

# SPEAKERS

## **RENEE SHIELDS, HEIGHT MODERNIZATION MANAGER, NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY (NGS)**

Ms. SHIELDS IS A SENIOR GEODESIST IN THE OPERATIONS AND ANALYSIS DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY (NGS). SHE RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/BOSTON IN 1976. Ms. SHIELDS HAS BEEN WITH NGS SINCE 1980, AND HAS EXPERIENCED MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE GEODETIC ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983, AND INTEGRATION OF NEW GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) PROJECTS INTO THE NATIONAL SPATIAL REFERENCE SYSTEM (NSRS). THIS INCLUDED ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTRAINED ADJUSTMENT GUIDELINES, PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HIGH ACCURACY REFERENCE NETWORKS ADJUSTMENTS, AND THE STATE-WIDE READJUSTMENT OF SEVERAL STATES. SHE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN GPS AND GEOID HEIGHT ANALYSIS, AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY USED THIS EXPERIENCE TO DEVELOP AND CONDUCT WORKSHOPS AROUND THE COUNTRY ON INCORPORATION OF DATA INTO THE NSRS. RENE E IS CURRENTLY PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE HEIGHT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, AN EFFORT THAT HAS 17 STATES AS REGULAR PARTICIPANTS AND ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN A NUMBER OF OTHER STATES. SHE COORDINATES AND MANAGES THE PROGRAM, THROUGH OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND GUIDELINES, WITH THE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING NATIONWIDE IMPLEMENTATION OF HEIGHT MODERNIZATION.

## **DENIS RIORDAN, GEODETIC ADVISOR TO MISSISSIPPI, NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY (NGS)**

MR. RIORDAN IS A GEODESIST WITH THE NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY AND SERVES AS THE GEODETIC ADVISOR IN MISSISSIPPI. HE WORKS TO GUIDE, ASSIST, AND SUPPORT THOSE THAT USE NGS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (PRODUCTS LIKE THE NATIONAL SPATIAL REFERENCE FRAME (NSRS), WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION FOR POSITION, HEIGHT, DISTANCE, DIRECTION, GRAVITY, AND SHORELINE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES). HE HELPS THOSE IN THE SURVEYING, MAPPING, GIS, AND REMOTE SENSING FIELDS, WHICH ARE GROUPS THAT FREQUENTLY USE NGS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. HE HOLDS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN SURVEYING AND MAPPING, IS LICENSED AS A PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR AND MAPPER IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AND HAS WORKED FOR OVER TEN YEARS WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN THE LAND SURVEYING FIELD PRIOR TO JOINING NGS.

## **MARGARET PAPPAS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERMITTING & DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF MOBILE**

MARGARET PAPPAS BEGAN HER CAREER WITH THE CITY OF MOBILE IN 1990, AS A ZONING TECHNICIAN, IN THE PLANNING SECTION OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT. HAVING BEEN PROMOTED TO VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE PLANNING AND PERMITTING SECTIONS WITHIN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SHE IS NOW DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERMITTING; A POSITION SHE HAS HELD SINCE 2005. MARGARET HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY AND A MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, BOTH FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA. SHE IS A CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGER, AND HAS ACTIVELY ADMINISTERED FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS AS IT RELATES TO BUILDING COMPLIANCE, SINCE 2007.

## **DAVID NEWCOMER, GEODETIC ADVISOR TO FLORIDA, NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY (NGS)**

MR. NEWCOMER IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WITH A DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AND A CONCENTRATION IN GEODESY. HE IS A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND LICENSED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR IN PENNSYLVANIA. MR. NEWCOMER HAS TAUGHT NUMEROUS SEMINARS AND COURSES ON THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) INCLUDING STATIC GPS, REAL TIME KINEMATIC GPS AND HOW THE GPS SYSTEM WORKS AS WELL AS COURSES ON THE USE AND ADJUSTMENT OF SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS. HE HAS PUBLISHED GPS AS A FAST SURVEYING TOOL, (AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS: JOURNAL OF SURVEYING ENGINEERING, 1990). PRIOR TO HIS TENURE WITH NGS, MR. NEWCOMER WORKED IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY FOR TRIMBLE NAVIGATION, WILD HEERBRUGG AND OWNING HIS OWN ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING BUSINESS. MR. NEWCOMER IS A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA SURVEYING AND MAPPING SOCIETY AND A LIFE MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

## **JOHN RUSSELL, ASSISTANT LOCATION ENGINEER, DESIGN BUREAU, ALABAMA DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**

JOHN RUSSELL HAS 27 YEARS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND HAS BEEN LICENSED AS A PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR FOR 15 YEARS. HE BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A RODMAN ON A STATEWIDE SURVEY CREW IN 1985 AND WAS SERVING AS THE FIELD SUPERVISOR OF A CREW BEFORE TRANSFERRING INTO THE CENTRAL OFFICE IN 1992. FROM THERE HIS DUTIES HAVE GROWN TO INCLUDE RESPONSIBILITY OF QA/QC OF IN-HOUSE AND CONSULTANT SURVEYS, MANAGING THE AERIAL MAPPING AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRACTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT, HEIGHT MODERNIZATION PROJECT MANAGER, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ALDOT CORS NETWORK. HE ALSO SERVES ON THE ALABAMA EXECUTIVE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND CHAIRS ITS TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY AND LIDAR.