

## NEWS/EVENTS



### College of Science Faculty, Staff, Students Celebrate Nanodays 2012

Nanodays, a national event organized by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE), celebrates the science of ultra small matter through a series of educational programs focusing on nanoscale science and engineering. This year's event will be held *Saturday, March 24 from 2 pm to 6 pm. at the Highland Road Park Observatory and Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Louisiana Arts & Science Museum.*

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### LSU Professor Debates Tests of Einstein's Theory of Relativity

LSU Professor of Physics & Astronomy Gabriela Gonzalez participated in the 2012 Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate: *Faster Than the Speed of Light*, Wednesday, March 20. Hosted by Hayden Planetarium Director Neil deGrasse Tyson, this year's event featured some of the world's leading voices in the debate of Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity including:

- Dr. David Cline, Department of Physics and Astronomy, UCLA
- Dr. Gian Giudice, Theoretical Physics Division, CERN
- Dr. Sheldon Glashow, Department of Physics, Boston University
- Dr. Chris Hegarty, MITRE's Center for Advanced Aviation System Development
- Dr. Laura Patrizii, Department of Physics, University of Bologna

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# LSU 100 Science

## College Salutes LSU 100 Fastest Growing Tiger Businesses

The College of Science recognizes *eight* alumni who own or lead some of the world's fastest growing businesses. All of the LSU 100 Fastest Growing Tiger Businesses are at least 50 percent owned by former LSU students, have all been in business at least five years and have revenue of at least \$100,000 last year.

**Daniel Strecker**  
President & CEO  
C-K Associates  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(chemistry)  
Class of 1981

**Will Baccich**  
CEO  
Global Data Vault  
Dallas, TX  
(computer science)  
Class of 1980

**William "Bill" Drennen**  
Senior Vice President  
Hess Corporation  
New York, NY  
(geology & geophysics)  
Class of 1976

**Bret Esquivel**  
President  
Immense Networks, LLC  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(computer science)  
Class of 2007

**Keith Jordan**  
President & COO  
Indigo Minerals  
Houston, TX  
(geology & geophysics)  
Class of 1979

**William Clay Kimbrell**  
Kimbrell and Associates  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(geology & geophysics)  
Class of 1981

**Lisa D. Traina**  
Owner  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(computer science)  
Class of 1982

**Brian Pangburn**  
President & CTO  
The Pangburn Group  
New Roads, LA  
(systems science & computer science)  
Class of 1999 (masters) and 2002 (Ph.D.)

**Rachel S. Reina**  
Baldone Reina Dermatology  
Covington, LA  
(Zoology)  
Class of 1995

For a complete list of 2012 honorees, go to <http://www.lsu100.com/2012-honorees>. [More](#)



### ESPN-U Visits the Museum of Natural Science

Each year ESPN-U sends a film crew to all SEC schools to highlight the academics at each university. This year, ESPN-U will showcase the collections, research, and discoveries in the LSU Museum of Natural Science.

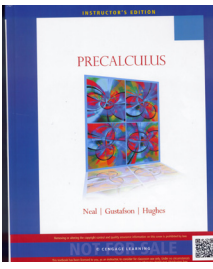
Filming began March 27th and will include interviews with some of the museum's top researchers and students. We will keep you posted on air dates and times.

## KUDOS

**Jeff Hanor**, LSU Alumni Professor Emeritus, geology & geophysics, received a 2011 Carleton College Alumni Association Distinguished Achievement Award.

**Bijay Karki**, computer science chairperson, was recently awarded a 2012 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Fellowship. During the 60-day summer fellowship, Karki will be conducting research in computational mineral study at National University Corporation Ehime University.

**Julia Ledet**, mathematics instructor, has been selected as a 2012 Service-Learning Faculty Scholar by the Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership (CCELL).



<<< **Karla Neal**, mathematics instructor, has developed a new pre-calculus text.

Associate Professor of Chemistry **Donghui Zhang** and her research group have published a paper in *Macromolecules*, a top macromolecular journal. Highlights of the paper are also featured in the February edition of *SYNFACTS*, a chemistry journal focusing on current synthetic organic chemistry.

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## STAR SCHOLARS



Senior biology major and supplementary instruction (SI) leader **Hunter Chapman** competed with SI leaders from all over the globe to garner one of the nation's top awards in supplementary instruction. Chapman, besting SI leaders from Australia, Canada, Sweden, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, will receive the International Award for Supplementary Instruction during the 7th International Conference on Supplemental Instruction (SI) in San Diego, CA, May 30 through June 1st.

<<< Pictured left to right: Center for Academic Success Operations Manager **Melissa Brocato**, SI Coordinator **Susan Saale**, Hunter Chapman, General Chemistry Instructor **Elizabeth Cook**, and Assistant Vice Chancellor **Sandra McGuire**. [More](#)

Chemistry major **Jacob McAlpin** has been awarded an international Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) summer fellowship and will be conducting research in Japan this summer. Currently, McAlpin works in the research lab of Chemistry Professor Julia Chan.

## ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### College of Science Recognizes 2012 Hall of Distinction Inductees

The LSU College of Science will welcome seven new members during its Hall of Distinction ceremony on April 20 at the Lod Cook Alumni Center. This year's inductees are:



**Larry Arthur**  
CEO (retired), SAIC  
Frederick Inc.



**Frank W. "Billy" Harrison III**  
Co-founder/Co-owner,  
Houston Energy Inc.



**Henry Howe**  
Distinguished  
Professor of Geology  
& Geophysics



**Ron Neal**  
Co-founder/Co-owner,  
Houston Energy Inc.  
and  
**Mary Neal**  
Retired Physician



**Dolores Spikes**  
President Emeritus,  
Southern University  
System



**James Wharton**  
Chancellor Emeritus,  
Louisiana State  
University

The College of Science established the Hall of Distinction in 2004 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to science, the community, the College, and the University by demonstrating sustained excellence in their scientific, business, educational, governmental, and community service activities.

Biographies of current and past Hall of Distinction inductees can be found online at: <http://science.lsu.edu/Alumni+Giving/Hall-of-Distinction>.

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### College of Engineering Opens Chevron Lab

*Interdisciplinary Facility to Benefit Petroleum Engineering, Geology & Geophysics Students*

LSU's College of Engineering held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new Chevron Reservoir Characterization Lab on the third floor of Patrick F. Taylor Hall at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 21. This interdisciplinary research and teaching facility will focus on advancing the art and practice of oil and gas reservoir modeling.

Lab facilities include a high-resolution video wall with rendering server, high performance workstations, and a storage array. The Lab also contains state-of-the-art computers and software that allows engineers and scientists to study subsurface structures that contain oil and gas, geothermal energy, or than can be used for CO2 storage.

Chevron's gift to LSU is a continuation of its relationship with the University and part of the Company's University Partnership Program, affecting multiple programs at LSU. While the lab program will be based in the Craft & Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering it will benefit students in Petroleum Engineering and Geology & Geophysics.

## COMINGS & GOINGS



### College of Science Welcomes Peter Cliff to Department of Geology & Geophysics

The College of Science and Department of Geology & Geophysics is pleased to welcome Peter Cliff, the Charles T. McCord Chair in Petroleum Geology. Cliff joined the department in January. He is teaching Basin Analysis to a roomful of eager LSU graduate students and is busy setting up his research laboratory. Before joining LSU, Cliff was at the University of Aberdeen working on the geology of continental margin basins. Cliff has also worked with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Ocean Drilling Program at Texas A&M, and was a research fellow at the University of Edinburgh where he was sponsored by BP. He obtained his bachelor's degree at Oxford and completed his PhD at University of Edinburgh.