

2025-27 Board of Directors



David Hazlebeck, Ph.D.

CEO/Founder

Global Algae Innovations

David Hazlebeck, Ph.D., founder & CEO of Global Algae Innovations, is a proven leader and innovator in the algae industry. He has over 30 years' experience in chemical and biological research and development from laboratory-scale through piloting and commercial implementation. His biofuel experience includes leading the development of large-scale photosynthetic algal biofuels, sugar and waste conversion via heterotrophic algae and oleaginous yeast, cellulosic conversion to drop-in fuels, and conversion of plastics to fuel.

Prior to Global Algae Innovations, he led the biofuels and algae products program at General Atomics where he was the principal investigator for the DARPA Algal-Derived JP-8 project that included collaborative algal process research and development with 28 outside organizations and culminated in the design and operation of a large-scale, advanced algae production facility.

Dr. Hazlebeck has a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware and a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of California, San Diego.

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Dr. Dylan Franks is Southwest Regional Manager at Star Energy Holdings, where he leads the development of anaerobic digester hubs focused on waste-to-energy conversion and nutrient recovery. His work includes integrating algae production systems into these sites to enhance carbon utilization and create high-value bioproducts. Dr. Franks earned his PhD from Oklahoma State University, where he studied the green alga *Picochlorum oklahomense* in continuous culture, with a focus on cell cycle dynamics and lipid accumulation under nitrogen stress. He began his algae career at the Colorado School of Mines and has contributed to projects spanning biofuel strain discovery, algal STEM education, and photoautotrophic biomass production. He also co-founded a cannabis tissue culture nursery in Oklahoma and remains active in plant micropropagation. A long-time supporter of ABO, Dr. Franks served as Chair of the 2024 Algae Biomass Summit.

Dylan Franks, PhD
Southwest Regional Manager
Star Energy Holdings

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Dr. John Benemann
CEO
MicroBio Engineering

Dr. Benemann has both a B.S. in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, both from the University of California Berkeley; in addition, he spent three years as postdoctoral fellow, Dept. of Chemistry, U.C. San Diego; then rejoined U.C. Berkeley in the Department of Civil Engineering, where, as an independent researcher where he supervised half dozen Ph.D. thesis students in Civil Engineering, Biophysics and Plant Physiology. In 1980, he started a small microalgae biotechnology company and from 1983-1988 was Associate Professor at Georgia Inst. of Technology.

For the past 20+ years he has been a part time researcher at the University of California Berkeley (Depts. of Civil Engineering and Plant and Microbial Biology). and at the University of Hawaii (adjunct Professor), and a full-time consultant. His current research interests are the areas of microalgae products, aquaculture, wastewater treatment, photosynthesis, municipal solid wastes management, biofuels and all aspects of greenhouse gas abatement.

He is the author of numerous publications and reports and belongs to a number of professional and trade organizations. He was the manager of the "Microalgae Bio fixation Network" operated by the IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programmer.

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Dr. Martin Gross
President/Co-Founder
Gross-Wen Technologies

Dr. Martin Gross is the President and a founder at Gross-Wen Technologies (GWT). GWT is a next generation wastewater treatment company that is commercializing the revolving algal biofilm treatment technology (RAB). The RAB system sustainably recovers nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater. The byproducts from the process are clean water, clean air, and algae biomass, which can be used to create products ranging from fertilizers to nutraceuticals.

During his role as President at GWT, he has raised over \$5M in equity investments, served as Principal Investigator on over \$1M in non-diluting SBIR grant funding, applied for and been granted numerous patents, and helped orchestrate the first commercial sale of GWT's core RAB technology.

Prior to founding GWT, Gross attained dual doctoral degrees from Iowa State University in the fields of Bioprocess Engineering and Food Science and Technology. Gross also serves as a professor of entrepreneurship at ISU.

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As Senior Director of Algae Operations and Innovation at MyLand, Mike LaMont leads the technical development of algae production and application from concept at R&D through development to full scale application of MyLand's agricultural service.

Mike works to advance the algae economy by collaborating with algal advocates from commercial executives to young innovators. While at Heliae, he led the development of multiple products in the PhycoTerra product line, including an award-winning seed treatment. Mike has directed efforts across multiple platforms, from head of operations to design of growth systems to downstream processing.

He has also worked in a derivative of the classic petrochemical industry focused on smaller footprint, higher-efficiency chemical processing. This ultimately led Mike to direct the design, construction, and operation of a first-of- its-kind small scale, gas-to-liquids pilot plant in Columbus, Ohio. His time working in the EMSL at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory galvanized Mike's belief in the power of cross- functional, cross-trained teams. During his 27+ years of research and production experience, Mike has authored multiple publications, spoken at numerous conferences from Thailand to Hawaii, worked in multiple countries, holds numerous patents and trade secrets, and is a member of several professional and trade organizations.

Mike LaMont

Senior Director of Algae Operations & Innovation
MyLand

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Tim Shaw

Co-founder and President
BrightWave

Tim is an accomplished entrepreneur and business leader with a distinguished career spanning over three decades in logistics, sustainability, and innovative technology startups. Based in the Baltimore-Washington area, Shaw has built a reputation for driving growth, fostering innovation, and leading high-impact ventures focused on environmental and commercial success.

Tim is the Co-Founder and President of BrightWave, a Baltimore-based company that has pioneered patented technology to help organizations achieve net-zero carbon emissions. Under his leadership, BrightWave has emerged as a disruptive force in the sustainability sector, earning recognition in initiatives like #VentureCrushFG for its innovative approach to combating climate change.

Tim holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Loyola University Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. His educational background, combined with his extensive professional experience, has equipped him to navigate complex industries and lead organizations toward sustainable and profitable outcomes.

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Treasurer, ABO



Zach Gates
Managing Director
UHY Advisors, Inc.

Zach Gates leads the UHY Client Accounting and Advisory Services (CAAS) practice in Iowa. He also leads various engagements within Iowa's transaction services practice, including due diligence/quality of earnings analysis and capitalizations.

Zach focuses on startups and high growth businesses from a CFO role by being their trusted advisor, assisting with capitalization and financing transactions, developing financial models, and providing timely and accurate financial information to foster decision making and the achievement of strategic plans and goals.

Zach serves clients in numerous industries, including startups, technology, real estate, and manufacturing. Prior to leading the Iowa CAAS team, Zach spent seven years in the audit department at UHY, providing audit and assurance services to clients in various industries, including real estate and construction, manufacturing, technology, and employee benefit plans.

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Daniel J. Levy, PG

Vice President
AECOM

Dan is the National Director for AECOM's Algae Mitigation Practice. AECOM is the world's premier infrastructure and consulting firm. With offices in over 150 countries and annual revenues in 2020 of \$13.2 billion, AECOM provides a collaborative force of innovators, problem solvers and visionaries to solve the world's most complex challenges. As AECOM's National Director for Algae, Dan's team is focused developing innovative solutions to restore our nation's nutrient impacted waterways by valorizing the transformation of wild and harmful algae into commercial products, biofuel and fertilizers.

Dan's experience includes research and development of ground-breaking treatment technologies and is the co-inventor of the patented SEDCUT dredging technology for the removal of nutrient rich sediments and the patent pending Hypernucleation Flotation System (HFS) for the removal of wild and harmful algae. Dan served as the Project Director for the Florida Governor's 2018 emergency response toxic algae mitigation program, the 2019 New York Governor's innovative HAB research pilot test and the award winning USACE Harmful Algal Bloom Interception, Treatment and Transformation (HABITATS) research program.

Dan is also the recipient of; 2018 National Western Dredging Association (WEDA) Environmental Excellence Award, 2018 FDEP Southeast District Superior Excellence Distinction Award for outstanding environmental practices, and 2019 Environmental Business Journal (EBJ) Award for Social Contribution for development of an innovative Algae Harvesting program.



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Dr. Amha Belay

Founder / CEO
Algae4All

Dr. Belay is currently a Visiting Scholar at UCSD and CEO of Algae4All, LLC, a consulting company focused on algae biomass production, quality assurance, product development, regulatory guidance, management, project evaluation and education. Up to recently, Dr. Belay was Sr. Vice President and CTO of Earthrise Nutritionals, a company that has been engaged in outdoor Spirulina biomass production for food, feed and nutraceuticals for about 40 years. He oversaw all scientific, technical and regulatory aspects of Spirulina production. Dr. Belay has an extensive experience in microalgae biomass production, algal product development, quality assurance and health and other applications of algae in general and Spirulina in particular.

Dr. Belay serves as a technical advisor, board member and expert reviewer of several organizations. He is a founding and past executive committee member of the International Society for Applied Phycology, a member of the Phycological Society of America, the International Society of Food Technologists and the American Association for the Advancement of Science to mention a few. Prior to joining Earthrise, Dr. Belay was Associate Professor and Head of the Biology Department, Science Faculty, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, Senior Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences, Italy, a research fellow at the Freshwater institute, UK and a Senior Fulbright Fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Belay has published several scientific papers, and has served as an editor, editorial board member and reviewer of many journals.

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Greg Mitchell's research on microalgae photosynthesis, plankton ecology, ocean optics and satellite remote sensing has been sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, NSF, NASA and the NOAA. His laboratory work focuses on growth and photo physiology of microalgae. He is currently active in coordinating research and commercial demonstration of algae mass culture for biofuel, animal feed and abatement of waste CO₂ and nutrients. The focus of his research on algae commercial applications is optimization of yields of bioenergy and animal feed molecules in the light-temperature-nutrient matrix that regulates algae growth. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed scientific articles in prominent international journals.

Greg was a founding member of the Board of the Algae Biomass Organization and served four consecutive 2-year terms. He was a founding member of the Board of the Algae Foundation, and he continues to serve on that Board as Vice-Chair. Greg received his Bachelor of Science degree with honors in Aquatic Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, and in 1987 he received his Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography from the University of Southern California. He has been a Research Biologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego since 1988.

Greg Mitchell

Research Biologist, Scripps Institute of Oceanography
US San Diego



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Ms. Johansen has 18 years of experience in quality, regulatory & government affairs. In addition to her service on the Board of Directors of the Algae Biomass Organization (ABO), she is a Board Director for the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC), and is also a member of KKCC's Economic Development, Government Affairs, and Sustainability Committees.

Ms. Johansen is a member of the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society (RAPS), the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) Government Affairs Committee, the American Herbalist Guild, is an American Society of Quality certified HACCP Auditor, and is a Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI). Since 2012 she has been working to develop the next generation of congressional champions for the Dietary Supplement and Natural Products industry.

Ms. Johansen attended the University of Oregon on a full athletic scholarship for basketball and obtained her degree in Psychology, with a minor in Organic Chemistry.

Jen Johansen

Vice President of Quality, Regulatory & Government Affairs
Cyanotech



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Joshua Rhein
General Manager
Eurofins Scientific

Josh is a General Manager with Eurofins Scientific, a world leader in analytical testing services. He oversees multiple testing sites for the Specialty Testing Group within Eurofins Food, Feed, and Supplement Testing Division, specializing in method development services and testing to support new and emerging market trends, including but not limited to phytochemical, carotenoids, and seaweed/algae industries. As part of these specialized services, Josh works closely with industry leaders to ensure Eurofins is positioned to support the testing needs of evolving industries, including a strong focus on algae/seaweed testing platforms.

Prior to a leadership role, Josh has over 10 years of bench Chemistry experience, including method development and validation using Chromatography, Spectroscopy, Elemental and other Wet Chemistry platforms. Josh received his BS in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

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Chairperson, ABO



Kevin McGraw
Director of Sales USA
Algaewheel

Kevin blends his military background and industry expertise with over 20 years of leadership and entrepreneurial experience to lead the sales team for Algaewheel. His skills in solving complex problems and finding innovative solutions at the intersection of technological and biological systems performance are at the heart of the Algaewheel sales efforts.

Prior to joining the Algaewheel team, Kevin built a successful residential land development business in California which he later expanded into Montana. Earlier in his career, he studied navigation, graduating from the California Maritime Academy and spent eight years sailing as a Navigational Officer for Master Mates and Pilots. Kevin served four years as a United States Marine and completed his obligation with an honorable discharge.

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Dr. Nagatoshi Ide

Senior Technical Division Manager
Earthrise Nutritionals LLC

Dr. Nagatoshi Ide is Senior Technical Division Manager at Earthrise Nutritionals LLC, and has overseen their Quality, New Product Development and Regulatory since 2019.

Dr. Ide has more than 25 years of experience and knowledge in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and food industries in both research and management roles. He has a PhD in Natural Organic Chemistry and published over 50 scientific papers during his research career in Japan, US and Germany. Following his research career, he was appointed as R&D Director at a Japanese pharmaceutical/nutraceutical company and returned to the US in 2006.

He has cooperated on more than 20 research projects with universities and research institutions around the world, including many human clinical studies using dietary supplements; leading to 30 scientific publications, and in addition, launched over 50 new products for the pharmaceutical/nutraceutical markets worldwide. He has also been involved in product registration and has knowledge in regulatory for dietary supplement/nutraceutical products in Japan, US, EU and China.

With all of these experiences, including customer support from previous companies, he has helped maintain Earthrise's high-quality products in the current position of Earthrise Nutritionals.