agreement between RFF and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He received his Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics and an M.S. in economics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and an A.B. in economics from Amherst College.

BETH HALL is the Indiana State Climatologist, director of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, and manager of the Purdue Mesonet. With over 30 years of climate services experience, she has dedicated her efforts toward identifying opportunities for climate data to be transformed into decision-support tools and resources for a variety of sectors across the Midwest including agriculture, urban flood management, and public health.

TIM BROWN is a Research Professor and conducts applied research and user-inspired applications development at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. He is Director of NOAA's Western Regional Climate Center, and established and directs the Program for Climate, Ecosystem and Fire Applications (CEFA) at DRI. He is graduate faculty in the Atmospheric Sciences Program at the University of Nevada, Reno.

MIKE CRIMMINS is on the faculty of the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona and is an Extension Specialist in Climate Science for Arizona Cooperative Extension. He has been in this role for 20 years working with ranchers, farmers and natural resource managers across Arizona to integrate climate information in their planning and decision making and assisting them in developing strategies to adapt to a changing climate.

RICK THOMAN works as a Climate Specialist at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has worked as an Alaska weather and climate specialist for more than 40 years in the private, public and academic sectors. In his current role he works across Alaska by listening to tribes, communities and organizations and their self-identified needs for climate and environmental information and providing that in useful and usable formats.