

OCS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

INFORMATION



Dr. Ralph Browning Brown

Dr. Brown is a professor with the Department of Sociology and Director of the International Development Minor at Brigham Young University, and his interests include: community satisfaction and attachment, including community-level impacts due to boom-growth most often associated with large-scale economic development; natural resource-human interface; persistent rural poverty and subsistence lifestyles, and effects of mass consumer economy on rural communities and their residents. He specializes in Social Impact Assessment and is versed in both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques.

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Discipline: Socioeconomics (Development and Social Change;
Social Impact Assessment)

Appointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. James M. Coleman

Dr. Coleman is a Boyd Professor for the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) and recently served as Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies at Louisiana State University (LSU). He started his professional career as a graduate student at CSI, and eventually served as Director of CSI, Chairman of Geology and Geophysics, head of the School of Geoscience, and interim Dean of Basic Sciences before being named Executive Vice-Chancellor in 1989. He has conducted worldwide research on deltaic sedimentation, riverine processes, marine geology, shallow structure of shelf sediments, and muddy coasts. He serves on numerous local, state, and national committees and is presently a member of the Ocean Studies Board, National Research Council, and has recently been appointed to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

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Discipline: Oceanography/Geology (Use of Science in Oil and
Gas Decisionmaking)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed Under New Charter:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. Kenneth H. Dunton

Dr. Dunton is a biological oceanographer whose research is focused on estuarine and coastal processes. Although his work spans from the Arctic to the Antarctic, his continuous studies of the arctic coastal ecosystem has spanned three decades and over 3000 research dives. Funded by the National Science Foundation's Arctic System Science's Shelf-Basins Interactions study from 1999 to 2008, he examined the distribution and biomass of benthic biota and changes in trophic structure based on the application of stable isotopic signatures. He has also performed intensive studies of nearshore shelf arctic benthic communities and kelp beds since 1977. He has examined the linkages between arctic watersheds and coastal lagoons along the eastern Alaskan Beaufort Sea coast, with particular emphasis on the lagoon systems of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. His work in the Gulf of Mexico has addressed the productivity of seagrass and marsh systems, and the trophic structure of the Flower Gardens coral reef community. He obtained a B.S. from the University of Maine (1975), M.S. from Western Washington (1977), and Ph.D. from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (1986), and is currently a professor in Marine Science at The University of Texas at Austin.

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Discipline: Biology (Oil and Gas Effects on Benthic Communities;
Arctic and Gulf of Mexico Research)

Originally Appointed:	June 24, 2008
Eligible for Reappointment:	June 24, 2011

Dr. Michael D. Fry Chair

Dr. Fry is the Director of Conservation Advocacy at the American Bird Conservancy, and is an avian toxicologist with research interests in the effects of pollutants, pesticides, and oil spills on ecosystems and wild birds. He received his doctorate at the University of California (UC) Davis, followed by postdoctoral fellowships in Australia and at UC San Francisco before returning to UC Davis where he was a research physiologist in the Department of Avian/Animal Sciences for 23 years before joining Stratus Consulting in 2003 and the American Bird Conservancy in 2005. Dr. Fry has been a panel member for the National Academy of Sciences on hormone active chemicals in the environment and has participated in toxicology reviews and international symposia for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and for the United Nations University in Japan. He has specialized in ecotoxicology of raptors and marine birds and served as Chairman of the Pacific Seabird Group. He has been a committee member for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OECD in revising avian toxicity test methods and was a member of the EPA Ecological Committee for Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Risk Assessment Methods (ECOFRAM). He currently serves on the EPA Federal Advisory Committee for pesticide programs.

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Discipline: Ecology (Avian Biology & Alternative Use)

Appointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. Richard G. Hildreth

Dr. Hildreth is the author of three casebooks and many other publications on ocean and coastal law. He has consulted frequently with Federal and State coastal management agencies in the U.S. and Australia, and with Pacific Island governments on environmental legal matters. Dr. Hildreth served as the University of Queensland Law Faculty's 50th Anniversary Visiting Fellow. He has served on the National Research Council's Non-native Oysters and Coastal Ocean Committees, the Pacific Northwest Regional Marine Research Board, and the editorial advisory boards of the journals *Coastal Management* and *Ocean Development and International Law*. Dr. Hildreth practiced business law with Steinhart & Falconer in San Francisco before teaching law.

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Discipline: Socioeconomics (Ocean & Coastal Law; Law of the Sea)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter	June 24, 2008

Dr. Richard B. Howarth

Dr. Howarth is an economist who studies the theory of environmental policy analysis with application to topics such as energy use, climate change, and ecological conservation. His research and teaching emphasize themes that include the role of discounting and sustainability in evaluating long-term environmental policies; mathematical models of economy-environment interactions; and the interplay between economics and ethics in valuing and managing environmental resources. Dr. Howarth has held appointments at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of California at Santa Cruz. He is currently the Pat and John Rosenwald Professor in the Environmental Studies Program at Dartmouth College and the Editor-in-Chief of *Ecological Economics*.

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Discipline: Socioeconomics (Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis)

Originally Appointed:	June 24, 2008
Eligible for Reappointment:	June 24, 2011

Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Dr. Johnson's research interests include physical oceanography of the Arctic Ocean with a focus on its general circulation and variability. His approach is analysis of historical and model data sets and use of observational methods such as moored instruments. His present focus is assessment of the ice volume of the Arctic Ocean, especially thickness along the margins, and how this may be affected by climate change.

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Discipline: Physical Oceanography (Arctic Region and Sea Ice)

Originally Appointed:	June 24, 2008
Eligible for Reappointment:	June 24, 2011

Dr. P. Michael Kosro

Dr. Kosro is a coastal physical oceanographer, and a Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University. His group has installed and operates a large array of HF current mapping systems to continuously measure the time-varying surface circulation over the entire Oregon coast, while also using conventional moored and shipborne tools. Recent studies include interannual variability of the circulation, mesoscale features of the upwelling circulation, California Current and undercurrent, and spatial structure of tidal flows.

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Discipline: Physical Oceanography (Shelf-deep Sea Exchange/Pacific Coast)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. Richard “Tyler” Priest Parliamentarian

Dr. Priest is Clinical Professor and Director of Global Studies at the C.T. Bauer College of Business, University of Houston, and a faculty affiliate of the Public History Program at the University of Houston. He is also a member of the Technology Pioneer Committee for the Offshore Energy Center in Houston. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He specializes in the history of offshore oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico and is currently working on a study of the evolution of offshore exploration technology and leasing. He has served as chief historian on a Shell Oil corporate history project and chief historian for a Minerals Management Service (MMS) project to document the history of the offshore oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico (OCS Study MMS 2004-049). He has authored books on the offshore operations of Shell Oil and Brown & Root.

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Discipline: Socioeconomics (Historian-Social/Economic Effects and the Oil and Gas Industry)

Appointed:
Reappointed Under New Charter:

April 28, 2006
June 24, 2008

Dr. Lorrie Rea
Vice-Chair

Dr. Rea's general research interest encompasses the metabolism and nutritional physiology of terrestrial and marine mammals and is particularly interested in questions dealing with lipid metabolism in large mammals and how physiological processes are adapted to periods of food limitation and fasting in the wild. Most of her recent research addresses health, diet, and body condition assessment of Steller sea lions in Alaska. Dr. Rea earned her Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (1995) after obtaining a B.S. from the University of Guelph (1987) and an M.S. from the University of California Santa Cruz (1990). She is currently a wildlife physiologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation.

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Discipline: Biology (Endangered Species; Arctic Marine Mammal Health)

Appointed:	June 24, 2008
Eligible for Reappointment:	June 24, 2011

Dr. Peter Paul Schweitzer

Dr. Schweitzer was born and raised in Austria where he became fascinated with the mysterious country that no longer exists, the Soviet Union, during the 1980's. A student exchange program enabled him to study in Leningrad for one academic year in 1986/87 and to begin ethnohistoric research of the Chukchi Peninsula in the Russian Far East, which led to a Ph.D. degree awarded by the University of Vienna in 1990. Since 1990, he has had several opportunities for longer and shorter field trips to Chukotka and, more recently, to the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). Since 1992, he has been conducting fieldwork in various communities on the Seward Peninsula in Alaska. He joined the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1991. His topical interests, in addition to the above-mentioned historical inquiries, encompass social organization (kinship, gender, politics), hunter-gatherer studies, the history of anthropology, transnationalism and other forms of interethnic contact, as well as practices and ideologies of colonialism and their local impacts. Since 2007, he has been serving as Director of Alaska EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research).

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Discipline: Socioeconomics (Anthropology and Subsistence)

Appointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. Mary I. Scranton

Dr. Scranton received a B.A. in Chemistry from Mount Holyoke College and a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution/MIT Joint Program in Oceanography. Her dissertation was on the marine geochemistry of methane. Following her dissertation work, she spent 2 years as a National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C., working on analytical and geochemical aspects of hydrogen gas distributions in the ocean and atmosphere. Since 1979, she has been at the Marine Sciences Research Center of Stony Brook University. In recent years, she has been interested in the factors controlling the cycling of organic compounds in sediments and in the water column, primarily as a part of the CARIACO (Carbon Retention in a Colored Ocean) program, a study of carbon cycling in the Cariaco Basin, Venezuela. She also maintains her long-standing interest in methane geochemistry and is investigating the role of seeps and vents, and possibly of destabilizing gas hydrates, in controlling water-column methane concentrations near the U.S. north-east continental shelf.

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Discipline: Chemical Oceanography (Geochemistry/Hydrates)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. Eugene A. Shinn

Dr. Shinn began his career as a biologist, but in 1958 switched to carbonate sedimentology after joining Shell Development Co., the research arm of Shell Oil. During his 15-years with Shell, he conducted extensive studies in modern carbonate sedimentation and diagenesis in the Florida Keys, the Bahamas, and the Persian Gulf. With Shell, he completed assignments with Royal Dutch Shell and lived in Doha, Qatar. His last major assignment was with the Environmental Affairs Department at Shell's head office in Houston. He advised the company on environmental issues and served on several American Petroleum Institute research panels. In 1974, Dr. Shinn left Shell to establish a research field station (Fisher Island, Florida) for the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

He ran the station and conducted research there for 15-years. His main focus was on modern carbonates, especially tidal flats, and coral reefs, but he also conducted studies on the environmental effects of offshore drilling. Fisher Island Station also supported a Texas A&M doctoral dissertation on the effects of drill mud on corals. Another study focused on the effects of offshore drilling in the Philippines and off Key West. Later, with funding from the Minerals Management Service, he used a two-man submersible and evaluated the effects of six drill sites in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. In 1989, he transferred to the USGS Coastal Program in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he began studies of sewage contamination and groundwater movement in the Florida Keys. His next research project was on the environmental effects of transoceanic African dust. In 1998 the University of South Florida awarded him a Ph.D. in Earth Science. After 31years of service, Dr. Shinn retired and joined the University of South Florida College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg, Florida. He currently serves on numerous committees relating to coral reef health as well as the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' Global Climate Change Committee. In June 2009, he received the Twenhofel Medal, the highest award annually presented by SEPM, (Society for Sedimentary Geology).

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Discipline: Zoology/Geology (Fate/Effects;Government/Industry Science)

Appointed:
Reappointed:

April 28, 2006
June 24, 2008

Dr. Joseph Patrick Smith

Dr. Smith is group leader for environmental technology research at ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company. He holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley (1978) and a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Rochester (1972). He joined Exxon Production Research Company in 1981 and has been active in research on the environmental aspects of offshore oil and gas operations since 1990. His research interests include numerical modeling of offshore discharges, the environmental fate and effects of drilling and production discharges, and the environmental effects of seawater usage in liquefied natural gas processing. He is the Chairman of the Offshore Operators Committee (OOC) Environmental Sciences Subcommittee and has also served on the steering groups for many joint industry environmental studies sponsored by organizations such as OOC, the American Petroleum Institute, and the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers.

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Discipline: Physical Oceanography (Oil and Gas Industry
Technology Contaminant Fate and Effects;
Environmental Management)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

Dr. John H. Trefry

Dr. Trefry is a Professor of Oceanography and Environmental Sciences at Florida Institute of Technology. He holds a Ph.D. in chemical oceanography from Texas A&M University. His research activities focus on the concentrations and cycling of trace metals in rivers, estuaries, oceans and deep-sea hydrothermal vents. Trace metals are studied for their natural value and for their potential as pollutants. Dr. Trefry's research activities are carried out in a wide variety of geographical settings including the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Alaskan Arctic, the Gulf of Mexico and the Indian River Lagoon, Florida. He also has been active in studies of environmental issues related to offshore oil exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico, the Beaufort Sea, the Sea of Okhotsk and other locations. He presently serves as an Associate Editor of the journal *Marine Chemistry*.

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Discipline: Chemical Oceanographer/Biology (Chemical Contaminants)

Appointed:	March 30, 2004
Reappointed:	April 28, 2006
Reappointed Under New Charter:	June 24, 2008

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Executive Director & Designated Federal Officer

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Executive Secretary

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OCS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE DISCIPLINE BREAKOUT GROUPS

ECOLOGY/ BIOLOGY	PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPY	SOCIOECONOMICS
Kenneth Dunton	Jim Coleman	Ralph Brown
D. Michael Fry	Mark A. Johnson	Richard Hildreth
Lorrie Rea	Mike Kosro	Richard B. Howarth
Gene Shinn	Mary Scranton	Tyler Priest
John Trefry	Joe Smith	Peter Schweitzer

SUBCOMMITTEES

DEEPWATER	ALASKA	MARINE MINERALS	DECOMMISS- SIONING	RENEWABLE ENERGY
*Joe Smith	*Peter Schweitzer	*John Trefry	*Mary Scranton	*Mike Fry
Jim Coleman	Ken Dunton	Jim Coleman	Richard Hildreth	Ralph Brown
Mike Kosro	Mike Fry	Robert Diaz	Eugene Shinn	Richard Hildreth
Tyler Priest	Duane Gill	Richard Hildreth	Joseph Smith	Richard Howarth
Mike Rex	Richard Howarth	Denise Stephenson-Hawk		Mike Kosro
William Schroeder	Lorrie Rea			Mary Scranton
**Ian Voprial	William Schroeder			Lynda Shapiro
	Lynda Shapiro			Eugene Shinn

* Chair

** Membership Pending

