

Gulf Research Program

Committee

David E. Daniel

Chair

Dr. David Daniel is an engineering consultant in Dallas, Texas, is President Emeritus of The University of Texas at Dallas, and formerly served as Deputy Chancellor and Chief Operating Office of The University of Texas System. Previously, he was Dean of Engineering at the University of Illinois. Earlier, Dr. Daniel was L.B. Meaders Professor of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin where he taught for 15 years. Dr. Daniel has conducted research in the area of geoenvironmental engineering, including research on drilling fluids, containment and management of wastes and fluids, and fluid pressure control in the subsurface. Dr. Daniel served as chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers' External Review Panel that evaluated the failure of the New Orleans levees from Hurricane Katrina, and served on the National Academies' Macondo Well Deepwater Horizon Blowout study committee. He also served as a member of the National Research Council's (NRC's) Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems, and the Geotechnical Board. Dr. Daniel received a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2000 and served on its Council from 2013 - 2019.

Regina M. Benjamin

Member

Dr. Regina Benjamin, 18th U.S. Surgeon General 2009-2013 is the Founder and CEO of BayouClinic, Inc. and the Gulf States Health Policy Center. As America's Doctor, she provided the public with the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and the health of the nation. Dr. Benjamin also oversaw the operational command of 6,500 uniformed public health officers who serve in locations around the world to promote, and protect the health of the American People. In addition, Dr. Benjamin served as chair of the National Prevention Council – 17 cabinet-level Federal agencies that developed the road map for the Nation's health – the National Prevention Strategy. Dr. Benjamin specializes in prevention policies and health promotion among individuals as well as large populations, especially concerning obesity, childhood obesity, and children's health. She has special interest in rural health care, health disparities among socio-economic groups, suicide, violence, and mental health. From her early days as the founder of a rural health clinic in Alabama to her leadership role in the worldwide advancement of preventive health, Dr. Regina Benjamin has forged a career that has been recognized by a broad spectrum of organizations and publications. In 1995, she was the first physician under the age of 40 and the first African-American woman to be elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Dr. Benjamin is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. In 1998 Dr. Benjamin was the United States recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. She received the 2000 National Caring Award, which was inspired by Mother Teresa and was recognized with the Papal honor Pro Ecclesia et Pontificice from Pope Benedict XVI. In 2008, she was honored with a MacArthur Genius Award Fellowship. In 2011, Dr. Benjamin became the recipient of the Chairman's Award at the 42nd NAACP Image Awards. Dr. Benjamin has a B.S. in chemistry from Xavier University, New Orleans, attended Morehouse School of Medicine, earned an MD degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and an MBA from Tulane University. She is the recipient of 25 honorary degrees.

Thomas P. Bostick

Member

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Thomas P. Bostick serves as a senior advisor on biotechnology, infrastructure, sustainability, HR, and DEI. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer and President, Intrexon Bioengineering (NASDAQ: XON). He Bostick serves on the public boards of CSX (NASDAQ: CSX) and Perma-Fix (NASDAQ: PESI). He also serves on the private boards of HireVue, Allonnia, and Fidelity Investments' Equity and High-Income Fund Board of Trustees. He was the 53rd Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He serves on non-profit boards of American Corporate Partners and Resilient Cities Catalyst. He was an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at West Point. As a White House Fellow, he was a special assistant to the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Ed Derwinski. A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Bostick serves on several committees of the National Academy of Sciences focused on the environment and climate change. He is a licensed professional engineer, a Forbes Contributor, and an Affiliated Scholar at Stanford University. Bostick is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, holds Master of Science Degrees in both Civil and Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University, and a PhD in Systems Engineering from George Washington University. He recently published his first book, *Winning After Losing: Building Resilient Teams*.

Kevin Cook

Member

Rear Admiral Cook retired in July 2015 after a wide-ranging career in the United States Coast Guard (USCG). He is working to bring his expertise to the private sector through Cook Maritime Solutions, LLC, a consultant company established to focus on maritime safety, security and environmental issues. In 2016 RADM Cook joined International Registries, Inc./The Marshall Islands Registry as a Maritime Consultant. During his career, RADM Cook continually advanced through escalating levels of responsibilities within the USCG's national and regional headquarters, and in shipboard and maritime safety assignments culminating with command of the Eighth District, a 26 State region, headquartered in New Orleans, LA. There, he regulated maritime industries and facilitated maritime commerce within the nation's most intense region for shipping, petrochemical production and offshore exploration and production. RADM Cook previously served as the USCG's national Director of Prevention (Marine Safety) Policy, responsible for many of the international and domestic regulations in support of safety, security, environmental protection, mariner licensing, and waterways management. In an earlier assignment, he served as the Chief of the Hazardous Materials Division where he specialized in mitigating the risks of shipping oils, chemicals, and liquefied gases; including lead for delegations to the International Maritime Organization. In the field, he held a variety of positions including Captain of the Port for the Houston-Galveston area of operations. Additionally, he served as the National Incident Commander's senior representative to BP headquarters for oversight of well containment activities in the Deepwater Horizon response. RADM Cook has six years of shipboard experience onboard three Coast Guard cutters: CGC MADRONA as a deck watch officer; CGC BITTERSWEET as the Executive Officer; and CGC COWSLIP as the Commanding Officer. A native of Freehold, NJ, he is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ocean Engineering. RADM Cook also earned a Master of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University. He is a graduate of the United States Army War College, and later served a one-year appointment as the Coast Guard Fellow to Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group. Additionally, he has been recognized by the National Propeller Club as the Port of Houston Maritime Person of the Year, and by the Seamen's Church Institute for Career Distinguished Service.

William C. Fugate

Member

Mr. Craig Fugate served as President Barack Obama's FEMA Administrator from May 2009 to January 2017. Previously, he served as Florida Governor Jeb Bush's Emergency Management Director from 2001-2007 and Governor Charlie Crist from 2007-09. Mr. Fugate led FEMA through multiple record-breaking disaster years and oversaw the Federal Government's response to major events such as the Joplin and Moore Tornadoes, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the 2016 Louisiana flooding. Mr. Fugate set a clear and compelling vision, mission, and priorities for FEMA and relentlessly drove the Agency to achieve better outcomes for survivors. FEMA's effectiveness in dealing with more than 500 Presidentially-declared major disasters and emergencies under his leadership restored the faith of the American people in the Federal Government's ability to respond to disasters. Prior to his tenure at FEMA, he was widely praised for his management, under Governor Jeb Bush, of the devastating effects of the 2004 and 2005 Florida hurricane seasons (Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Dennis, Katrina, and Wilma). He currently provides senior level advice and consultation in the area of disaster management and resiliency policy through Craig Fugate Consulting LLC.

Mary L. Landrieu

Member

Senator Mary Landrieu represented the state of Louisiana in the United States Senate for three terms, first elected in 1996. As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – and then, ultimately, as Chair of that Committee – she passed several important pieces of legislation; most notably the landmark Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA); the Israel American Energy Alliance; and the RESTORE Act – the single-largest federal investment in the Gulf Coast in US history. She also served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Appropriations Committee, and chaired the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. During her time in the Senate, Landrieu was known for her bipartisan approach to addressing national challenges and for her passionate advocacy for her home state of Louisiana, particularly in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Prior to serving in the Senate, she served in the Louisiana State Legislature from 1979 – 1987. For eight years, she successfully championed causes related to women and children, flood protection, and education reform. In 1987, she was elected State Treasurer and served with distinction for two terms. Strong fiscal management, pension fund diversification, debt limitation, and the creation of the first-ever municipal investment fund (now valued at over \$2 billion) are some of her noteworthy accomplishments. Senator Landrieu serves on the Boards of Directors of Tyler Technologies and Evergy. In the non-profit space, she serves on the boards of Resources for the Future; the Climate Solutions Foundation; and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (which represents over 150 Members of Congress who work in a bipartisan fashion, supporting and finding families for orphan children here in the US and around the world). She graduated from Louisiana State University.

Marvin E. Odum

Member

Mr. Marvin Odum is currently the CEO of TerraLithium and Chairman of All American Lithium focused on the sustainable production of Lithium for the energy transition. He was formerly the Chairman and President of Shell Oil Company from 2008 until retirement in 2016. Mr. Odum has an extensive background in nearly all aspects of global energy and associated issues. He serves on a number of global business and philanthropic boards. Honors include Distinguished Mechanical Engineer from the University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Alumni and Doctor of Humane Letters, University of Houston.

Sara N. Ortwein

Member

Sara Ortwein retired from ExxonMobil in March 2019. Prior to retiring, she was president of XTO Energy, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, from November 2016 through February 2019 and was responsible for ExxonMobil's unconventional oil and gas business. Ms. Ortwein earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin before joining Exxon Company, U.S.A. in 1980 as a drilling engineer. She held numerous technical and managerial assignments throughout her career.

In 1997, she was named reservoir evaluation and planning manager for Exxon Ventures, CIS, focusing on new venture pursuit and capture in Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. In 2001, she became a corporate upstream advisor to senior management at ExxonMobil headquarters in Irving, Texas. Three years later, she was named production manager responsible for ExxonMobil's operated U.S. production operations.

Sara was named vice president of engineering for ExxonMobil Development Company in 2006 where she was responsible for engineering design for major projects around the world. She served as president of ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company, from September 2010 until November 2016, where she was responsible for research and technology development and application for ExxonMobil's Upstream business. In 2020, Ms. Ortwein was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST). She is a member and past chair of the University of Texas Engineering Advisory Board. She is on the Board of Directors of Sanara Medtech and in January 2023 joined the Board of Directors of the Memorial Hermann Health System.

Larry Robinson

Member

Dr. Larry Robinson is a Distinguished Service Professor at Florida A&M University (FAMU). He served as FAMU's President from 2017 to 2024. He is the Principal Investigator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (CCME). The CCME is a partnership among six universities committed to making major impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems and communities by conducting research and educating students in NOAA relevant science and policy. Dr. Robinson is also a member of the National Academies' Climate Crossroads Advisory Committee that is "charged to provide high-level guidance on emerging needs and opportunities for cross-Academies climate-related activities." In May 2010, Dr. Robinson took a leave of absence from FAMU to serve in a U.S. Senate-confirmed position as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management at NOAA. In 2007-2009, Dr. Robinson served as Senior Scientific Advisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. In 2008, Dr. Robinson was selected to serve on the Oceans Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) and as a member of the National Science Foundation's National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Science Technology Education Advisory Committee. Dr. Robinson has served as chair of the Council of Academic Vice Presidents for the State University System of Florida; chair of the Biology and Medicine Division of the American Nuclear Society; and charter member of the National Council for Science and the Environment's Council of Environmental Deans and Directors. Dr. Robinson is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; the National Science Foundation's National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Education Tiger Team; the International Advisory Board to Florida Center for Research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (FCR-STEM); the Leon County Research and Development Authority; the Leon County Water Resources Committee; and Florida A&M University's campus coordinator for Florida Sea Grant. Dr. Robinson served on the National Research Council (NRC) Committee on the Restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem; the NRC Committee on Mine Placement of Coal Combustion Waste; and the NRC Committee to Review the Florida Aquifer Storage and Recover Regional Study Technical Data Report.

José G. Santiesteban

Member

José G. Santiesteban (NAE) is retired after a 30-year career at ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company. Dr. Santiesteban served in a number of technical leadership and management assignments. His responsibilities as Strategy Manager included overall coordination of strategy and competitive intelligence; research guidance and valuation; and ensuring robustness of R&D portfolio. Dr. Santiesteban has led and made significant technical contributions to the discovery, development, and commercialization of various nano-engineered catalysts for the production of clean fuels, high performing lubricants, and petrochemicals. He led the commercialization of more than 20 novel catalyst technologies that have been deployed worldwide within ExxonMobil and in 3rd parties' refineries and petrochemicals plants. He is inventor or co-inventor on more than 85 U.S. patents, editor of two special catalysis journals and co-author of over 20 referenced publications. Dr. Santiesteban has been a plenary and invited speaker at numerous national and international conferences in catalysis, and has served on the advisory board of various academic and research institutions around the world. In 2016, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering "for development and commercialization of catalytic systems for petrochemical manufacture and cleaner fuels production." In 2018, he was elected to The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST). Received the 2018 Innovator Award from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). In addition to his scientific and technical contributions, Dr. Santiesteban is a proactive mentor focused on developing the next generation of industrial researchers, engineers and technical leaders. He is a strong champion for junior researchers, particularly promoting diversity and women in science and engineering. José joined Mobil's Central Research Laboratory (CRL) in Princeton, NJ in 1989, after receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Lehigh University. He holds a B.S. Chemical Engineering, from Instituto Tecnológico de Chihuahua, México (1979, summa cum laude), a M.S. in Chemical Engineering from Instituto Tecnológico de Cd. Madero, México.

Roy E. Wright

Member

Mr. Roy Wright is a disaster safety expert and recognized resiliency shaper. For two decades he's served in roles that put him on the ground in the immediate aftermath of weather-driven and climate-related disasters, walking through damaged homes with survivors, and leading the charge for stronger construction standards, enhanced mitigation efforts, and better building codes. Mr. Wright is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). Roy joined IBHS in 2018. Roy leads a team of scientists and risk communicators who deliver strategies to break the continuing cycle of human suffering that strikes families and communities in the wake of severe weather. His team uses a unique, state-of-the-art research facility to conduct realistic re-creations of severe weather hazards on full-scale structures. IBHS's real-world impact enables the insurance industry and affected property owners to prevent avoidable losses. Roy joined IBHS from FEMA where he served as the chief executive of the National Flood Insurance Program, led the agency's Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, and directed the resilience programs addressing earthquake, fire, flood, and wind risks. Prior to joining FEMA in 2007, Roy worked in public and private sector roles with Coray Gurnitz Strategy Consulting and the U.S. Department of the Interior. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Azusa Pacific University and a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University.

David W. Yoskowitz

Member

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D., serves as the Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), a position he has held since November 14, 2022. At TPWD, he is responsible for overseeing an agency of 3,300 professionals in 13 different divisions, including Wildlife, Law Enforcement, State Parks, Coastal Fisheries, and Inland Fisheries. Yoskowitz has been actively engaged in the areas of private lands conservation, the acquisition of additional state parkland and wildlife management areas, securing state funding for state parks, children in nature initiatives, coastal conservation and mitigation initiatives stemming from the Deepwater Horizon incident, and the state's management response to chronic wasting disease. Prior to joining TPWD, Yoskowitz was the Senior Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, where he was also HRI's founding Endowed Chair for Socioeconomics and held positions in both faculty and administration over the past 20 years. As an economist, Dr. Yoskowitz came to HRI with interest and experience in applying a unique skillset to coastal, ocean, and watershed issues. HRI gave him the opportunity to integrate his work with his natural science colleagues to examine critical environmental and resilience issues of the greater Gulf of Mexico region. His work has focused on elucidating the link between environmental well-being and human well-being and moving practice into policy. He has worked to inventory and value ecosystem services and quantify the impact of sea-level rise on coastal community resiliency. His research has taken him through much of North and Central America including Cuba, Nicaragua, Belize, El Salvador, and Mexico. Dr. Yoskowitz also held the position of Chief Economist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (2014-2015), where he co-chaired an interagency task force under the auspices of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy that developed a research agenda around coastal green infrastructure and ecosystem services. Working with the NOAA Social Science Committee, he helped develop the agency's first Social Science Vision and Strategy.

Alongside his professional roles, Dr. Yoskowitz serves on the board of directors of Indifly, which is dedicated to using recreational fisheries to create sustainable livelihoods for indigenous peoples around the world, and the division committee of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine – Gulf Research Program. Yoskowitz also served on the National Research Council Committee on the Effects of the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon-252 Oil Spill on Ecosystem Services in the Gulf of Mexico. He previously sat on the Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committee for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Lauren Alexander Augustine

Executive Director

Lauren Alexander Augustine is the Executive Director for the GRP Division. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of management and use of the criminal settlement funds from the Deepwater Horizon disaster that were entrusted with the National Academies by the federal government. This includes fulfilling the vision, defining the strategic direction, and leading the development and implementation of this multi-dimensional, science-based program. Since her tenure at the National Academies began in 2002, Dr. Alexander Augustine has gained experience working in a variety of roles on a broad range of topics pertaining to water, natural disasters, and resilience. Prior to joining the GRP Division in 2018, she served as Director of the Resilient America Program, which supports communities' efforts to build resilience to extreme events using science and diverse stakeholder engagement. In addition, she has formerly served as Country Director for the African Science Academy Development Initiative (ASADI), a decadal program that built scientific capacity in national academies across Africa; as Director of the Disasters Roundtable; and as a study director for the Water Science and Technology Board. Outside of her work at the National Academies, Lauren has served on the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Risk and Resilience; was a member of the Advisory Board for the American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange program; and was a juror for two resilience competitions, Rebuild by Design for recovery after Hurricane Sandy and Resilience by Design in San Francisco. She is also a NATO Expert for the Civil Protection Group. Dr. Alexander Augustine earned her B.S. in applied mathematics and systems engineering and her M.S. in environmental planning and policy from the University of Virginia, and her Ph.D. in an interdisciplinary program that combined physical hydrology, geomorphology, and ecology from Harvard University.