

LSU RESEARCH

FOR LSU'S FACULTY & FRIENDS

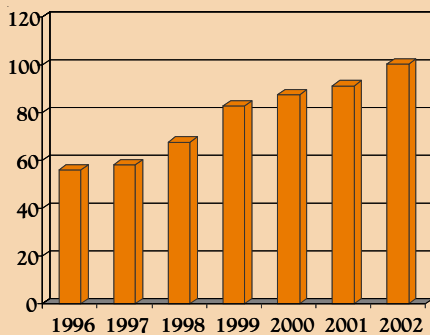
FALL 2002

RESEARCH,
GRADUATE
STUDIES,
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

LSU achieves \$100 million research funding goal

When the strategic plan for the Office of Research & Graduate Studies at LSU was revised in the early 1990s, it set a funding goal of \$100 million by 2003. That goal, thanks to the hard work of faculty researchers, has been achieved one year early.

According to the Office of Sponsored Program Accounting, LSU's external funding total for fiscal year 2001-2002 reached \$100,276,557. The total includes funding from federal, state and industry sources.



LSU External Funding Totals (\$M)

"We are thrilled to have reached our goal a year sooner than expected," said Kevin Smith, vice chancellor for the Office of Research & Graduate Studies. "It goes a long way in helping LSU reach its two-fold mission: to continue to be a top public research institution and an economic driver in Louisiana."

Among other recent milestones, LSU ranked 66th in the nation in federal research and development expenditures, and 37th in total research and development expenditures, which includes federal, state and industry sources, in 2000.

According to fall 1999 enrollment statistics, LSU has the 29th largest enrollment in the country. In addition, LSU ranked 46th among universities awarding the most doctorates.

New positioning system to measure coastal loss

Louisiana loses approximately 35 square miles of its coast per year, primarily due to land subsidence. A unique way to track the subsidence and develop a solution is well underway at the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC), a partnership between LSU and the National Geodetic Survey, an office of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

The LSRC is building a network of global positioning system satellite receiving stations to constantly monitor about 24 locations across the state, measuring annual land surface movements to millimeters. It will assist in repositioning surveyors' benchmarks around the state, which are used to determine land and structure elevations.

"LSU is building the most comprehensive positioning system in the world," said Dr. Roy Dokka, LSRC director and professor of civil and environmental engineering. "For example, we can use this technology to measure how fast the North American continent moves over the globe with respect to all the other continents."

Information about the LSRC and its mission can be viewed at www.lsrc.lsu.edu.

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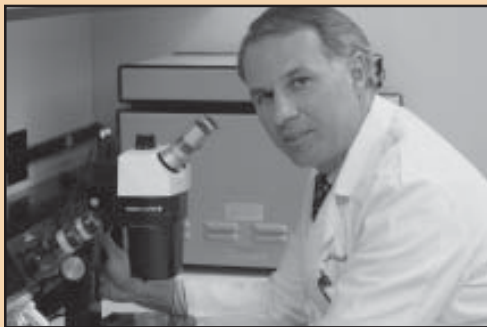
Pictured at the inauguration of the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center are (l-r) LSU Research and Graduate Studies Assistant Vice Chancellor Todd Pourciau, Vice Chancellor Kevin Smith, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, and LSU Dean of Engineering Pius Egbelu.

Brain tumor research is focus for new Vet School professor

How tumor cells are able to travel, implant, and invade is a top research concern for new School of Veterinary Medicine faculty member Dr. Dario Marchetti.

Marchetti, associate professor of tumor biology, is continuing research funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1994, with the aim of developing innovative treatments to stop tumor progression in the brain, a process known as brain metastasis. It is the process of metastasis that makes cancers so tenacious and deadly.

“Brain metastasis is a significant clinical problem in today’s cancer research because its incidence is significantly increasing in most types of cancers. Up to 40 percent of all cancer patients will develop brain metastasis,” said Marchetti.



Dario Marchetti

Marchetti is currently recruiting postdoctoral researchers, research associates, and graduate students with backgrounds in molecular biology to join his team. He hopes to establish programs that will provide the necessary molecular framework to develop models to prevent brain tumors and cancer metastasis.

“Our research will have an effect not only on brain metastasis, but also in general metastatic mechanisms of skin, lung, pancreas, prostate, and breast cancers. Everyone stands to gain something from our efforts,” said Marchetti.

LSU graduate student attends Nobel Laureates meeting in Germany

Chemistry graduate student Robin Macaluso will never forget the summer of 2002. She was one of only 600 graduate students and doctoral fellows chosen from around the globe to attend the 52nd meeting of the Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany.

Macaluso was chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy, who funds her research, to represent the U.S. The meeting consisted of a series of informative lectures and discussions with the Laureates.

Just 35 American academic and research institutions were represented in the U.S. delegation. “MIT, UC-Berkley, Stanford and Yale were all represented. It was nice that LSU was an equal part of that and I was able to share LSU’s extensive research capabilities,” said Macaluso.



Chemistry graduate student Robin Macaluso (center) is pictured with Jerome Karle (l), winner of the 1985 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, and Isabella Karle (r), a pioneer in physical chemistry.

LSU architecture graduate awarded fellowship

Kenneth Melancon, a recent graduate of LSU, was awarded the prestigious Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) Traveling Fellowship in architecture. Melancon received \$10,000.

U.S. schools may submit no more than two candidates in architecture, interior design, and urban design. The only two qualifiers for the undergraduate award were both from LSU.

Established more than 15 years ago, the SOM Traveling Fellowship is considered by many to be the most significant award for architecture students.

Louisiana student receives national award

Cedar Creek High School student Ryan Hayes was recently selected as one of eight national winners in the 40th Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) held April 24-28, 2002, in San Diego, California. Hayes placed first at the regional competition held January 11-12, 2002, at LSU.

Sponsored by the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, the research competition awards each winner a \$20,000 scholarship.

Charlotte St. Romain, academic coordinator in the Department of Environmental Studies, serves as co-director of the Louisiana JSHS. For more information, contact her at cstrom4@lsu.edu.

Blast from the past: LSU professor discovering unknown literary history

English professor Anne Coldiron is getting a rare opportunity to discover what remains unknown about many of our most cherished literary works thanks to a fellowship from the Library of Congress and support from the College of Arts & Sciences and the Office of Research & Graduate Studies.

Recently selected as a fellow of the John W. Kluge Center housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., Coldiron is studying original, first edition texts dating as far back as the 1470s. Her research is focusing on the translations and first editions of many of the first works printed during the Renaissance, mainly comparisons of French and English poetry.

“For the first time, we’ll get to see what the printers were actually printing, what the translators were translating and what the readers were reading, instead of what we now read, which is what 19th century editors selected and kept in print,” said Coldiron, assistant professor of Renaissance Literature and a faculty member in the Comparative Literature Program.

Most studies to date point to a dominant Italian influence on English poetry, but Coldiron maintains that six times more verse was translated from French to English than from Italian to English between 1501 and 1557. With access to the Rosenwald Collection in the European division of the Library, the largest collection of illustrated books in North America, she is able to see many translations of a given work, alongside the first French editions.

“Any translation is a set of interpretations,” Coldiron said. “To study a translation is to study a whole set of cultural assumptions.”

Coldiron is one of 26 scholars chosen from a large international field of competitors for a Kluge Fellowship. The fellowship will give her one year to do archival research on the books of the Renaissance, a crucial period of literary history and cross-cultural contact.



Anne Coldiron

Having a meeting? Invite your colleagues around the globe. For free.

Visiting with colleagues and friends on the other side of the globe to share ideas and research face-to-face isn’t such a costly undertaking anymore, thanks to new videoconferencing technology on campus.

The new LSU multipoint conferencing unit (MCU) is up and ready for use by faculty, staff and students. The primary purpose of the MCU is to allow LSU researchers to collaborate with others around the world. Also, instructors will be able to teach courses from LSU that will be broadcast to other college campuses across the country.

“This is something I think is the wave of the future,” said Dr. Joel Tohline, interim director of the LSU Center for Applied Information Technology and Learning (LSU CAPITAL). “Traveling costs will become lower and less necessary. For instance, a researcher will now be able to make a presentation to a conference from their own office or lab.”

The MCU is being operated and maintained by the Office of Telecommunications. Users are required to provide their own web cameras or use the cameras that are available through OTC, and reserve time on the unit. To connect, users will type in the address of the MCU in their Web browser where the actual electronic meeting will take place.

“Participants will be able to see other participants on their monitor as you do on Hollywood Squares,” said Ric Simmons of the Office of Telecommunications.

If you want to know more about LSU’s videoconferencing capabilities or if you need to find out whether your collaborators have access to videoconferencing at their institutions, please call the Office of Telecommunications at 578-4015 and speak with Serge Razafindrakoto or Ric Simmons.

LSU professors win National Endowment for the Humanities award

A new program covering everything from Medieval spirituality to Renaissance art is now being developed, thanks to two LSU faculty members and the grant they won from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Department of History Assistant Professor Maribel Dietz and School of Art Assistant Professor Kirstin Noreen are paving the way for a Medieval and Renaissance interdisciplinary studies program at LSU that will provide a better understanding of our past and new ways to think about the world around us.

“This is significant for two reasons,” said Todd Pourciau, assistant vice chancellor for Research & Graduate Studies. “The NEH is extremely competitive and it is very difficult to get anything funded. And, the amount of the award, \$23,961, is relatively large from the NEH.”

The program will consist of lectures, workshops and seminars on interdisciplinary studies, with the goal of fostering collaborative research, investigating new technologies for teaching and research, and implementing an undergraduate minor program. More than 38 Medieval and Renaissance faculty, interested staff, graduate students and undergraduates will participate. For more information, contact Dietz at maribel@lsu.edu or Noreen at knoree1@lsu.edu.

LSU Office of Research & Graduate Studies welcomes new faces



Dr. Doris Carver has been named associate vice chancellor for Research & Graduate Studies. She is a professor of computer science and

previously served as associate commissioner of sponsored programs, research and development for the Louisiana Board of Regents.



Dr. Pam Monroe has been named associate dean of LSU's Graduate School. She also holds the Doris Lasseigne

Carville and Jules A. Carville Jr. Professorship of Human Ecology.



J. T. Lane has been named media coordinator for the Office of Research & Graduate Studies. He previously

served in the public affairs office of ExxonMobil Baton Rouge.

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