

LAMP Journal

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

LAMP Institutions

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- Dillard University
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- Grambling State University
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- University of New Orleans
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- University of Southwestern Louisiana

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- Dawn D. Stephens
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- Karen E. Page
Research Associate

Tulane hosts 4th annual symposium

By Jannie Price
LS-LAMP Senior Program Coordinator
Tulane University

Twenty-two minority students from participating LS-LAMP colleges and universities attended the fourth annual Tulane University LS-LAMP Symposium, "Effectiveness through the Integration of Research and Education," held August 4, 1999.

Sixteen Tulane professors served as mentors to the students. Students gave oral presentations in the following areas: Electrical Engineering & Computer Science; Mechanical Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Physics; Chemistry; Biochemistry; Microbiology & Immunology; Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology; Environmental Health Science; Pharmacology, and Mathematics.

Dionne Mashia, a senior mathematics major at Southern University at New Orleans, spent the summer at Tulane University using mathematical tools to analyze voltage propagation models in the heart. Dionne worked under the guidance of Dr. Peter Moore, Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department at Tulane. Brandi Bean,

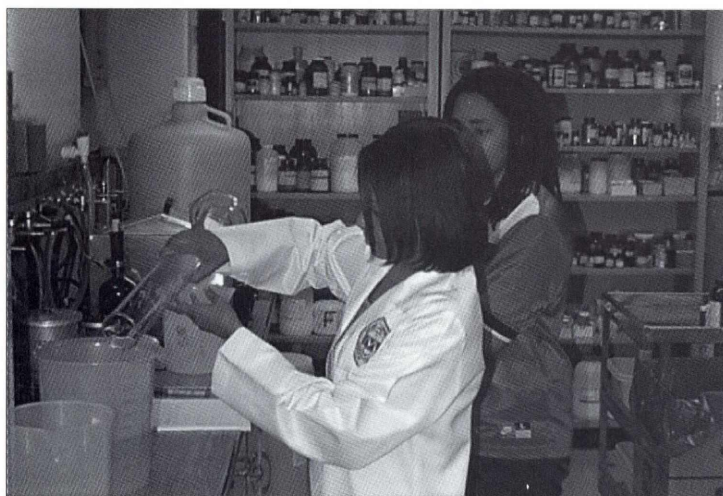
a senior biology major at Dillard, Chika Okafor, a senior biology major at Southern University at New Orleans, and Dr. Henry Bart, LAMP Campus Coordinator and Associate Professor in Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology Department at Tulane, studied how stream flow affects the morphology of fish.

Mashia, Bean, and Okafor were among the students who participated in the Tulane LAMP Program. For ten weeks, the students worked alongside a faculty mentor and attended group sessions to gain experience and training in research methods, including library research, use of computers, scientific methods and experimental design;

GRE preparation; and applying to graduate school.

At the conclusion of the program, the students presented

Symposium continued on page 5



Tulane LS-LAMP Scholar Daisy Wood (in white laboratory coat), Junior Biochemistry major at Xavier University.

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LAMP Campus Highlights



Above: Dr. Henry Bart, Tulane LS-LAMP Campus Coordinator, and two Tulane LAMP scholars collecting specimen in the Mississippi River Basin. **Right:** SUNO LS-LAMP Scholar Pamela Dickerson conducting research while participating in the 1998 Tulane LS-LAMP Research Program. Dickerson graduated from SUNO in Biological Sciences and is currently attending Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La.



GSU SBS scholars attend Sociological Association meeting

By Russell Willis
LS-LAMP SBS Coordinator,
Grambling State University

Grambling State University LAMP SBS scholars participated in the Mid-South Sociological Association 25th Annual Meeting held November 3-6 at The Crown Plaza Hotel in Jackson, MS. The theme of this year's meeting was: "Sexuality, Families, and Agendas; Public and Private." The students presented papers discussing the results of their original research in the following areas: Crime and Deviance on the College Campus, Profiles of Uninsured Women, A theoretical interpretation of the film "Mississippi Masala," and Hazing on College Campuses.

LAMP SBS scholars come from various social and behavioral science areas including Sociology, Psychology, Political Science and Geography. The GSU LAMP SBS scholars are George Bargainer, Keyanta Borden, Marcus Boyd, Dominique Brown, William Sanders, Muriel Cunningham, Tara Decker, Chauvin Guidry, Michael Henderson, Kisha Richard, Ife Togun and Angela Williams.

The objective of the Grambling LAMP SBS Program is to increase the interest, matriculation, and graduation of minority students in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Frances Staten and Dr. V.T. Samuels serve as mentors to the program.

SU holds 2nd annual research symposium

By Dr. Ella Kelley
LS-LAMP Mentor & Research Symposium
Planning Committee Chairperson

Southern University and A&M College LS-LAMP held its second annual LAMP Undergraduate Research Symposium, Thursday, Nov. 11, 1999, at the SU Baton Rouge campus. Some 38 oral and poster presentations were made by Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology (SMET) students. The presentations summarized the research carried out by students during summer and/or academic year research internships. Winners in the various categories were:

Oral Presentation Session

Session I, Chemistry/Biological Chemistry
First Place, Kredenna Beverly, Biological Sciences
Second Place, Inga King, Chemistry

Session II, Social and Behavioral Sciences
First Place, Anetra Harbor, Agriculture
Second Place, Cynthia Lewis-Clifton, Social Work

Session III, Biology/Biological Chemistry
First Place, Michelle Millican, Physics
Second Place, Katina Beverly, Biological Sciences

Session IV, Engineering/Physics
First Place, Philip Jones, Physics
Second Place, Carlton Jones, Civil Engineering

Poster Presentation Session

Session I, Biological/Physical Sciences/
Engineering
First Place, Sarenee Cooper, Physics
Second Place, Raquel McFarland,
Biological Sciences

Session II, Social Sciences
First Place, Brent Clay, Social Work
Second Place, Vanessa Clark, Social Work

Accountability in teaching and learning

The Covenant

By Southern University and A&M College Faculty Senate

Responsible and professional teaching, irrespective of the mode of delivery, entails some quintessential constraints that are to be heeded. To adhere to these constraints is to discharge, morally, ethically, and professionally, responsibilities one accepts of one's own volition. In fact, it is with the implicit understanding of this adherence that academic freedom is precious: it permits the utilization of the training, experience, creativity, and dedication of the instructor to achieve the stated objectives via ways and means that may be vastly different from one instructor to the next.

A fundamental problem of education, from its inception to present, has been the following. Given the catalog and syllabus descriptions of a course, should an instructor decide to cover something different? One reason given for deviating totally from the specified subject content and skill, and learning objectives, is the level of the students. This question and related ones are answered by a covenant of teaching and learning, namely, that "an instructor must (a) deliver, at the applicable scope and depth, the subject

matter and skill content specified for a course and (b) must have objective measures to ascertain the degree of learning by each student or groups of students." This covenant explicitly addresses accountability in teaching, by the instructor, and in learning, by the students.

Upholding the covenant requires the instructor to possess (a) competency, (b) commitment or dedication, and (c) courage. Responsible teaching is not a popularity contest. Efforts should be made to inform students as much as possible of the rhymes and reasons for various activities in a course.

It is the responsibility of immediate supervisors and of universities to institute and professionally implement, valid, reliable, and comprehensive evaluations of teaching and learning processes. Institutions must exhibit responsible and accountable behavior where a good check and balance system is not only in place, but implemented consistently.

According to the Education Policies Commission, the central purpose of

education is the development of students' ability to think. The acquisition by students of the specified subject matter and skill content of a course constitutes a key educational objective. The attainment of this objective is predicated on the proper coverage or treatment of the specified knowledge and skill content of every course by its instructor(s).

Further, many teachers have realized the value of the thematic approach, "less is more" or "more in less," to engage dynamically their students in the learning process, in and outside the classroom, for verifiably attained objectives. Technologies, particularly computer and telecommunication technologies (i.e., web, email, telnet, file transfer protocol, videoconferencing, videocasting, etc.), are literally redefining education in general and higher education in particular. With currently available resources, reform blueprints, enhanced methods, etc. most interested instructors manage to totally and professionally adhere to the covenant.

Adapted from Accountability in Teaching and Learning: The Covenant, which was distributed to Southern University and A&M College faculty members and unit heads, fall 1999.

Symposium...

cont'd from page 3

the results of their research projects.

Dr. Calvin Mackie, assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering, campus co-coordinator of LAMP, and one of the 16 Tulane faculty mentors, believes that the reason a lot of people don't pursue the Ph.D. degree, especially in the hard sciences, is because of the stereotype of the research scientist. However, by working alongside the professor, students not only get to experience the beauty of research but they also get to experience that these people are as normal as anybody else.

Bart states that the most important thing that can be done to help this process is to turn the students on to the excitement of doing research. Hopefully, by making small discoveries in the context of these summer research experiences, the students will maintain their interest in research. Research is a motivator because it helps the students to look ahead to the time when they complete their bachelor's

degrees.

Participants from the summer program, as well as minority students from Tulane, have the opportunity to participate in an academic year program. During this 1999-2000 academic year, six students are working on research projects with Tulane mentors. Three of these students, Lakeisha White, a senior biology major at Xavier University; Nieka Harris, a junior chemistry major at Dillard University; and Daisy Woods, a junior biochemistry major at Xavier University, are continuing their research projects from the summer program. All of the academic year participants will present their research projects at a conference during the spring semester.

Tulane LAMP staff works closely with other LAMP institutions in providing research and graduate training to a large number of minority students. Former visiting minority professors from Dillard University and Southern University at New Orleans continue to advise, mentor and work closely with former LAMP participants.

Research is a motivator because it helps the students to look ahead to the time when they have completed their bachelor's degrees.

LS-LAMP, SMART programs launch partnership with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation

LS-LAMP, the Southern University HBCU-UP program, and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) have begun a substantive collaboration in the interest of expanding learning opportunities and increasing the pool of minorities eligible to pursue advanced degrees in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (SMET), and increasing the number of minority students enrolling in CIC institutions' SMET departments.

The Southern University HBCU-UP, Strengthening Minority Access to Research and Training (SMART), is a three-year long-range strategic plan of action, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which addresses the historical underrepresentation of minorities in baccalaureate and doctoral ranks of SMET disciplines. The overall objective of SMART is to (1) develop and maintain a diverse and intellectually vigorous faculty committed to the improvement of undergraduate education; (2) strengthen curricula, courses, and laboratories through the incorporation of advances in research-based teaching and learning in SMET disciplines; (3) develop appropriate partnerships with other academic institutions and industrial laboratories, as

well as NSF-supported research centers, to ensure quality research experiences that complement academic studies; and (4) ensure that students are aware of, and well prepared for, graduate school matriculation, including an understanding of non-academic factors that are critical to success in graduate school.

The CIC, established in 1958, is the academic consortium of twelve major teaching and research universities. The CIC member institutions are the University of Chicago, the University of Illinois (Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses), Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the three parties during the latter half of 1999. For more information on the areas of proposed cooperation and the expectations associated with each initiative please visit the LS-LAMP web site at www.ls-lamp.org (mouseclick "Overview" and mouseclick "Accomplishments").

The DoE EPSCoR HRD & LS-LAMP programs will host its

Fourth Annual Research Conference

"Sustaining SMET Opportunities in the New Millennium"

March 27-28, 2000

Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge, LA

For more information visit the LS-LAMP web site or contact Dawn Stephens at (225) 771-2777 or via email at dsteph2422@aol.com

Please visit the
LS-LAMP
web site at
[http://www.
ls-lamp.org](http://www.ls-lamp.org)

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: dsteph2422@aol.com

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.

CIC Southern Recruitment Caravan

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2000

Jackson State University
11:00am to 3:00pm
Jacob Reddix Campus Union

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2000

Southern University-Baton Rouge
10:00am to 2:00pm
Smith-Brown Memorial Student Union

Southern University New Orleans
4:00pm to 6:00pm
(location has not been assigned)

Thursday, Jan. 27, 2000

Xavier University
10:30am to 1:30pm
Student Center, Gold Rush Drexel

Friday, Jan. 28, 2000

Dillard University
10:00am to 2:00pm
(location has not been assigned)

All LS-LAMP Institutions should submit CIC Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) application forms to the LAMP Management Office on or before January 21, 2000

You may download the SROP application from http://www.cic.uiuc.edu/third_level/diversity_srop.html

LAMP Campus Highlights

'An unforgettable LUMCON Experience'

By Michael Ashenafi

LS-LAMP Scholar, Southern University-New Orleans

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) was formed in 1979 to coordinate and stimulate Louisiana's activities in marine research and education. LUMCON provides coastal laboratory facilities to Louisiana universities and conducts in-house research and educational programs in the marine sciences. I was fortunate enough to attend one of LUMCON's more popular courses, which is an introductory course to Oceanography.

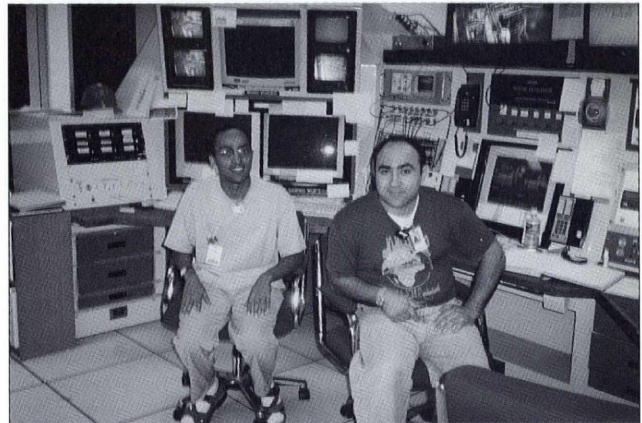
LUMCON's primary facilities are located at the DeFelice Marine Center in Cocodrie, La., approximately 85 miles southwest of New Orleans. This location is within the estuarine wetland complex of the Mississippi River delta plain between the Atchafalaya and Mississippi Rivers.

The amazing part of Oceanography is its interrelationship with Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Geology. During my one-month stay at LUMCON, I noticed how these four major fields intertwined as one gives an inner scope on the understanding and exploration of the marine world. A series of lectures, laboratory exercises, discussions, and field trips gave me an insight on the world of Oceanography.

I was very interested in the physical aspect of Oceanography, which is pure physics. I was fascinated to find how the gravity of the moon and sun affects the current and how storm surges starting at four to five feet in height can reach a height of 25 feet in a short period of time.

I also enjoyed the seminars which introduced me to different crucial matters like hypoxia (a deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body), and other related issues that we seem to ignore, but can be of great danger to us. The unique location of LUMCON helped me to interrelate and reason what was discussed in the seminars and lectures.

My five weeks at LUMCON were very productive and academically beneficial. I was exposed to different types of marine environments like swampy areas, open seas, up-welling areas, and



Dr. Elaasar Mostafa, SUNO LS-LAMP Affiliate and Physics professor and SUNO LS-LAMP Scholar Michael Ashenafi

many other different places. I also had a chance to meet and work with students from other universities.

I would like to thank all of those persons that made my stay at LUMCON a worthwhile and unforgettable experience. Namely, Dr. Joe Omojola, SUNO LS-LAMP affiliate, for encouraging me to attend the course and Dr. Vibhakar Dave, SUNO LS-LAMP Campus Coordinator, for his administrative support. My deepest appreciation goes to Dr. Paul Sammarco, LUMCON LS-LAMP Campus Coordinator, and his team for giving me the chance to attend this summer program and for making sure that I had the best time during my five weeks at LUMCON. I would also like to thank all of the teachers and staff that I met at LUMCON for their kindness and dedication.

Michael Ashenafi is an LS-LAMP scholar majoring in Physics/Engineering at Southern University New Orleans. His research project is entitled "Neutrino Decay Experiment." He worked under the supervision of LS-LAMP Affiliate and SUNO Physics Professor Dr. Elaasar Mostafa.

Scholarly Profile

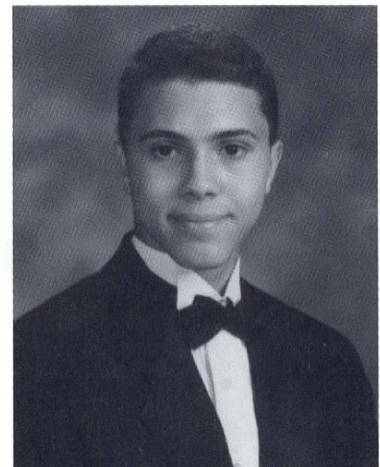
Joel Derouen, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

LS-LAMP Scholar Joel Derouen was selected to attend the Minority Engineering Graduate Recruitment Program sponsored by the College of Engineering of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, one member of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) (see page 4).

Derouen, a resident of Rayne, La., is a senior majoring in Electrical Engineering at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette

(ULL) and maintains a 3.855 grade point average. He is extremely interested in wireless communications and local area networks, but his main goal is to pursue a Ph.D. and become a professor at one of the nation's leading colleges or universities.

Joel is currently conducting research on Electromagnetic Interference in Airplane Controllers under the supervision of Dr. Fahmida Chowdhury, ULL Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering.



Derouen has been on the Dean's List since the fall 1996 semester and is a member of Tau Beta Pi. He was recently awarded the Black Student Achievement Award.

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