

Water Resource and Big Data Experts Will Gather at LSU: Data Flow Conference to be Held May 9-10

BATON ROUGE, LA. – Apr 26, 2016 – Experts from around the world will come to LSU for the two-day conference, **Data Flow: Grand Challenges in Water Systems Modeling, Data Management and Integration** on May 9-10.

Researchers, industry experts and decision makers from organizations including RAND, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and LSU will discuss water resources, modeling and simulation, decision support and innovative approaches to effective water management at the Lod Cook Conference Center. Data Flow is presented by The Water Institute of the Gulf, IBM and LSU.

“Baton Rouge is located in one of the most critical places on Earth when it comes to water issues. Flood risk, land loss, water and wastewater treatment and drought are real threats. Through Data Flow, a group of world experts will come together to tackle these issues and find innovative solutions to protect our most valuable natural resource—water,” said LSU Center for River Studies Director Clint Willson, who is one of the lead organizers for Data Flow.

Four keynote addresses will be given by the following speakers.

IBM Senior Research Manager for Constrained Resources and Environmental Analytics Sean McKenna from the IBM Research Smarter Cities Technology Centre in Dublin, Ireland, will deliver the opening keynote address. He leads a team of scientists and engineers in developing analytics and optimization solutions for water resources management, environmental modeling and long-term monitoring. Areas of application for this research include: ocean circulation modeling, river flow forecasting and ground water modeling.

Philip Liu, distinguished professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering and vice president for research and technology at the National University of Singapore, or NUS, will be a keynote speaker as well. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineers. His research interests are in coastal oceanography and engineering, including water wave theories, tsunamis dynamics, wave-breaking processes, sediment transport process and the interactions of waves with structures. His research approach integrates analytical, computational and experimental methodologies.

Director of the NOAA National Water Center Geo-Intelligence Division Ed Clark will also be a keynote speaker. His division is responsible for providing centralized and consistent data services, geospatial analyses and cartographic expertise to support science and engineering development, systems implementation and water resources operations at local, regional, national and global scales. His background is in civil engineering with an emphasis on water resources and hydrology.

Christine Shoemaker, professor of engineering at Cornell University and NUS, will also provide a keynote address. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineers. Her research focuses on finding cost-effective, robust solutions for

environmental problems by using optimization, modeling and statistical analyses. Her application areas focus on water resources and environmental issues, but the algorithms and her open source software are general and have been applied to a range of problems including physical and biological groundwater remediation, carbon sequestration, population ecology, computer architecture and watershed models.

With modern technology and improved sensors, the water research and management community needs new tools and strategies to more effectively utilize the large amounts of observational and computational water-related data available. The conference will cover a wide variety of topics from managing limited water resources to effectively integrating data from a variety of sources.

Additional Links:

Data Flow: <http://water.lsu.edu>

Press Release:

http://www.lsu.edu/mediacenter/news/2016/04/ored_dataflow.as.php

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