



Louisiana

SUSTAINABILITY
SUMMIT

2024

April 10-12, 2024



The Louisiana Sustainability Summit, sponsored by Keep Louisiana Beautiful and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Office of Sustainability, will be held from April 10-12 at UL Lafayette as a kick-off to the Fete de la Terre Earth Week Celebration. The Summit will educate attendees of the resources and advancements in sustainability-focused work that exist statewide.



Louisiana Sustainability Summit - Schedule

April 10-12, 2024

Day 1 : Wednesday, April 10, 2024

- Early afternoon** Check in to the Hilton Garden Inn at 2350 W Congress St, Lafayette, LA
- 4:00 - 5:00pm** Solar Tour of UL Lafayette PART Lab at 439 Eraste Landry Rd, Lafayette, LA
- 5:30 - 7:30pm** Cocktail Hour at Adopted Dog Brewing at 329 Dulles Dr, Lafayette, LA

Day 2 : Thursday, April 11, 2024

- 7:30 - 8:45am** Registration/ Breakfast, UL Lafayette Union Ballroom at 620 McKinley St.
- 8:45 - 9:00am** Welcome Address

Session 1: Data Informed Decision Making	9:00am
Session 2: Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Upgrades	10:00am
Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration	11:00am
Lunch and Learn: Alumni Community Engagement	12:15pm
Campus Sustainability Tour / University Affiliate Meeting	1:30pm
Keynote: Dr. Mark C. Benfield	3:00pm
Session 4: Community Engaged Research and Scholarship	4:00pm
6:00 - 8:00pm	Eco Art Event: “Ana Mendieta Creative Conversation” with Marla Kristicevich at the Hilliard Art Museum.

Day 3 : Friday, April 12, 2024

- 8:30 - 1:00pm** **Graduate Student Sustainable Development Summit** at the LITE Center at 537 Cajundome Blvd, Lafayette, LA



April 11, 2024
7:30am - 5pm
UL Lafayette Student Union



Louisiana Sustainability Summit Agenda

7:30 - 8:45am Registration/ Refreshments

8:45am - 9:00am Welcome Address

Session 1: Data Informed Decision Making

9:00 - 9:45am

UL Lafayette Office of Sustainability : Dr. Gretchen Vanicor : “Data Informed Decision Making”

9:45 - 10:00am Break

Session 2: Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Upgrades

10:00 - 10:45am

Louisiana Energy Partners (LAEP) : “Strategies for Making the Economics work for Campus Sustainability Projects”

Sam Selig, Jessi Bienert, Kelly Guiberteau, Michaela Smith, and James McCleary

10:45 - 11:00am Break

Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration

11:00 - 11:45am

Dr. Heather Stone : “Collected Memories: The Stories of the Jean Charles Choctaw Nation”

Brett Picket + Morgan Randall : “Coastal work with CRCL”

Dr. Beth Stauffer : “ From lab bench to hatchery: advancing oyster restoration in Louisiana using modern approaches to production.”

Leigh Anne Sharp : “Recent Observations from Louisiana’s Coastwide Reference Monitoring System (CRMS)”

11:45 - 12:15pm Break

Lunch and Learn: Alumni Community Engagement

12:15 - 1:30pm

Dan Hare, Director of Community Engagement, Alumni Affairs, UL Lafayette

Paul Scelfo, Chief Regional Officer -Second Harvest Food Bank – Feeding Acadiana & SW Louisiana

Diamond Williams, Resource Development Director - Lafayette Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

Stephen Broussard, Executive Director, Bayou Vermilion District

Marjorie Horn, Marketing and Communications Manager of United Way of Acadiana

Sustainability Tour/ University Affiliate Meeting

1:30 - 2:45pm

Keynote: Dr. Mark C. Benfield

3:00 - 4:00pm

Session 4: Community Engaged Research & Scholarship

4:00 - 5:00pm

Dr. Brian Bolton, Endowed Chair in Finance Department of Economics and Finance, UL Lafayette

Dr. Emad Habib, Endowed Chair and Professor of Civil Engineering, LA Watershed Flood Center, UL

Dr. Kimberly Terrell, Director of Community Engagement, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic.

Dr. David Yarbrough, Dean of Community Service, Professor of Human Development and Family Science, UL Lafayette

6:00 - 8:00pm at the Hilliard Art Museum - Eco Art Event:

“Ana Mendieta Creative Conversation” with Marla Kristicevich



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Committee

Dr. Gretchen Vanicor
Jonathan R Brown
Blair Begnaud
Cabell Mouton
Susan Russell
Dan Hare
Devin Helms
Lola Lancaster
Amy Pousson
Matthew Dufrene
Brice Gutshall



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Alumni Association



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SPEAKERS

Keynote:

Dr. Mark Benfield

Moderators:

Dan Hare

Dr. Brian Bolton

Session Speakers:

Dr. Gretchen Vanicor

Sam Selig

Jessi Bienert

Kelly Guiberteau

Michaela Smith

James McCleary

Session Speakers:

Dr. Heather Stone

Brett Pickett

Morgan Randall

Dr. Beth Stauffer

Leigh Anne Sharp

Paul Scelfo

Diamond Williams

Stephen Broussard

Margie Horn

Dr. Emad Habib

Dr. Kimberly Terrell

Dr. David Yarbrough



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KEYNOTE



Dr. Mark Benfield

Professor, LSU College of the
Coast and Environment,
Department of Oceanography and
Coastal Sciences

Keynote Presentation:

“A Closer Look at Plastic Pollution
and Microplastics in the Gulf of
Mexico”

Dr. Mark Benfield is a Professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University. His research examines plastic pollution, zooplankton ecology, and deep-sea ecology. He is the current director of the newly formed LSU Litter Institute and his research identified the northern Gulf of Mexico as a hotspot for microplastic pollution. Mark received his B.Sc. from the University of Toronto, M.Sc. from the University of Kwazulu Natal, and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He did his postdoctoral work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Mark lives in Baton Rouge with his two sons.



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Dr. Gretchen Vanicor

Director of Sustainability,
UL Lafayette

Session 1: Data-Informed Decision Making

Presentation:
“Data-Informed Decision Making”

As the University's first Director of Sustainability, Gretchen works closely with the Office of the President and the President's Council on Sustainability to identify and prioritize areas for campus-wide sustainability efforts, plan and develop strategies to reduce energy and material consumption, and engage university leaders to improve sustainability broadly across campus units. She also serves as the campus spokesperson on sustainability issues. Gretchen earned a bachelor's degree in management with a double major in marketing from McNeese State University in 2006. She also earned bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from UL Lafayette in 2008 and 2010, respectively. Gretchen returned to UL Lafayette in January 2014 after working in the local architecture industry.



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Louisiana Energy Partners (LAEP)

Session 2 Presentation: “Strategies for Making the Economics work for Campus Sustainability Projects”

Presenters:

Sam Selig, PE – SVP of Renewable Energy

Jessi Bienert, CEM – VP of Sustainable Solutions

Kelly Guiberteau, PE – Energy Engineer

Michaela Smith, Program Manager

James McCleary – Senior Energy Systems Analyst

Louisiana Energy Partners (LAEP) will discuss the advantages of renewable energy initiatives and campus infrastructure enhancements accessible to every public university under their Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana. This engaging presentation will explore the environmental, social, and economic impacts of embracing renewable energy solutions. Attendees will gain insight into how these projects not only contribute to a sustainable future but also offer compelling benefits for communities and the broader economy, all within the framework of LAEP's strategic partnership with the state.



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Dr. Heather Stone

Associate Professor, IRB Vice-Chair, Mr. and Mrs. E.P. "Pat" Nalley/LEQSF Regents Professorship in Education, UL Lafayette College of Education and Human Development

Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration

Presentation:
"Collected Memories"

Dr. Heather Stone is an Associate Professor and holds the Nalley E.P./LEQSF Endowed Professorship in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has over fifteen years of experience in education and has developed curriculums for K-12, college, and community projects. Stone has led multiple oral history projects and has received numerous grants to conduct and share her research in this area. These lessons are derived from the oral histories she collects from the coastal communities who are losing their land due to climate change. Stone is an educator who seeks out stories that need to be told. Her work takes her beyond the classroom and into communities facing disruptive environmental change. Stone's work helps people in these communities explain how they are adjusting and what their journey to resilience looks like. Together, they integrate oral histories and virtual reality to create one-of-a-kind stories curated by the people who live them. When Stone shares these stories with students, local officials, and policymakers, they all learn more about what it means to sustain vibrant lives on a changing planet. She holds a B.A. in Journalism and Graphic Design from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an M.A. in Education and Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Louisiana State University.



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Brett Pickett

Outreach Coordinator
Coalition to Restore Coastal
Louisiana

Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration

Presentation:
“Coastal Work with CRCL”

Brett grew up in Mandeville, LA and attended the University of New Orleans where he got his bachelor's in psychology. He spent a lot of his college years out in nature and because of that, became inspired to pursue working in the environmental field. Brett then attended the University of Michigan and earned a master's degree in environmental psychology in 2022. He then came back to Louisiana to work at the intersection of people and the environment with a focus on coastal land loss. After an internship at the Pontchartrain Conservancy, he joined Serve Louisiana AmeriCorps and did a service term at the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Brett joined the staff at CRCL full time shortly after his service term ended and now works as the Outreach Coordinator. Under his current role, Brett primarily runs CRCL's Future Coastal Leaders program. A program designed for high school and college students to learn more about coastal issues, meet peers with similar interests, and to help them get involved personally, professionally, and academically. In his free time Brett enjoys reading, walking in nature, cooking, listening to music, and spending valuable time with friends.



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Morgan Randall

Outreach and Restoration
Coordinator
Coalition to Restore Coastal
Louisiana

Session 3:
Coastal Loss and Restoration
Presentation:
“Coastal Work with CRCL”

Morgan is a Serve Louisiana member serving CRCL as the outreach and restoration coordinator. A native of Shreveport, she moved to New Orleans to attend Tulane University, where she received a degree in political science. She developed a passion for how communities respond to coastal erosion while working with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and 64 Parishes magazine. When not advocating for coastal restoration and climate adaptation, she enjoys writing fiction, taking long walks around town and nerding out about Louisiana history and culture.



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Dr. Beth Stauffer

Associate Professor, Department of Biology, UL Lafayette and Lead PI, LO-SPAT Project

Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration

Presentation:
“From lab bench to hatchery”

Dr. Beth Stauffer is a biological oceanographer and phytoplankton ecologist whose research focuses on understanding how physical, chemical, and biological environments contribute to changing phytoplankton communities in coastal waters. Much of Beth’s current research is set in the Gulf of Mexico, where her team is studying how phytoplankton communities and the food webs they support vary across gradients of ocean acidification, increased freshwater into estuarine ecosystems, and in response to extreme weather events. Since 2021, Beth has been Lead PI of the multidisciplinary, multi-institutional LO-SPAT project, a \$20 million effort to understand and enhance low salinity tolerance in the eastern oyster. She previously served as PI and Director of the NSF-funded Healthy Streams, Healthy Coasts REU program through which brought 35 undergraduate students to UL Lafayette to conduct mentored research over 4 summers. Beth is an Associate Professor and Interim Graduate Program Director in the Department of Biology and the SLEMCO/BORSF Endowed Professor in General Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Prior to joining the UL Lafayette faculty, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow hosted at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Beth earned her Bachelor of Science with a double major in Marine Science and Biology at the University of Miami and her PhD in Marine Environmental Biology at the University of Southern California.



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Leigh Anne Sharp

Coastal Resources Scientist
Manager for the Coastal
Protection and Restoration
Authority

Session 3: Coastal Loss and Restoration

Presentation:
“Recent Observations from
Louisiana’s Coastwide Reference
Monitoring System (CRMS)”

UL Lafayette Alumni, Leigh Anne Sharp is a Coastal Resource Scientist Manager working in Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CRPA) Lafayette Regional Office. She manages the state’s coastal monitoring data collection efforts and helps apply lessons learned in the field to future restoration projects.



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Dan Hare

Director of Community Engagement,
Alumni Affairs, University of
Louisiana at Lafayette

Lunch and Learn: Moderator
Alumni Community
Engagement

Dan Hare, Director of Community Engagement with the UL Lafayette Alumni Association, is a 1983 graduate with a BS in Finance. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA), dba Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) and was recently named Board Member Emeritus for the Acadiana Center for the Arts.



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Paul Scelfo

Chief Regional Officer -Second
Harvest Food Bank – Feeding
Acadiana & SW Louisiana

Lunch and Learn:
Alumni Community
Engagement

Paul, a lifelong resident of Southwest Louisiana, joined Second Harvest Food Bank as Chief Regional Officer after working for over 25 years in the food and beverage industry throughout South Louisiana. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and has worked in fundraising and event planning for nonprofit organizations across the area. As a member of the Executive Leadership team of Second Harvest, Paul oversees the expansion and daily activities of Second Harvest Food Bank's work in the Lafayette and Lake Charles areas, including operations, emergency response, partnership development, and fundraising.



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Diamond Williams

Resource Development Director
- Lafayette Habitat for
Humanity, Inc

Lunch and Learn:
Alumni Community
Engagement

Diamond received her Bachelor's degree in Public Relations, with a minor in Psychology, from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and has completed the John Maxwell Certification program. She has a passion for helping others and building meaningful connections to shape our community, understanding that collective efforts are more impactful than individual endeavors. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Christiana Smith African American Alumni Chapter at UL-Lafayette; a UL Women's Leadership Conference Planning Committee member; The705 Board of Directors, serving on the Professional Development Committee; a One Acadiana Ambassador; a graduate of Leadership Lafayette Class 36 (LIT36) ; a current Co-Chair for Leadership Lafayette Class 37; a 2024 Ragin Cajuns Women's Basketball Women's History Month Honoree; and a 2024 Top 20 Under 40 Acadiana Leadership Award Honoree. Diamond has been with Lafayette Habitat for Humanity since November 2022 and serves as the Resource Development Director where she leads the strategic planning, development, and implementation of all LHFH marketing strategies, volunteer efforts, communications, and fund development activities.



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Stephen Broussard

Executive Director, Bayou
Vermilion District

Lunch and Learn:
Alumni Community
Engagement

Stephen Broussard is the Executive Director of Bayou Vermilion District. Broussard is a graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana now University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has previously been working as Business Relations Strategist for Acadiana Workforce Solution. He has garnered many years of economic development and management experience through his position as business manager for Waitr, as well as director of the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District, Southwest Louisiana Director for Louisiana Economic Development, and president of Mermentau River Harbor & Terminal District. He began his career running his family's transportation business for 26 years. In addition, Broussard was the Mayor of The Village of Estherwood for twelve years. Stephen is a descendant of Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard, is married to Lori Waters Broussard, and has three grown children and six grandchildren with one on the way.



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Marjorie Horn

Marketing and Communications
Manager of United Way of
Acadiana

Lunch and Learn:
Alumni Community
Engagement

Marjorie Horn is the Marketing and Communications Manager at United Way of Acadiana, leveraging her strategic communication skills to support community initiatives. She graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a degree in Strategic Communications and has utilized her skills in the nonprofit sector for nearly two years. Passionate about making a positive impact, she excels in crafting compelling narratives for donors and prospects that enhance the visibility of United Way of Acadiana. Through her dedication to addressing community issues, Marjorie contributes to building a more vibrant and connected community in Acadiana.



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Dr. Brian Bolton

Professor of Finance, Dwight W. Andrus, Jr. / BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Finance

Session 4: Moderator Community Engaged Research

Presentation:
The Intersectionality of Sustainability

Dr. Brian Bolton is currently Professor of Finance and Dwight W. Andrus, Jr. / BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Finance at the Moody College of Business at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Dr. Bolton has been teaching sustainable business, finance, banking, economics and leadership since 1999. Before joining UL Lafayette in 2019, he taught at IMD Business School in Switzerland, Portland State University, University of New Hampshire and University of Colorado. His research focuses on corporate governance, sustainable business, econometrics, executive compensation, legal aspects of corporate ownership and corporate finance.

In 2015, Dr. Bolton published his first book *Sustainable Financial Investments: Maximizing Corporate Profits and Long-Term Economic Value Creation*, which studies the tradeoffs associated with natural, human, and social investments. He is currently working on a new book, *A Culture of Ownership*, which studies how organizational culture impacts individuals, companies and societies. He has written 3 books on financial literacy and has led more than 200 financial planning workshops to help people improve their relationship with money. He is the founder of Crossing the Bridge Project, a non-profit focused on helping underserved individuals and communities gain the knowledge, resources and confidence necessary to own their financial futures.



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Dr. Emad Habib

Endowed Chair and Professor of
Civil Engineering, LA Watershed
Flood Center, UL

Session 4: Community Engaged Research

Changing Climate and Landscape:
Towards Flood-Resilient Communities

Dr. Emad Habib is an endowed chair and professor at the College of Engineering and the director of the Institute for Coastal and Water Research and the Louisiana Watershed Flood Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He received his doctoral degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering in 2001 from the University of Iowa. His research expertise is in surface hydrology with a focus on precipitation extremes, flood prediction and forecasting, water resource management, and the development of technology-based educational innovations. He published more than 80 peer-reviewed journal articles and several book chapters. He received the 2022 University Service Leadership Award, the 2016 Distinguished Professor Award, and other awards, including the Journal of Hydrologic Engineering Best Journal Award and the Watershed Excellence Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. He served on the Precipitation Committee of the American Geophysical Union, the Education Committee of the Consortium of Universities for Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences, and the Environmental Water Resources Institute Task Committee on the Use and Application of Doppler Radar. Dr. Habib is a Professional Engineer registered in Louisiana and Texas.



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Dr. Kimberly Terrell

Director of Community
Engagement, Tulane
Environmental Law Clinic

Session 4: Community Engaged Research

Community-Informed Research for
Environmental Justice in Louisiana

Dr. Kimberly Terrell is a Research Scientist and the Director of Community Engagement at the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic (New Orleans, Louisiana). Her role at the Clinic is to provide technical and scientific support to community members, students, and environmental attorneys. She holds a Bachelor's degrees in Cell & Molecular Biology and Political Science from Tulane University and a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of New Orleans. Dr. Terrell has expertise in a broad range of disciplines related to environmental science, including physiology, public health, statistics, and environmental monitoring. Her current work focuses on the intersection of science and environmental regulation, particularly with respect to underserved communities. In 2022 she published the first peer-reviewed study to identify toxic air pollution as a contributing factor to Louisiana's disproportionately high cancer burden. She has provided expert testimony to the U.S. Congress Subcommittee on the Environment, the Louisiana Senate Environmental Quality Committee, and to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Dr. Terrell serves on the Science Advisory Board for the Center for Applied Environmental Science and is a contributing member in Tulane Cancer Center's Population Sciences & Prevention Program.



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Dr. David Yarbrough

Dean of Community Service,
Professor of Human
Development and Family
Science, UL Lafayette

Session 4:
Community Engaged Research

David Yarbrough is a teacher, professor, reader, and a writer. He is a Professor in Human Development & Family Science and the Dean of Community Service at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His educational background includes a Ph.D. in Child and Family Studies, University of Tennessee, 1994, M.S.W., Social Work, University of Alabama, 1992, B.A., and Mass Communication, University of Alabama, 1982. He has lived a long time in south Louisiana, enjoying the music, art, food (especially the sweet stuff), and sharing time with his wife and their famous dog.



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