

Speaking of Science

A Science & Engineering Speakers' Bureau



Sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Board of Regents' Louisiana Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Need a speaker?

Speaking of Science (SoS) speakers are counted among the State's finest teaching and research talent in the science and engineering disciplines. They tailor their presentations to their respective audiences and are available free of charge for presentations to groups of K-16 students, educators, parents, and general audiences throughout Louisiana. To find the most current list of presentations, please visit our Website at <http://web.laregents.org/programs/epscor-programs/speaking-of-science-sos/>

Sampling of Topics Offered

Computer



Mathematics



Physics



Biology

Astronomy



Medicine



Chemistry

Engineering



Geology



Environmental Sciences

Program Objectives

- * To spark the interest of students in the science and engineering professions.
- * To increase public awareness of exciting research and development in Louisiana.
- * To showcase the state's leading scientists and their cutting-edge research.

To Schedule a Presentation: Scheduling is easy! Just complete a short SoS Presentation Request Form, which you may obtain by calling Susan Jernigan at the Board of Regents (225) 342-4253, and faxing the form to (225) 342-3371, or by completing an on-line form on our website at <http://web.laregents.org/programs/epscor-programs/speaking-of-science-sos/>

Presentation Length: Most presentations are designed for a one-hour session. However, a speaker may be able to adjust his or her presentation to meet the needs of the requesting organization. Please specify any time limits when scheduling a presentation.


Take a look at what SoS has to offer!

The presentations listed below are arranged by audience and subject area. Please contact our office for more information on each topic. Unless otherwise indicated, K-12 presentation topics are appropriate for all grade levels under which they are listed. **K-12 topics listed with an asterisk (*) are also appropriate for presentations to parents and those listed with a plus sign (+) are also appropriate for presentations to K-12 educators.**

Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Dr. Diane A. Blake, Professor, Tulane University School of Medicine

"Let's make slime! Atoms, molecules and how they move"

Dr. Sumeet Dua, Professor and Coordinator of IT Research, Louisiana Tech University 

"From Facebook to Cyber Warfare: The Triumph of Information and Data Mining"

"Data Mining for Cybersecurity Applications: Opportunities and challenges"

Dr. Gary L. Kinsland, Pioneer Production Endowed Professor of Geology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

"The Chicxulub Impact: The Collision That Killed the Dinosaurs"*+

"Think the Land is Flat Around Lafayette? Let's Look with Lasers!" *+

Dr. Patricia Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans

"Girls Can Be Scientists"

Dr. Judith Schiebout, Associate Curator, LSU Museum of Natural Science, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University and A&M College (Baton Rouge only)

"Why Dinosaurs Didn't Live in Louisiana but Giant Camels Did?"*+

6th - 8th Grade

General Science and Education

Dr. Diane A. Blake, Professor, Tulane University School of Medicine

"Let's make slime! Atoms, molecules and how they move"

Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood, Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Geology of America's National Park Areas"*+

"Geology Around the World"*+

Dr. Steven Hall, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University Agriculture Center


"Faith and Reason: Historical and Current Relations between Science and Religion"*+


Dr. Patricia Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans


"Girls Can Be Scientists"

Dr. Su-Seng Pang, Jack Holmes Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College


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"Funding for Graduate Studies - Strategies for Developing Winning Scholarship Proposals" 

"Strategies for Developing Winning Education/Research Proposals" 

"Composite Materials: Manufacturing, Properties, and Design" 

Biological Sciences

Dr. Omar E. Christian, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, McNeese State University

"Eat Your Colors: Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant Activity from Fruits"

"Fungi Gone Crazy"

"Natural Products Chemistry: Exploring Nature's Medicine Chest"


Dr. Ron W. Darbeau, Associate Professor and Chemistry Department Head, McNeese State University

"Chemicals, the Environment, and You"*+

Dr. Thomas G. Dobie, Professor, Director and Human Engineering Head, University of New Orleans

"Myths and Memories Surrounding Motion Sickness"

"Preventing Seasickness and Other Forms of Motion Discomfort"*+

Dr. Sumeet Dua, Professor and Coordinator of IT Research, Louisiana Tech University 

"What more can your data do for you? Discovering Gold from your data using Data Mining"

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"From Video-gaming to Designing drugs: Pursuing a career in Computer Science and preparing for the next revolution"

"Student Interdisciplinary Computing Research: Motivation and Opportunities"

Dr. Dalton R. Gossett, Professor of Biological Sciences, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

"Believe It or Not: Plants Also Suffer From Stress"*+

Dr. Steven G. Hall, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"Scarebots: Autonomous Vehicles Help Farmers and the Environment"*+

"Thinking Like a Fish: Engineering in Aquaculture"*+

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"How Alcohol Intoxication Can Affect How the Body Responds to Injury" (8th grade only)

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"An Atom's Eye View..How Computers Aid in the Design of New Materials."

Dr. Heath Tims, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 

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Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Dr. Gary F. Birkenmeier, Professor of Mathematics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

"Careers in Mathematics and Mathematical Research"*+ (8th grade only)

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"What more can your data do for you? Discovering Gold from your data using Data Mining"

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Dr. John J. Matese, Professor of Physics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

"Comets and Craters"

Dr. Daniel McCarthy, Associate Professor and Chemistry and Physics Department Head, Southeastern Louisiana University

"Fusion Energy: Creating a Star on Earth"*+

"The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them." - Sir William Bragg

9th - 12th Grade

Biological Sciences

Dr. Quang V. Cao, Professor of Forestry, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"Let's Measure Trees"+

"Can You Guess How Fast Trees Grow?"

Dr. Marion Carroll, Assistant Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana

"Navigating the Superhighway of Genomic Information"

"So You Want to Know It All... Be a Biochemist in the 21st Century"

Dr. Omar E. Christian, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, McNeese State University

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"Science Blogging: the Good, the Bad, and How to Start Your Own" 

"Astrobiology at LSU: IS there Extraterrestrial Life in the Universe?" 

"Science in Plays and Movies: Science Fact versus Science Fiction" 

Dr. Joanne Cain Marier, Section Chief of Health Law and Medical Ethics, LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans

"Medical Ethics: Framework and Case Studies"


"Allocation of Resources in Critical Care"

"End of Life Decision Making: A Summary of Advance Directives"

"Informed Consent: Elements and Scope"

"Human Research: Advancing Knowledge While Protecting Human Subjects"

Dr. Mark Merchant, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, McNeese State University

"The American Alligator: From Marsh to Medicine"*+ 

Dr. Patricia Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans

"How Alcohol Intoxication Can Affect How the Body Responds to Injury" (8th grade only)

"Girls Can Be Scientists"

Dr. Frank Rohwer, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"A Year in the Life of a Hen Mallard: Raising the Kids and Avoiding Foxes, Falcons, and Elmer Fudd"*+

"Wildlife Research at LSU: Black Bears, Alligators, Cranes, Wetlands, Waterfowl and Quail"*+

Dr. Judith Schiebout, Associate Curator, LSU Museum of Natural Science, and Adjunct Associate Professor of Geology and Geophysics, Louisiana State University and A&M College

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Dr. Jeremy Mhire, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 

"Cyber-Space, Cyber-Technology and Cyber-Citizenship: Old Issues Meet New Technology in the 21st Century"*+

"Do I Really Know What I Think I Know?: Thinking Critically About Issues in Cyber-Space"*+

Dr. Rastko Selmic, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech University 

"Flying Sensors"*+

Dr. Heath Tims, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 

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Earth and Environmental Sciences

Dr. Quang V. Cao, Professor of Forestry, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"Let's Measure Trees"+

"Can You Guess How Fast Trees Grow?"

Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood, Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College


"Did Impacts of Extraterrestrial Objects Often Play a Major Role in Past Extinctions of Life on Earth?"**+

"The Search for the Grave of the Famous Two-Gun Outlaw Wild Bill Longley: Did He Survive His Hanging?"**+

"Geology of America's National Park Areas"*+

"Geology Around the World"*+

"Investigation of the LSU Campus Mounds: Using Scientific Methods and Coring Techniques" (8th grade)

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Dr. Brian S. Mitchell, Professor, Tulane University


"From Silly Putty to Superconductors: Careers in Materials Science and Engineering"*+


"There is a single light of science, and to brighten it anywhere is to brighten it everywhere." - Isaac Asimov

Dr. Su-Seng Pang, Jack Holmes Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College


"Integration of Education and Mentoring Programs at a University" 

"Strategic Initiatives in Enhancing Student Diversity at a University" 

"Preparing Diverse Scholars for Diverse Experiences: Mentoring Graduate Students from Diverse Backgrounds" 


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Dr. Arturo J. Mendez, D.D.S., M.Sc., Professor and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics, Louisiana State University, Health Sciences Center


"Advances in the field of Dentistry and Prosthodontics"*+


"Prosthodontic solutions to complex cases"*+

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"Is a career in dentistry for me?"*+

Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Dr. Scott Beslin, Professor, Nicholls State University

"Pi For Dessert: A Mathematics Sampler"

Dr. Gary F. Birkenmeier, Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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"Applications of Abstract Algebra"*+


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Dr. Vladimir Kolesnichenko, Assistant Professor, Xavier University

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Dr. John J. Matese, Professor of Physics, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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"Composite Materials: Manufacturing, Properties, and Design" *

Dr. Steven Rick, Assistant Professor, University of New Orleans

"Water in Protein Interiors"

"The Exotic Behavior of Ordinary Ice"

Dr. Leonard Spinu, Assistant Professor, University of New Orleans

"From Chemistry Lab to Computer Hard Disk"

Dr. Wanjun Wang, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Small Things Make Big Contributions to Medicine"



The following topics are appropriate for K-12 parents (*) and educators (+):

Dr. Moustapha Diack, Associate Professor, Southern University and A&M College

"Road Map to Integrating Instructional Multimedia in K-12 Classrooms: Alignment to the National Content Standards"+

"Web 2.0 Technology and Teacher education"

"E-Learning and Educational Multimedia"+

- Dr. Sumeet Dua, Professor and Coordinator of IT Research, Louisiana Tech University 
 "From Facebook to Cyber Warfare: The Triumph of Information and Data Mining"*+
 "Data Mining for Cybersecurity Applications: Opportunities and Challenges"
 "What does your Genetic Profile and Facebook Profile have in common: Personalized Data Mining for Knowledge Discovery"
 "Information Fusion and Data Mining Paradigms for the Cyber Domain: Computational Frameworks and Algorithmic Challenges:
 "From Bio-informatics to Cyber-Informatics: *The Tsunami of Data and the Discovery of Knowledge*"
- Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood, Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "Geology of America's National Park Areas"*+
 "Geology Around the World"*+
 "Investigation of the LSU Campus Mounds: Using Scientific Methods and Coring Techniques" (8th grade)
- Dr. C. Edward Ferguson, Assistant Professor, McNeese State University 
 "Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Farm Animals and Humans"
 "Biotechnology in Animal Production and Human Medicine"
 "Stress in Farm Animals"
- Dr. Steven Hall, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "Faith and Reason: Historical and Current Relations between Science and Religion"
- Dr. Gary Kinsland, Pioneer Production Endowed Professor of Geology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 "Think the Land is Flat Around Lafayette? Let's Look with Lasers!"*+
- Dr. Arturo J. Mendez, D.D.S., M.Sc., Professor and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics, Louisiana State University, Health Sciences Center
 "Advances in the field of Dentistry and Prosthodontics"*+
 "Prosthodontic solutions to complex cases"*+
- Dr. Jeremy Mhire, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 
 "Cyber-Space, Cyber-Technology and Cyber-Citizenship: Old Issues Meet New Technology in the 21st Century"*+
 "Do I Really Know What I Think I Know? Thinking Critically About Issues in Cyber-Space"*+
- Dr. Patricia E. Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans
 "Alcohol Use By Teenagers: How Prevalent Is It?"*+
- Dr. Su-Seng Pang, Jack Holmes Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "Integration of Education and Mentoring Programs at a University" 
 "Strategic Initiatives in Enhancing Student Diversity at a University" 
 "Preparing Diverse Scholars for Diverse Experiences: Mentoring Graduate Students from Diverse Backgrounds" 
 "Roadmap for Academic Success - Undergraduates" 
 "Roadmap from Graduate Studies to Academic/Industrial Success and Tips for Technical Writing" 
 "Funding for Graduate Studies - Strategies for Developing Winning Scholarship Proposals" 
 "Strategies for Developing Winning Education/Research Proposals" 
- "Composite Materials: Manufacturing, Properties, and Design" 
- Dr. DesLey V. Plaisance, Assistant Professor/Coordinate Graduate Studies in Mathematics, Nicholls State University
 "Sweaty Palms and All - A Discussion of Mathematics Anxiety"+
- Dr. Rastko Selmic, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, Louisiana Tech University 
 "Flying Sensors"*+
- Dr. Heath Tims, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 
 "Cyber Discovery - a multidisciplinary approach to training cyber citizens"*+

College Undergraduates & Faculty

Dr. Scott Beslin, Professor, Nicholls State University


"Pi For Dessert: A Mathematics Sampler"

Dr. Omar E. Christian, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, McNeese State University

"Eat Your Colors" Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant activity from Fruits"

"Fungi Gone Crazy"

"Natural Products Chemistry "Exploring Nature's Medicine Chest"

Dr. Sumeet Dua, Professor and Coordinator of IT Research, Louisiana Tech University 

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"What more can your data do for you? Discovering Gold from your data using Data Mining"

"From Biology to Bioinformatics: The story of how Computer Science is changing the face of Biological Discovery"


"Students who listen to hard rock and play soccer excel in Math but perform poorly in Chemistry: Discovering surprising Associative Rules and more using Data Mining"

"From Video-gaming to Designing drugs: Pursuing a career in Computer Science and preparing for the next revolution"

"Student Interdisciplinary Computing Research: Motivation and Opportunities"

Dr. Afef Fekih, Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

"If you think graduate school is expensive think again: Graduate Fellowship Programs"

Dr. C. Edward Ferguson, Assistant Professor, McNeese State University 

"Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Farm Animals and Humans"

"Biotechnology in Animal Production and Human Medicine"

"Stress in Farm Animals"

Dr. Malay Ghose-Hajra, Assistant Professor, University of New Orleans 

"What Does a Civil Engineer Do?" *+

"Historic Civil Engineering Structures in Louisiana" *+


"Restoring Coastal Louisiana - Benefits and Challenges" *+

Dr. Steven Hall, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Faith and Reason: Historical and Current Relations between Science and Religion"

Dr. Vladimir Kolesnichenko, Assistant Professor, Xavier University


"Nanotechnology: the Chemist's Outlook"


Dr. Jeremy Mhire, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 


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"Attack of the Free Radicals: Environmental and biological Reactions of Hydroxyl Radical"*+

Dr. Heath Tims, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University 

"Cyber Discovery - a multidisciplinary approach to training cyber citizens"*+

Dr. Alike Yu, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University School of Dentistry

"Is a career in dentistry for me?"+

"Is the floppy denture just a fact of life, what else is out there?"+

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"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela