

NSF Day Speakers

December 8, 2014

Maryland Science Center, Baltimore



Sam Scheiner

BIO - Directorate for Biological Sciences

Division of Environmental Biology

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Sam Scheiner currently serves as a program director in the Division of Environmental Biology where he helps run programs in evolutionary processes and the ecology and the evolution of infectious disease. A theoretical biologist, he works in evolution, ecology, and general biology. In evolution, he examines modeling phenotypic plasticity and the use of structural equation modeling for measuring trait relationships and natural selection. In ecology, he focuses on macroecological patterns of diversity, species richness relationships, and diversity metrics. In general biology, he is developing a set of general theories encompassing all of biology. Prior to coming to NSF, he was an associate professor at Arizona State University West, assistant and associate professor at Northern Illinois University, and adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona.



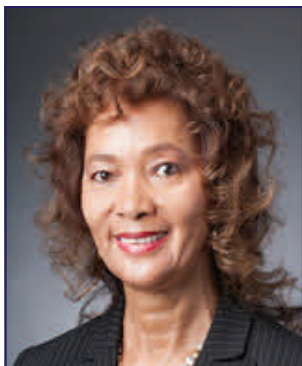
Jeremy Epstein

CISE – Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering

Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace Program

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Jeremy Epstein is NSF's lead program officer for the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC) program, a cross-disciplinary program focused on cybersecurity in the Computer & Information Science & Engineering directorate. Jeremy is on loan from SRI International, where his research areas are voting systems security and software security. He is associate editor in chief of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Security & Privacy Magazine, vice chair of the Association of Computer Machinery, U.S. Association of Computational Mechanics Public Policy Committee, and founder of the American Collegiate Scholarship Association Scholarship for Women Studying Information Security. He holds an M.S. in Computer Sciences from Purdue University, and is ABD from George Mason University.



Earnestine Psalmonds Easter

EHR - Directorate for Education and Human Resources

Division of Undergraduate Education

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Earnestine Psalmonds is the program director for the EHR Workforce Development Core Research and Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program broadening participation research track. She also is co-coordinator for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. She was co-study director for two National Academies reports, including one Congressionally-mandated study focused on the underrepresentation of minorities in science and engineering. She has held numerous administrative positions in higher education and served on state and national boards. She received the baccalaureate and master's degree from Tuskegee University and Ph.D. from Georgia State University.

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Lawrence C. Bank

ENG – Directorate for Engineering
Materials Engineering and Processing (MEP) program
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Lawrence Bank is a program director for the Materials Engineering and Processing program in NSF's Engineering Directorate. He is a rotator from the City College of New York. He served as the lead program director for the NSF solicitation focused on the Science of Sustainable Buildings (EFRI-SEED). He received a PhD in Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the journals: Construction and Building Materials, Journal of Composites for Construction (which he founded in 1997) and Advances in Structural Engineering. He is the author of the widely-used textbook "Composites for Construction: Structural Design with FRP Materials."



Lina C. Patino

GEO – Directorate for Geosciences
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Lina Patino, originally from Colombia, received her B.S. (1990), M.S. (1993) and Ph.D. (1997) in Geological Sciences from Rutgers University. She joined NSF in 2005 and is currently Program Director in the Division of Earth Sciences. In addition, Lina has served Acting Section Head for the Surface Processes Section in two occasions. As program director, Lina manages the EAR Education and Human Resources Program; focusing on fostering workforce development for Earth Sciences through Research Experience for Undergraduates and Postdoctoral Fellowship programs. In addition, Lina participates in cross Foundation activities like Graduate Research Fellowship Program and Career Life Balance Working Groups. She is also Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at Michigan State University, where she conducts investigations on the origin and composition of volcanic rocks.



Bogdan Mihaila

MPS - Directorate for Mathematics and the Physical Sciences
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Bogdan Mihaila joined the National Science Foundation in December 2012 and is directing the Theoretical Nuclear Physics and Computational Physics Programs in the Physics Division. A native of Bucharest, Romania, he earned a Diploma in Physics Engineering from the University of Bucharest and a Doctorate in Theoretical Physics from the University of New Hampshire. His research concerns applications of many-body theory to cold atoms, condensed matter, nuclear and high-energy physics. He was a postdoctoral fellow with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory before joining the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At LANL he worked also on topics of materials science and developed physics-based simulations for process modeling and engineering. He was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

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William Badecker

SBE– Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
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Bill Badecker is a program director for NSF's Linguistics Program. He also serves on the management team for Resource Implementation for Data Intensive Research (RIDIR) in NSF's Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate and is a member of the CAREER Coordinating Committee. He received his PhD in Linguistics from Indiana University and did postdoctoral research on acquired language deficits at Johns Hopkins University. His research interests center on how humans acquire and process natural language, using methods from formal and experimental linguistics, cognitive neuroscience and computational modeling.



Randy Phelps

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Randy Phelps is a staff associate in the Office of International and Integrative Activities (OIIA). His major responsibilities include co-coordination of the NSFwide Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program and the Science and the Science and Technology Center (STC) program. He recently co-chaired the Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE) Working Group, with which he remains actively involved. He was previously the program director for Galactic Astronomy and for Education and Special Programs in the Division of Astronomical Sciences while on leave from the California State University, Sacramento, where he served as a full professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He also held an adjunct associate professor position at the University of California, Davis and a visiting assistant professor position at Oberlin College.



Elizabeth (Libby) Lyons

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Elizabeth (Libby) Lyons has been an "NSFer" since 1996. She just returned to NSF after being on loan for three and a half years to the U.S. Department of State. She has had many roles at NSF, including program coordinator for the program "PIRE," Partnerships for International Research and Education, program coordinator for the region of Africa, the Near East and South Asia; and program officer in the Division of Environmental Biology in NSF's Directorate for Biological Sciences. She held a Biology faculty post for ten years at Northwestern University and Amherst College before coming to NSF.

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Susan Mason

OLPA - Office of the Director's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
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Susan Mason joined the National Science Foundation as a legislative specialist in 1990, rising to become head of External Affairs in 2000. Among her other achievements, she was director of Congressional relations at the National Archives & Records Administration, Congressional relations specialist at the Civil Aeronautics Board, and early in her career, produced and directed a monthly, two-hour, live radio program, organized major concerts, and arranged station promotions and contests for KSON AM & FM in La Mesa, CA. As head of External Affairs for NSF, she audits and plans strategic communications, as well as develops/produces media programs, media relations initiatives, and communication training programs.



Van R. Reiner

Maryland Science Center

"Our mission is to explain science and technology and to basically excite the next generation of innovators," said Van Reiner in 2011. **Van Reiner** has served as president and CEO of the Maryland Science Center since 2005. He is active in the community, serving on the Board of the Maryland World Class Manufacturing Consortia, the Howard County Public Schools STEM Advisory Council, Anne Arundel Public Schools STEM Advisory Council, Maryland State Department of Education Gifted and Talented Advisory Board, and is a founding member and Treasurer of the Partnership for Baltimore's Waterfront. A native of Lakewood, Ohio, he holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Wittenberg University and a master's degree in chemistry from Lehigh University. He also has completed executive education programs at Duke University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.