

# LAMP Journal

An official publication of the Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation

## LAMP Institutions

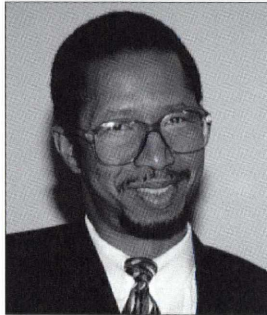
- Southern University and A&M College
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- Dillard University
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- Grambling State University
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- McNeese State University
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- Tulane University
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## AMP Project Principals

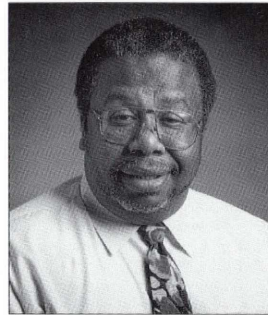
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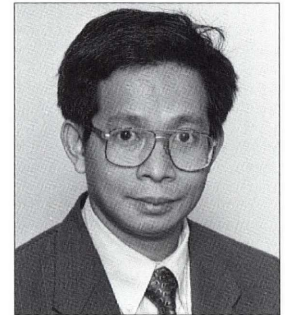
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Dr. Su-Seng Peng

# Master MENTORS

Dr. Diola Bagayoko, LAMP campus coordination director, and Drs. Isiah Warner and Su-Seng Pang, LAMP affiliates, were featured in the Jan. 3 edition of the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate* for their exceptional mentoring strategies, program, and results.

Each professor received The Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, an award given to only 10 people nationwide each year.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) administers the presidential award which recognizes people and groups that enhance the participation of under-represented groups in science, mathematics, and engineering.

The award includes a \$10,000 grant.

In 1996, the first year of the award, Dr. Bagayoko was a recipient, followed by Dr. Warner in 1997, and Dr. Pang in 1998.

In addition to Dr. Bagayoko's leadership role in the LAMP project, he is a Southern University and A&M College physics professor, Chancellor's fellow and Timbuktu Academy director. Dr. Warner is the Philip W. West professor at Louisiana State University, and Dr. Pang is the Jack Holmes professor of mechanical engineering at Louisiana State University and adjunct professor at Southern University.

Dr. Bagayoko told Advocate Staff Writer Kristen King that mentoring is crucial to the improvement of society over generations.

"Mentoring for me is that process by which a generation passes on to the next one the value system, technical knowledge, social values, hard work

**Mentors cont'd on page 7**

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# LAMP Campus Highlights

## Tulane sponsors research training program

By Jannie Price  
LAMP Senior Project Coordinator  
Tulane University

Twenty Tulane LAMP scholars and three minority professors spent ten weeks on the Tulane University campus conducting research during the 1998 Tulane LAMP Summer Research Training Program.

The faculty researchers were Dr. Joe Omojola, assistant professor of physics and mathematics at Southern University at New Orleans; Dr. Murty Kambhampati, assistant professor of biology at Southern University New Orleans; and Dr. Divina Miranda, assistant professor of chemistry at Southern University New Orleans.

Dr. Omojola participated in the Digital Image Analysis Group lead by Dr. Ronaldo Luna, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at Tulane. Other team members included Tulane LAMP Scholars Jasmine Hopkins, who also served as the lead student researcher, Jessica Tyler and Marcus Howard.

The primary objective of the research was to apply image analysis techniques to study fiber reinforced soil as used in highway construction.

"The work was very rewarding," said Dr. Omojola. "It provided each member of the group the opportunity to work as a team, to set goals, to learn from one another, and to solve problems together."

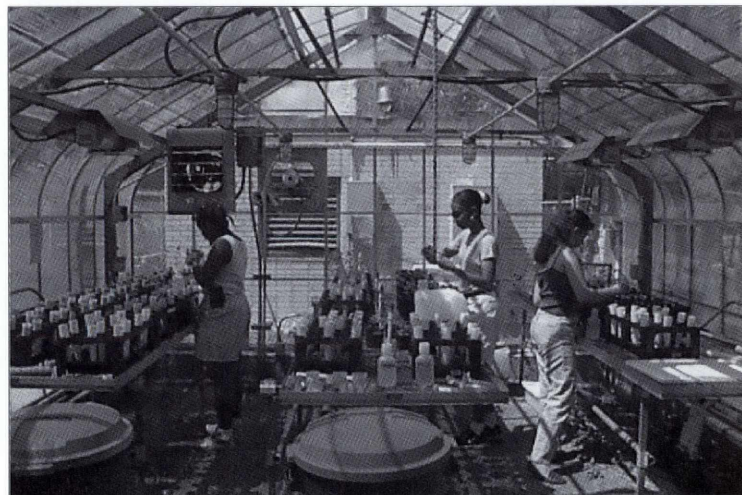
The student participants agreed that the experience was very rewarding because they were able to take part in a research program that gave them an opportunity to be responsible, learn about research methods, use laboratory tools and equipment, experiment with computer software and hardware, perform data analysis, and implement technical writing and presentation.

Dr. Kambhampati was part of the research team led by Dr. Julie Whitbeck, assistant professor of ecology, evolution and organismal biology at Tulane. This team included Tulane LAMP scholar and graduate Elena Florian, who served as the lead stu-



Tulane LAMP Campus Coordinator, Dr. Henry Bart and LAMP scholars Monita Chambers and Rheneisha Mable in the Mississippi River Basin catching specimen for their research entitled, "Field Assessment of Environmental Stress in the Fish Community of the Lower Mississippi River Basin."

(l to r) Tulane LAMP scholars Dana Bageon, Dionne Brown, and Elena Florian working in a greenhouse as part of their research entitled, "Impact of Heavy-metal pollution on Plant Growth, Production and Survival."



dent researcher on the project, Dana Bageon, and Dionne Brown. The team investigated the phytoremediation of lead-contaminated soils using radish and buckwheat plants under greenhouse conditions.

"As a whole, it was a great experience for my students as well as for myself in research and in the utilization of state-of-the-art instrumentation at Tulane University," said Dr. Kambhampati. His student team members presented their research at the Tulane LAMP Symposium, which was held August

6, 1998. They also presented their research findings at the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Conference in Tupelo, Miss. in February. Currently, the team is preparing manuscripts on its research findings to publish in a refereed journal by the middle of 1999.

Dr. Miranda's research team was lead by Dr. Russell Schemhl, Tulane chemistry professor. Other team members were Tulane LAMP scholars Pamela Dickerson and Renae

*Tulane cont'd on page 7*

# UNO Next Step completes its third year

By Dr. Milton Slaughter  
LAMP Campus Coordinator  
University of New Orleans

At the University of New Orleans (UNO) the primary activity of the Louisiana Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program is known locally as Next Step.

Next Step is a comprehensive and unique program designed specifically to sharpen and enhance the mathematics and physics academic skills of students by using gateway workshops and classes, summer research experiences, in-class and in-lab instructional activities in the summer, and during the academic year, by inviting eminent minority scientists to participate in the program as teachers, invited speakers, and scientific role models.

Courses of instruction for the Next

Step program are incorporated into the UNO curriculum and are designed to be an important factor in the preparation of these students for academic success in their quest for the bachelor's in the sciences, mathematics, or engineering. It is a broad-based program in that it attempts to systemically address the chief underlying weakness that undergraduate minorities in all SMET (science, mathematics, engineering, and technology) disciplines typically face such as the under-preparation in mathematics and physics. Students are selected based on their academic progress, interest, and attitude toward research.

The Next Step program has demonstrated that early exposure to research experiences greatly benefits student participants, particularly after they conclude their

sophomore year and then seek to enter more standardized summer research programs.

Progress in 1998 was particularly gratifying in that 50 students participated in the program and five students graduated.

Ernesto Diaz, sophomore UNO LAMP scholar pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science and Michael Reed, junior UNO LAMP scholar pursuing a B.S. in General Studies, completed an excellent project entitled *Visual Quantum Mechanics*. Diaz and Reed conducted research under the supervision of University Research Professor of Physics and Next Step Senior Project Coordinator Dr. A. Puri. The research project used light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to prove that LEDs are a significantly more energy efficient light source than traditional incandescent lamps.

## Scholarly Profile

**Jaqunda Patton**, Tulane LAMP Scholar

I participated in the LAMP Summer Research Internship program my freshman year at Tulane University. The internship targeted juniors, seniors and graduate students, but I knew I wanted to participate in research, so I didn't see any harm in applying. It was only by the grace of God that I was accepted into the program because I was not only a freshman, but my first semester grades were not very competitive.

During the summer, I worked with Dr. Victor Law, Tulane chemical engineering professor, in the F.M. Taylor Laboratory at Tulane. The title of my research project was "*The Effects of Wash Solution Concentrations on FCC Catalysts in the DEMET Process.*" I continued to work as a lab technician for the laboratory until the fall semester and have remained in the position since that time. I also conduct tutoring sessions in calculus and differential equations at the campus tutoring center.

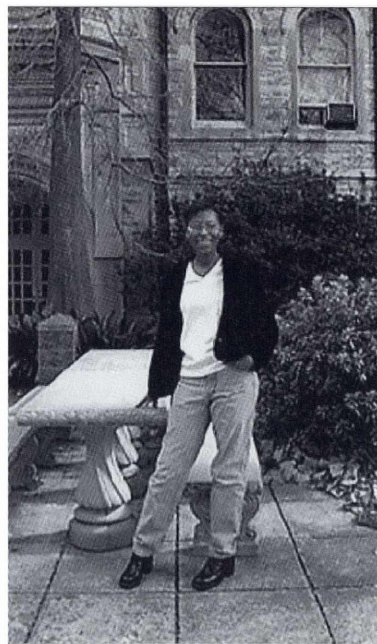
In March 1998, I was invited to present at the DOE/EPSCoR and LAMP Research Conference, which was a great experience. Because of my research in the LAMP program, I was given the chance to participate in a regional conference.

The summer of my junior year I interned as a reservoir engineer with Shell Offshore. While in that position, I presented a reservoir analysis of a prospect to my supervisors and mentor team. The analysis and presentation were two of my favorite parts of the summer. The training LAMP provided, including powerpoint and presentation training, made me an asset to the corporation.

Now, I am looking forward to participating in the Research Training program during the academic year. I also plan to intern in the corporate sector again this summer. In addition to my research, I have been preparing for the general and engineering GRE tests

and looking into various graduate schools. I have a strong desire to attend Georgia Institute of Technology for my post graduate studies.

As a freshman, I knew I wanted a master's degree in chemical engineering, but the wonderful experiences I have had and the people I have been exposed to, motivated me to move further in my educational career and pursue a Ph.D. In fact, I feel it would be a definite advantage considering my strong interest in research.



Jaqunda Patton also serves as the Executive Vice President for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Academic Excellence Chair for the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

# SUNO scholars on the move

Scholars, mentors participate in local, national summer research programs

By Dr. Vibhakar Dave  
LAMP Campus Coordinator  
Southern University-New Orleans

Six Southern University New Orleans (SUNO) LAMP scholars and three mentors conducted research during the 1998 fall and summer semesters.

Samuel Omoragbe, LAMP scholar and chemistry major, participated in a summer research program at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The title of Omoragbe's research project was "Electro-Chemical Analysis of Pharmaceutical Products: Cyclic Volumetric Analysis of Acetaminophen in Tablets." His research mentor was Dr. Duane Bartak.

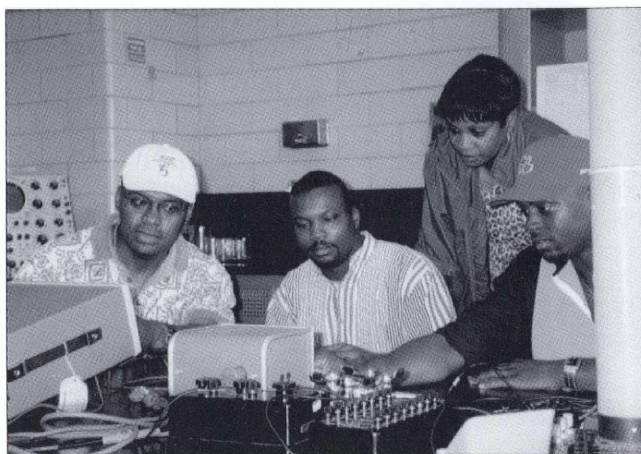
Derek Russ, SUNO scholar and physics major, participated in the 1998 Summer Research Program at Tulane University in New Orleans. Russ' research topic was "Recycling of Glass Fibers from Electronic Circuit Boards," under the supervision of

Dr. Brian Mitchell, Tulane professor of chemical engineering.

SUNO Scholar Keisha Moore conducted research at the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry under the supervision of Dr. L. Nakamoto, Louisiana State University physiology department. Moore's research

focus was "The Effects of Caffeine, Alcohol, and PGE<sub>2</sub> on Osteoblast Like Cells."

Three SUNO scholars and three mentors participated in Tulane University's Summer Research Training program. LAMP scholars Pamela Dickerson, Dana



(l to r) SUNO LAMP scholars Kevin Metz, Sexton Gregory, Pamela Dickerson, and Corvell Jones

Bageon, and Dionne Brown participated in the research program along with LAMP mentors, Dr. Murty Kambhampati, SUNO biology professor, Dr. Joe Omojola, SUNO physics professor, and Dr. Divina Miranda, SUNO chemistry professor.

## SUBR LAMP holds research symposium

By Dr. Mildred Smalley  
LAMP Campus Coordinator  
Southern University and A&M College

More than 500 students, faculty, and administrators attended the first annual LAMP Undergraduate Research Symposium at Southern University and A&M College-Baton Rouge, La., November 19-20, 1998.

The idea to conduct a symposium was an outgrowth of the roughly 50 percent increase in the number of SUBR SMET majors participating in research at SUBR, on other campuses, in governmental agencies, and in industries during the 1997-1998 academic year.

The objectives of the symposium were to: (1) provide an avenue for SUBR students to competitively present papers on their research to SUBR students, faculty, and administrators; (2) provide on-campus training to students in writing an abstract, preparing slides, transparencies, and posters, and the proper delivery of a 10 to 15 minute sci-

entific presentation; (3) expose students and faculty, who otherwise would not have an opportunity to attend an undergraduate research symposium, to scientific presentations and high caliber keynote speakers; and (4) market scientific research in an effort to encourage more students and faculty to become involved.

The first day of the symposium included a 75 minute plenary session. SUBR alumnus Dr. Albert Doucette, associate dean of the college of sciences at Southeastern Louisiana University, delivered the keynote address. His talk was very informative for the audience as he discussed his experiences as a biology major at Southern University.

The second day of the symposium was devoted to student presentations, a reception, and an awards banquet (courtesy of the Timbuktu Academy). The banquet speaker was Dr. Lynn W. Jelinski, LSU Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies.

The conference steering committee

selected 40 abstracts for presentation. First and second place awards (monetary prizes and a LAMP medallion) were given to students in six categories: (1) mathematics, physics, and engineering; (2) chemistry and agricultural sciences; (3) computer science; (4) biology; (5) psychology, sociology, and social work; and (6) poster session. The students' presentations were judged based on organization, clarity of presentation, style and delivery, response to questions, written abstract, and other (i.e. dress, appropriate acknowledgment, and general behavior). All presentations were video recorded and will be used for training and critiquing student presentations.

Evidence of the success of this first SUBR LLSAMP symposium was the attendance and support of SUBR Chancellor Edward Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Brenda Birkett, Honors College Dean Beverly Wade, and the deans and chairs of the colleges of science and engineering.

# LAMP Campus Highlights

## McNeese hosts reception to promote LAMP program

By Elizabeth Stevenson  
McNeese LAMP Counselor

The McNeese State University LAMP program hosted an informal reception in December to encourage science, mathematics, and engineering students to pursue biological or environmental science degrees at the university. The reception also provided the students an opportunity to learn more about LAMP and its goals and objectives.

Current and prospective scholars attended the reception which was held in Gayle Hall on the McNeese campus. Dr. George Mead, McNeese LAMP campus coordinator, led the discussion by presenting the goals and objectives established by the organizers of the Alliance.

Some of the key speakers during the reception were Dr. Whitney Harris, executive director of human relations/social equity at Tulane University, Dr. Mark Wygoda, head of the biological and environmental science department at Tulane University, and Dr. Harold Stevenson, Tulane University professor of environmental science.

Dr. Harris expressed concern over the lack of minority participation in the scientific fields and encouraged the students to work diligently to reach their goals. The students were very receptive to Dr. Wygoda, who gave an informative presentation on research experiences and opportunities. Dr. Stevenson suggested that McNeese develop an academic success class in which all LAMP students will have an opportunity to enroll.

Please visit the  
LAMP  
website at  
[www.phys.subr.edu/lamp](http://www.phys.subr.edu/lamp)

## Florida-Georgia AMP visits Southern University campus

By Marcus Dillon  
LAMP Scholar  
Southern University and  
A&M College

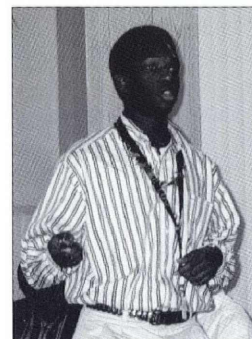
The Florida-Georgia AMP visited with the LAMP scholars at Southern University and A&M College-Baton Rouge, La., in an effort to explore new campuses and network with other science, mathematics and engineering students.

The Louisiana AMP sponsored a reception to welcome the Florida-Georgia scholars to the Southern University-Baton Rouge campus. More than 40 LL-SAMP scholars and ten FGAMP scholars attended the reception, along with FGAMP Academic Coordinator Jason Black and SUBR mentors and administrators.

During the reception, the scholars openly expressed their gratitude to the Alliance for its financial support and mentoring efforts. Many of the scholars mentioned how the national research conferences and internships impacted their study habits, presentation ability, and attitude toward research. Most of the students said the Alliance influenced them to continue their education and earn a Ph.D. Some of



(Above) FGAMP Scholar Lloyd Hill addresses the group about his experience in the AMP program.



LAMP Scholar Marcus Dillon

the scholars were even brave enough to showcase their talent through poetry reading, singing and instrumentals.

The day after the reception, the SUBR scholars gave the Florida-Georgia visitors a tour of the Baton Rouge campus, making stops at SU's Scott's Bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River, and Lake Kernan with its flowing fountains.

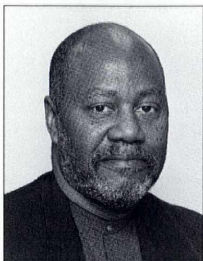
The scholars and administrators agreed that the visit was an invaluable experience which allowed the students to network and make lifelong connections that could assist them in their respective careers.

Individuals who would like to be added to the LAMP Journal mailing list should contact **Dawn Stephens, LAMP Journal Editor**, at (225) 771-2777, fax (225) 771-3361, email [dsteph2422@aol.com](mailto:dsteph2422@aol.com) OR [lampsubr@concentric.net](mailto:lampsubr@concentric.net)

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

# The five-mile race:

*Vision, approach, commitment, progress, success*



By Robert L. Ford  
LAMP Project Director

How time passes! We have just entered the 4th mile of the 5-mile race we began as the Louisiana Alliance for Minority

Participation (LAMP) in partnership with NSF, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and 11 higher education institutions around the state. Our challenge is simple. We are to affect the nature of Louisiana institutions and educational establishment to dramatically increase the success of minority students earning B.S. degrees in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET).

From the time we began our activities in 1995, buzzwords like Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and performance-based budgeting have become expectations of programs like ours. In this commentary, I will recap our approach and progress. I will also share a bit of my vision for moving this enterprise.

We entered into a 5-year cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation in 1995, committing Louisiana to increasing bachelors degree awards to minority SMET majors from about 500 in 1995 to about 1,000 in 2001. We began with a simple approach, looking to meet our goal by having the participating institutions to greatly increase in degree production, and thus achieve our overall goal.

All participating institutions needed an infusion of resources for activating a campus-based program that would extend across the SMET domain and link to vital institutional support areas. We promoted the role of research institutions as training grounds for minority students in summer

research experience. These investments led to few direct outputs consistent with our short-term goals. We now recognize that the larger producers of undergraduate SMET graduates will be capacity bound where they actually double their outputs.

We know that some of the traditionally small minority degree producers must go beyond doubling, as doubling a current production level of 5 to 10 in five years is not a significant return. This brings me to the realization that a more strategic approach is required. We begin by refining a strategic resource allocation system for Year 4. Such a system will be more objective, results driven, performance based, infrastructure developed, and creatively planned and implemented for years four and five.

As we look to the future, let me inform you that I announced to the Louisiana EPSCoR Committee that LLSAMP intends to submit a proposal to NSF for Phase II funding. Since the EPSCoR Committee makes recommendations to the State Board of Regents Support Fund Planning Committee and to the Board of Regents relative to matching funds, we are positioning ourselves for continued Regents' support. We are talking with Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation project directors who have begun Phase II programs to help guide our approach.

Funding agencies look for outcomes and outputs commensurate with their investments. Clearly, we must enhance the management of the LLSAMP enterprise in a way that yields outcomes and outputs consistent with our cooperative agreement commitments and with the environment in which we operate. We are being called upon to be strategic in the use of these scarce resources so that we can create a competitive and diverse workforce for the 21st Century. I say we are up to the challenge.

# Evaluation: the evidence of quality



By Luria Shaw  
LAMP Evaluation  
Coordinator

Internal and external constituencies in higher education make clear that the quality of university-based projects is coming under more intense scrutiny. Evidences are plentiful.

Intensified national interest in quality, topics of quality at national conferences, and discussions about quality at the highest levels of the executive and legislative branches of government—all point toward an intensified concern for quality.

Those concerned about quality are doing exactly what leadership in any organized enterprise should be doing—asking questions of purpose and performance. What are we trying to achieve? How good a job are we doing and how do we know? These are simple but penetrating questions, appropriate to any sector of our national life and certainly no less important for the Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and LAMP principal investigators and administrators need to know in a timely manner what this project is accomplishing and what is impeding its successes. This need accurately depicts the mandate for evaluation. Soundly conducted evaluation studies as well as a wide dissemination of project outcomes will greatly enhance LAMP's attainment of quality.

## Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium 1999 Summer Field Courses

LUMCON is offering a variety of courses this summer. One of the newer courses is Coral Reef Ecology, which is partially taught in the Florida Keys. For application information, contact Dr. Paul Sammarco at (504) 851-2876 or email [psammarco@lumcon.edu](mailto:psammarco@lumcon.edu).

Intro. to Marine Science (4 credits)  
Date: May 31-July 3  
Instructors: R. Powell  
J. Trowbridge

Teaching Methods for Field Inquiry (1 credit)  
Date: June 6-June 13  
Instructor: J. Trowbridge

Marine Ecology (4 credits)  
Instructors: P. Klerks  
D. Felder

Ocean/River Interactions (3 credits)  
Date: July 12-July 24  
Instructors: M. Dagg  
B. McKee  
J. Day

Coral Reef Ecology (3 credits)  
Date: May 31-June 19  
Instructor: P. Sammarco

Cetacean Field Studies (3 credits)  
Date: June 28-July 10  
Instructor: J. Stern

Mariculture (4 credits)  
Date: July 5-July 31  
Instructors: E. Chesney  
J. Hawk  
R. Romaine, G. Thomas

Wetland Vegetation (2 credits)  
Date: July 19-July 31  
Instructor: J. Visser

# MainSTey in New Orleans

## 'People, Technology, and all that JAZZ'

By Stacey Thomas  
LAMP-MainSTey  
Graduate Assistant

A great philosopher once said, "one truly learns, when one is having fun." If that philosophy holds true, what better place to have the 11th annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM) than New Orleans.

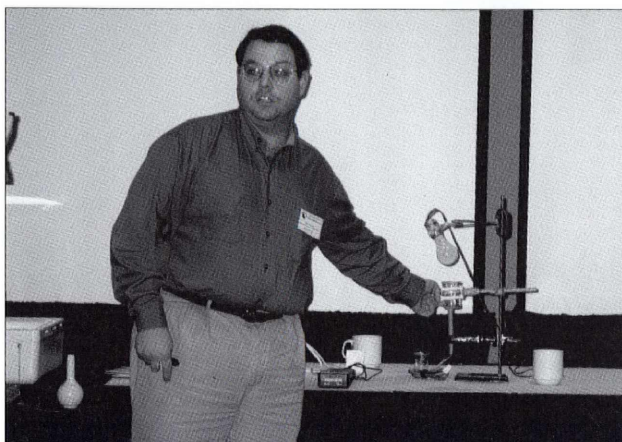
The ICTCM Conference continues

to be at the forefront of technology in mathematics education with exciting topics and workshops in web-based mathematical courses, distance learning, calculator usage, and a host of other developmental trends of the future.

There were at least 1,400 scientists, mathematicians and scholars who traveled to New Orleans to attend the conference, in addition to a variety of conference exhibitors. The theme of the conference, "People, Technology, and all that Jazz," not only incorporates the diverse backgrounds of the conference participants, but also the diversity of the MainSTey participants. The collegiate diversity among participating institutions range from small, rural-based HBCUs to large, urban institutions.

Just as the Crescent City takes center stage for ICTCM, New Orleans was also the site for the Fall MainSTey Workshop. The MainSTey participants received a double dose of information. The participants demonstrated activities they created in fulfillment of the MainSTey project objectives, one of which is to develop and distribute a calculator-based instruction workbook.

Each institutional representative shared



Dr. Mark Morvant, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas, demonstrates his workbook experiment during the 1998 fall workshop.

some of the methods used to implement the calculator into their classes. The participants also listened to presentations given by the project consultants to get a clear idea of the types of projects to be included in the workbook. The knowledge and insight the participants received during the conference and workshop has enhanced creativity and the development of the workbook activities.

All in all, the conference theme, "People, Technology, and all that Jazz," states best what is envisioned for the MainSTey project and what the participants gained from participating in the ICTCM conference.

It is important to educators to make connections and network through various forms of technology to enhance mathematics classrooms.

While working to achieve this goal, the MainSTey participants had a good time. After all, they were in New Orleans! So if the philosophy holds true, the participants did learn many things while attending both the Fall MainSTey workshop and the ICTCM Conference.

"Merci beaucoup New Orleans, laissez le bon temps rouler!" (Thanks New Orleans and let the good times roll!)



Dr. Zahir Quereshi, Rust College

### Mentors...

cont'd from page 1

habit, behavioral pattern and other attributes for the future," said Bagayoko.

"The typical mentee will have the wisdom, knowledge, skills and temperament of many mentors, and when you add those up, the chances are they will be better than any individual one of (the mentors)," said Bagayoko.

Dr. Warner said, "... a mentor goes that extra step and takes a personal interest in a student."

"Students run into a brick wall, and think they can't go anywhere else. But I tell them they can go around the brick wall or over the brick wall. There's always a way to go," said Warner.

Dr. Pang advises and supports at least 30 undergraduate students. Last semester, the students he mentored included three black Ph.D. students, one of which is LAMP Affiliate and SU Engineering Professor, Dr. Michael Stubblefield. Dr. Pang's program aims to bring together SU and Louisiana State University by including students from both schools.

Adapted from the "Star Mentors" article printed in the *Morning Advocate*, Sunday, Jan. 3, 1999.

### Tulane...

Cont'd from page 2

Garret. The title of the research project was "Preparation of Luminescent Polymers as Recognition Units for Metal Ion Sensing." The research involved making sensors for particular transition ions using polymeric ruthenium (RU II) bipyridyl complexes as chromophores.

"The research experience I gained this summer was very rewarding and fulfilling," said Dr. Miranda. "It gave me an opportunity to learn new synthetic and analytical techniques which I can pass on to my students at SUNO."

Currently, Dr. Miranda is developing an electrochemistry experiment, which she intends to incorporate in her Instrumental Analysis Class this semester. Because of the working relationship Dr. Miranda has with the team's lead investigator, she is planning to use the research results to write a proposal. If funded, it will be a good opportunity to further develop undergraduate research at SUNO.

# Statewide LLSAMP Offices

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