

# LAMP Journal

An official publication of the Louis Stokes Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation

## LS-LAMP Institutions

- Southern University and  
A&M College
- 
- Dillard University
- 
- Grambling State University
- 
- Louisiana State University
- 
- Louisiana Universities  
Marine Consortium
- 
- McNeese State University
- 
- Nunez Community College
- 
- Southern University  
New Orleans
- 
- Southern University  
Shreveport Bossier City
- 
- Tulane University
- 
- University of New Orleans
- 
- University of Louisiana-  
Lafayette

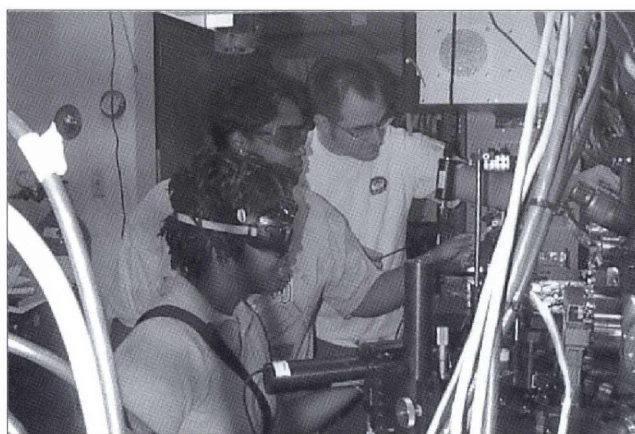
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Campus Coordination Director

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- Dawn D. Stephens  
Outreach Coordinator  
& Newsletter Editor
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- Karen E. Page  
Research Associate

## Tulane hosts research symposium



Kimberly Harris, Chemistry major, Grambling State University, and Tai Hooker, Physics/Engineering major, Dillard University, were part of the Tulane LS-LAMP Summer Research Program Chemistry research team under the supervision of Dr. Abdalla Darwish from Dillard University and Dr. Brent Koplitz from Tulane University. The title of their research was "Solar Cell Fabrication by Pulsed Laser Deposition."

**By Jannie Price**  
Senior Program Coordinator  
Tulane University LS-LAMP

"Sustaining Excellence through Research and Education" was this year's theme for Tulane University's Research Symposium, which was held August 2, 2000.

Twenty-nine minority students presented the results of their research projects by giving oral presentations in the following areas: Ecology/Evolutionary Biology, Physics, Environmental Biology, Health Science, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Civil and Environmental

Engineering, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Medicine.

Darryl Dickerson, Biomedical Engineering major, from Tulane University won first place for his oral presentation. Other students who received awards for excellent presentations were: Jadrien Young, Biomedical Engineering major, Tulane University; Michael Briscoe, Cell and Molecular Biology major, Tulane University; Lakeisha Marsh, Biology major, Xavier University; and Jonathan Hijuelos, Mechanical Engineering major, Tulane University. Several students also

received honorable mention for their presentations: Dodie Arnold, Biology major, Xavier University; Nina Williams, Chemistry major, Xavier University; Kimberly Harris, Chemistry major, Grambling State University; and Tai Hooker, Physics/Engineering major, Dillard University.

Nineteen Tulane professors served as mentors to the students, along with two research teams formed with visiting faculty from Dillard University and the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Abdalla Darwish, Associate Professor, Physics Department and LAMP Campus Coordinator, Dillard University, worked with Dr. Brent Koplitz of the Tulane Chemistry Department and Dr. Carsie Hall, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of New Orleans, worked with Dr. Calvin Mackie of Tulane's Mechanical Engineering Department.

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## McNeese ends summer with closing ceremony

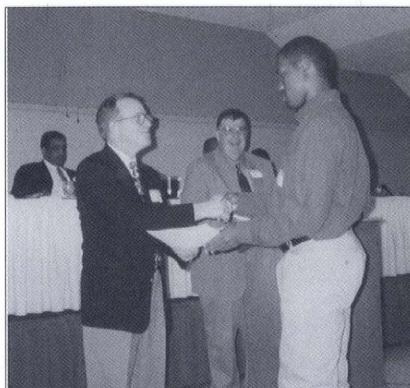
By Liz Stevenson

Counselor@McNeese State University LS-LAMP

The McNeese State University Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation hosted its closing ceremonies for the 2000 Summer Bridge Program participants Tuesday, July 18 in the Parra Ballroom at McNeese.

This summer's McNeese LAMP scholars were Shantell Anthony, Magean Clemons, Neykia Declouet, Lanay Jones, Quinton Jones, Wesley McKinney, ShaDawnya Semien, Michael Stevens and Tiffany Thomas, all of Lake Charles, Lolita Thibodeaux of Iowa, Colleen Fava of Meraux, La., and Jose Pena of Leesville, La.

LS-LAMP staff members present were Dr. George Mead, McNeese LS-LAMP Campus Coordinator; Mr. Darren Alcock, LS-LAMP Co-Campus Coordinator; Ms. Elizabeth Stevenson, LS-LAMP Counselor; and Dr. Harold Stevenson, McNeese Professor of Environmental Science. Also in attendance were LS-LAMP Advisory Council Members Dr. Robert Hebert, president; Dr. Whitney Harris, executive director, Human Relations and Social Equity; Dr. Carroll Karkalits, Dean, College of Engineering; Mr. Ed Khoury, Director, Basic



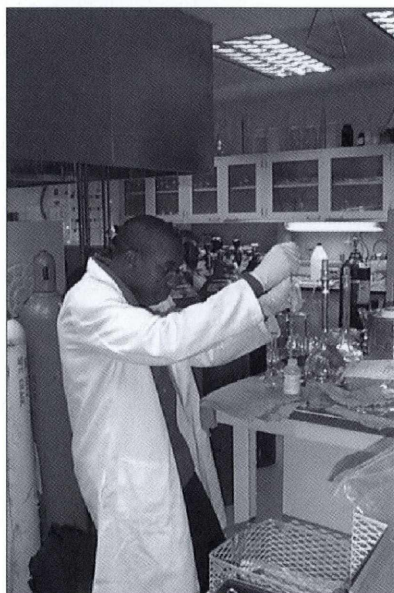
**LtoR:** Dr. Robert Hebert, President, McNeese State University, presents McNeese LS-LAMP Scholar Quintin Jones with a certificate for his participation in the Summer Bridge program

Studies; Ms. Mary Richardson, Coordinator, Banner Series Cultural Events; and Dr. Mark Wygoda, Department Head, Biological and Environmental Science.

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Dr. William E. Moore, Professor of Chemistry at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La. Dr. Moore has taught for 32 years during which he has been involved in curriculum innovation, biochemical research, departmental leadership and academic

administration. Dr. Moore received his Ph.D. from Purdue University. He was also the first faculty senate president of Southern University, invited lecturer at the Pasteur Institute in Paris France, and NATO Fellow in Louvain La Neuve, Belgium. Dr. Moore has been chief academic officer at three universities and has served on many national boards and educational advisory committees. Currently, Dr. Moore is on the Accrediting Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

All Summer Bridge participants received a stipend for coursework excellence exhibited in the Math 113 (college algebra), math 175 (trigonometry and analytic geometry) and University 101 (academic success) courses in which they were enrolled for the summer program. The stipends and certificates were presented to each student by Dr. Mead and Dr. Hebert. Mr. Alcock, instructor for the two math courses, presented the Outstanding Student Award for college algebra to Tiffany Thomas and the Outstanding Student Award for trigonometry and analytic geometry to Michael Stevens. Dr. Stevenson presented the Outstanding Student Award for University 101 Academic Success to Jose Pena.



**Above:** Darryl Dickerson, LS-LAMP Scholar and Engineering major at Tulane University.

### Symposium

*cont'd from page 1*

On the first day of the ten-week summer research program, held May 30 through August 4, 2000, students attended an orientation to become acquainted with the campus and the program, met with their mentors to become oriented to their research projects and ended the day with an evening reception. For two hours every morning during the first week, students received training in research methods, including sessions on scientific method and professional ethics, library research, and use of Tulane computing resources. After each session, students joined their mentors to work on their research projects.

For the next eight weeks, students conducted their research and attended weekly group sessions on topics such as applying to graduate school and Tulane minority graduate student perspectives on graduate student life.

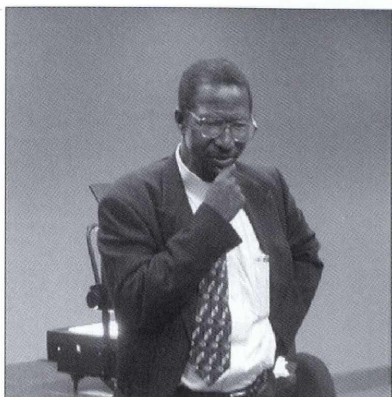
Dr. Valerie Wilson, Deputy Director for Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research, discussed what it is like to be a scientist working in an academic setting and shared her experiences while employed for the National Institute of Health.

Students were given two practice Graduate Record Exams (GRE), allowing them time between the two tests to review GRE study guides. As always, students commented that this was one of the most useful experiences of the summer program.

During the ninth week of the program, students received instruction in report writing and presentation of their research. In the final week, students presented their research results in the annual research symposium. The program ended with a luncheon where several students were recognized for their achievements and students received certificates as a memento of their participation in the program.

# An explanation of *The Genesis of Genius*

a dialogue led by Dr. Diola Bagayoko, LS-LAMP Co-Principal Investigator



By Dawn D. Stephens  
LS-LAMP Outreach Coordinator

Some people have contributed their genius to genes or the alleged superiority of a certain ethnic group, however, Dr. Diola Bagayoko, LS-LAMP Principal Investigator put all of these theories to rest before an audience of parents and students as he said, "Any child can win a Nobel Prize for Literature or Physics and the ethnic affiliation of that child will not have anything to do with it."

Dr. Bagayoko conducted a dialogue with students, parents, teachers, faculty members, and the community at large on "An explanation of The Genesis of Genius" or what explains the academic achievement of any given student.

Dr. Robert Ford, LS-LAMP Project Director, introduced Dr. Bagayoko providing background information on the Southern University Distinguished Professor of Physics.

During this discussion Dr. Bagayoko referred to Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray's *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life*, which suggests that ethnicity is a determining factor in the intellectual ability and accomplishment levels of certain students.

He refuted Herrnstein and Murray's claim, informing the audience that the exposure of the child to appropriate subject content and the amount of time the child spends reading and studying determines the academic achievement of that child, which is known as the Power Law of Human Performance. This law simply states that the more one practices a task the better one gets at performing that task.

"In practical terms if you want to know a reason why students score at certain levels on the LEAP test, do not look at the race or ethnic affiliation," said Bagayoko. "From the dawn of humanity until now I have not seen one case where a person wakes up one morning and says because he or she has the genes he or she is a genius. It will never happen."

Dr. Bagayoko also said the Power Law of Human Performance not only applies to academics, but also to basketball, music and any task that a person desires to master.

An audience member asked about the impact of socioeconomic factors on the academic achievement of a student. Dr. Bagayoko responded, "Socioeconomic factors alone do not contribute to the academic level and do not determine what a child can achieve." Such factors have a direct impact on the time and quality that a child dedicates to studying.

Dr. Bagayoko closed the discussion with, "Ability is begotten through exposure and practice", any child who applies him or herself and puts in the study time and effort can be a genius.

## SMART SREU students have a challenging, rewarding summer

By Bronwyn Dickson  
SMART Program Coordinator

Summer 2000 proved to be a challenging, yet rewarding experience for 26 students who participated in the Strengthening Minority Access to Research and Training (SMART) Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (SREU) program.

SMART SREU 2000 was an intensive eight-week program designed to contribute to the personal and intellectual development of SMET majors, and to provide them with tools to ensure their competitiveness in a

world that requires sound research skills.

Each participant spent five to eight hours per day conducting laboratory research under the supervision of a mentor, which served to promote the quality of learning and communication conducive to personal and professional growth.

In addition to research time, students attended two lecture sessions each week that focused on graduate admission requirements, test taking skills, research methods, communication skills and goal-setting techniques. Practical applications of these

learning experiences were demonstrated by each student through the writing of an individual report on the conducted research using the style acceptable to a refereed journal.

Each participant also delivered a 10 to 12 minute presentation on their research project to University faculty, staff, mentors and fellow program participants during the closing session on July, 28, 2000.

Overall the SREU 2000 students indicated that the past summer was a valuable learning experience through which they advanced their research capabilities, increased their capacity to function in a team-oriented environment and enhanced their ability to successfully pass the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Dr. Smalley, SU Vice Chancellor for Research and Strategic Initiatives and SMART SREU Project Director, commented, "Studies consistently provide evidence of the direct correlation between student participation in these programs and their success in graduate school."

Individuals who would like to be added to the LS-LAMP Journal mailing list should contact **Dawn Stephens, LS-LAMP Journal Editor**, at (225) 771-2777, fax (225) 771-2311, email: [dstephens@ls-lamp.org](mailto:dstephens@ls-lamp.org)

*The LS-LAMP Journal is a quarterly newsletter published by the Louis Stokes Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-LAMP) statewide management office. The publication provides the LS-LAMP institutions, NSF LSAMP colleges/universities, and affiliated groups information on the activities taking place on the LS-LAMP campuses. The Journal is based on articles submitted by the 12 participating LS-LAMP institutions and management staff.*

# Campus Coordinators attend strategic planning retreat

The Louis Stokes Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation (LS-LAMP) held a Strategic Planning and Implementation Retreat on May 25-26, 2000, at Hemingbough in St. Francisville, LA.

The retreat was convened in preparation for initiating implementation of LS-LAMP Phase II activities.

The comprehensive implementation strategies of LS-LAMP are centered on a) the institutionalization of systemic mentoring as embodied by the Timbuktu Academy, b) the building of extensive collaborations with industry and national laboratories, c) the enhancement of institutional infrastructure and SMET curriculum reform, and d) a vigorous pursuit of a diversified funding base.

The immensely successful Phase I LS-LAMP program involved the enhancement and expansion of systemic mentoring at participating institutions and has resulted in very significant increases in annual graduation rates at LS-LAMP institutions as well as transition to SMET graduate schools. In attendance at the Hemingbough Retreat were 33 representatives from the eleven LS-LAMP institutions and one

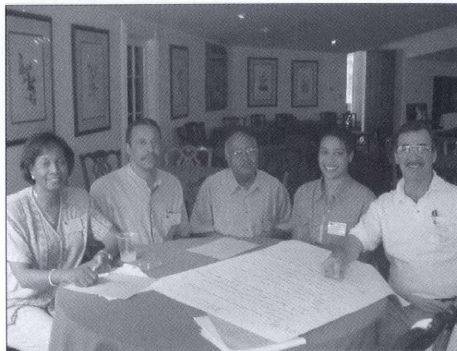


Photo by Brenda Miles and Allen Miles, Grambling State University; Vibhakar Dave, Southern University New Orleans; Luria Stubblefield, LS-LAMP Program Administrator; and Paul Sammarco, LUMCON.

research site.

The retreat participants enthusiastically participated in the development of the Phase II Strategic Implementation Plan that will serve as the blueprint for the implementation of LS-LAMP Phase II activities.

LS-LAMP invites prospective LS-LAMP scholars, faculty and parents to visit [www.ls-lamp.org](http://www.ls-lamp.org) for information on LS-LAMP scholarships, publications and activities. Interested persons may also contact the LS-LAMP management office at (225) 771-2777.



MainSTey participants and MainSTey Workbook Senior Editor Stacey Thomas get together to put the finishing touches on the MainSTey Workbook.

## LS-LAMP co-hosts SIS Plus workshop

By Dawn D. Stephens,  
Outreach Coordinator, Louis Stokes LAMP

LS-LAMP along with the Strengthening Minority Access to Research and Training (SMART) and New Models for Teaching, Mentoring and Learning (NTML) programs sponsored a workshop on Student Information Systems (SIS) Plus to facilitate the implementation of computerized student advisement and mentoring.

This workshop was held August 15 and 16 in the Southern University Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union Computer Laboratory.

SIS Plus is an integrated, versatile, and powerful computerized advisement and mentoring system which provides an electronic and easy graduation checkout system.

This system is one of several features that brings mentoring into the third millennium.

Twenty-four Southern University faculty and staff attended the workshop, led by SU Registrar Marvin Allen. The two-hour, two-day workshop instructed faculty in the basic function of SIS and how this system allows fast easy access to student registration information that would provide a swift and more efficient way of advising students.

Each participant was assigned log-in identification to access SIS and given instructions on how to navigate through selected screens necessary for student advisement.

Through SIS, faculty were able to review past and current catalog information for specific disciplines and review past student schedules to effectively advise students on the best classes to take during the semester.

Southern University acquired SIS Plus in 1994 and the web version of SIS will be available in Fall 2000. Prior to the workshop only college deans had access to SIS.

LS-LAMP, SMART and NTML would like to acknowledge the support of the Southern University Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and SU Registrar Marvin Allen and staff for graciously facilitating this workshop.

# LAMP Campus Highlights

## Outstanding Graduate Profile

*Pernella Singleton, Southern University and A&M College*

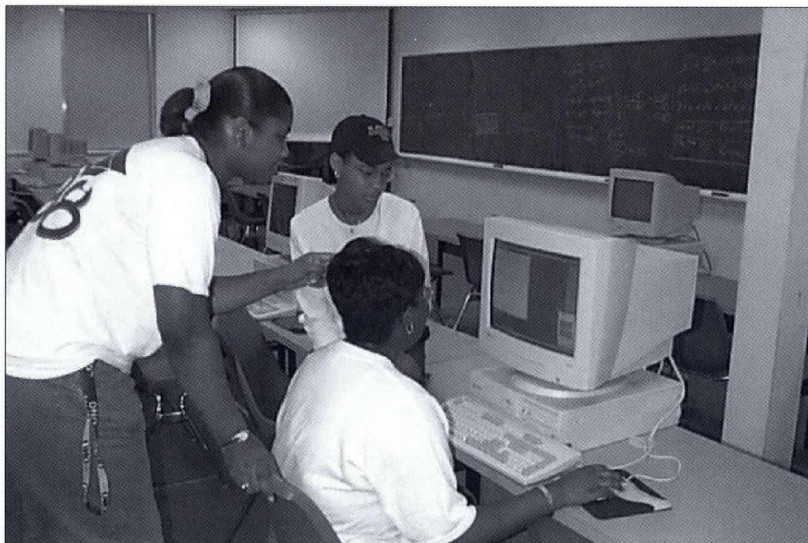
Pernella Singleton is a Spring 2000 Southern University and A&M College graduate and LS-LAMP Social and Behavioral Science scholar.

Singleton graduated Magna Cum Laude as a dual major in psychology and sociology. She is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society, Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology and the Sociology Club.

Singleton participated in several re-

search projects during her academic career and presented her research at national, regional and state conferences.

This Napoleonville, La., native, will be pursuing her doctoral degree in counseling psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi beginning this fall.



**I** to r: Areah Rodgers, Mathematics major, Xavier University; Sydeaka Watson, Mathematics major, University of New Orleans; and Tamara Singleton, Mathematics major, Dillard University. These students were members of the Tulane LS-LAMP Mechanical Engineering research team which included Dr. Carsie Hall from the University of New Orleans. The team was led by Dr. Calvin Mackie, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Tulane University. The title of the research project was "Solving Differential Systems Describing Fluid Motion During Solidification in Manufacturing Processes."

## Stephens bids farewell to LS-LAMP Family

I would like to thank the LS-LAMP family for close to four years of professional growth, productivity, hardwork and comradery. My time with LS-LAMP has been an excellent experience and a grand opportunity to work with a group of professionals working together to better minority SMET education in Louisiana. Therefore it is with regret that I say goodbye. I was married on Saturday, September 23, 2000, and my husband has accepted a position with an architecture firm in Dallas, Texas. I currently reside in Lewisville, a suburb of Dallas, and am working with the Dallas County Community College District in the Division of Community Development. Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with you and I hope to work with you again in the future. Keep the LAMP burning!!!!

## LS-LAMP and Social and Behavioral Science **SMALL TRAVEL & RESEARCH GRANTS**

This program allows minority undergraduate students majoring in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (SMET) and faculty and students in Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) to apply for small grants to attend conferences, present papers, attend workshops and conduct research projects.

LS-LAMP requires a minimum of three weeks prior to the activity to process the application and provide the funds.

You can print the application form from the LS-LAMP website ([www.ls-lamp.org](http://www.ls-lamp.org)) and fax or mail to the LS-LAMP office at (225) 771-2311 OR P.O. Box 9274, Baton Rouge, LA 70813.

Please visit the  
**LS-LAMP**  
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**www.**  
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