

Think Tank Bios



Fanchon Stinger is the Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications for Neany Inc. She also heads up the internship/business development initiatives. Stinger is owner of FLS Media and Strategic Solutions specializing in executive coaching, corporate image branding, corporate/trade show marketing and video production, and executive staff training. She currently works between Michigan and the Washington DC/Maryland area. Stinger has over 16 years of experience as a television news anchor/journalist. The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has awarded Stinger 11 Emmy awards for her professional work. As of July 2010 Stinger will be joining Fox 59 in Indianapolis as the main evening anchor.



Leonard Boothe is the liaison between the public and the AFROTC cadet corps and overseas strategic planning for Jackson State University AFROTC program. He is Vice-President and a founding member of Boothe Brothers International, a real estate service company. Mr. Boothe has held various management and leadership positions while in the United States Air Force and as a business person. He has managed multi-million dollar projects and has led up to 90 personnel teams during his military career. Mr. Boothe garnered the coveted 2003 Department of Defense Chief Information Officer of the Year as the best company grade communications officer in the Department of Defense. Mr. Boothe is also an accomplished instructor who taught at the Air Force's College of Aerospace, Doctrine, Research and Education and currently teaches in the Air Force ROTC program at Jackson State University. As an entrepreneur, he has built a thriving business and is an active community servant.

In 1994 Mr. Boothe received his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi and his BA in 1986. He completed a Senior Military Leadership Course - Air Command and Staff College, Advance Communications Officer's School, Contingency War Fighters Planning Course, Squadron Officer School (Entry-Level Officer Leadership Course), Academy Instructor School, Information Warfare Application Course and Basic Communications Officer School.



Randy Percy, 46, has spent the last 21 years teaching in collegiate aviation, 14 years as an Assistant Professor at Delta State University and the last 7 years as Chairman of the Aviation Department at Hinds Community College. An alumnus of Delta State, Randy received a Bachelor of Commercial Aviation and a Master of Business Administration while there. He has logged over 5,000 hours of flight time as a flight instructor and corporate pilot since beginning his flight training in 1984. He lives in Ridgeland, MS, with his wife of 24 years, Wanda, and their two teenage daughters, Sarah and Mary Beth.



Dr. Carlos Gracia is internationally recognized for innovation and his contributions to the development of Minimally Invasive Surgery. He has extensive experience with the practical integration of cutting-edge technologies to improve the delivery and safety of healthcare.

Since 1992, he has been instrumental in the development of surgical robotics and at the forefront of the development of integrated and digital operating rooms. He led the design and construction of both the world's first 'Intelligent Operating Room' in 1996 and the more technologically advanced 'OR1' project in 2000. In 2002, he was one of the visionaries and designers of the digital operating rooms for the Ronald Reagan

UCLA Medical Center.

In 2002, Dr. Gracia accepted the position of Chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences and joined the faculty at the David Geffen UCLA School of Medicine as an Associate Professor of Surgery. As Chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery he introduced cutting-edge minimally invasive surgical procedures, robotic surgery, trained operating room teams and established best practices for Minimally Invasive Surgery within the Department of Surgery.

In 2003, he established the Minimally Invasive Surgical Fellowship for the UCLA Division of General Surgery which received accreditation by the Fellowship Council for Minimally Invasive Surgery in 2006.

While at UCLA, Dr. Gracia was Co-Director of the UCLA Center for Advanced Surgical and Interventional Technology (CASIT), a leading clinical, education and research center developing cutting-edge technologies in surgical robotics and digital imaging in surgery.

Dr. Gracia has performed surgery and mentored surgeons around the world. He has published several articles on new techniques and technologies in surgery for peer reviewed journals and text books. He has participated in the FDA trials for several medical devices and surgical robotics and has served as a consultant to numerous medical device and technology companies such as Computer Motion, General Surgical Innovation and Karl Storz Endoscopy.

Dr. Gracia received his M.D. from Tufts University and has been certified by the American Board of Surgery. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons and numerous other prestigious surgical societies.



Michelle Jackson has been the Airport Director at the John Bell Williams Airport in Jackson, Mississippi for the past eight years. In that time she has transformed the airport to corporate jet facility which is planned to anchor economic development in the southwest Jackson metropolitan area. Airfield improvements under her tenure include an increase in the Airport Reference Code to C-II including extension of the runway to 5,501 feet and widening to 100 feet and installation of a full ILS and a new parallel taxiway. Landside improvements considered a new $\pm 10,000$ GA terminal facility and apron, multiple aircraft storage facilities and substantial clearing and grading activities for airport development.

Ms. Jackson is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the field. She negotiates all leases, oversees grounds maintenance, runs the airport-owned FBO, maintains working relationships with airport stakeholders and guides the Capital Improvement Plan along with other long-term development plans. Ms. Jackson stewarded more than \$12 million in AIP and other state and regional funding for airport improvements through persistent and determined political resourcefulness.

Ms. Jackson worked with the Hinds County Economic Development District to establish the Hinds County AeroTech Park on properties surrounding the airport. Various public-private partnerships have emerged as a result of this planned development. Ms. Jackson has been instrumental in working with the District, State and Local delegations and national Congressional leadership to bring new tenancy to both the Airport and the AeroTech Park.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Louisiana State University in 1972, completed additional Aviation-Related Coursework at Hinds Community College and received her Private Pilot Certificate. Ms. Jackson received the 2007 Airport Manager of the Year award from the Mississippi Airport Managers Association.

Peter H. Stewart II, PHD was born in Utica, Mississippi. He completed his undergraduate degree at Jackson State University and his graduate degree at Georgia State University and Union Graduate School. Dr. Peter Stewart is the founder of the "I Too Can Fly" program. Dr. Stewart and his partners brought the program to the faculty and students at Jackson Public Schools (JPS). Randy Percy, chairman of the Aviation Board at Hinds Community College, Davis Darnell and Jonathan N'Dishabandi, both aviation students at Hinds Community College, and Dennis Lott presented an aviation curriculum to teachers and students emphasizing science and math along with unmanned robotic aircraft.

Dr. Stewart began his teaching career with JPS at Brinkley High School. He remained with JPS for seven years. In 1972, he joined the staff of the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) where he initiated the Minority Medical Education Foundation which provided short-term loans to African American students who attended medical school. He spearheaded the Pre-Med Consortium at UMC, which was established to change the way UMC admitted African American students.

From 1983-1988, Dr. Stewart took his visionary ideas and "can do" attitude to Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. While at Meharry, he created and implemented the Early Dental Acceptance Program. This program gave prospective second-year undergraduate students who maintained a 3.0 GPA or higher early acceptance to the School of Dentistry at Meharry Medical College.

Dr. Stewart joined the Mississippi Action for Progress (MAP), focusing his attention on Head Start programs. He developed the Community Needs Assessment Instrument Model for Region IV. He was also instrumental in the implementation of a childbirth Doula Program.



Emily Santos is the Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs Manager for Alabama, Florida and Puerto Rico.

In this position, Emily provides strategic corporate citizenship and corporate affairs support to the IBM executive team and employees while advancing IBM's smarter planet solutions and thought leadership in the community on key issues related to global citizenship with a local flavor.

Her work with Palm Beach County School District resulted in two Superintendent's Business Partner of the Year awards and a proclamation to the IBM Corporation for LaFamilia Technology Day.

She currently serves on the board of South Florida Donor's Forum, the Florida Endowment Foundation for Florida's Graduates, Inc., is on the advisory council of the Governor's Mentoring

Partnership, the Golden Bell Education Foundation Committee of the Boca Raton Chamber and on the state board of Communities in Schools.

She is a long-time volunteer with Boca Raton Community Hospital as the American Cancer Society trained Triple Touch Instructor providing community education.

She is a past board member of the Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships, Florida Board of Champions for Girls Get IT and the school advisory council of Hammock Pointe Elementary.

Emily and her husband Mario have 2 grown children.

Edward T. Nelson is a **North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)** Instructor with Solar Source Institute, Inc. He teaches a 40-hour solar installation course which includes three days of classroom instruction and two days of hands-on learning. Before moving to the classroom as an instructor, he was a Project Manager for several South Florida companies and owned a multi-million dollar electrical business in Massachusetts where he was responsible for 75 employees. Nelson was also an electrician with the United States Air Force. He has been a Master Electrician for over 35 years.

Russell R. Romanella is the associate director for Engineering and Technical Operations at NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In this position, he assures NASA's current programs such as the Space Shuttle, Space Station, Constellation, and Launch Services Programs are successful, and he assures the center is ready to support new projects such as commercial cargo and commercial crew launch.

Romanella joined NASA in 1981 as a co-op student while attending Florida State University. After graduation in 1984, he joined NASA as an operations engineer in the Space Shuttle Processing Directorate. Romanella became project manager for the Payload Data Management System in 1990, responsible for the design, development, management, and operations of this Information System, which supported all payload processing including space station, shuttle and expendable launch vehicle payloads.

In 1996, he moved to the Space Station Hardware Integration Office as chief of the Integration Operations Office. In 1997, he became element manager for International Space Station missions including those flying the multi-purpose logistics modules and the Canadian robotic arm. He supported the acceptance of these critical space station elements in both Italy and Canada and managed their processing activities while at Kennedy.

In September of 2003, Romanella became deputy director of the International Space Station and Spacecraft Processing Directorate, and in November 2005, he became director of the same directorate. In this position, Romanella was responsible for all ground processing of space station elements from around the world getting ready to fly in the space shuttle. While in these positions, critical elements of the International Space Station, or ISS, were successfully assembled at Kennedy, tested, and launched to orbit. These critical space station elements included the ISS connecting nodes, the U.S. Laboratory, large solar arrays, airlock, and international partner elements such as the Columbus European laboratory, the Japanese Logistics Module, and the Canadian robotic system. These elements are now operating on orbit and supporting the largest, most complex space station in human history. In addition,

Romanella was responsible for preparing the Kennedy Space Center for final assembly of a future human space launch vehicle: the Orion crew exploration vehicle.

Romanella has received numerous achievement and performance awards including NASA's Exceptional Service Medal, the Center Director Award, and the Presidential Rank Award for his leadership in preparing space station elements for launch from the Kennedy Space Center.

Born in Miami, Fla., he graduated in 1976 from Southwest Miami High School. He received a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and computer science in 1984 from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.



Dr. James "Butch" Rosser, Jr. MD FACS is a surgeon, educator, scientist, inventor, author, futurist, social advocate, television personality, actor, playwright, video gamer, comic book collector, lover of cinema, and self proclaimed terminal twelve year old. Dr. Rosser has described himself as the nexus where that which you think is frivolous meets that which you hold on high ground. He has given more than 200 invited lectures around the world, written 55 peer reviewed articles, 16 chapters in books currently in print, and 11 electronic books. He holds two patents and several products and appliances have been developed to his credit. For his efforts, "Butch" has received numerous recognitions and awards, including keys to many cities, citations by several state legislatures, three Smithsonian awards for technical achievements in medicine, NAACP Living Legend Award in Medicine, National Mentoring Award, The Gerald Marks and EXCEL awards in surgery and many others. In spite of all these honors, his most treasured accomplishment is his first job as a Head Start Health Coordinator in Washington County Mississippi. Head Start gave him a chance when no one else would.

Dr. Rosser has held academic appointments previously at Yale University School of Medicine and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is currently Professor of Surgery at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Director of the non-profit Modern Day Miracle and the CEO of the Stealth Learning Company. He is married to his lovely partner Dana and they have five children Kevin, Duane, Nikki, Taylor, and Tianna and two grandchildren August and Easton.