



George Balazs <honumazu@gmail.com>

20 SHORT BIOS FOR SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS AT THE 3RD HPU SEA TURTLE WORKSHOP 2023

1 message

George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>
To: George Balazs <honumazu@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 5:12 PM

From: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:31 AM

To: jon Gelman <jon.gelman@h-mar.org>; Brenda Jensen <bjensen@hpu.edu>; Thierry Work <thierry_work@usgs.gov>; Jeannie Manzano HPU Sea Turtle Workshop <jmanzano@hpu.edu>

Subject: 20 SHORT BIOS FOR SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS AT THE 3RD HPU SEA TURTLE WORKSHOP 2023

Good Evening Organizers- Here's the Intro Brief Bios I've pulled together in one place using what the speakers sent me. Some are a bit long, but I didn't feel comfortable editing had been written. All will work out fine, I'm sure. I'll bring printouts on Friday so that each of us sitting in the front right of the room have a copy. We can rotate with the introductions, except for a few where it would be more meaningful for certain of us to introduce certain speakers. For example, Thierry introducing the Keynote Brian Stacy. Note the title of each talk appears in the program, which you will also have as a paper copy. gb

#1 Brian Stacy, our **Keynote Speaker**, is a Veterinary Medical Officer within NOAA's National Sea Turtle Program. His responsibilities include a diverse array of duties related to health, welfare, and mortality in support of sea turtle conservation and recovery. He works extensively with sea turtle stranding networks within the US and abroad.

#2 Laura Jim is a seasoned educator at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on the Big Island of Hawaii. Serving as Co-Director to HPA's Sea Turtle Research and Stranding Program, she supports the mission of the school and the program to provide students with exceptional learning opportunities while supporting turtle research and education with the greater community.

#3 Grady Weyenberg is Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. He received his PhD in statistics from the University of Kentucky in 2015, and specializes in areas related to mathematical biology and the analysis of ecological data sets. Since arriving at UH Hilo, his projects have often centered on collaborations with marine biologists and oceanographers, with some minor ventures into mathematical and scientific pedagogy.

#4 Megan Lamson is a marine biologist specializing in coral reef fish ecology, coastal restoration, anchialine pools and community-based management. She has an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from UC Santa Cruz and a graduate degree in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science from UH Hilo. Megan wears many hats and is currently an Intermittent Research Assistant and Diver, plus a Protected Species Program team member with DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources "DAR" in Kona (and has worked for RCUH on contract to DAR) since 2012. Megan also works full-time as the Hawai'i Program Director for the local nonprofit org, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund.

#5 Cameron Aroz is the Operations Support Manager for Hawai'i Marine Animal Response, or "HMAR." She is responsible for all hotline operations, data collection, back-office systems, and multi-agency response coordination. She is also a member of the HMAR field response, rescue, and stranding support team. After graduating from the University of Oregon with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Multidisciplinary Sciences, Cameron went on to become one of HMAR's hard-working field interns, before she was promoted to her current management role earlier this year.

#6 Brittany Clemans Brittany is a student at UH Manoa and has been working with MTBAP as a Student Assistant for Turtle Stranding since 2019. In 2021, Brittany spent 6 months as a Field Biologist at Lalo for the nesting season. During her time with the Turtle Program, she has been fortunate enough to take on many different duties including leading large necropsies, heading stranding responses, assisting with rehabilitation and surgeries of turtles, satellite tagging, in water work, and leading the citizen science project Honu Count that she presented on at the 2023 ISTS in Colombia. Brittany will be graduating from UH Manoa this year and hopes to continue working with turtles.

Shawn Murakawa has been working with the Turtle Programs since 1992. She has been fortunate enough to visit memorable places such as Lalo (French Frigate Shoals), Pihemanu (Midway), Mississippi during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response, and Muliava (Rose Atoll), American Samoa. Throughout her career, she has dabbled in many different positions such as budget, purchasing, co-founding and overseeing the (UHM) Stranding and Salvaging group, as well as serving as the Pacific Region stranding coordinator. Currently, Shawn oversees and manages the turtle database and the sea turtle aging & growth laboratory. She also leads the Rose Atoll nesting and in-water surveys and provides guidance and support to the Turtle Biologist at American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. She is grateful for the opportunity to meet so many people who share her love of all things sea turtles, many of whom are here today. With just six years left before retirement, Shawn looks forward to collaborating with many partners."

#7 Jared Underwood is currently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Superintendent for *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument*. Jared has a passion for marine biodiversity and its conservation and has spent the last 15 years working on these topics across Hawaii and the Pacific.

#8 Robin LeRoux is the Deputy Director of the Marine Mammal and Turtle Division at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California where she has over 25 years of experience as a marine turtle biologist. Her research has focused on using genetics to improve our understanding of marine turtle nesting and foraging population structure, monitoring of foraging green turtles in Southern California, as well as serving as the SWFSC Sea Turtle Stranding Coordinator for over 10 years. In her current role as Deputy Director, she works closely with the Divisions' 5 scientific research programs to conduct strategic planning efforts and manage all aspects of operations for the Division.

#9 Stacy Hargrove has connections to Hawaii and sea turtles in the Pacific. She worked in my program at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center from 2006-2011. Her career with sea turtles has spanned the full spectrum of positions, she started as a college student, then an intern, a fisheries observer, a staff scientist, a research scientist, a project manager, and now the National Sea Turtle Coordinator for NOAA Fisheries. Stacy will be presenting on the East Coast Sea Turtle Stranding Network.

#10 Erron Yoshioka has been a teacher at Moanalua High School for 32 years. He teaches Biology and Marine Science, and has been the lead teacher for the WESPAC Summer Fisheries Program since 2006. Erron's hobbies are fishing and collecting old junk!

#11 Trenton Aguilar is a 5th year PhD Candidate at the University of Florida, in the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Department. He is a member of the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle research and his dissertation research focuses on the impacts vessel strikes have on green turtles in Florida.

#12 Since the age of six, **Manuel P Duenas II** was raised in the hills and valleys of Guam's jungles alongside the wonders of the ocean. The real-life experiences from harvesting fresh shrimp and eels from streams to shoreline seasonal appearances of forage fish. He grew up at a time when harvesting from terrestrial to oceanic resources was a normal and respected traditional way of life. His direct fishery experiences include President of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association for more than 30 years, an artisanal fishing organization which includes involvement in local, national, and international fishery management entities for nearly 30 years. Driven by a conscientious belief that Cultural Perpetuation must overcome Preservation within a respected governance.

#13 Mareike (pron. Maraika) Dornhege holds a PhD in marine ecology from Sophia University, Tokyo. Most of her research focused on sharks, including the sustainability of the Japanese shark fishery and leading the global finprint project in Okinawa, Japan - the largest study ever done on global shark and ray biodiversity. Mareike is the scientific advisor to Churamura.

Healy (pron: Hailey) Ealy graduated from Hawaii Pacific University in 2021 with a BSc in Marine Biology. She currently works as the field operations manager for Churamura sea turtle conservation in Okinawa, Japan.

#14 Along with her many other marine biology-related jobs and hobbies, **Cheryl King** has been searching for and helping hawksbills of all sizes in Hawai'i for almost a quarter of a century. She's excited to spread the word about this iconic species with you all today!

#15 Maddux Springer is a senior at Iolani School that has been dedicated to studying green sea turtles after seeing the effects of fibropapillomatosis while diving in Kaneohe Bay. Maddux has investigated the causes of fibropapillomatosis through the Kay Fellowship at Iolani School and an Honors Independent Research Program, previously presenting his findings at the Hawaii Conservation Conference.

#16 Karla McDermid is a Professor at UH Hilo who studies seaweeds. Miranda and Bella recently completed their senior thesis research and are now pursuing their careers in Australia and Albania!

#17 Based on the island of Oahu, Dr. **Gregg Levine** is a contract veterinarian with NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office, with a focus on response to stranded cetaceans, monk seals, and sea turtles. He is an associate veterinarian with the Marine Mammal Center Monk Seal Hospital, and is the attending veterinarian for Dolphin Quest Oahu and Dolphin Quest Hawaii. Since the Spring of 2020, Dr. Levine has advised and consulted with the veterinary and animal care staff at the Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute as they develop their sea turtle response and rehabilitation program. As a small animal veterinarian, he integrates veterinary acupuncture, laser and rehabilitation therapy into his traditional medical practice. Today's presentation of incorporating multimodal rehabilitation therapy to treat sea turtle entanglement injuries has been a very exciting project for Dr. Levine.

#18 Dr. **Katy Shaw** is a Research Biologist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Hawaii Pacific University Center for Marine Debris Research. Her research goals are to improve the health and conservation of the oceans using chemical and toxicological measurements. Her work with sea turtles focuses on the measurement of organic and inorganic contaminants and plastic ingestion.

#19 Binational Australian/New Caledonian, Dr **Tyffen READ**, has been researching sea turtles for more than 15 years in both countries. Now working for a New Caledonian governmental agency, Tyffen manages a team of park rangers that are in charge of strandings of protected species (thus today's presentation on the sea turtles strandings of NC) but has also started, as a side project, working on the photo-identification of foraging sea turtles in New Caledonia.

#20 Thushan Kapurusinghe has received his academic training on sea turtle biology, conservation and management from the Duke University in North Carolina, USA. He completed his Masters degree from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) at the Kent University. Mr. Kapurusinghe joined the Young Zoologists Association of Sri Lanka (YZA) in 1985 and he was appointed as the Secretary of the YZA in 1990 and he was the chief Instructor of the Mammals group of YZA from 1990 to 2001. Mr. Kapurusinghe is the chairman of the Sri Lanka Turtle Conservation Project (TCP) which was initiated in 1993 and was directly responsible in declaring Rekawa Sea Turtle Sanctuary. Mr. Kapurusinghe served as the Project Coordinator of the UNDP GEF SGP Tsunami Recovery Programme between 2005 and 2007. He also worked as the Programme Development Officer of the UNDP's Disaster Management Unit. Mr. Kapurusinghe has extensive experience in turtle conservation, mangrove restoration, sand dune restoration, exotic fish breeding, nature tourism etc. with community participation. Mr. Kapurusinghe's main interests are community-based ecosystem conservation, diversification of community livelihoods, protected area co management strategies and sustainability of community-based projects.
