

NEWS/EVENTS



College Hosts Math/Science Week for Middle Schoolers

Monday, June 23, was the start of five science-filled days for 24 rising eighth graders from Sherwood Middle School. The students participated in Math/Science week, June 23-27, hosted by the LSU College of Science. Each day the middle schoolers took part in fun hands-on activities to expose them to the various programs offered in the college.

"Programs like LSU Math/Science week help expose students to math and science fields early in their academic journey. The College of Science faculty and staff have worked diligently to provide exciting experiences that will inspire our next generation of scientific innovators and discoverers. Our goal is to ignite an excitement for math and science that students can carry through middle and high school and into their college careers," said Guillermo Ferreyra, interim dean, LSU College of Science.

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LSU Tops in the Nation at Awarding Chemistry Ph.D. Degrees to Women and African Americans

LSU is the top university in the nation in granting Ph.D. degrees in chemistry to women and underrepresented minority students, according to a study published in the Journal of Chemical Education.

The study cites LSU's growth specifically in chemistry Ph.D. degrees awarded to women – 49 percent growth from 2005-09 – and African-American students – 19 percent growth from 2005-09. LSU is also the top university listed, with 11 percent growth from 2005-2009, in the number of chemistry Ph.D. degrees awarded to all groups of underrepresented minority students.

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LSU Scientist Assists in Discovery of Carnivorous Rat in Indonesia

Jacob Esselstyn, curator of mammals at LSU's Museum of Natural Science, was part of a research team that discovered a carnivorous water rat in central Indonesia. The species was previously known only to local people in the western highlands of Sulawesi Island, and has been used as a talisman by area residents to protect homes from fire.

Published in the zoological taxonomy journal Zootaxa, the discovery of the new genus and species of mammal, *Waiomys mamasae*, documents the first known water rat from Sulawesi and the wider Southeast Asian region.

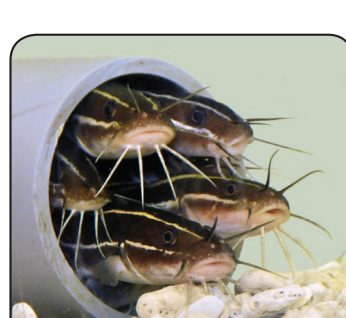
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LSU Researchers Discover New Eyeless Cavefish, First From U.S. in 40 Years

Researchers from LSU's Museum of Natural Science and the University of Kentucky have discovered the first new U.S. cavefish species in 40 years. The new eyeless cavefish is described from Indiana and named in part after the Indiana Hoosiers. The discovery was published in the open access journal ZooKeys.

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LSU Biologist, Colleagues Identify Unique Way Catfish Locate Prey

Animals incorporate a number of unique methods for detecting prey, but for the Japanese sea catfish, *Plotosus japonicus*, it is especially tricky given the dark murky waters where it resides. John Caprio, George C. Kent Professor of Biological Sciences at LSU, and colleagues from Kagoshima University, Japan, have identified that these fish are equipped with sensors that can locate prey by detecting slight changes in the water's pH level.

A paper, "Marine teleost locates live prey through pH sensing," detailing the work of Caprio and his research partners, will be published in the journal Science, June 6. This is the first report of any fish using pH to find live prey.

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Chemistry Graduate Students Host 11th National Graduate Research Polymer Conference

LSU Department of Chemistry graduate students hosted the 11th National Graduate Research Polymer Conference, June 1 -3, 2014 at the Lod Cook Alumni Center at LSU. The biennial conference was awarded to LSU by the Polymer Division of the American Chemical Society, or ACS. Over 100 polymer science graduate students from 11 states presented their research and learned about career opportunities in polymer science.

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Geology Faculty, Students Attend GSA Rocky Mountain and Cordilleran Meeting

The LSU Department of Geology & Geophysics had a strong presence at the 2014 joint Rocky Mountain and Cordilleran section meeting of the Geological Society of America, or GSA, held in Bozeman, MT, May 19-21. LSU participants included undergraduate student Eleanor Smith, Adolphe G. Gueymard Professor in Geology & Geophysics Barbara Dutrow, and Campanile Charities Professor in Geology & Geophysics Darrell Henry. The meeting was an ideal venue to exhibit their research efforts in Idaho and Montana. These presentations included a poster by Smith and talks by Dutrow and Henry.

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Left to right: Professors Darrell Henry and Barbara Dutrow with undergraduates Ely Smith and Chrissy Allen of the University of Florida on a Belt Basin field trip

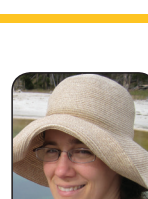
KUDOS



S. Bentley



G. González



K. Luttrell



A. Perlis

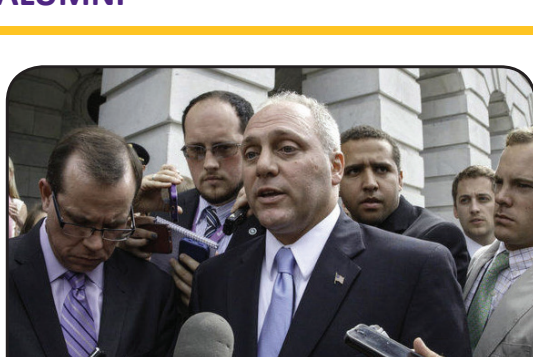
Sam Bentley, Billy and Ann Harrison Chair in Sedimentary Geology and director of the LSU Coastal Studies Institute, has been invited to serve on the Framework Development Team, or FDT, of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana. For the next three years, Bentley will be the academic member for the FDT, an upper level advisory team of stakeholders and experts to help guide development of the state's 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

Gabriela González, professor of physics and astronomy, has been appointed chair of the committee that will select the winner of the prestigious Einstein Prize for the American Physical Society. The Einstein Prize recognizes outstanding accomplishments in the field of gravitational physics.

Karen Luttrell, assistant professor of geology and geophysics, was featured in the May 27 issue of *Eos*. The article "Yellowstone geysers influenced by internal processes" details the study of 10 years of geyser eruption data of two Yellowstone geysers: "Old Faithful" and "Daisy." ▶▶ [More](#)

Alex Perlis, computer system administrator for the Department of Mathematics, and Susan Marshall from Monmouth University are recipients of the 2014 Halmos-Ford award from the Mathematical Association of America for their paper "Heronian Tetrahedra Are Lattice Tetrahedra," which appeared in the February issue of *American Mathematical Monthly*. ▶▶ [More](#)

ALUMNI



Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Jefferson, who leads a conservative faction of lawmakers in the Republican Study Committee, speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 19, 2014

LSU Alum Elected to House Majority Whip

Rep. Steve Scalise, R-Jefferson, was elected House majority whip Thursday -- elevating him to the No. 3 leadership post for House Republicans. He is Louisiana's first member of the House leadership since 1999.

Scalise beat out two other challengers, Reps. Marlin Stutzman of Indiana and Peter Roskam of Illinois, winning on the first ballot.

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DEVELOPMENT



ExxonMobil, Its Employees and Retirees Give More than \$1.3 Million to LSU Foundation

ExxonMobil presented a check for \$967,375.95 to the LSU Foundation as part of the ExxonMobil Foundation's 2013 Educational Matching Gift Program.

The gift, announced during an on-campus breakfast May 7, represents the ExxonMobil Foundation match of 2013 employee, retiree and surviving family member donations of more than \$386,000 to LSU, the LSU AgCenter and the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. With the ExxonMobil Foundation match, the total commitment from ExxonMobil, its employees and retirees was more than \$1.3 million, and continues the company's longstanding support for LSU.

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Support Research and Scholarship at LSU

Join the LSU College of Science

DEAN'S CIRCLE

The Dean's Circle (DC) is a loyal group of alumni and friends who share a passion for advancing scholarship and research at LSU. DC members are playing an ever-increasing role in supporting the college's **Formula for Excellence** Strategic Plan. Our DC provides the working capital needed to fund pursuits of the College including, but not limited to:

- scholarships for first-time freshmen to attend pre-college boot camps,
- student organizations and educational travel expenses,
- faculty recruitment and recognition activities, and
- development initiatives that build alumni and community relations.

Dean's Circle membership recognizes the generosity of alumni and friends who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Science Development Fund. Members enjoy invitations to events hosted by the college, including the annual Dean's Circle dinner and Hall of Distinction Ceremony, special communications from the dean throughout the year, and opportunities to meet and network with college leadership and other members.

To join by mail, make your check payable to "LSU Foundation-Science Dean's Circle" and mail your check to: LSU Foundation, 3838 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

To donate online go to www.lsufoundation.org/givetoscience.

CONTACT US:

For more information on the Dean's Circle, please contact Adrian Owen, aowen@lsu.edu, 225.578.5100.

▶▶ To submit news items for the upcoming College of Science E-News, e-mail djenkins1@lsu.edu

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