

FEBRUARY 2014 • Official newsletter of the LSU College of Science



NEWS/EVENTS



Two LSU Research Projects Highlighted In Discover Magazine's Top 100 Stories of 2013

Research projects led by Brent Christner, associate professor of biological sciences; Thomas Kutter, professor of physics and astronomy; and Martin Tzanov, assistant professor of physics, were featured in Discover Magazine's Top 100 Stories of 2013.

Christner's work on the exploration of lakes beneath Antarctica's ice sheet ranked number 12 on the listing. Kutter's and Tzanov's work with the Tokai to Kamioka, or T2K, international collaboration came in at number 66.

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LSU CxC Coordinator Uses Wikipedia to Improve Communication Across Disciplines

Becky Carmichael, science coordinator with LSU's Communication across the Curriculum program, is using Wikipedia to improve the communication skills of LSU students and the quality of content available on Wikipedia by incorporating Wiki assignments in the classroom.

More



LSU, Mary Bird Perkins Sponsor Radiation Safety School

LSU and Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center hosted Radiation Safety in Medicine, a three-day professiional development school for practicing radiation protection professionals, clinicians, and graduate students. More than 90 attended the school, most of whom are engaged in advanced technology of radiation therapy, diagnostic radiology, and nuclear medicine.

"This continuing education provides practicing professionals an opportunity to stay abreast of recent developments in radiation medicine," said Wayne Newhauser, Dr. Charles M. Smith Professor of Medical Physics and director of the LSU Medical Physics & Health Physics Program.

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LSU, Tulane Host Scientifc Computing Workshop

Louisiana faculty, researchers, and students in the field of computational science gathered at LSU's Digital Media Center for the Scientific Computing Around Louisiana (SCALA) workshop held February 21 and 22. The event was co-sponsored by the the LSU Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) and Tulane University's Center for Computational Science (CCS). The purpose of the meeting was to highlight cutting-edge topics in scientific computing, spotlight research underway at Louisiana institutions, and help foster colloborations across the state. Speakers included Pavel Bochev from Sandia National Laboratory, Yi Jiang from Georgia State University, and Tim Warburton from Rice University.

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Study Estimates LSU's Economic Impact on Louisiana at \$3.9 Billion

A study by the LSU Division of Economic Development at the E. J. Ourso College of Business has determined that LSU's economic impact on Louisiana totals \$3.9 billion. The study measures

the impact of all nine LSU campuses - LSU, the LSU AgCenter, the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, LSU Alexandria, LSU Eunice, LSU Shreveport, and the LSU Health Sciences Centers in Shreveport and New Orleans – at both the state level and on a regional basis.

"These numbers demonstrate how invaluable LSU is to our state from a variety of angles, whether it's through jobs created, sales generated, or drawing nonresidents into Louisiana," says the study's author, Stephen Barnes, assistant professor of economics and director of the economic development division. "LSU is most definitely a critical economic driver for the state of Louisiana."

More

KUDOS



More

P. Clift



Emi Gilbert, LSU Foundation director of development, was presented with the Nia Award during the inaugural Jazz Brunch for the LSU African American Cultural Center. The honor is given to distinguished faculty and staff whose efforts throughout the years have contributed to the success of the center.

Peter Clift, Charles T. McCord Professor of Geology & Geophysics, is blogging his journey on the Joides

from under the ocean floor, giving scientists a glimpse into Earth's development.

Resolution (JR), a seagoing vessel in the South China sea. The JR drills core samples and collects measurements



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Parampreet Singh, assistant professor of physics & astronomy, has been awarded the Vainu Bappu Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of India. The award is given to young astronomers with exceptional achievements and promise in astronomy, astrophysics, and related fields.



P. Singh

NEW FUNDING

Chemistry Professor Les Butler and his research team received an award from the W.M. Keck Foundation, which will contribute \$500,000 along with LSU Office of Research & Economic Development matching funds to the "Development of a Laboratory X-ray Tomography System with Stationary Sample and Phase Contrast Imaging." The project also funds software development in collaboration with New York University. In addition to Butler, the investigators are Kyungmin Ham (CAMD), Jinghua Ge (CCT), Kip Matthews II (Medical Physics), Warren Johnson (Physics & Astronomy), Juliana Freire (Computer Science, New York Univ.), and Denis Van Loo (XRE/Ghent Univ).

STAR SCHOLARS



Three College of Science students were among the student-athletes recognized for their achievements in the classroom during the 2014 Tiger Athletic Foundation Academic Excellence Gala held Tuesday, February 4.

Lainie Fleming, four-time member of the Scholastic All-America team in gymnastics was named the TAF Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. She is also a Wally Pontiff Jr. Academic Excellence Award winner along with Philip Dempsey, a biological sciences major and member of the track and field team, and Alexandra Boulet, a mathematics major and member of the softball team.

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DEVELOPMENT



L to R: Development Director Emi Gilbert and Erik and Angela LaGrange Scott

Dean's Circle Membership is **GROWING**

College of Science Dean's Circle (DC) membership is on the rise. The DC began in 2007 with 37 members. To date, we have 126 DC members with a goal of 200 members by 2015.

The support of our DC is vital to the college. Our members support scholarships for first-time students, student organizations, student and faculty educational travel, and other activities integral to a well-rounded educational experience.

We are grateful for DC members like Erik and Angela LaGrange Scott. The Scotts joined the DC in 2010. They not only invested their money, but also their time. The geology alums are avid supporters of the Geology & Geophysics program, and Angela

currently chairs the Dean's Circle Outreach Committee.

As LSU science graduates, Erik and Angela fully understand the impact their investment will have on science at LSU.

"During our time as students, we were able to participate in numerous field trips and research opportunities in locations across the US as well as international settings. These excursions allowed us to see real world examples of what we learned in the classroom and gave us a deeper understanding of geological concepts," said Erik.

DC membership helps fund educational activities like the ones that Angela and Erik experienced. Research trips, conference travel, and other related activities are essential to successful university programming and student achievement, but not supported through state funding.

"With the current situation in university funding, it is important for the dean to have the financial flexibility to support students and professors throughout the year when new opportunities arise and to cover unforeseen expenditures," adds Erik.

"We feel it is important to give back to the university to continue the great education and experiences that we received when we were students. We enjoy having a direct connection to the students and faculty of the Department of Geology & Geophysics and the College of Science. The more people we can engage in the affairs of the college, the better the entire university will be."

College Announces 2014 Hall of Distinction Inductees

This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the LSU College of Science Hall of Distinction. Throughout the last decade, the college has recognized over 40 faculty, alumni and friends for their achievements and support of LSU and the College of Science. This year, we will be adding five more inductees to this



Keith Comeaux NASA Team Chief for Cruise/ Engineering Company (ARCO) Operations

Cook

Chairman

Emeritus

Atlantic Richfield



Henry Goodrich Chairman Emeritus Goodrich Petroleum Corporation



Arlo Landolt **Ball Family** Professor Emeritus of Physics & Astronomy

Marion "Soc" Socolofsky Alumni Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences

List of past inductees

<u>NEW DEAN'S CIRCLE MEMBERS</u>

The College of Science would like to welcome the newest member of the Dean's Circle. Thank you for your contribution to the exciting teaching and research activities in the College of Science.

Dr. Stella Kim, February 2014

Click here for a complete list of DC members

Support Research and Scholarship at LSU



The Dean's Circle (DC) is a loyal group of alumni and friends who share a passion for advancing scholarship and research at LSU. DC members are playing an ever-increasing role in supporting the college's Formula for Excellence Strategic Plan. Our DC provides the working capital needed to fund pursuits of the College including, but not limited to:

- scholarships for first-time freshmen to attend pre-college boot camps, ٠
- student organizations and educational travel expenses,
- faculty recruitment and recognition activities, and
- development initiatives that build alumni and community relations.

Dean's Circle membership recognizes the generosity of alumni and friends who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Science Development Fund. Members enjoy invitations to events hosted by the college, including the annual Dean's Circle dinner and Hall of Distinction Ceremony, special communications from the dean throughout the year, and opportunities to meet and network with college leadership and other members.

To join by mail, make your check payable to "LSU Foundation-Science Dean's Circle" and mail your check to: LSU Foundation, 3838 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

To donate online go to www.lsufoundation.org/give to science.

CONTACT US:

For more information on the Dean's Circle, please contact Adrian Owen, aowen@lsu.edu., 225.578.5100.

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





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