

NEWS/EVENTS



College of Science researchers examine bat behavior

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Richard Stevens and Maria Sagot, doctoral candidate in biological sciences, are going beyond the mysticism and superstitions associated with bats to learn how their roosting rituals and sites can reflect some disturbing trends in the world. [More](#)



Galvez receives congressional invite to discuss oil spill research

Fernando Galvez, assistant professor, biological sciences, was invited to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resources in Washington, DC, October 12, about his field and laboratory study examining the lingering effects of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill on fish living in Louisiana marshes. [More](#)



Warny collaborates with Columbia University professors, mentors three K-12 instructors

John C. Crosby describes mentoring as "...a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." Sophie Warny, assistant professor of palynology in the Department of Geology and curator of education at LSU's Museum of Natural Science, is applying Crosby's definition through a collaborative effort with Columbia University to mentor three K-12 instructors as they earn master's degrees in Natural Science. [More](#)

Geology, Geophysics makes mark at GSA 2011

Geology and Geophysics faculty and graduate students attended the 2011 meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) held October 9-13 in Minneapolis, MN. The LSU team was well represented with nine oral presentations and eight poster presentations. The faculty also staffed a graduate student recruiting booth and hosted an alumni and friends reception. [More](#)

ALUMNI



LSU alum salutes Evanna Gleason for Ada Lovelace Day

LSU biological science alumnus Princess Ojiaku took her appreciation for her former research advisor to the Web in honor of Ada Lovelace Day.

Ojiaku acknowledged Gleason in her *Science with Moxie* blog on *Scientific American* where she noted that Gleason was a key influence in her decision to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience. [More](#)



Math PhD grad snags coveted Kenneth Patchen Award for Fiction

Carolyn Chun, LSU doctoral graduate in mathematics, was awarded the 2011 Kenneth Patchen Award, given by Pig Iron Press, for *How to Break Article Noun*, a carefully crafted novel about the dissolution of a relationship. Throughout the novel, Chun presents diverse elements including pictures, physics terms and formulas, Latin words and poetry to document a case study of two people who are growing apart.

Currently, Chun is pursuing postdoctoral studies at the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. Chun completed a BS in physics and mathematics at Rutgers University in 2002. She began studied graphs and matroids LSU in 2003 later completing her masters in 2005 and earning a PhD in Mathematics in 2009. [More](#)

Sibley named to Wolff professorship

David Sibley, LSU PhD graduate, was one of two leading faculty members at the Washington University School of Medicine to be named Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professors. [More](#)

KUDOS

Professor **Geoffrey Clayton**, has been named Ball Family Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy.

Ambar Sengupta has been awarded a Mercator Guest Professorship at the University of Bonn by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the national science foundation of Germany.

Vincent LiCata, Lewis S. Flowers Professor and Brij Mohan Distinguished professor, biological sciences, has been named the 2011-2012 Erich and Lea Sternberg Honors Professor. This is the highest award conferred by the LSU Honors College.

Hui-Hsiung Kuo, professor, mathematics, received a Fulbright scholarship for research and lecturing in Tunisia from April to

June 2012. This is Kuo's second Fulbright scholarship. In 2005 he spent his research and lecture visit at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy.

LSU's **Jorge Pullen**, co-director of the Horace Hearne Jr. Institute for Theoretical Physics, recently published a first of its kind textbook with Oxford University Press entitled, "*A First Course in Loop Quantum Gravity*".

NEW FUNDING

Barry Dellinger, Patrick F. Taylor Chair for the Environmental Impact of Hazardous Waste in the LSU Department of Chemistry, recently received more than \$11 million from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, or NIEHS, to continue the LSU Superfund Research Center and focus its research on Environmentally-Persistent Free Radicals, or EPFRs. The center was originally funded \$3.8 million in 2009, and has been hugely successful since its initiation. **Bijaya B. Karki**, associate professor and chair,

computer science, received an NSF grant for First-Principles Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Silicate Liquids: Structure, Diffusion and Viscosity at Mantle Conditions. The grant award is \$215,347 from August 15, 2011 – July 31, 2014.

CCT and Computer Science Associate Professor **Brygg Ullmer** secured \$900,000 in NSF funds for ESPSCoR/MRI grant, Development of Melete: An interaction-oriented, software-rich compute cluster with

tangible interface support for collaborative research and the classroom.

The proposal balances activities between research and research-training contexts that will enable research in biology, visualization of computational materials, displaying configuration space for computational mathematics, mapping and displaying data from robot mapped locations such as archeological sites and urban environments.

STAR SCHOLAR PROFILE



Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winner **Mytrang Do**, a Biochemistry major, is enrolled in both the College of Science and the Honors College. She is also a National Science Foundation LA-STEM Research Scholar. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a combined MD-PhD in virology and concentrate her career on the molecular mechanisms that viruses use to attack the human body. Do is interested in studying HIV resistance and latency and hopes to ultimately develop novel treatments that can completely eradicate all forms of the HIV viruses.

DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Individual Gifts:

- Mary Lou Applewhite:** \$10,000 for the Science and Biological Sciences Development Funds
- Byrd and Alice Ball:** \$60,000 for the Peer Mentors Program in Physics & Astronomy
- Mark Batzer & Pam Richard:** \$24,000 for the Science and Biological Sciences Development funds, Science Honors Scholars, the Michael McDaniel Memorial, and the Biological Sciences General Scholarship
- Anne and Chris Boussert:** \$25,000 for the Benjamin Pierre Boussert Outstanding Student Award and the Boussert Memorial Fund
- Stephen and Karen Katz:** \$10,000 pledge to the Rob Siebeling Memorial
- Jim & Neilanne Lange:** \$10,000 pledge to the Rob Siebeling Memorial
- Laura & Jay Moffitt:** \$60,000 to create the Laura and Jay Moffitt Professorship in Geology

- James Painter:** \$350,000 to the Geology Field Camp Fund
- Jimmie and Ann Peltier:** \$10,000 to the Science Development Fund
- Bill and Gail Pryor:** \$100,000 to the Dr. William A. Pryor Chair
- Joe & Kim Reid:** \$50,000 to the Sid and Peggy Bonner Scholarship in Geology
- Mike & Cille Ribaldo:** \$10,000 to the Science Honors Scholars Fund
- Marvin Stuckey:** \$60,000 to the Loretta Cox Stuckey and James G. Traynham Distinguished Professorship

Organizations:

- Chevron:** \$40,000 total—\$5,000 for Computer Science student scholarships, \$25,000 for the Geology Applied Depositional Geosystems (ADG) program, and \$10,000 support for American Associate of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) student chapter
- Hubert Charitable Foundation:** \$20,000 gift to support the Museum of

Natural Science's Vertebrate Palynology Research Fund

- Marathon Oil Corporation:** \$26,750—\$1,500 for Chemistry scholarships, \$20,000 for Geology graduate and undergraduate scholarships, \$4,000 for departmental support, and \$1,250 for the AAPG student chapter
- Patrick F. Taylor Foundation:** \$18,000 scholarship to support the Patrick F. Taylor Scholarships in Chemistry and Geology and the Charles L. Jones Scholarship in Geology.
- Shell:** \$29,000 gift to support the Applied Depositional Geosystems (ADG) program.

New Planned Giving Commitments

- Dr. Mary Lou Applewhite**
- James Painter**
- Kenneth Corkum**

GIVE to the College of Science

New Dean's Circle Members:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ronnie and Denise Alvarez | Lisa and Scott Dunn | George Hearne IV | Neil and Arlene Kestner |
| Frank and Dianne Auer | Darrin Gipson | Bryan and Kerri Lynn Kansas | Robert MacGregor |
| Gary Byerly and Maud Walsh | John and Terri Havens | Rich and Helene Kurtz | Dennis and Mary McKinley |

COMINGS & GOINGS

GREETINGS from the College of Science Director of Communications:

With warm greetings and a friendly "Hello," I want to introduce myself as the newest member of the College of Science team. I am Dawn Jenkins, College of Science director of communications. I have met a number of the faculty and staff in the College and I look forward to working with you to strengthen the College's communications efforts and share all of the ground-breaking, revolutionary research and education innovation underway in the College of Science.

I have spent a number of years working in higher education communications, outreach and public relations including five years as the director of publications and electronic media for Southern University and A&M College. I am very excited about re-energizing the College's communications efforts.

One of the first tasks on "Dawn's To Do List" is to jump start the COS newsletter. So after a year-long hiatus, the College of Science Newsletter is back! The format has changed a bit and I hope that you approve. The publication will be emailed monthly to all COS faculty and staff, to campus administrators, alumni, and friends. The E-News is a great way to celebrate and share your accomplishments and the interesting activities taking place in your departments, so please submit any noteworthy events to djenkins1@lsu.edu.

Best Regards,

Dawn

College of Science welcomes Kim Kubicek

New Orleans native and LSU alum Kim Kubicek is the new academic advisor in the College of Science. Kim graduated from LSU with a degree in psychology in 2007. After working in Nashville for a few years, she decided to pursue a master's degree in student affairs in higher education from Western Kentucky University. Kim is finishing up her last semester via distance learning and will graduate in December.

As an advisor with LSU, she advises mostly freshmen and sophomores and works closely with students in the Science Residential College. She is very excited to be back at LSU!

Emilia "Emi" Gilbert named new director of college corporate, financial relations

The College of Science congratulates Emilia Gilbert as she assumes the director of college corporate relations position in the College's Development Office. Emi previously held the position of associate director of development in the College of Science and worked with alumni and corporations with interests in computer science, geology and geophysics, mathematics, and physics and astronomy.

In her new post, Emi will work to:

- Enhance external relationships including research collaborations and philanthropy in support of our mission on behalf of all departments in the college,
- Assist faculty and staff members seeking external funding,
- Strengthen the College's connections through strategic partnerships with industry, government and other higher education institutions, and
- Provide a single point of contact to our partners in business and industry for all things related to the College of Science.

Congratulations Emi!

To submit news items for the upcoming College of Science E-News, email djenkins1@lsu.edu