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CV

Skills

- **Write:** Create text that goes deep, not dull.
- **Edit:** Turn rough drafts into polished, meaningful documents.
- **Train:** Help experts share their work with peers and the public.

Education

- **Harvard Kennedy School:** 2009-2010. Master of Public Administration. Sponsored as Environmental Fellow by the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation. Degree included in-depth mediation training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Urban Studies and Planning.
- **University of Virginia:** 1986. Bachelor of Arts, Political and Social Thought. Graduated with Highest Distinction.

Accomplishments

- Have written 30+ (and counting) high profile policy documents that make specialized knowledge easy to understand.
- Co-created an innovative program that brings scientists and coastal residents together to talk, learn, and solve problems.
- Wrote Louisiana's primary climate change adaptation documents post-Hurricane Katrina, including coastal plans governing \$50 billion in coastal investments.

Professional Experience

I help experts connect with people outside policy and research bubbles. My work seeks to widen the circle of people informed about urgent issues so we create momentum for positive change. Recently I have focused on how to use systems thinking for peacebuilding and responding to climate change.

Selected Projects:

- Course development for Louisiana State University: Ecosystem Design (2017-present). Working with professor to create undergraduate lectures and textbook. We encourage students to view the world's deltas through the lens of systems thinking. We argue that this perspective will illuminate new options for addressing climate change and other challenges.
- Ongoing assistance to Rule of Law, Justice, and Security Division, United States Institute of Peace (2015-present). Working with staff to find new options for handling peacebuilding operations in regions recovering from conflict. In 2016 and 2017, helped the team write an [article](#) examining how systems thinking can be applied to peacebuilding; we are now writing a book on the same subject to be published in 2019.
 - Wrote content for a multi-media project focused on success stories in peacebuilding in Burkina Faso.
 - Provided guidelines for collecting information from public meetings in Africa. Identified key questions and worked with the team to create a smooth outreach process.
 - Developed and conducted a training session designed to give staff practical tools for improving their writing skills.
- [Louisiana Discovery, Integration, and Application Program \(2014-2018\)](#). Working with the director of Louisiana Sea Grant and his staff, I developed a fellowship program for researchers who want to engage with urgent policy issues.
 - Provide tours and dialogue sessions that help fellows learn from and share information with policy makers and coastal residents.
 - Developed and conducted science communication training sessions for LA DIA Fellows. Topics included: listening exercises/role plays, strategies for understanding audiences, guidelines for writing, and an introduction to adaptive leadership and interest mapping.
 - Work one on one with fellows to help them find their voice in science writing and try new ways of listening to those affected by their work.
- Report for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Facebook (2017). Working closely with clients and their researchers, rewrote a joint document to more clearly highlight how social media can provide opportunities for small businesses.
- Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2006-2007, 2010-2012, 2016-2017). Since Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana has addressed its land loss and flooding crisis in a coastal master plan that, by law, must be updated every five years. Louisiana's coastal plans determine how communities will be protected from flooding and which wetland areas will be restored. As such, the plans directly affect

two million people: where they live and work, how they renovate their homes, and where they start new businesses.

- I wrote the first master plan in 2007, which distilled the ideas of hundreds of scientists and citizens into a strategic vision for the state. The plan won the National Association of Environmental Professionals President's Award as well as the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation.
- Five years later between 2010 and 2012, I wrote the updated master plan, which presented a specific list of projects and program priorities. I worked closely with a 60-member team to clearly present findings while staying focused on essential messages. The 2012 master plan is viewed as a model for coastal planning, not just for its scientific underpinnings but also for its clear presentation of technical information.
 - I guided the 2012 master plan team's use of public hearings and focus groups, ensuring that the entire outreach program was conducted using a consistent, transparent approach. As this effort was going forward, I established timelines and methods for bringing new groups into the conversation and wrote briefing materials that explained technical results in layman's terms.
 - I served as mediator for the 33 member advisory group that represented the major stakeholders affected by the plan's provisions. I established the group's focus and groundrules and helped them develop planning principles. I also supported the state's team as it learned to make the group's deliberations integral to the overall process. By shepherding this stakeholder group through incrementally more difficult decision making, I created a new level of trust between stakeholders and state planners. Over the 18 months of the group's work, the members came to understand, question, and ultimately support the state's overall technical approach, which was critical to the plan's unanimous passage by the Louisiana Legislature.
- For the third master plan, published in 2017, I wrote Appendix B, which distilled highly technical content into precise and accessible prose. I also worked closely with the document designer to create a cohesive look and feel to the document. Copies of the appendix were distributed at public meetings to offer a concise guide to the state's latest thinking.

- **Achieving Resilience in Coastal Communities: Resources and Recommendations (2014).** Coastal states are facing unprecedented flooding, which is predicted to increase with sea level rise. Communities are left wondering what their options are, even as information about adaptation models proliferates. To help lessen residents' confusion, I converted several hundred pages of research from the National Wildlife Federation into a reader friendly collection of resources. The resulting web based document includes case studies, directories, and policy summaries for use by a range of audiences.
- **Integrating Social Science and Gulf Coast Restoration: Best Practices and Next Steps (2013).** How can Gulf states take better account of the needs and knowledge of local residents when designing coastal restoration initiatives? A group of 60 social scientists and policy makers set out to find the answers. I worked with this team, distilling their views into a 10 page white paper that outlines how to achieve more inclusive planning and make social science integral to technical analyses. The original group vetted the document at key junctures and fully endorsed the finished product.
- **Mississippi River Delta Science and Engineering Special Team Report: Answering Ten Fundamental Questions About the Mississippi River Delta (2012).** Louisiana's coastal crisis has spurred vigorous academic research and debate. In 2012 a consortium of scientists tackled ten of the thorniest issues in play, with an eye toward defining the uncertainties and providing more clarity to policy makers. I worked one on one with the authors to convert 150 pages of individual reports into a 30 page summary. The media, members of Congress, and citizens are using this summary to improve the way we use and manage one of the world's great rivers.
- **Saving America's Wetland: Annual Reports on Progress Made and Future Challenges (2002-2007, 2010).** I wrote these reports on behalf of a governor appointed group of business and industry representatives, flood control officials, and environmental advocates. The group was created to monitor and evaluate the state's coastal efforts. Among their assigned duties, the commission members developed a yearly report. For seven years, I worked with the commission members to define their assessments and present them in cogent text and graphics. The reports were negotiated and approved by the entire group before publication.

Selected Presentations

- "Louisiana's Response to Climate Change" (April 2017). Speech made to Tulane Green Club and Sierra Club members. Provided an insider's perspective on underlying issues governing Louisiana's coastal master plans.

- "Writing as a Social Act" (January 2016). Presentation for staff at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Explained how creating a document together can improve the cohesion of a team, with explanations of how to use step-wise agreements and jargon free text.
- "Decoding the Adaptive Challenge" (August 2014). Presentation for LA DIA fellows, advisors, and partners. Explained how to see beyond a group's surface conflicts to diagnose deeper currents of change and potential growth.
- "Walking the Walk Without Talking the Talk" (October 2013). Presentation at the International Association of Public Participation's North American Conference. Explored whether an established culture of public participation is necessary for transparent communications at the state level. I argued that even if authorities do not prioritize public involvement, implementers on the ground can focus on shared values and common allegiances. This approach creates room for truth telling, and it may be the only productive way forward in highly charged political environments.
- From Lab to Law: Using Science to Shape Public Policy (2012). I created this training session for the Switzer Foundation and presented it as a webinar to a group of approximately 50 environmental fellows. The session explored real life examples of how science could be applied in political realms, providing case studies and recommendations for sharing interim research results, selecting advisory teams, and framing expectations.
- Presenter for the US Consulate/Speaker on Environmental Issues (1994-2000). Foreign dignitaries visiting the New Orleans area often request briefings on specific issues. The local US Consulate regularly asked me to handle environmental briefings for these visitors, either in group settings or one on one meetings.

Other Professional Experience (Writing and Editing)

- Shrimping in Louisiana: Supporting Innovation in the Face of Coastal Change. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (2018). I edited a 25 page rough draft and provided refined and reorganized text, as well as recommendations for next steps.
- Louisiana Resilience Assistance Program: Local Strategies for Resilience Planning in Louisiana. Louisiana State University Coastal Sustainability Studio (2013). I edited the work of five research fellows as they created a detailed report, providing multiple formats for organizing case studies and research results.
- Science and Engineering Plan for the Water Institute of the Gulf (2012). In the institute's first year, I worked with the institute staff to develop guiding principles, research priorities, tasks, and timelines for a multi million dollar start up budget. I

then wrote the plan, providing successive drafts to institute staff. The final plan provided the institute's first public document detailing its purpose and future activities.

- Research Deliverables. Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development Program (1994-2009). Each year the state's oil spill researchers competed for funding through this program. If awarded funding, the researchers conducted their studies and explained their results in a paper. I edited 15-20 of these research deliverables each year, working with each author to ensure that my modifications accurately represented their research.
- **Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement. 2004-2008.** This began as an oral history project, involving interviews with 38 of Louisiana's first environmental activists as well as their partners and adversaries in state government and industry. The project team and I then converted these stories into text, and eventually into a 250 page book. I edited successive versions of the written manuscript, which was published by the University of Mississippi Press in 2013. The book is being used as a textbook for women's' studies and environmental policy courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- The Case for CWPPRA: A Report to Congress (2003). Congress required that the State of Louisiana produce this 30 page report describing the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act. This document explained the program's importance, providing context regarding Louisiana's wetland loss crisis.
- Louisiana's Gulf Shoreline Science Report (2003). This report synthesized the work of a dozen scientists and was sent to the White House as part of a multi-billion dollar request for federal wetland restoration funding.
- Using Science to Solve Real Problems (2000). This summary report of the Louisiana Applied Oil Spill Research and Development Program showed how investments in research improved states' ability to clean up oil spills throughout the Gulf Coast. The report also explained why continued research, particularly on the small, frequent oil spills that are common to oil producing states, would provide additional benefits.
- No Time to Lose (1999). Before Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill, advocates and researchers were sounding the alarm about flood risks and the ecological vulnerability of the Gulf coast. This document synthesized available research to make a case for bold and comprehensive action to save Louisiana's wetlands.
- Course Correction: Designing a Sustainable Vision for the Mississippi River Corridor (1997). This report presented the results of a McKnight Foundation funded effort to understand local views about regional planning and use of the Mississippi River. I

worked with the project team to clearly describe research results and translate findings into policy recommendations.

- Coastal Louisiana: The Unified Vision (1996). As researchers and policy makers grappled with how to slow wetland loss in Louisiana, they learned that small scale efforts were ineffective. This was one of the first documents to articulate the need for comprehensive restoration efforts that could address the root causes of the land loss problem.
- CoastWatcher's Guide (1995). This guidebook provided concrete actions that concerned citizens could undertake to support coastal ecosystems. The project was sponsored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.
- Citizen's Guide to the Louisiana Wetlands (1995). This project required me to translate a range of legal statutes into layman's terms. The final document, written for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, offered a guide to the regulatory options available for protecting wetlands and other endangered natural areas.
- Saving Our Good Earth: A Call to Action (1995). A group of scientists and educators needed help explaining why Louisiana's wetland loss crisis posed special risks for the Barataria-Terrebonne region. I synthesized research results and recommendations from educators to document the problem and present options for broadening public awareness.
- Making the Case for Justice: How Toxic Tort Litigation Affects Families (1994). This project required two years of research and interviews, as well as extensive work with the advisory council overseeing document production. The final text explores how families or communities concerned about their exposure to toxic chemicals can examine their legal options and take effective action. The document was published as part of American University's Symposium on Gender, Family, and Change, Developments in the Legal Regulation of Family Life. The document text formed the basis for a book entitled: Chemical Injury and the Courts: A Litigation Guide for Clients and Their Attorneys published in 1999 by McFarland & Co.
- The Louisiana Legislative Briefing Book: First and Second Editions (1992, 1994). These guidebooks for legislators described critical environmental issues, summarizing how toxic emissions to air, water, and land were affecting Louisiana citizens. The guidebooks also offered next steps for improving the quality of life for all residents.

Other Professional Experience (Public Processes)

- Brownfields Initiatives (1995-2004). When brownfields were a new concept nationally, New Orleans was leading the way. During a two year appointment as Deputy Director for Environmental Affairs for New Orleans, I created a nationally applied model for using citizen and business owner ideas to identify investment priorities.
 - EPA Headquarters asked me to teach this model to city officials throughout the U.S. The agency also showcased my work at its first national brownfields conference.
 - Over the next several years, I applied the New Orleans model to cities in south Louisiana. I raised \$1.3 million in federal funds for these efforts and served as a project advisor, directing staff and serving as a liaison between city governments and US EPA.
 - Today, many of the brownfields identified by New Orleans's original program have been successfully redeveloped.

- Louisiana Ecoventure (1998-2000). No matter how many times it has been proved wrong, the notion that "we can't have good jobs if we protect the environment" remains powerful. This mantra has had particular sway in Louisiana, where much of the economy was based on extractive industries (oil and gas, chemical production, timber, fisheries). In the late 1990s, the Ford Foundation provided funding to promote the idea that green industry was good for business in the Bayou State. I spearheaded this project, reaching out to green businesses throughout the New Orleans area.
 - Using economic research that showed strong links between job creation and a clean environment, participating business owners and I explored ways to build market share and create a more favorable climate for economic development.
 - Together we investigated methods of certifying green businesses and offered our model to local business leaders. Our efforts were ahead of their time and helped pave the way for change.
 - Today the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, GNO Inc., fully acknowledges the interdependence of the environment and the economy and has made building green businesses the cornerstone of its economic development program.

- Office of Environmental Affairs (1994-1995). During my two year appointment as Deputy Director for the City of New Orleans, I clarified the office's goals and implemented a range of programs designed to address urban environmental problems, such as environmental health threats in low and middle income communities, wetland loss, Superfund sites, and industrial emissions.

- I created neighborhood advisory committees to ensure strong communication among residents and the mayor's staff.
- I also hosted the city's first ever conference on women's health and the environment, which was attended by leading international scientists along with 250 women from neighborhoods across the metro area.

- LEAP to 2000 (1990-1991). In the early 90s, comparative risk projects were a focus of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These projects sought to identify participating states' environmental priorities based on technical research and public outreach. I directed the statewide outreach component of this project, planning for and conducting 10 public meetings that involved hundreds of citizens. I created and implemented a media campaign, serving as media spokesperson for the department in numerous TV and radio interviews. The project was able to identify priorities across a broad cross section of citizens, industry representatives, and environmental advocates.

Awards:

- Special Recognition for Work on the Completion of the Comprehensive Plan for a Sustainable Coast, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of Louisiana, 2007.
- Citation of Achievement, Mark Morial, Mayor, City of New Orleans, 1995.
- Award of Merit, US EPA, 1995.

Publication Summary

Plans/Reports/Policy Briefs (partial list):

- Shrimping in Louisiana: Supporting Innovation in the Face of Coastal Change. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (2018).
- Philippe Leroux-Martin, Vivienne O'Connor, and Amy Clipp (ed.), *Systems Thinking for Peacebuilding and Rule of Law: Supporting Complex Reforms in Conflict-Affected Environments*. United States Institute of Peace, 2017.
- *Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, Appendix B*. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2017.
- *Achieving Resilience in Coastal Communities: Resources and Recommendations*. National Wildlife Federation, 2014.
- *Integrating Social Science and Gulf Coast Restoration: Best Practices and Next Steps*. Oxfam America and The Nature Conservancy, 2013.
- *The Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2010-2012)*. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2012.

- Mississippi River Delta Science and Engineering Special Team Report: Answering Ten Fundamental Questions About the Mississippi River Delta (2012). Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, 2012.
- Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, 2012.
- Saving America's Wetland: Annual Report on Progress Made and Future Challenges. Governor's Office of Louisiana, 2002-2007, 2010.
- Louisiana's Annual Coastal Protection and Restoration Plan. Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Planning Authority, 2004-2006 and 2009.
- The Case for CWPPRA: A Report to Congress. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 2003.
- Louisiana's Gulf Shoreline Report. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 2003.
- Using Science to Solve Real Problems. Louisiana Oil Spill Research and Development Program, 2000.
- No Time to Lose. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, 1999.
- Course Correction: Designing a Sustainable Vision for the Mississippi River Corridor. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, 1997.
- Coastal Louisiana: The Unified Vision. Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, 1996.
- CoastWatcher's Guide. Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, 1995.
- Citizen's Guide to the Louisiana Wetlands. Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, 1995.
- Saving Our Good Earth: A Call to Action. Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, 1995.
- The Louisiana Briefing Book: First and Second Editions. Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1992 and 1994.

Books, Proceedings, and Academic Papers (partial list):

- P. Frankland, S. Weaver, and A. Clipp (ed.), *Women Pioneers of the Louisiana Environmental Movement*. University of Mississippi Press: Jackson MS. 2013.
- A. Clipp (ed.), *Research Deliverables of the Louisiana Oil Spill Research and Development Program*. Louisiana State University: Baton Rouge, LA. 1994-2009.
- A. Clipp (ed.), *Proceedings of a Symposium on Barrier Island Restoration*. Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. 1996.
- A. Clipp (ed.), *Making the Case for Justice: How Toxic Tort Litigation Affects Families*. Presented at the American University Symposium on Gender, Family, and Change: Developments in the Legal Regulation of Family Life. 1994.