

NOAA Speaker Biographies

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2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami: 10 Years Later

Stuart Weinstein, Ph.D.

Stuart Weinstein is the deputy director of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has held this position since 2005 and has been with the PTWC since 1998. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the warning center and conducts tsunami training with the International Tsunami Information Center based in Hawaii.

Stuart was born and raised in New York. He received his B.S. in Geophysics and Geology from Binghamton University (New York) in 1983 and an M.S. in Geological Sciences from Northwestern University (Illinois) in 1986. Stuart received his Ph.D. in 1991 from the Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore) for his dissertation on thermal convection in planetary mantles.

He continued in this area of research with a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Earth Sciences grant at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1991 and at the University of Hawaii as the SOEST Young Investigator in 1993. Yearning for his native homeland of NY Stuart moved back to NY in 1996 where he worked for Bloomberg L.P. in New York City. Deciding he missed the year-round pleasant climate of Hawaii, Stuart moved back to Hawaii (by now he was well experienced in moving trans-continental distances) and has worked ever since at the PTWC.

Dwayne Meadows, Ph.D.

Dwayne Meadows is a conservation biologist and educator. Currently he is the species of concern program coordinator and an endangered species biologist for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in Silver Spring, MD. This program aims to prevent species from further declines that would require them to be put on the Endangered Species List.

Dwayne has been a SCUBA diver and award-winning underwater photographer since age 15. He is from Northeastern Ohio where he learned to dive in freshwater lakes and quarries. He has a B.A. in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley where he studied reef fish and estuaries in Australia. After graduation he worked on salmon smolt migration patterns for California Fish and Game. Dwayne went on to get his Ph.D. at Oregon State University for work on the behavioral ecology of coral reef fishes in the Caribbean. Dwayne then entered academia as a Professor of Zoology for 8 years and then moved to Hawaii as Director of Research for an NGO. He served as Hawaii ecosystems representative to the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Dwayne then began working with NOAA's Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center on coral reef monitoring and marine debris removal projects in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. After surviving the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Thailand, Dwayne led the development of the Aquatic Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Hawaii while working on tsunami reef recovery and marine debris removal projects in Thailand. Dwayne served on the board of 4Kali.org, a non-profit created in memory of a 15 year old victim of the tsunami and dedicated to helping the people of Thailand affected by the tsunami. He was also a member of the Hawaii State Civil Defense Tsunami Technical Review Committee and the Tsunami Risk Assessment Project and speaks widely about his experiences and about natural disaster preparedness.

Michael D. Angove

Mike Angove is from Spokane, Washington. He graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology. He retired from the US Navy with the rank of Captain in May 2012 after 26 years of active commissioned service.

Mr. Angove holds two masters degrees: (1) Meteorology and Physical Oceanography from the Naval Postgraduate School and (2) National Security Affairs from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. During his naval career Mr. Angove served as forecaster, deputy director and finally commanding officer of the Joint Typhoon Warning Center, and made a total of 7 overseas deployments on three different ships. He was twice named as the Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific Junior Officer Shiphandler of the Year, and was awarded the Franklin Reinauer II Defense Economics Essay Prize while at the Naval War College. His decorations include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Mr. Angove has served as the NOAA/NWS National Tsunami Program Manager since August of 2012.

Vasily V. Titov, Ph.D.

Vasily V. Titov is Director of the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research, the joint operation of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory and the Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean of the University of Washington. He is also Affiliate Assistant Professor of the Earth and Space Sciences of the University of Washington.

He received his Ph.D. in Coastal and Ocean Engineering in 1997 at the University of Southern California. His undergraduate degree is in Mathematics from the Novosibirsk State University. He published more than 100 papers on the subject of tsunami modeling and forecast. He has developed the MOST model that is now being use for NOAA tsunami forecast, for tsunami studies and warning operations in many countries.

Research interests include numerical modeling of water waves, long wave modeling, data assimilation techniques, tsunami measurements, tsunami modeling, tsunami forecast.

Paula Dunbar

Paula Dunbar is a physical scientist at NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) working with natural hazards data and information. She manages the distribution and archive of the NGDC historical tsunami event, significant earthquake, and significant volcanic eruptions databases. Ms. Dunbar has developed web-based educational tools such as an online Kid's Hazards Quiz and interactive maps. She has also worked on GIS-based hazard assessment projects such as earthquake loss estimation and tsunami vulnerability analysis. She is particularly interested in the use of historical tsunami event data and information for tsunami hazard and risk assessment and mitigation at the local, regional, and national levels.

Prior to joining NGDC in 1991, she worked for the NOAA/Space Environment Services Center and for the USGS/National Earthquake Information Center.

Ms. Dunbar is a member of the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GeoRisk) and of the IUGG Joint Tsunami Commission. Ms. Dunbar received a B.A. in Geography from the University of Colorado and a M.S. in Earth Sciences from Colorado State University.