

Friday, August 26, 2016

From Dean D'Elia

Alumni, students and friends,

My welcome to you for the fall 2016 semester is unfortunately a bittersweet one; it also is somewhat longer than usual. As everyone knows, our community is reeling from a series of unfortunate tragedies that have seriously tested us to the core. Many of our faculty, staff, students, families and friends are working to overcome the difficult circumstances brought on by the floods. At least eight employees in our College lost homes in the flood. Many lost cars as well.



While our community has without question experienced a difficult summer, ironically, recent events offer us all hope. The portrayal of Baton Rouge by national media as a cauldron of racial upheaval very much exaggerates the truth. Our community's response to the 1,000-year rainfall and subsequent flood of 2016 offers us ample proof of that.

Across Baton Rouge, people from all walks of life, from all races and creeds, from all neighborhoods and persuasions, have come together to help each other. I was abroad during the terrible deluge, but images I saw broadcast daily on Italian TV clearly showed a citizenry with deep compassion and great caring. Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie, Jr., recently spoke at Rotary. Although 105 of his officers lost their own homes, he described how many on his force worked 16-hour days to save lives and protect people, their own circumstances notwithstanding. He praised the community for its volunteerism and cooperative spirit throughout. That is the Baton Rouge that most of us who live here know and love.

I urge you to join me and offer support to those affected by recent events however you can. Volunteer through organizations such as the American Red Cross, United Way, or one of many other organizations operating in the Capital Area. If you are interested in working in flood relief, LSU has set up a webpage that facilitates student involvement and has arranged with the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to have a fund directed to supporting those in our LSU family who have suffered losses. President Alexander asks that if you have been impacted by the flood, and need financial assistance, or if you wish to contribute to the fund to help others in the LSU family, please visit the [LSU Employee Assistance Fund](#) for more information.

Finally, several organizations within the College of the Coast & Environment are already hard at work organizing flood relief. We even have a CC&E "free minimart," where victims of the flood can get supplies to replace some of what they lost in the deluge. Please donate if you can.

I never have believed more strongly in our need to study and understand our environment. With that in mind, as we begin our fall semester, I extend a warm welcome to all of our new and returning students. You have important learning to do. Our faculty and staff are looking forward to another successful and educational term. Please stay tuned for information about our undergraduate and graduate student orientation and other events that normally take place at the

beginning of the semester.

Yours truly,



Christopher F. D'Elia, Ph. D.
Professor and Dean

Want to get more involved at CC&E? Invest in our students? Contact Leah Courville at 225-578-6768 or lcourvi@lsu.edu

CC&E News

Rabalais Named Shell Oil Endowed Chair in Oceanography/Wetland Studies

Nancy Rabalais has been appointed professor, Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, and Shell Oil Endowed Chair in Oceanography/Wetland Studies for the LSU College of the Coast & Environment, or CC&E. Rabalais, former executive director and professor with the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, or LUMCON, will be conducting her world famous research as well as teaching at LSU, while also maintaining an affiliation and laboratory facilities at LUMCON. The appointment is effective immediately.



Rabalais was named a [MacArthur Fellow](#) in 2012.

"I am delighted to announce this appointment," said Christopher F. D'Elia, professor and dean of the CC&E. "I have worked professionally with Dr. Rabalais for decades. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to LSU, and she is a great leader and role model for others in our profession."

A marine ecologist, Rabalais is renowned for documenting and mitigating the effects of hypoxic zones-aquatic areas with low dissolved oxygen levels commonly known as "dead zones." Since the mid-1980s, she has led a monitoring and research program to study the size, intensity, and seasonal occurrence of dead zones in the waters off the Louisiana continental shelf and has analyzed the relationship between the extent of hypoxia and the increasing quantities of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into the Gulf from the Mississippi River watershed. She is also well known for her expertise on the effects of oil in the environment, and she leads a major research project for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative that focuses on understanding the effects of the 2010 BP Macondo oil spill on Louisiana wetlands.

Rabalais' outreach efforts have included lecturing throughout the U.S. about the effects of hypoxia and oil spills on the rest of the nation and internationally; testifying before Congress; and working with federal, state, and tribal agencies on plans for improving water quality in the Mississippi River basin. She has served on numerous advisory boards and councils, and is a past chair of the Ocean Science Board of the National Research Council, as well as currently on the National Sea Grant Advisory Board of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She is also a former president of the Estuarine Research Federation. In 2012, Rabalais was named a MacArthur Fellow.

"I have a long history with colleagues of the College of the Coast & Environment, a premier academic unit that focuses on coastal and wetland environments," said Rabalais. "I am pleased to join its highly regarded faculty."

Rabalais received B.S. (1972) and M.S. (1975) degrees from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and a Ph.D. (1983) from the University of Texas. Her scientific articles have appeared in *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, *BioScience*, and *Biogeosciences*.

Armbrust Honored with AGRO Division Fellow Award

This week at the Fall 2016 AGRO awards ceremony and social in Philadelphia, Kevin Armbrust, professor and chair, Department of Environmental Sciences, was recognized for his dedication and service to agrochemical science with the 2016 AGRO Fellow Award.

AGRO, a division of the American Chemical Society, connects an international community of scientists for the purpose of advancing knowledge and innovation for the protection of agricultural productivity, public health and the environment.

Award recipients have made "continued and substantial contributions of time, talents, and service to the AGRO division of ACS and to the agrochemical science over a period of at least six years."



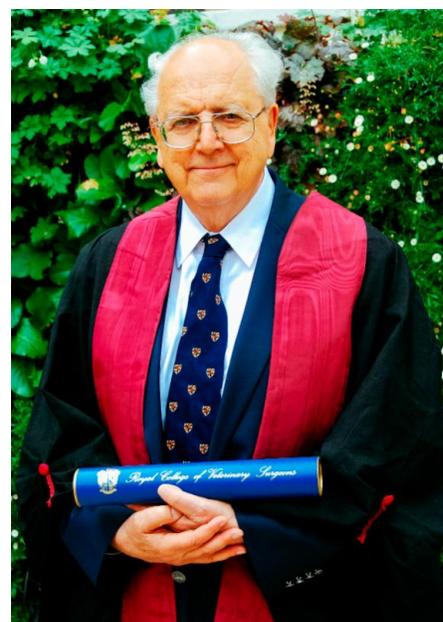
Armbrust's research interests include assessing the fate and effects of chemicals in and upon Louisiana watersheds, wetlands and coastal areas.

RCVS Honors Hugh-Jones

Martin Hugh-Jones, professor emeritus, College of the Coast & Environment, was named an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, or RCVS, in London on Friday, July 15. The honor, bestowed at the RCVS Annual General Meeting and awards ceremony, recognizes Hugh-Jones' contribution to veterinary epidemiology.

Hugh-Jones, one of the foremost authorities on anthrax, was with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Department Pathobiological Sciences from 1978 until his retirement in 2004. He also served as coordinator of the World Health Organization (WHO) Working Group on Anthrax Research and Control.

He participated in the investigation of the 1979 anthrax outbreak in Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg) in the former USSR. Hugh-Jones was in Moscow and Yekaterinburg in 1992 when the Russian government reluctantly admitted the source of the outbreak to have been an accidental spore emission from a biological warfare facility. In 2011 and 2012, he and colleagues Stuart Jacobsen and Barbara Rosenberg used the FBI's own data to show that anthrax spores in



Hugh-Jones was awarded the RCVS Honorary Fellowship in London.

the 2001 letters sent via post had been microencapsulated, a sophisticated procedure outside the competence of USAMRIID and Bruce Ivins, who had been falsely charged.

Early in his research career, Hugh-Jones had shown that foot and mouth virus infections were airborne, as is Newcastle disease virus in poultry; established the VIDA disease surveillance system for the U.K., which is still in operation; on terratogenic infections in sheep; and analyzed the U.K. economic cost of bovine brucellosis. Since joining LSU he has worked on diseases of alligators to zebu cattle and parasites and pathogens, from Anaplasma to Vibrio cholerae. Anthrax is a recent phase.

In June 2016, Argentina's Academia Nacional de Agronomia y Veterinaria designated Hugh-Jones an "Académico Correspondiente," or academic correspondent, in recognition of his outstanding professional achievements.

At CC&E, Hugh-Jones is a veterinary moderator for ProMEDmail, the CNN of emerging infectious diseases - www.promedmail.org- and is investigating the possible relationship of Parkinson's disease in Louisiana to exposure to pesticides, a situation well document in the Central Valley of California.

Lam Receives Two UCGIS Honors

Nina Lam, professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, was recently honored as a University Consortium on Geographic Information Sciences, or UCGIS, Fellow and was awarded the consortium's inaugural Carolyn Merry Mentoring Award.

The UCGIS Fellows Program recognizes Lam for her extraordinary contributions to research, education, and service to geographic information science and technology (GIS&T) for more than 35 years. The program honors scientists who advance research in the field of GIS, expand and strengthen GIS education, advocate policies for the promotion of the ethical use of and access to geographic information technologies and build scholarly communities and networks to foster multi-disciplinary GIS research and education. Read more about Lam's accomplishments [HERE](#).



Lam has been recognized for her contributions to research, education and service to GIS&T during the past 35-plus years.

The Carolyn Merry Mentoring Award, given to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional mentoring abilities and practices, is named for Carolyn Merry, professor emerita of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering at The Ohio State University. Merry "embodied the spirit of a mentor by sharing her wisdom and experience with colleagues, particularly junior scholars, as a scientist, educator, and academic leader." Lam has supervised 17 Ph.D. and 25 master's students, and has served on more than 300 student committees as co-advisor, minor professor or committee member across The Ohio State University and Louisiana State University.

Maiti Selected as LA DIA Faculty Fellow

Kanchan Maiti, assistant professor, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences, is one of 11 tenure-track faculty members from four universities chosen by

Louisiana Sea Grant as a 2016 Louisiana Discovery-Integration-Applications, or LA DIA, Fellow. LA DIA Fellows will receive science communication and outreach training from national experts during three workshops over the course of the 2016-17 academic year.



LA DIA Fellows are selected by Louisiana Sea Grant based on their potential to develop

innovative approaches to coastal research. To read about

the 2016 LA DIA Fellows and their research interests, click [HERE](#).



Maiti's research involves ocean carbon biogeochemistry and environmental quality.

Former EnvironMentors Students Earn Bachelor's Degrees



The College of the Coast & Environment is excited to announce that three former EnvironMentors students, Jeronda Scott, Markeisha Hill and Brodrick Vincent, recently earned bachelor's degrees. Brodrick Vincent, winner of the 2012 EnvironMentors National Photo Contest, graduated from LSU with a B.S. in biological sciences. Jeronda Scott, who received the 2012 Emerging Environmental

Leader Scholarship and the 2011 Content Scholarship for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Research, graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in environmental science and policy. Markeisha Hill graduated from Wesleyan University with a B.A. in English and sociology.



Scott graduated from Clark University with a B.A. in environmental science and policy.



Vincent earned a B.S. in

For Brodrick Vincent, the EnvironMentors program was a valuable academic and extra-curricular experience. Vincent noted that the program "enabled [him] to build bonds between students, academic coordinators and mentors, and helped prepare [him] for academic success after the program." He said the program helped introduce him to campus resources that guided him toward graduation by helping him find and apply for scholarships, which ultimately led to Karen E. Domingue and the Rhodia Scholarship through the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

When asked about what made the EnvironMentors program a success, he said, "The process that we all had to follow when working on our projects made it easy, understandable, and enjoyable, which kept us all focused and dedicated. I was able

biological sciences from LSU. to use this dedication and acquire interest to better understand the basis of scientific research, which contributed significantly to my success in many of my science-related courses at LSU."

Former EnvironMentors have also found success in environmental fields after college. Jeronda Scott will be working with MassPIRG, a non-profit research and advocacy group focused on environmental and political interests. Scott will be working as a student organizer, working on campaigns promoting student activism and grass-roots civic engagement.

CC&E is extremely proud of all former LSU EnvironMentors, many of whom are still working toward their bachelor's degrees. EnvironMentors is a nationwide science-based mentoring program that supports and strengthens high school students who are interested in environmental studies. Since 1992, more than 2000 students have worked with the national EnvironMentors program. To learn more about LSU's EnvironMentors program, follow on [Facebook](#) or [contact](#) Chapter Director Linda Hooper-Bui.

Q&A with...

Emily Vebrosky is a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Environmental Sciences and a recent graduate of the college's M.S. program. Her recent accomplishments include presenting her research at the 2015 North American Chemical Residue Workshop meeting and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. In 2016, Emily received a travel grant to present her research to the American Chemical Society.



What are you currently researching?

For my master's thesis, I studied the photodegradation of a pesticide in freshwater and seawater. Photodegradation is a natural process that occurs when the energy contained in light causes a material to break down or become altered. Studying the photodegradation of pesticides in water is important for studies of water quality and aquatic ecology.

I'm interested in this because pesticides often enter the surface layer on water, but the effects of sunlight on the chemical decomposition of pesticides are not well studied. In some cases, the water is also saline, and knowing the differences of how the salinity of the water impacts the degradation, the intermediate degradation products, and the toxicity is important.

What results or conclusions did you find?

For the pesticide that I'm working with, the degradation was not affected by salinity. However, the intermediate degradation products were impacted by salinity. This is important because whatever the chemical breaks down into could be more toxic.

Are you continuing your research in your Ph.D. program?

I'm still interested in the photodegradation of pesticides, and the effects of salinity, but I have decided to move on to another project. I will be studying the phototoxicity of that pesticide on fathead minnow and inland silverside fish.

Visit LSU's Financial Aid & Scholarships "[TOPS Update](#)" page for up-to-date information.

Alumni Updates

New job? New location? We want to hear from you!

Send your Alumni Update to lcourvi@lsu.edu

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