Speaker Bios and Affiliation Description

Jackie Theriot, Sugar Industry Consultant
Jackie Theriot is the Chairman of the Louisiana 25x’25 State Alliance. Mr. Theriot is a sugar producer and former sugar mill operator. He now provides consulting services to governments and individuals around the world on sugar production, sugar processing, and bagasse utilization for value-added products. In addition, he serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Theriot was presented B.W. Dyer’s 2003 Dyer Memorial Award as "Sugar Man of the Year". The award recognizes the person who has made a meritorious contribution to the U.S. sugar industry. He is also past Chairman of the American Sugar Cane League and LFBF’s Sugar Advisory Committee. Mr. Theriot remains a member of the U.S.-Mexico Sugar Trade Task Force.

Commissioner Mike Strain, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Dr. Mike Strain, elected to serve as Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in 2007, was sworn into office in January 2008. Born and raised on a cattle farm in Covington, Strain is no stranger to rural life in Louisiana. He was very active in FFA and 4-H and remains involved in his family’s cattle business. In 1983, Strain earned a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from LSU. Strain stayed true to his rural roots and profession through membership in the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association and the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association. He served as parish president and state board member for Farm Bureau, a parish officer for LCA and state president for LVMA. Strain served two terms in the Louisiana Legislature before seeking the office of Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry.

John Moore, City of New Orleans
John McGowin is the Environmental Policy Analyst for the City of New Orleans. As the Environmental Policy Analyst for the City of New Orleans, he is responsible for calculating the city’s carbon footprint, including the transportation, building, and energy sectors. He was instrumental in writing the city’s Greenola Roadmap which compares the New Orleans to other cities and provides a list of BMPs for the various sectors. He also works to include the private sector in energy efficiency initiatives in the city.

Read Smith, 25x’25 Steering Committee
Read Smith is a co-chair of the National 25x25 Steering Committee. Along with his wife Deanna and son Jeremy, he operates a 10,000-acre diversified grain and livestock operation in Whitman County, Washington. His operation is fully direct-seeded and intensively managed for wildlife in a coordinated resource management plan. A 1969 graduate of Washington State University with a BS degree in Agriculture, Smith has also been a Conservation District official since 1974, serving as president of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and president of the National Association of Conservation Districts from 2001 to 2003. He was recently named to the USDA/EPA Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee.
Dr. Dan Thomas, LSU Agricultural Center
Dr. Daniel L. Thomas is currently Professor and Head of the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Louisiana State University and the LSU Agricultural Center in Baton Rouge. Dr. Thomas assumed that role in March of 2003. Prior to that time he served as a faculty member at the University of Georgia, Bio & Ag Engineering Department, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Tifton Campus from 1984 to 2003 while working his way from Assistant Professor to Professor. While at the University of Georgia, he has served in different leadership roles including Research Leader (starting in 1991) to Research, Extension and Instruction Coordinator (starting in 1996) for the Tifton unit.

Dr. Giovanna A. DeQueiroz, Audubon Sugar Institute
Dr. Giovanna A. DeQueiroz has been an Assistant Professor at the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center’s Audubon Sugar Institute in Saint Gabriel, LA since September 2007. Part of her research focuses on the develop of integrated technologies to convert biomass into biofuels, specialty chemicals, biomaterials and animal feed. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the area of food microbiology, food safety, and biomass utilization for the production of biofuels and byproducts.

Dr. Mark Zappi, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Dr. Mark Zappi is the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. He comes to The University of Louisiana at Lafayette from Mississippi State University where he held the Texas Olefins Professorship in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering. Dr. Zappi has a BS in Civil Engineering from The University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a MS and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University. Dr. Zappi’s primary areas of research include production of both liquid and gaseous fuels from renewable sources and treatment of polluted waste streams.

Tom Spies, The Powell Group/Agrilectric
Tom Spies is the Chief Operating Officer for The Powell Group, based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Spies oversees The Powell Group’s dynamic group of diverse companies relating to rice farming, rice milling, forestry management, radio broadcasting, contract/wholesale major home appliance sales, real estate development, and home construction. Spies has had a successful career in sales, sales management, and operational management. He currently serves as a Steering Committee member for the Biomass Power Association (formerly known at US Biomass Power Producers Alliance); and is an active advocate for the open loop biomass renewable energy industry.

The Powell Group owns and manages Agrilectric Power Partners, a 13mw biomass facility—using rice hulls as fuel—in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Agrilectric Power has been operating since 1984.

John Howe, Verenium
John Howe became Vice President of Public Affairs in June 2007, after the merger of Diversa Corporation and Celulon Corporation. Mr. Howe joined Celulon in 2006 and was responsible for the company’s public, government and industry outreach efforts. Prior to Celulon, Mr. Howe was Vice President, Electric Industry Affairs at American Superconductor, a leading developer of innovative power grid technologies. From 1995 to 1997 he served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, where he spearheaded early stages of the state's energy restructuring process. Previously he was Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs for J. Makowski Associates Inc. and U.S. Generating Company, two leading independent power developers.
Verenium Corporation is a leader in the development and the commercialization of cellulosic ethanol, an environmentally-friendly and renewable transportation fuel, as well as higher performance specialty enzymes for applications within the biofuels, industrial, and animal nutrition and health markets. Verenium operates one of the nation’s first cellulosic ethanol pilot plants, an R&D facility, in Jennings, Louisiana and has recently entered the start-up phase at its 1.4 million-gallon-per-year demonstration-scale facility. Verenium recently announced plans to build its first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facility in Highlands County, Florida.

Tim Collins, Consolidated Energy Holdings, LLC
Tim Collins graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a B.S. degree in Accounting. He has over 20 years in the financial field with extensive experience in start-up ventures and project finance in several different industries such as manufacturing, financial services, commodities/trading, electrical production and pharmaceuticals.

Consolidated Energy Holdings has a biodiesel project in Pollock, Louisiana, as well as a new Liquid Fuel Terminal scheduled to open at the Port of Alexandria in the first quarter of 2009.

Jeff Bigger, Syntroleum/Dynamic Fuels, LLC
Jeffery M. Bigger is the Senior Vice President of Business Development of Syntroleum Corporation. Mr. Bigger joined Syntroleum in 2000 as Business Development Manager and was appointed Vice President, Engineering in 2002. Mr. Bigger brought the company 23 years of experience in management of research, engineering, design and optimization of oil, gas and chemical production facilities.

Building on over 20 years experience, Syntroleum has proven its ability to produce synthetic fuels from a wide variety of feedstock—from natural gas to fats, oils and greases. Syntroleum is utilizing its Bio-Synfining™ technology to produce renewable synthetic fuels with the same superior qualities. Dynamic Fuels, LLC is a 50:50 venture between Syntroleum Corporation and Tyson Foods, Inc. to convert low grade, inedible fats and greases into renewable synthetic diesel, jet and military fuel in Geismar, Louisiana.

Roddy Hulett, Louisiana Green Fuels
Roddy Hulett is General Manager of Louisiana Green Fuels in Lacassine, Louisiana. He was born and raised on a sugar plantation in South Africa. He began working in a sugar mill at age 17. He achieved a B.S. in Sugar Technology from LSU and then returned to work at South African sugar mills for approximately 9 years as a Chef Chemist, Asst. Process Manager, Process Manager, and Factory Manager.

Mr. Hulett spent 2 and one-half years in Brazil overseeing the design and construction of a new sugar mill capable of processing 22,000 tons cane/day.

Mr. Hulett returned to the U.S. in 1976 to work with F C Schaffer and Associates in Baton Rouge for 2 years as a process Consultant. He then managed 5 Louisiana sugar mills until 2007 when he joined Louisiana Green Fuels.

Louisiana Green Fuels, an international investment group with more than 40 year of experience in Agro Industries, has a commitment to be pioneers in the production of ethanol from sugar cane and sweet sorghum crops in the U.S. With three industrial plants in Louisiana, Louisiana Green Fuels plans to produce over 100 million gallons of ethanol a year.
**Dan Duplantis, Jr. & Neville Dolan, Raceland Raw Sugars**  
Dan Duplantis, Jr. is the Assistant General Manager and has been with Raceland Raw Sugars for 15 years. Neville Dolan is the Plant Manager and has been with the company for seven years.

Raceland Raw Sugars Corp. is located in Raceland, Louisiana on La. Hwy. 3199. It was founded in 1850 and is a producer of sugar, molasses, and syrup. Raceland Raw Sugar Corp. is a wholly owned subsidiary of M. A. Patout & Son, Ltd. In the past, it led the state in tons of cane milled and was a leader in using bagasse to develop and manufacture wallboard. Raceland Raw Sugars Corp. has a processing capacity of 15,000 tons of cane per day, for a total of 1,250,000 tons of cane.

**Stephen Shelton, Louisiana CleanTech Network**  
As a co-founder and Executive Director of the Louisiana CleanTech Network (LCTN), Mr. Shelton has been organizing the Louisiana CleanTech Network since January 2007. Mr. Shelton is also the president and co-founder of the Southern Building Institute, a non-profit Louisiana corporation with a focus on research and development of high performance, sustainable, and energy efficient buildings in the Gulf South.

From 1977 to 1985 Stephen was the owner of a New Orleans company, Elemental Energy Systems, and serviced the construction industry to research, develop, manufacture, and install many Energy Efficient technologies in Louisiana. Stephen has worked in the Information Technology industry since 1990 in a variety of positions - most recently as an Information Technology Consultant specializing in internet technologies. Mr. Shelton decided in October of 2006, as a result of the destruction of much Gulf South from Katrina and Rita, to return to the industry that he left in 1985.

The Louisiana CleanTech Network works with all stakeholders to promote the growth of clean technology businesses in Louisiana and to encourage environmentally responsible economic development. Its mission is to facilitate the formation and growth of new companies, as well as the retooling of existing businesses, to capitalize on the rapidly expanding market for clean technologies, whether in research and development, manufacturing, distribution, sales, or maintenance.