

**NEWS BRIEFS****Cultural geography program ranked the best**

LSU's cultural geography program in the Department of Geography & Anthropology was recently ranked the best in North America, along with its counterpart at the University of Texas at Austin, by a study published in *The Professional Geographer*, a publication of the Association of American Geographers.

**Vet Med professor receives NIH grant renewal**

Gary Wise, professor and head of the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, received a \$1.47 million grant renewal from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research that could help solve such dental problems as impacted wisdom teeth and periodontitis.

**Economic development assistantships awarded**

The Board of Regents, through the Office of Research & Graduate Studies, has awarded one \$25,000 economic development assistantship each to 12 departments on campus. Each assistantship will go to a doctoral student whose research could directly affect economic development in Louisiana. The assistantships provide support for four years as long as the recipient keeps a 3.5 grade-point average.

**Distinguished Research Masters honored, dissertation excellence recognized**

The recipients of the 2002 Distinguished Research Master awards and the 2002 Distinguished Dissertation awards were honored by the University community in a ceremony May 21 at the Faculty Club.

**Johnny L. Matson**, professor of psychology, was named the Distinguished Research Master of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and **Vijay P. Singh**, Arthur K. Barton Endowed Professor (civil and environmental engineering), was named the Distinguished Research Master of Engineering, Science, and Technology.



The 2002 Distinguished Research Masters, Vijay Singh (left) and Johnny Matson (right), are pictured with Kevin Smith (center), Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Studies, at a ceremony held May 21. The Distinguished Research Master award is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in research and scholarship at LSU.

The University's highest research honor, the Distinguished Research Master award has been selected and presented by the Council on Research annually since 1972. The award recognizes excellence in research and scholarship, and consists of a \$1,500 annual salary increase and a Chancellor's Medal.

Described by many as an extraordinary research scientist, Matson's 25-year career in clinical psychology includes 27 books, 53 book chapters, and 225 journal articles. He is considered a pioneer researcher in the field of developmental disabilities, specifically mental retardation, and is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, a top-tier journal in his field.

"Dr. Matson is the leading national and, I might add, international scholar on psychopathology and its impact on a host of developmental disabilities," said Thomas Ollendick, a university distinguished professor and director of the Child Study Center at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. "His efforts have advanced our conceptualization, assessment, and treatment of significant psychopathology in developmentally delayed persons."

In addition to his role as professor, Matson is associate chair of the Department of Psychology and director of clinical training for the clinical psychology doctoral program. He has served as an officer and member of many national and international psychology organizations and is currently a fellow of the divisions of child and youth services, mental retardation, and clinical psychology of the American Psychological Association. He also taught at the University of Pittsburgh and Northern Illinois University. He received his doctorate in counseling psychology from Indiana State University in 1976.

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### *Distinguished Research Masters, continued from cover*

Driven by a desire to develop solutions to problems related to irrigation, floods, and water quality, Vijay Singh has had a far-reaching impact on hydrology and water resources research in the U.S. and the world for more than 25 years. With more than 300 books, book chapters, journal publications, and reports to his credit, he has become a force in water sciences research.

"Vijay Singh is an outstanding scholar and researcher in hydrology today. There are very few, and possibly none in the world, whose publication record and whose research activity surpasses his," said A. R. Rao, professor of civil engineering at Purdue University. "He is clearly a research master."

Singh has also served as the coordinator of the water resources program and as director of the Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute. He taught at Mississippi State University, George Washington University, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology before coming to LSU in 1981. He was a Fulbright lecturer in Austria from 1997 to 1998, and has also held visiting professor appointments in Australia, Belgium, India, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, and Switzerland. He holds doctorates in civil engineering and engineering from Colorado State University and the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, respectively.

The Distinguished Dissertation Award honors excellence in dissertation research. Awarded annually since 1983, recipients receive a \$1,000 stipend and a certificate noting their outstanding work and accomplishments.

**Vetle I. Torvik**, an engineering science major, was awarded the LSU Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award in Science, Engineering, and Technology for his contribution to the emerging field of computer-assisted knowledge discovery. His dissertation research demonstrates the wide array of real-life applications ranging from breast cancer diagnosis to college acceptance policies that can be analyzed by new computational approaches. Torvik is now a research assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Daniel R. Weir**, a geography major, was awarded the Josephine A. Roberts LSU Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for his work in studying roadside death memorials in Mexico. His dissertation research explores the location of a person's death and the sacred places created around that phenomenon. Weir is now an assistant professor of geography at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, N.D.

## New leadership joins campus community in summer and fall

Three new faces are making their way onto campus in the next few months to join the team of LSU administrators. **Risa I. Palm**, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was tapped as executive vice chancellor and provost by Chancellor Mark Emmert and began work effective July 1.



*Risa Palm*

"Risa brings great energy, experience, and academic values to us. There is no doubt that she will steer LSU toward continued progress on all fronts," said Emmert. "Risa is just the sort of provost we all envisioned when we began the search process."

Palm has been an administrator at the University of North Carolina since 1997. From 1991 to 1997, she served as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of geography at the University of Oregon. She held several faculty and administrative positions at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of California, Berkeley prior to that.

**Robert T. Sumichrast** has assumed the position of dean of the E.J. Ourso College of Business Administration after being named to the post earlier in May. He replaces Bill Lane, chair of the Department of Finance, who has served as interim dean since Tom Clark stepped down in late 2001.



*Robert Sumichrast*

Sumichrast most recently served as the associate dean for graduate and international programs at Virginia Polytechnic Institute's Pamplin College of Business in Blacksburg, Virginia.



*Mary Ellen Kondrat*

**Mary Ellen Kondrat**, currently the associate dean and director of the Master of Social Work program at Ohio State University, has been named dean of the School of Social Work and will begin September 1.

Kondrat also serves as a fellow of the Center for African American Studies at Ohio State. She has been a consultant for the United Nations, devised social development strategy in Egypt, and led a study abroad program in South India since 1993.

## Fall 2003 Chancellor's Distinguished Lectureship Series schedule

September 8 ♦ **G. Wayne Clough**, *President*, Georgia Institute of Technology

September 12 ♦ **Debora Shuger**, *Professor*, University of California, Los Angeles

September 16 ♦ **Elliott R. Jacobson**, *Professor*, University of Florida

September 18 ♦ **Richard Lapchick**, *DeVos Eminent Scholar Chair and Sports Business Management Program Director*, University of Central Florida

October 1 ♦ **Michael F. Goodchild**, *Professor*, University of California, Santa Barbara

October 24 ♦ **Michael R. Solomon**, *Human Sciences Professor of Consumer Behavior*, Auburn University

October 30 ♦ **Edward L. Ayers**, *Hugh P. Kelly Professor of History*, University of Virginia

Visit [www.research.lsu.edu](http://www.research.lsu.edu) for complete information.

## LSU student wins Truman Scholarship

**A**llen Richey was chosen as one of 76 recipients from a pool of 635 student candidates nationwide to be awarded the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Richey is the first LSU student ever to receive this honor.



Allen Richey

Established as a memorial for President Truman, the \$30,000 Truman Scholarship is a highly competitive, merit-based award offered to junior-level college students who want to go to graduate school in preparation for a career in public service.

"With the Truman Scholar Award, I can get the best education possible and use it to combat poverty here in Louisiana,"

says Richey. "I want to be able to serve in the most effective manner to educate my state and do away with poverty."

No stranger to public service, Richey was recently elected LSU Student Government president and has worked in the Louisiana Death Penalty Litigation Office. Before completing graduate school in either public policy or economics, Richey hopes to serve in either the Peace Corps or Teach for America. He then plans to return to Louisiana.

## Fish or Cow: Which one will be in your next bowl of Jello?

**C**ancer treatments, plastic surgery enhancements, facial creams, and yes, even Jello all share a common ingredient: collagen. Primarily produced from the skin of cows, collagen has a wide array of applications and is worth millions--a gram of collagen can go for about \$1,000.

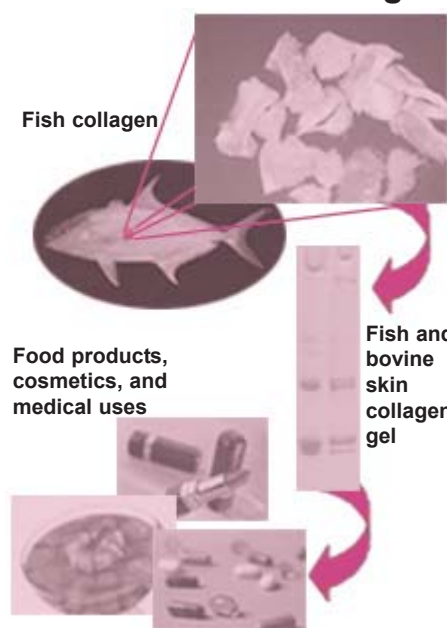
With the recent advent of mad cow disease, pharmaceutical companies are now searching for new sources of collagen. After receiving a grant from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, a group of LSU researchers has identified a source of collagen right here in our own backyard: seafood by-products.

LSU researcher **Jack Losso** and his team of experts including **Mike Moody**, **Jon Bell**, and **Masahiro Ogawa** of the Department of Food Science; **Ralph Portier** of the Department of Environmental Studies; and **Mark Schexnayder** have identified fish species whose collagen can easily substitute for bovine collagen. The team isolated the high-grade marine collagen in a test tube and is now working to adapt the process to an industrial scale.

Losso explained that the commercial possibilities are endless.

"Collagen is used for wound healing and cancer treatment, as an antihypertensive compound, and in skin lotions," says Losso. "Of course, the most money can be made when it's used for plastic surgery."

### A Glance at Fish Collagen



Local seafood processing plants stand to save thousands of dollars per year in seafood waste disposal costs on the millions of pounds of waste produced each year when the team's research is put to commercial use. Additionally, these efforts will also drive a need for more graduates with a technical background in food science and/or biochemistry.

## RESEARCH CENTERS, INSTITUTES, LABS, & PROGRAMS UPDATES

The **LSU Hazardous Substance Research Center** celebrated its 25th year of continuous competitive research funding at a technical symposium held in May. The center is believed to be the longest running, competitively selected, university-based research center funded by the EPA. For more information, visit [www.hsrb.org/hsrb/html/ssw](http://www.hsrb.org/hsrb/html/ssw).

The **LSU Office of Community Design & Development** is working with the Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance (MCRA) in Baton Rouge to bring more life to Government Street. With \$45,000 from the state and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, LSU and MCRA are creating a design blueprint for the street. For more information, visit [www.ocdd.lsu.edu](http://www.ocdd.lsu.edu).

*Entrepreneur* magazine recently ranked **LSU's Institute for Entrepreneurial Education** as the number five entrepreneurship program in the U.S. according to faculty opinions from across the country. The Institute for Entrepreneurial Education focuses on four areas: entrepreneurship education, family business forum, the international franchise forum, and women in business. For more information, visit [www.bus.lsu.edu/academics/entrepreneurial](http://www.bus.lsu.edu/academics/entrepreneurial).

The **U.S. Civil War Center** at LSU recently presented the 2002 Michael Shaara Award for Excellence in Civil War Fiction to Marie Jakober, author of "Only Call Us Faithful." The award was presented at a ceremony at Tulane University in New Orleans, which was co-sponsored by the U.S. Civil War Center, the New Orleans Civil War Round Table, and the Tulane Libraries Special Collections. For more information, visit [www.cwc.lsu.edu](http://www.cwc.lsu.edu).

LSU recently launched the **Laboratory for Creative Arts & Technologies**, which received funding from **LSU CAPITAL**. The lab will foster projects from both creative and scientific environments. For more information, visit [www.phys.lsu.edu/faculty/tohline/capital](http://www.phys.lsu.edu/faculty/tohline/capital).

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