



UNIVERSITY of
LOUISIANA
L A F A Y E T T E

Ray P. Authement
College of Sciences

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear friends and colleagues,



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences. As many of you know, the College of Sciences strives for excellence in research, pedagogy and community service with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary training and research. I am pleased to report that the College is healthy and growing. In addition to having a historically high enrollment, in a recent National Science Foundation HERD survey several units in the College of Sciences ranked amongst the best in the State of Louisiana in Research and Development and among the top 100 in the United States (<https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/herd/2015>). The Ray P. Authement College of Sciences consists of world-class faculty members, many of whom are leaders in their field of study and leaders in the classroom and laboratory. Prospective students considering the College of Sciences at UL Lafayette can be confident that the first-rate education and training they will receive at the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences is comprehensive, state-of-the-art, and interdisciplinary in its approach.

I want you to know that your gifts to the College are truly making a difference in the quality of our research and in our ability to educate and train the next generation of scientists. Every time that I walk through one of our academic schools or departments, I am reminded of your generosity and the obvious impact of your support on the lives of our students and faculty.

Some of our recent progress is highlighted in this newsletter. I invite you to read the newsletter and to visit the College website frequently to stay informed on our progress and activities (<http://sciences.louisiana.edu>). I am looking forward to working with you to ensure that we have another great year. As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments. These should be addressed to Mrs. Grace Impastato (graceb@louisiana.edu).

Sincerely yours,

*Azmy S. Ackleh, Ph.D.
Dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences*

NEW INITIATIVES

New Graduate Program in Environmental Resource Science

On December 7, 2016, the Board of Regents approved a new MS degree program in Environmental Resource Science to be offered in the School of Geosciences. This degree program will be a great addition to the graduate programs currently offered in the School of Geosciences and the College of Sciences. This interdisciplinary degree program will focus on water and soil resources. We are planning to kick-off the new program in August of 2017.

Herman Hughes Distinguished Lecture Series

In the spring semester of 2017, we will launch a new interdisciplinary seminar series with the College of Engineering. This lecture series will bring in renowned speakers and will be funded by a generous donation from Dr. Herman and Katherine Hughes. Dr. Hughes, UL Lafayette's first African American Ph.D. graduate and celebrated faculty member and scientist will be our first speaker.

SIMM (Sciences Interdisciplinary Monthly Meeting)

The Ray P. Authement College of Sciences is pleased to host the SIMM seminar series designed to foster interactions among our faculty and students within the academic units of the college. Interested parties from outside the college are encouraged to attend. SIMM seminars are held monthly during the academic year. Please consult the college webpage (<http://sciences.louisiana.edu>) for the schedule of upcoming presentations.

Interdisciplinary Revisions to Degree Programs

Funding, research and hiring priorities increasingly call upon scientists to have interdisciplinary training and/or to work within interdisciplinary teams of scientists to take on major questions and challenges. Here in the College of Sciences, we are revising the curricula of our degree programs to ensure that our students receive an excellent education, one that will prepare them to meet the interdisciplinary challenges of the modern workplace.

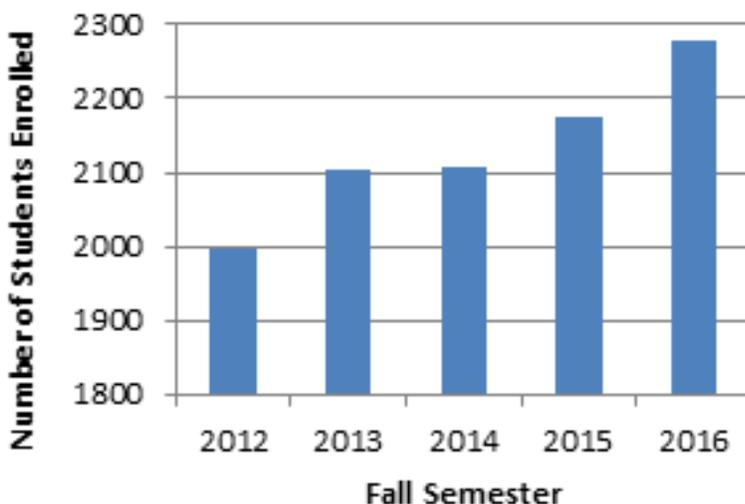
On the Horizon

We have an additional three new graduate degree programs in the pipeline at different stages of development that will lead, hopefully, to their approval by the Board of Regents and to their availability to our students.

FEATURES

Enrollment and Graduation

Since 2010, graduation rates average about 200 B.S. degrees awarded each year, 75 M.S. degrees awarded each year and about 20 doctoral degrees awarded each year. We are proud of our graduates and of their accomplishments.



- **Fall 2016 was a record setting year for undergraduate enrollment with approximately 2,000 undergraduate students majoring in one of our degree programs.**
- **Since Fall 2008, we have seen an increase of approximately 300 degree seeking undergraduate students majoring in one of our degree programs.**
- **We are expecting and planning for a 4-5% annual increase in enrollment for the foreseeable future.**
- **The graduate student population is steady at around 300 students seeking advanced degrees.**
- **The college is working to be an economic driver for our community. We are striving to add graduate programs that will develop a highly skilled workforce to meet the growing needs in Acadiana, the State of Louisiana, as well as the United States and global markets.**



Acknowledging Excellence

Last Spring semester, Dean Ackleh met with an extraordinary group of young scholars. This group consisted of the top 40 undergraduate students in the college based on their cumulative GPA. This group consisted of 20 seniors, 10 juniors and 10 sophomores. The students were congratulated on their accomplishments and received a College of Sciences T-shirt.

Each year we acknowledge the best and brightest in the college. To be part of this elite group of young scholars, students must earn a cumulative GPA that ranks highest among their peers.

Research and Pedagogy

Since 2010, externally funded scientific research projects in which our faculty members are involved as Principal Investigators or Co-Investigators have totaled more than \$53 million with an average of approximately \$9 million per year. Such funding greatly assists our faculty and students as they strive to make scientific discoveries. The results of these discoveries were published in a total of nearly 1,000 peer reviewed publications and approximately 500 conference proceedings since the academic year beginning in August of 2010.

Selected Recent Grant Awards

Development of new high-resolution pCO₂ records for quantifying Earth system climate sensitivity

- Principal Investigator: Brian Schubert (Geosciences); Co-Principal Investigator: Ying Cui (Geosciences)

NeTS: Small: Large-Scale Opportunistic Data Crowdsourcing and Dissemination in Device-to-Device (D2D) Networks

- Principal Investigator: Hongyi Wu (Computing and Informatics)

Littoral Acoustic Demonstration Center - Gulf Ecological Monitoring and Modeling (LADC-GEMM)

- Principal Investigator: Natalia Sidorovskaia (Physics); Co-Principal Investigators: Azmy S. Ackleh (Mathematics); George E. Ioup (UNO); Stan A. Kuczaj (USM); David K. Mellinger (OSU); Christopher Tiemann (R2Sonic)

Strengthening Teacher Education through Mathematics & Science Teaching Scholars in Louisiana

- Principal Investigator: Peter Sheppard (Education); Co-Principal Investigators: Pegge Alciatore (Biology); Kathleen Lopez (Mathematics); Patricia Beaulieu (Mathematics)

Selected Recent Publications

A.S. Ackleh, J. Cleveland, H.R. Thieme. Population Dynamics under Selection and Mutation: Long-Time Behavior for Differential Equations in Measure Spaces, *Journal of Differential Equations*, **261** (2016), 1472-1505.

Athrey, N.R.G, R.F. Lance, and **P.L. Leberg**. 2015. Using genealogical mapping and genetic neighborhood sizes to quantify dispersal distances in the neotropical passerine, the Black-capped Vireo. *PLoS ONE*. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0140115.

Yednock, B.K. Sullivan and **J. Neigel**. 2015. De novo assembly of a transcriptome from juvenile blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) following exposure to surrogate Macondo crude oil. *BMC Genomics*. 16: 521.

L. Gao, H. Ge, X. Huang, K. Liu, Y. Zhang, **W. Xu**, Y. Wang. Systematically Ranking the Tightness of Membrane Association for Peripheral Membrane Proteins. *Molecular and Cellular Proteomics* **14** (2015), 340-353.

S.S. Massoud, M. Spell, C. Ledet, **T. Junk**, R. Herchel, R.C. Fischer, Z. Travnicek, F.A. Mautner. Magnetic and Structural Properties of Dinuclear Singly Bridged-Phenoxido Metal(II) Complexes, *Dalton Trans* **44** (2015), 2110-2121.

K. Deng and Y. Wang. Analysis of a characteristics scheme for a quasilinear hierarchical size-structured model, *Numer. Funct. Anal. Optim.* **36** (2015), 329-349.

N. Pal, H. Tanaka and W. K. Lim. On Improved Estimation of a Gamma Shape Parameter, *Statistics*, Vol. **49**, (2015) No. 1, 84 – 97.

J.B. Dent, L.M. Krauss, J.L. Newstead, and S. Sabharwal. "A General Analysis of Direct Dark Matter Detection: From Microphysics to Observational Signatures," *Physical Review D* 92 (2015) 063515, arXiv:1505.03117.

K.N. Bhat, R.S. Fontenot, **W.A. Hollerman**, and M.D. Aggarwal. Incorporating Strongly Triboluminescent Europium Tetrakis Dibenzoylmethide Triethylammonium and Phthalocyanine. *International Journal of Chemistry*, 4(2), 87-93 (2015).

H. Zhou, H. Wu, S. Xia, and **M. Jin**. "Localized and Precise Boundary Detection in 3D Wireless Sensor Networks," *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking (TON)*, Vol. **23**, No. 6, pp. 1742-1754, 2015.

Paul W. Bible, Yuka Kanno, Lai Wei, Stephen R. Brooks, John J. O'Shea, Maria Morasso, **R. Loganantharaj** and Hong-Wei Sun. "ChIP-Seq Data Analysis Beyond Peak Calling: A User Friendly and Powerful Java Platform, PAPST, for Co-Localization Analysis," *PLoS One*, Vol. 10, No. 5, May 13, 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0127285>.

CONT. FROM *SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS*: Szyrkiewicz A., **Borrok D.M.**, Skrzypek G., Rearick M. (2015) Isotopic studies of the Upper and Middle Rio Grande. Part 1 – Importance of sulfide weathering in the riverine sulfate budget. *Chemical Geology*, 411, 323-335.

Richter, C., and Ali, J., 2015. Philippine Sea Plate Motion history: Eocene-Recent record from ODP Site 1201, central West Philippine Basin. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 410 (1), 165-173.

Research in the News

Dr. Radhey Srivastava (Professor of Chemistry), and his colleague **Dr. Siva Murru** received a patent (US 9,394,229 B2) for a new method to produce specific forms of chemicals. Their method reduces the time to produce the chemicals and cost of production by using copper instead of more expensive metals like palladium and iridium. With this method, copper compounds can be used as catalysts to create asymmetric chemicals important for health, such as the epilepsy drug, Vigabatrin, the cholesterol lowering drug, Ezetimibe, the Alzheimers drug, Rivastigmine, the antifungal drug, Naftifine, and the anti-depression drug, Sertraline.

Dr. Brad Moon (Associate Professor of Biology) and two graduate students in Biology, **David Penning** and **Baxter Sawvel** published a paper in *Biology Letters* hosted by the Royal Society of London in which the strike speed was compared among venomous and non-venomous snakes. Folklore had long proposed that venomous snakes strike faster to deliver their venom than do non-venomous snakes. This notion had not been rigorously tested until Dr. Moon and his students performed a comprehensive analysis of strike speeds among snakes using high-speed video recordings. Evidently, the snakes strike at about the same speed with some of the non-venomous snakes being fastest. The paper received worldwide attention with articles about the research appearing in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Discover*, *Huffington Post* and *Yahoo*.

Dr. Arun Lakhota (Professor of Computing and Informatics) and his former student **Vivek Notani** formed Cythereal, Inc. with the aim of helping organizations to detect, prevent, and investigate advanced targeted cyber attacks. It is bringing to market a patent-pending technology, developed through US DoD research that extracts intelligence from malware (malicious programs) to aid proactive analysis of coordinated cyber attacks and also reactive analysis of cybersecurity breaches. **Cythereal is a University of Louisiana at Lafayette spinoff, founded by Professor Arun Lakhota and Vivek Notani.**

Dr. Glen Watson (Professor of Biology; Associate Dean of Sciences), and his colleagues **Dr. Pei-Ciao Tang** (his former doctoral student) and **Dr. Karen Smith** (Assistant Professor of Biology) published a paper in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* in which they reported on the ability of specific proteins (normally secreted by sea anemones that repair their own damaged hair cell mechanoreceptors) to effectively treat damaged hair cells from the cochleae of mice. Mammals have a relatively poor ability to repair damage to hair cells (cells in the inner ear that respond to sound) caused by overstimulation. However, they fully recover from experimental trauma if they are provided the specific, anemone proteins soon after trauma. In tests aimed at testing the ability of the hair cells to function properly, the treated hair cells performed at the same level as healthy controls. The research has implications to treat certain forms of deafness caused by sudden exposure to loud noise. The paper received worldwide attention with articles about the research appearing in the *Economist*, *Proto*, *Science News*, *Daily Mail*, *Live Science*, *Huffington Post*, and *Popular Science* among others.

Ms. Tingting Tang is a doctoral student working in the Department of Mathematics on dissertation research under the guidance of **Dean Azmy Ackleh**. Ms. Tang is studying the population dynamics of marine mammals in the Gulf of Mexico and how these dynamics were affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This research endeavor is supported on a major award from BP (GoMRI) to **Dr. Natalia Sidorovskaia** (Professor of Physics) and **Dr. Azmy Ackleh** (Professor of Mathematics and Dean of Sciences). Her approach to the problem is two pronged: 1) to use acoustic data recorded from hydrophones and statistical techniques to estimate population density in acoustic study sites before and after the spill and; 2) to use a matrix population model to assess changes in populations of sperm whales and beaked whales as a function of oil spill duration and magnitude. Her research results provide insights into the relationship between the magnitude and duration of the oil spill and the probability that the population of whales will recover to pre-disaster levels. Ms. Tang's research was featured on the GoMRI website and she was selected as a GoMRI Scholar.

CONT. FROM RESEARCH IN THE NEWS: Dr. David Borrok (Director of Geosciences, Professor of Geosciences) is leading research efforts funded by the National Sciences Foundation aimed at developing methods to efficiently capture surface water in ponds and then to use canals to divert the water to agricultural and industrial applications. By devising methods by which surface water is made more readily available for agriculture and industrial needs, demand will lessen for ground water. Currently, the Chicot aquifer, South Louisiana's major source of ground water, is losing one foot per year because high demand for ground water exceeds its natural replenishment. It is hoped that this research will shape governmental policy on water management. Dr. Borrok's research was featured in a KPLC-TV interview in September, 2016.

For the Classroom

Drs. Pegge Alciatore, Phyllis Griffard, Sherry Kravesky-Self, Ashok Kumar, and Yi-Hong Wang were invited to represent the College of Sciences and the UL Lafayette Department of Biology at the Southeast Regional PULSE (SERP) Network Conference held in South Carolina June 1 to the 4th. The Conference is supported by the National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. We were one of 20 schools selected from a group of 80 from across the southeast region. The University and the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences supported the groups' participation. The mission of the conference was to encourage and support an interest in providing inquiry, investigation and research in our undergraduate curriculum. Throughout the conference various areas of interest were emphasized from development of student cognitive skills, inoculation of authentic research in classes and labs, use of engaging pedagogies, faculty development and independent/mentored research by students. Since their return, the "Team" has been busy implementing the recommended priorities determined by the Team during this extremely motivating experience.

Community Outreach

Members of the RAP (Recruitment, Assessment and Promotion) college committee organized workshops this summer 2016 in which secondary school teachers were invited to participate for a week. The sessions were intended to give hands-on experience to these educators about the range and scope of activities in which their students engage once they attend college. The sessions gave RAP team faculty members opportunities to showcase laboratory exercises and scientific instrumentation. According to **Dr. Michael Totaro** (Associate Professor of Informatics), who heads the RAP team, "Feedback by Lafayette Parish high school teachers who attended these workshops, as well as by Dr. Shauna LeBlanc (K-12 Science Academic Specialist, Lafayette Parish School System), was very positive. On the whole, these teachers were most excited about their highly engaging "hands-on" experiences in our labs, using very sophisticated instrumentation and methodologies. Moreover, they were so complimentary about our faculty, who organized and led these workshops. The plan is to expand the number of workshops in the coming year, which would involve more disciplines of the College of Sciences beyond Biology, Chemistry, and Physics."

Recent Awards

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences Awards to Exemplary Faculty

Dr. Mark Hester (Professor of Biology) was recognized for research excellence in coastal and restoration ecology. He is a foremost expert on the ecology of coastal wetlands and barrier islands including those occurring along the Gulf of Mexico. His research and training of graduate and undergraduate students aims to understand how wetland plants accommodate such challenges as sea level rise and salt water intrusion as well as oil contamination.

Dr. Nabendu Pal (Professor of Mathematics) was recognized for research excellence in areas of statistics including Decision Theory and Bayesian Analysis. Dr. Pal is a prolific researcher. He is a devoted mentor of doctoral students and has been active in expanding the graduate program in Mathematics. These efforts include his service as Graduate Coordinator as well as recruiting under-represented minority students to the graduate program.

CONT. FROM RECENT AWARDS: Dr. Febee Louka (Associate Professor of Chemistry) was recognized for excellence in teaching and mentoring of undergraduate students in chemistry. Dr. Louka teaches a wide array of chemistry courses including laboratory courses. She is responsible for securing funding for instrumentation upgrades to laboratories used for teaching and undergraduate research.

Dr. Patricia Mire (Master Instructor of Biology) was recognized for excellence in teaching and mentoring undergraduate students in biology. Dr. Mire is adept at engaging students so that they become excited about learning. For example, in large lecture classes offered to freshmen, Dr. Mire employs role-playing, games and active learning strategies. Attention to detail and enthusiasm for the material have earned Dr. Mire the appreciation of her students. She was the founder and organizer of the Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium.

UL Lafayette Foundation Eminent Scholars

Dr. Patricia Mire (Master Instructor of Biology) was one of five University faculty members recognized for excellence by the UL Foundation at its annual award banquet held on April 14, 2016. Dr. Mire received the Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition, to detailing her commitment to teaching and engaging students, the presentation highlighted her contributions to externally funded research as well as her commitment to undergraduate research. She was instrumental in developing and organizing Science Day, an annual event in which hundreds of area high school juniors and seniors tour the College of Sciences.

Halliburton Science Day 2016



Science Day is an annual event that introduces area high-school juniors and seniors to the faculty, students, alumni and facilities of the College of Sciences. This year, nearly 700 students attended and participated in presentations or hands-on activities in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science and Informatics, Geosciences, Mathematics, and Physics. Students were welcomed by Provost David Danahar, Dean Azmy S. Ackleh, Dr. Michael Totaro, and Dr. Patricia Mire before they were separated into groups that toured the College. Each group of high school students followed their tour-guide (an undergraduate student volunteer majoring in one of the sciences) to each academic Department or School. There, faculty and graduate and undergraduate student lab assistants gave presentations or conducted hands-on activities. This year, we incorporated a question and answer session with recent alumni who fielded questions from the high school students with respect to their own experiences as students within the College as well as career options afterwards. This year, once again, Science Day was a tremendous success. Dean Ackleh would like to thank the faculty, staff and students who volunteered their time and energy to this worthwhile endeavor.

Photos taken during Halliburton Science Day 2016

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome the following new faculty and staff to the College of Sciences

Dr. Harry J. Whitlow (Director of the Louisiana Accelerator Center, Professor of Physics): I came to UL Lafayette because of the opportunity to get back into mainstream university teaching and also in my new position as Director of the Louisiana Accelerator Center to develop groundbreaking applications of ion accelerators in new areas such as food science, space engineering and biomedicine.

Dr. Xindong Wu (Director of Computing and Informatics, Professor of Computing and Informatics): I came to UL Lafayette for a warmer and more attractive environment.

Dr. Khalid Elgazzar (Assistant Professor of Computing and Informatics): I decided to join UL Lafayette because I believe it is the place I can advance my research and build up my career. UL Lafayette is a preeminent research university in Louisiana and is well ranked both nationally and internationally. This helps me attract highly qualified students to pursue graduate studies and perform cutting-edge research that creates a significant impact. I knew that I can collaborate with world-renowned faculty members in my school and across the university to produce high quality research across interdisciplinary domains. I chose to become a member of an academic institution that reshapes the world and brings the future closer. I chose UL Lafayette.

Dr. Aubrey Hillman (Assistant Professor of Geosciences): The reason I decided to choose UL Lafayette is because I recognized a great deal of potential to collaborate with colleagues in my department on a wide range of teaching and research experiences. I also saw both the graduate and undergraduate programs as providing opportunities to work closely with students on their research and career interests.

Dr. Aminul Islam (Assistant Professor of Computing and Informatics): Warm-hearted people, warm city, warm and delicious food: everything at and around UL Lafayette is warm.

Dr. Sungsu Kim (Assistant Professor of Mathematics): The reason that I decided to continue my academic career at UL Lafayette is that UL Lafayette is a primary research institute, and UL faculties are devoted to their students' positive learning experiences and outcomes, which I want to become a part of. A warmer weather is definitely a plus for me.

Dr. Ritwij Kulkarni (Assistant Professor of Biology): At the time of my interview, I interacted with the various institutional and departmental stakeholders. While the interactions with faculty and the dean emphasized a nurturing, supportive environment geared towards academic and research success of a new faculty member, what attracted me the most to UL was the highly engaged and intelligent students whom I met during the course of my interview. In addition, as a father of two young girls, equally important for us was the reputation of Lafayette as a city with family values.

Dr. Arun Kulshreshth (Assistant Professor of Computing and Informatics): I decided to join the School of Computing and Informatics at UL Lafayette since its curriculum was a good match with my background in video game technologies and the school has great faculty to collaborate with. In addition, Lafayette has a great culture with friendly people, distinct food, and several festivals throughout the year.

Dr. Justin Lynd (Assistant Professor of Mathematics): During my visit to campus, it became clear to me that UL Lafayette is on an upward trajectory in terms of international standing and excellence in fundamental research in the sciences. I chose to come to UL Lafayette because of the support given to faculty in continuing this trend, and for the opportunity to inform my teaching through research.

CONT. FROM *COMINGS AND GOINGS*: Dr. Kelly Robinson (Assistant Professor of Biology): My interest was piqued by the potential for interdisciplinary studies. I saw an opportunity to join a vibrant network of colleagues seeking to expand the state's research capacity through innovative science.

Dr. Erin Sigel (Assistant Professor of Biology): I was impressed with the Department of Biology's strong focus on organismal biology and access to excellent computing resources. I know I will have the support necessary to develop a research program that integrates systematic, genomic, and bioinformatics tools to investigate the patterns and processes shaping plant diversity.

Dr. Xiangsheng Wang (Assistant Professor of Mathematics): I chose to come to UL Lafayette because there are many great professors and excellent students here. I like to make contribution to the community through inspiring our students, collaborating with researchers, and serving the academics.

Dr. Yu Wang (Assistant Professor of Chemistry): When I came to UL Lafayette for interview, I found the people at the Department of Chemistry to be so nice and considerate. I feel happy to work here with such nice people.

Ms. Allison Cointot (Instructor of Mathematics): I chose to continue my career at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette because it feels like home. The atmosphere is welcoming and the faculty and staff are always willing to lend a helping hand.

Dr. Phyllis Griffard (Instructor of Biology): Lucky me, I've been able to have exciting teaching and research experiences all over the world. But Cajuns know where home is, so we followed our two Ragin' Cajun sons back to Louisiana when my spouse retired. My luck continued when I was invited to join the faculty at my alma mater. What an honor it is to have as my colleagues some of the professors who raised me to be the biologist and educator I am today.

Dr. George R. Turcu (Instructor of Mathematics): I am primarily a teacher, but I also have research interests. University of Louisiana has a large and great engineering program, which means opportunities to teach all flavors of Calculus and undergraduate mathematics. UL is a research university in the same tier as my alma mater, Bowling Green State University. When I also considered the culture, the weather and the local cuisine my mind was made immediately.

New Staff

Ms. Sarah Carrier (College of Sciences): I chose to work at UL, specifically the College of Sciences, because I have always had a passion for the "sciences." I find all branches of science intriguing and felt it would be a great opportunity to be exposed to the student life here, along with faculty and staff.

Ms. Shelly Goodeaux (Computing and Informatics)

Ms. Susan Caval (Mathematics): I graduated from USL in December 1985 with a degree in Petroleum Engineering. I then taught high school mathematics in Lafayette Parish. Wanting a career change, I joined the UL Lafayette Mathematics Department.

We congratulate the following people on their retirement and thank them for their service

- **Dr. C. Y. Chan**, Professor of Mathematics
- **Dr. Dianne Fisher**, Assistant Professor of Mathematics
- **Ms. Mary Lou Jumonville**, Senior Instructor of Mathematics
- **Mr. Garrie Landry**, Lab Assistant of Biology
- **Dr. Brian Lock**, Professor of Geosciences
- **Dr. Kathleen Lopez**, Associate Professor of Mathematics

THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 SPECIAL DONORS

Francis Patrick Clark Endowed Chair in Computing and Informatics

Francis "Pat" Clark grew up in Mandeville and graduated from USL in 1980 in Computer Science. At USL, he was active in the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, USL Honors program, and Air Force ROTC. He has since left UL and Louisiana, residing in Massachusetts and working as a software engineer at Stratus Technologies. Although geographically separated, UL and Louisiana have never left Pat's heart and mind. An avid supporter of Ragin Cajun athletics and academics, Pat is a football season ticket holder. He comes back annually for Homecoming activities and has supported the Lady Cajun Softball team since 2000. This gift allows Pat to give back to his alma-mater, the place and home that gave him so much. Francis Pat Clark pledges support that will establish a million dollar endowed chair in Computing and Informatics.

Mary Love May and Paul W. Gabrielson Biology Department Fund

Ms. Mary Love May and Dr. Paul W. Gabrielson established a fund to support postdoctoral research on coralline algae to be performed by Dr. Joseph Richards in the laboratory of Dr. Suzanne Fredericq. Coralline algae are important organisms contributing to the species diversity and ecology of coral reefs. Dr. Gabrielson is a phycologist and an adjunct professor of the Biology Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Grant and Melissa Gibson Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Dr. Grant and Melissa Gibson to enable the development of a new Physics lab. The laboratory is intended to involve students in active research projects coordinated by the Physics faculty. Specifically, this laboratory will serve undergraduate and graduate students as they pursue experiments in materials science, biophysics, geophysics, nuclear physics, applied optics and acoustics/ultrasonics. A new curriculum is being developed that will introduce the students to the instrumentation and research techniques, after which the students will join research projects.

Herman Hughes Distinguished Lecture Series Endowment

Dr. Herman and Katherine Hughes, created the Dr. Herman Hughes Distinguished Lecture Series Endowment. Dr. Hughes has the distinction of being the first African American doctoral graduate in computer science. The primary focus of the lecture series is to foster interdisciplinary research between departments within the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences and the College of Engineering. Lecture series speakers will present interdisciplinary strategies to solving complex problems associated in STEM. Dr. Hughes became a national and international leader in the area of network traffic management and modeling with respect to wireless and high speed networks. He was a distinguished faculty member in several institutions of higher learning. Dr. Hughes' work is published in numerous journals and his research has been presented at prestigious scientific conferences.

Marsha J. Kramer Endowed Graduate Student Scholarship in Computer Science

Ms. Marsha J. Kramer established an endowed scholarship that will be used to recruit superior graduate students to the graduate program in the School of Computing and Informatics. In 1977, Marsha earned a M.S. degree in computer science from UL Lafayette. For many years, she has given back to her alma mater. She is retired and enjoys hiking in the Catskill Mountains. This is the second endowed student scholarship that she has established.

Lafayette Geological Society Endowed Field Camp Support Fund

The Lafayette Geological Society has established an endowed fund to support field activities of students in the School of Geosciences. Because traveling to field sites is especially rewarding for the students, this support fund will greatly facilitate one of the highlights of their academic career at UL Lafayette. Field camp is a 400-level course in which students take what they have learned in the classroom and apply that knowledge to real geologic settings like Badlands National Park, Grand Tetons National Park, White Sands National Monument among other sites. The Field camp course is divided into a one-week winter camp and a six-week summer camp.

OTHER NOTABLE DONORS | June-December 2016

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- *John Thorkelson*
- *Jamie and Alisha Castille & WickedArray Solutions LLC*

MAKE A GIFT

Donate to the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences to become a catalyst for exploration in the classroom, laboratory and field. Your support will make a difference to assure our students receive the best education in the region; truly an investment that pushes the boundaries of science, education and discovery.

Dean's Circle

The Dean's Circle is a community of donors who provide generous annual support of \$1000 or more to the Geaux Fund of the College of Sciences. Such sustained gifts directly and immediately impact the Colleges' ability to recruit exceptional students and faculty, and finally, to enhance technological resources, and enhance the ability of our students and faculty to disseminate their research findings at scientific conferences.

Benefits of membership to the Dean's Circle include:

- **Invitation to join faculty and local business leaders at an annual seminar featuring a prominent guest speaker in a scientific field**
 - **Receive annual electronic communication from the Dean highlighting the accomplishments of the College as well as the impacts of Dean's Circle support**
 - **Receive a limited-edition, custom College of Sciences collared shirt and bumper sticker to showcase your pride and partnership**
-

Pre-Professional Alumni Giving Initiative

Fellow alumni from the College of Sciences are working on an exploratory committee to fundraise for an endowment to support our faculty and pre-professional student advising center. Many of the professionals in our medical community are indebted to UL Lafayette for the education foundation and our dedicated faculty, who have greatly impacted our students. The endowment will support the activities of our faculty and expand advising for students to assist in the application process to professional schools. For more information about this initiative please contact Pilar Eble or Dr. Rod Clark at Roderick.Clark@lourdesrnc.com

Give Now or Contact Us

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Contact us to learn more about options for making donations to the College of Sciences. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Pilar Blanco Eble, Director of Development for Colleges, at pilar@louisiana.edu or 337-482-9063