



Dr. Lisa L. Robbins

Dr. Lisa L. Robbins received her Ph.D. at University of Miami, 1987. Lisa came to USF in 1988 as an Associate Professor and set up the Molecular Paleontology and Biomineralization laboratory. Since that time I have concentrated my research along two lines: the characterization of organic matter (proteins) in fossils which can be used to determine molecular phylogeny and also plays a role in mineralization, and secondly, the role of cyanobacteria in the formation of calcium carbonate mud (biomineralization).



Dr. Doug Biggs

Dr. Doug Biggs is a Professor of Oceanography at Texas A&M University. Professor Biggs completed his Ph.D. in 1976 at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Biggs teaches classes in Ocean Research and Operational Techniques, and Biological Oceanography.

Professor Biggs is collaborating with Robert Leben and George Born of the Colorado Center for Astrodynamic Research (CCAR) to compare sea truth measurements of Gulf of Mexico dynamic topography. These measurements are made on training and research cruises with the Sea Surface Height Anomaly measured by TOPEX/Poseidon and ERS-2 altimeters.

Professor Biggs is also collaborating with Randall Davis, Bill Evans, Jeff Norris and John Wormuth to study the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the Gulf of Mexico. Professor Biggs and Wormuth participated in GulfCet research cruises aboard *Gyre* in October 1996 and August 1997 to define the hydrographic and biological habitat of cetaceans.

Dr. Mark E. Luther

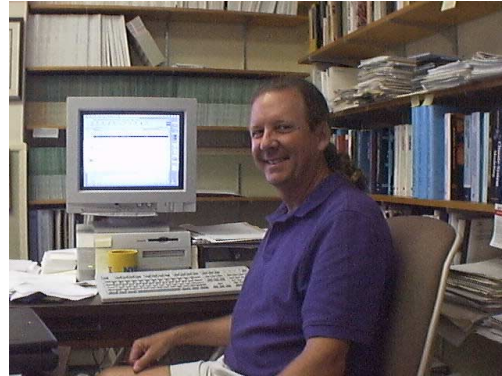
Mark E. Luther is an Associate Professor of Physical Oceanography in the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Luther received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1982 and joined the faculty of USF in 1990.

Dr. Luther's research involves the development of numerical models of ocean currents and processes and their application to various problems ranging from water quality in Tampa Bay to variability in large-scale ocean circulation and its relation to climate change. He is an internationally known expert on the wind- and thermally-driven circulation in the tropical oceans and its role in global change phenomena such as variability in the Asian monsoons and El Niño/Southern Oscillation events. Dr. Luther is the author of 54 publications (18 refereed) on various aspects of oceanography. He has presented invited lectures in Austria, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka, and at several US institutions. He is active in national and international scientific societies and is a past Secretary of the American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences Section.

Dr. Luther manages the Tampa Bay Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) at USF, which is a system that measures tides, currents, and winds around the bay and disseminates the information to the public with updates every six minutes. With his graduate students, he has combined the PORTS technology with a model of currents and tides in Tampa Bay to predict the movement of oil spills or other hazardous material spills. The system was successful in predicting the movement of the August 10, 1993 oil spill in lower Tampa Bay. In

collaboration with other USF faculty, Dr. Luther is implementing a similar system for the entire west coast of Florida





Gary Mitchum, Ph.D.

Gary Mitchum is an Associate Professor of Physical Oceanography in the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Florida. Dr. Mitchum received his Ph.D. at Florida State University in Physical Oceanography in 1984 and joined the faculty of USF in 1996. Before coming to USF, he was a faculty member at the University of Hawaii, Manoa.

Dr. Mitchum's primary research focus is the ocean's role in creating and maintaining interannual to decadal changes in our climate. For example, why is one winter cooler than the last?, or one decade drier than another? A secondary focus is the study of the physical factors influencing biological variability. For example, Dr. Mitchum helped to develop a method to predict lobster distributions in the Hawaiian Islands from circulation information.

The problems that Dr. Mitchum tries to solve are complex. He works on them by analyzing satellite-derived, as well as in situ observations. In addition, he analyzes numerical model output as well.

Dr. Mitchum is the author of many publications on various aspects of oceanography. He is active in national and international scientific societies.