



## VIRTUAL NSF DAY SPEAKERS

February 22—25, 2016

Florida State University



Eric DeWeaver  
GEO—Geosciences  
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Eric DeWeaver is a Program Director in the Climate and Large-scale Dynamics (CLD) program. His responsibilities within the CLD program include oversight of activities related to the joint US-Taiwan COSMIC satellite project. He came to NSF in 2009 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he worked as an assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science. His academic research interests include the dynamics of atmospheric circulation variability and the impact of global warming on jet streams, storm tracks, and the hydrological cycle. He also conducted research on the decline of Arctic sea ice and its impact on polar bears, which provided input to the US Department of Interior's decision to list polar bears as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. He received his PhD in Atmospheric Science from the University of Maryland in 1999.



George Gilchrist  
BIO – Directorate for Biological Sciences  
Division of Environmental Biology (DEB)

George Gilchrist is a permanent program officer in the Evolutionary Processes Cluster of the Division of Environmental Biology where he has been since 2009. In addition to his core program duties, George serves as the technical coordinator of the BEACON (BIO/Computational Evolution in Action CONSortium) Science and Technology Center at Michigan State University and also works on the Dimensions of Biodiversity program. An evolutionary biologist, his research interests focus contemporary evolution of insect populations in response to climate change. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Arizona State, a M.Sc. from Brown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He is also an Emeritus Associate Professor at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.



Thomas B. Higgins  
EHR— Education and Human Resources  
Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)

Tom Higgins is a rotating program officer and a professor of chemistry at Harold Washington College (HWC) in Chicago, IL. HWC is an urban community college with a majority of the student body from groups underrepresented in STEM fields. At HWC, Tom won the **“Distinguished Professor” award and chaired the Department of Physical Sciences. He is active in the American Chemical Society and currently serves on the Society Committee on Education (SOCED).** In 2015, he won the ACS *Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences.*



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Tatiana (Tanya) Korelsky  
CISE— Computer and Information Science and Engineering  
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Tanya Korelsky has been at NSF for ten years. Her general area of expertise is in human languages technologies such as natural language and speech analysis, and synthesis used in various natural language processing applications such as text summarization, dialog systems, question answering systems, and conversational agents. She is also participating in such cross-directorate programs as CISE Research Infrastructure, Cyber-learning and Future Learning Technologies, Science of Learning Centers, Science of Learning Collaborative Networks, National Robotics Initiative, and Smart and Connected Health.



Jeremy Leffler  
BFA – Budget, Finance and Award Management  
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Jeremy Leffler is the outreach specialist in BFA's Policy Office. He is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of communications strategies that inform the research community and NSF staff about NSF proposal and award policies and procedures. Jeremy is responsible for directing the biannual NSF Grants Conference, coordinating NSF participation in major professional conferences for research administrators, and leading science and engineering research and education outreach programs to institutions historically underserved in the Federal funding arena.



Alex Leonessa  
Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental & Transport Systems  
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Alex Leonessa obtained a doctoral degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech in December 1999. His appointment as a faculty member at Virginia Tech started in December 2007, after two previous similar appointments at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida. In September 2014 he started a rotation at the National Science Foundation, where he is currently supervising the General and Age Related Disability Engineering (GARDE) program, as well as participating to the Major Research Instrumentation program, the National Robotics Initiative, the Partnership for Innovation program, and the Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems program.



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Susan Mason  
OLPA - Office of the Director's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs  
External 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, she 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, Susan audits and plans strategic communications, as well as develops/produces media programs, media relations initiatives, and communication training programs.



Laura Namy  
SBE—Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences  
Developmental and Learning Sciences (DLS)  
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Laura Namy is the program director for the Developmental and Learning Science Program within the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate. She is a rotating program officer in her third year at NSF. Her home institution is Emory University. At Emory, Laura is professor of psychology, core faculty in linguistics, and associate director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture. Her research focuses on language acquisition, in particular how learners discern the meaning of new words. She is past editor of the *Journal of Cognition and Development* and is co-author of an introductory psychology textbook.



James Neff  
MPS—MPS - Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Division of Astromomy (AST)

James Neff is a program director currently serving as the coordinator for all AST Individual Investigator programs and as the Lead for the Stellar Astrophysics part of the Astronomy & Astrophysics Grants program. He is on an IPA detail from the College of Charleston, where he is a professor of Physics & Astronomy. He received his PhD in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado. His research interests include the solar-terrestrial and solar-stellar connections, high-resolution spectroscopy, as well as robotic observatory facilities and astronomical instrumentation.



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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.



Nancy Roddy  
OIRM—Information Resources Management  
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Nancy Roddy is the Advisor for Special Programs in the Office of Information Resource Management (OIRM) Human Resource Management (HRM) Division. Ms. Roddy is a member of the HRM Senior Staff and is responsible for a variety of projects and programs including contracts, internal controls, social media recruitment, diversity reporting, and marketing/outreach. Ms. Roddy has a M. Ed in Guidance and Counseling from Campbell University and a B.A. in English from Stetson University. She is a Senior Fellow with the Partnership for Public Service and a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute.



Lisa-Joy Zgorski  
OLPA - **Office of the Director's Office of Legislative and Public Affairs**  
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Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist and NSF Days lead. Since joining the NSF in 2007, she has received Director's Awards for work with CISE, EHR and the National Science Board. Her other beats have included NSF's International office, SBE, Physics and Astronomy. Lisa-Joy served as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (CT); press secretary for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and (then-gubernatorial candidate) Gov. Dan Malloy of Connecticut, and as a public affairs specialist in the press offices of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Office of Management and Budget and The Century Foundation. She holds an MPP, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; a B.A., Mount Holyoke College; and certificates in policy studies from Dartmouth College and the Charles University Law Faculty in Prague.