

NEWS/EVENTS



Medical Physics Program Receives PhD Accreditation

The Mary Bird Perkins – LSU Medical Physics Program is one of 35 in the United States accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs, Inc., or CAMPEP. The nationally-recognized program – the only one in Louisiana – is now also one of only 27 in the group to offer a Ph.D. In addition, this successful public-private partnership that has advanced the fight against cancer through research and education received renewal of its Master of Science accreditation for the next five years. [More](#)



College of Science Featured on LSU Home Page

The Office of University Relations highlighted the College of Science on LSU's homepage this month. The web feature entitled *College of Science: Helping Students Decode the DNA That Drives Success* can be viewed at www.lsu.edu. [More](#)

Math, Science at LSU Still Strong

by Brian Sibille, staff writer, Daily Reveille

Despite being part of a generation that has seen revolutionary technological innovation in the past decades, young Americans' interests in science, technology, engineering and math fields is decreasing. The University, however, remains ahead of the curve, with a significant portion of the student population majoring in these fields.

The Lemelson-MIT Program surveyed Americans aged 16-25, revealing 40 percent of those surveyed said "they couldn't imagine life" without recent innovations like smartphones and tablets, but 60 percent said some factors could dissuade them from seeking careers in fields that foster invention and innovation.

College of Science Dean Kevin Carman said while decreased interest in science, technology, engineering and math programs may be plaguing the nation, science and engineering students comprise a large part of the University community. [More](#)

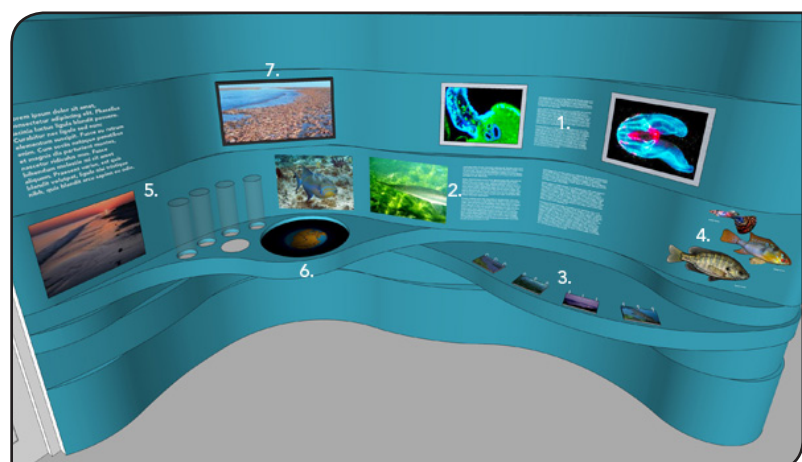
New Louisiana Fishes Exhibit Coming to the Museum of Natural Science June 2012

Curator of Fishes Prosanta Chakrabarty and Curator of Education Sophie Warny have received a \$120,000 Louisiana Board of Regents Teaching Grant to develop a Louisiana Fishes Exhibit in the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

The exhibit, *Making a Big Splash with Louisiana Fishes*, will focus on fishes in the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico. Accompanying the exhibit will be a number of online resources and activities to be used in University ichthyology classes and K-12 classrooms.

Chakrabarty, Warny, and masters of natural science graduate student Valerie Derouen are working on a children's book on the exhibit content. The book will be available online free of charge.

The exhibit will be installed at the end of May and open to the public in June. [More](#)



1. Bioluminescence in the Deep Sea
2. Historical Biogeography
3. Flip panels on local ecosystems
4. "Touch and Feel" fish
5. Four ecosystem models
6. Gondwana map
7. Video

Newly Elected AAAS Fellows Inducted during Annual Meeting

Five LSU researchers, including three from the College of Science, were formally inducted as AAAS Fellows during the organization's annual meeting held February 16-20 in Vancouver, Canada. The induction ceremony took place during the annual AAAS Fellows Forum on Saturday, February 18. [More: AAAS Annual Meeting](#) [More: Five LSU Faculty Named AAAS Fellows](#)

NEW FUNDING

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Meredith Blackwell and Hector Ubina, "Are Any Australian Yeasts Efficient Fermenters of Xylose to Ethanol," Louisiana Board of Regents LINK Program, 3/1/2012-6/30/2012, \$4,500.

Fernando Galvez, "Biomonitoring Resident Fish Population for Hydrocarbon Exposure in Barataria Bay, Louisiana," Cossich, Sumich, Parsiola & Taylor LLC, 12/1/2011 - 8/31/2012, \$43,883.

Kyle Harms, "Diversity, Dominance & Disturbance in Species-Rich Pine Savanna Groundcover," NSF, 2/1/2012 - 1/31/2015, \$530,000 (\$330,000 to LSU).

Rui Lu, "The Functional Role of DRH-1 in RNAi Directed Viral Immunity," NIH, 2/1/2012 - 1/31/2014, \$148,000.

David Donze, "RNA Polymerase III Transcription Factor Complexes as Chromatin Boundary Elements," NSF, 2/1/2012 - 8/31/2012, \$94,720.

David Foltz, "The Collaborative Research: Assembling the Echinoderm Tree of Life," NSF, 2/1/2012 - 1/31/2013, \$7,500.

Craig Hart, "Analysis of Chromosomal Insulators and Insulator Binding Proteins," 1/26/2012 - 8/31/2012, \$89,929.

Marcia Newcomer, "Evolution of Function of Bacterial Nucleoid-Associated Proteins," NSF, 3/1/2011 - 2/28/2014, \$563,202.

KUDOS

Charles H. Barré Distinguished Professor of Chemistry **Graca Vicente** has been appointed to the American Chemical Society's Committee on Professional Training for a three-year term starting in 2012.

Robey H. Clark Distinguished Professor of Geology & Geophysics **Brooks Ellwood** co-authored an analysis published in the *Geological Society of America Bulletin* that provides strong evidence that the Earth's biggest mass extinction phased in over hundreds of thousands of years. [More](#)

STAR SCHOLARS



Mandeville native and Science Honors Scholar Michael Oldenburg is a graduating senior in biological sciences with a minor in chemistry. He is conducting research with LSU System Boyd Professor of Biological Sciences Mark Batzer. His research topic is *Using Mobile Elements of Phylogenetic Markers to Better Understand Primate Relationships*. Oldenburg has been accepted to the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, but before he ventures into the world of medicine he plans to spend his summer hiking part of the Appalachian Trail.



LSU Pre-Dental Society Hosts 2012 Brush Up on Dentistry Conference

Nearly 200 college and university students throughout Louisiana participated in the Second Annual Pre-Dental 101: Brush Up on Dentistry Conference held, Saturday, February 4, 2012 at the LSU School of Dentistry in New Orleans.

What started in 2011 as a small meeting of prospective dentists and dental hygienists has grown into a large conference with a full day of events geared towards students pursuing careers in dental related fields.

Hosted by the LSU Pre-Dental Society, in conjunction with the LSU School of Dentistry, the conference allowed pre-dental students to tour the LSU School of Dentistry, learn more about dental specialties, observe CAD technology demonstrations, learn how to make a chalk carving, and finance dental school. The conference also provided workshops on communications skills, interviewing techniques, and the evolution of dentistry and its future. [More](#)

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Get Ready... Get Set... GIVE!

College of Science Prepares to Kick Off Annual Fund Campaign

The 2012 College of Science Annual Fund will kick off with Tiger Talk student calls beginning in February and conclude with letters in May. We very much appreciate the growing number of science alumni participating. Each year 100% of this donation directly supports students, faculty, and alumni outreach initiatives within the College of Science, as well as our strategic plan, Formula for Excellence.

The percentage of alumni giving is also tied to various national rankings. By donating to the 2012 Science Annual Fund, you can take pride in your role in helping LSU maintain top tier status and increasing the university's prestige for you and your fellow alumni.

As part of the Science Annual Fund, you have the opportunity to split your gift between the College and the Department from which you graduated (biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, geology & geophysics, mathematics, and physics & astronomy).

Gifts of \$1,000 or more qualify for Dean's Circle Membership. Members support a number of College pursuits including student organizations, pre-college academic boot camps, educational and development travel expenses, and scholarships for outstanding students. Members are invited to various events on campus throughout the year.

Be a part of the College's *Formula for Excellence*. GIVE to the 2012 College of Science Annual Fund and help assure it continues to compete successfully with the finest academic institutions in the world and prepare the best and brightest students for successful careers.

To learn more about the 2012 College of Science Annual Fund Campaign, please contact us at sciencealumni@lsu.edu.

COMINGS & GOINGS

College of Science Appoints Lynn, Neubrander to Associate Dean Positions

The College of Science is pleased to announce that John Lynn, George C. Kent Professor of Biological Sciences, and Frank Neubrander, Demarcus D. Smith Alumni Professor of Mathematics and Co-Director of the Gordon A. Cain Center, have agreed to serve as associate deans in the College of Science.

Lynn has assumed the post of associate dean for academic services, the position formerly held by Gary Byerly, Fenton Alumni Professor of Geology & Geophysics. Byerly was named dean of the LSU Graduate School in December. Lynn brings a wealth of experience based on his many years of service to the Department of Biological Sciences, particularly in his role as associate chair for undergraduate studies.

Neubrander will be taking on the newly created position of interim associate dean for science education. This new role was created in response to the rapid growth of the College's academic programs that support math and science teachers, including the nationally recognized Geaux Teach! Program, which has grown dramatically over the past five years. Neubrander will be responsible for stewarding programs like Geaux Teach! and the increasingly popular Masters of Natural Science Program to ensure that math and science education students are well served.

[John Lynn Faculty Page](#)

[Frank Neubrander Faculty Page](#)

Editor's Note:

Former College of Science Development Director John Grubb retired in July 2011 after 20 years with the College to pursue a new career in the hotel management industry. He is currently serving as Outside Sales Manager for The Cook Hotel and Conference Center at LSU, a division of the LSU Alumni Association. John was a graduate student with the Association from 1988 to 1990 and has returned as a member of that family. You can find him greeting guests for breakfast on weekdays in the hotel lobby.

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

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