

NEWS/EVENTS



Boyd Professor

By Brenda Macon

A Pinnacle of Recognition

Some of the College of Science's most distinguished scientists, educators, and researchers were highlighted in an online feature about LSU Boyd Professors. The Boyd Professorship, the highest professorial rank awarded by the LSU System, is given only to professors who have attained national or international distinction for outstanding teaching, research, or other creative achievement. Since its establishment in 1953, there have been 67 Boyd professors named, 21 of which are in the College of Science. [▶▶ More](#)



LSU Welcomes SuperMike II

New supercomputer can run 7,000 programs simultaneously

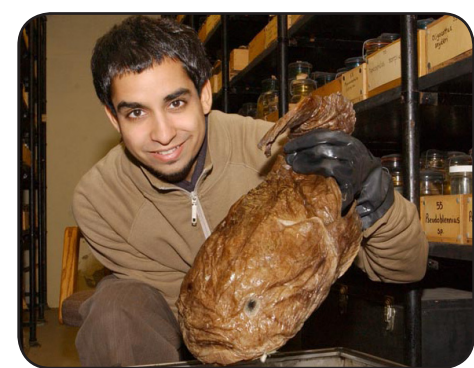
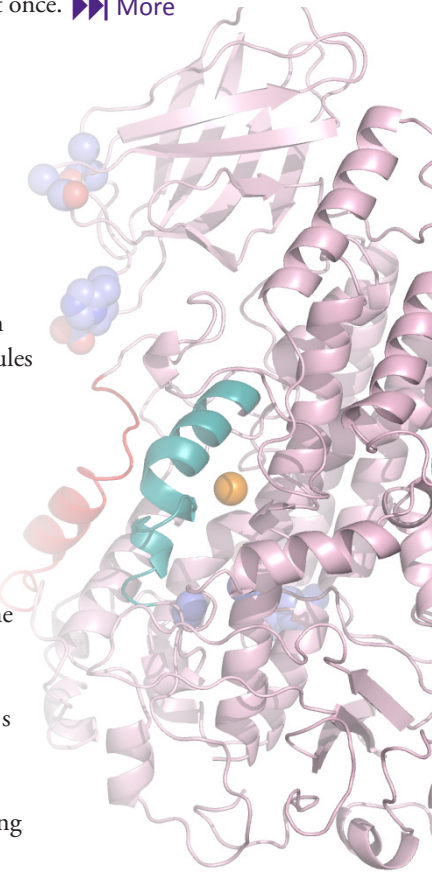
Made up of two rows of six-and-a-half foot computer towers, with six racks per row, LSU's third generation supercomputer SuperMike II will be put to widespread use beginning February 1.

SuperMike II has the capacity of 440 desktop computers with the capability of running 7,000 different programs simultaneously. With 10 times the processing capability of Tezpur, the second generation machine installed in 2007, and 100 times the power of LSU's original SuperMike supercomputer brought on-line in 2002, SuperMike II will be shared by a number of different scientists and engineers, who need a machine capable of tackling multiple complex equations at once. [▶▶ More](#)



LSU Biochemist Develops New Drugs to Treat Inflammatory Diseases

Marcia Newcomer, George C. Kent Professor of Biological Sciences and 2012 AAAS Fellow is now putting X-ray crystallography and other structural biology techniques to work for the development of new drugs for inflammatory diseases. Newcomer is using synchrotron radiation resources found at CAMD to decipher the shapes of molecules important for new drug development. [▶▶ More](#)



LSU Kicks Off Science Café Series with Curator of Fishes Prosanta Chakrabarty

LSU faculty, students and friends gathered on Tuesday, Jan. 29, for the first installation of the Science Café series. The monthly event allows people the opportunity to ask questions and interact with some of LSU's top faculty like Prosanta Chakrabarty, curator of fishes at LSU's Museum of Natural Science. The event took place at Chelsea's Cafe, where nearly 50 people listened to Chakrabarty share stories of cave diving in Madagascar, exploring fish markets in Taiwan and discovering new species all around the world. Chakrabarty's talk also included a discussion of his discoveries leading to proof of continental drift.

Chelsea's provided a buffet of free food and drink specials for those who attended, and prizes were given away throughout the event. People of all ages are welcome to attend the series. The next Science Café is scheduled for February 26, at 6 p.m. For more about the series, contact Ashley Berthelot at aberth4@lsu.edu.



Take a look at video from the 2012 international Birding Rally Challenge in Peru. The LSU Tigrisomas won first place registering 493 bird species. [▶▶ Video](#)

KUDOS



Christopher Austin



Sam Bentley



Michael Malisoff



John Pojman



The world's tiniest vertebrate discovered by **Christopher Austin**, associate professor of biological sciences and head curator of amphibians & reptiles in the LSU Museum of Natural Science, has made national news once again ranking #65 in Discover magazine's 100 Top Stories of 2012. Recently, Austin discussed scientific exploration and his discoveries in Papua New Guinea during Forum 35s January Forum Friday. [▶▶ More](#)

Sam Bentley, Billy and Ann Harrison Chair of Sedimentology and associate professor of geology & geophysics, has been named director of the LSU Coastal Studies Institute (CSI). The CSI has long been an unique component of LSU's research portfolio with contributions directly affecting the preservation of Louisiana's coastal wetlands. [▶▶ More](#)

Michael Malisoff has been named Roy Paul Daniels Professor of Mathematics. Malisoff also serves on the editorial boards of IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control and Systems and Control Letters. He has been awarded more than \$1 million in federal research grants, including two three-year grants from the NSF Mathematical Sciences Priority Area Program. He has also contributed more than 70 publications to control theory and its applications. [▶▶ More](#)

John Pojman, professor of chemistry, has been selected by the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) to serve as a member of the Italian Committees granting the National Scientific Qualification. For the next two years, Pojman will serve as the foreign member of a commission evaluating applicants for promotion to associate and full professor in applied chemistry at Italian Universities.

STAR SCHOLARS



Journey to Antarctica

Peyton Adkins, pre-med English literature major, is more than three months into his journey to Antarctica with the Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling Project, or WISSARD, which is funded in part by NSF.

Since November 19, Adkins has been blogging about his experience studying the microbiological aspects of subglacial streams and lakes found hundreds of meters below Antarctica's ice sheet.

You can follow Peyton's Journey on the LSU Research News Page. [▶▶ More](#)



l to r: Myron Minn-Thu-Aye, Laura Rider, Joel Geiger, Timothy Shatley, Jesse Taylor, Jake Blanton, Jacob Matherne, and Irina Holmes

The following faculty and students were recognized during the LSU Department of Mathematics Fall 2012 Awards.

- **Laura Rider**, Pasquale Porcelli Award for Graduate Research Excellence
- **Yi Zhang**, Pasquale Porcelli Certificate of Research Excellence
- **Jacob Blanton and Jesse Taylor**, David Oxley Graduate Student Teaching Award
- **Joel Geiger, Irina Holmes, Jacob Matherne, Myron Minn-Thu-Aye, and Timothy Shatley**, Certificates of Teaching Excellence
- **Professor Jacek Cygan**, recognized more than 30 years of distinguished service to the department upon his retirement

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