

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/documents/Speaking%20of%20Science%20Brochure.pdf>.

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/documents/Speaking%20of%20Science%20Brochure.pdf>.

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" (New Orleans area only)

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" (New Orleans area only)

Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University 

"Sticky materials inspired by gecko lizards"

6th - 8th Grade

General Science and Education

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

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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"

"Do You Have Relatives in South America, Greenland, Russia, and Africa? Probably."

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"*+


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"Composite Materials: Manufacturing, Properties, and Design" 

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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"

"Exploring the Chemistry of Native Louisiana Plants" 


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"+

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

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"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

Engineering

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

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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"*+
- Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University ✨
 "Sticky materials inspired by gecko lizards"



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"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

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

"Is a career in dentistry for me?"

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

Cyber Technology

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Dr. Anil Kandam, Assistant Professor, McNeese State University 

"What is Nanoscience and Why do we need it?"

"Engineered Nanomaterials: Potential Adverse Effects"

Dr. Vince LiCata, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

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

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"*+

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"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"*+

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

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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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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

"Careers in Mathematics and Mathematical Research"**+

"Applications of Abstract Algebra"**+

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- Dr. Gary L. Kinsland, Pioneer Production Endowed Professor of Geology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 "The Chicxulub Impact: The Collision That Killed the Dinosaurs"*+
- Dr. Vladimir Kolesnichenko, Assistant Professor, Xavier University
 "Nanotechnology: the Chemist's Outlook"
- 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"*+
- 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" ✨
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 "Composite Materials: Manufacturing, Properties, and Design" ✨
- Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University ✨
 "Sticky materials inspired by gecko lizards"
- 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
 "Integrating Instructional Multimedia Repository for teaching 21st Century skills"+
 "Best Practices for online Course Design and Delivery"+

- 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. Anil Kandalam, Assistant Professor, McNeese State University 
 "What is Nanoscience and Why do we need it?"
 "Engineered Nanomaterials: Potential Adverse Effects"
- 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
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- Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University 
 "Sticky materials inspired by gecko lizards"
- 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"

"Exploring the Chemistry of Native Louisiana Plants" 

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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 

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"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" *+

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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?"*+

This public document was published with support from the National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents, P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, under authority of special exception by the Division of Administration. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

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