

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.



Dr. Diola Bagayoko, Professor and Chair of Physics, Southern University and A&M College

"The Scientific Method for All" (2nd - 5th)

"The Versatility and Wonders of Physics"

"The Ways and Means for Academic Excellence for All; Passing Standardized Tests"

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, Director, Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Technology and Industrial Engineering, Louisiana Tech University

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

"The Advent of Facebook: A Boon or a Threat?"

"The Pursuit of Scientific Research: The need and implications"

Dr. William Hollerman, Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette 

"What is the role of physics in society?"*+


"Rockets and starships: An overview of astronomy and astrophysics in the early 21st century"*+

"Understanding wintergreen candy: A lifetime of making things glow in the dark"*+

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. Candace Lawrence, Assistant Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana 

"Polymers and DNA: Discovering the World of Biomaterials" *+

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"*+

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

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

Dr. Gary Stringer, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Professor Emeritus of Geology and Curator, Division of Geosciences 

"Amazing Rocks and Minerals"

"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

6th - 8th Grade

General Science and Education

Dr. Diola Bagayoko, Professor and Chair of Physics, Southern University and A&M College

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"Careers in Science and Engineering and the English and Mathematics it takes"

"Learning or Teaching Effective Problem-Solving"

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

"Chemicals, the Environment, and You"*+

"Climate Change"

"So...you want to be a Scientist?"

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

"Our Spectacular National Park Areas and their Geology"*+

"A Global Perspective on Modern Developments in Stratigraphy: Redefining Geologic time"*+

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

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

Dr. Jayalakshmi Sridhar, Assistant Professor, Xavier University 🌟

"Role of Different Branches of Science in Drug Discovery"

Biological Sciences

Dr. Thomas Bishop, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"Supercomputing: Anytime, Anyplace" 🌟

"The ABC's of DNA"

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

"Let's Measure Trees"+

"Can You Guess How Fast Trees Grow?"

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"

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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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"Student Interdisciplinary Computing Research: Motivation and Opportunities"

"The Advent of Facebook: A Boon or a Threat?"

"The Pursuit of Scientific Research: The need and implications"

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"*+

"Drinking Like a Fish: Water Quality in Aquaculture and the Environment"*+

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"Polymers and DNA: Discovering the World of Biomaterials" *+

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

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

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"Let's Measure Trees"+

"Can You Guess How Fast Trees Grow?"

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

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

"Data Mining for Cybersecurity Applications: Opportunities and Challenges"

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

"A Vehicle to Drive the Next Generation"

Dr. Brygg Ullmer, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Exploring the future of cultural computing, tangible visualization, and ICY STEAM (interactive computational science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics)"*+ 

"Breaking Out of the Box: New Tools for Physically Linking Computers with the World"*+

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"Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle towards a Sustainable Future"*+ 

"Historic Civil Engineering Structures in Louisiana" *+

"Restoring Coastal Louisiana - Benefits and Challenges" *+

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Dr. Gary Stringer, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Professor Emeritus of *Geology* and Curator, Division of Geosciences 

"Ancient megatoothed sharks from northeast Louisiana"

"Fossil elephants from Louisiana and Texas"

Engineering

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
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
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
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
Dr. Brian S. Mitchell, Professor, Tulane University

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

Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University


"Sticky materials inspired by gecko lizards"*+ 

Dr. B. Ramu Ramachandran, Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"Electrochemistry - The Chemistry of Electricity"*+ 


"Using Computations to Understand Chemical Reactions"*+ 


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
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"Breathing Fire into Form: New Ways for Awakening Physical Objects through Embedded Computation"*+ 

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)

Dr. Thomas Bishop, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"So Many Computers So Little Time: How to use 1,000's of Computers at Once"

"The ABC's of DNA"

"Little Fe and Me: Demonstrations with a portable parallel computer"

"Bioinformatics + Computational Biology = Chromatin Folding in 1, 2, 3 and 6 Dimensions"

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

Dr. Sumeet Dua, Director, Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Technology and Industrial Engineering, Louisiana Tech University

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

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Physical Sciences

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"A Global Perspective on Modern Developments in Stratigraphy: Redefining Geologic time"*+

Dr. Galina Z. Goloverda, Assistant Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana

"Nanomaterials: Fun and Use?"*+

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

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

Dr. William Hollerman, Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette 

"What is the role of physics in society?"*+

"Just exactly what does it mean to be physics major?"

"A scientist's view of developing patents and intellectual property"

"Rockets and starships: An overview of astronomy and astrophysics in the early 21st century"*+

"Understanding wintergreen candy: A lifetime of making things glow in the dark"*+

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. Candace Lawrence, Assistant Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana 

"Polymers and DNA: Discovering the World of Biomaterials" *+

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"*+

Dr. B. Ramu Ramachandran, Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"Electrochemistry - The Chemistry of Electricity"*+

"Using Computations to Understand Chemical Reactions"*+

Dr. Jayalakshmi Sridhar, Assistant Professor, Xavier University 

"Role of Chemistry in Drug Discovery"



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"Supercomputing: Anytime, Anyplace" 

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- 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"
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- Dr. Vince LiCata, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "HIV/AIDS: Science, Politics, and Artistic Responses"*+
 "Toward Living in Space: Biology Experiments on board NASA's Vomit Comet"*+
 "The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR): a multi-billion dollar biological reaction"*+
 "Funny Science: Using Humor to Convey Information about the Process of Science"*+
 "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. Leszek Malkinski, Associate Professor, University of New Orleans
 "Micro-origami techniques for the fabrication complex magnetic structures"+
 "Wireless stimulation of mammalian cells- a new application of multiferroic nanoparticles"+
- 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"
- Dr. Mark Merchant, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, McNeese State University
 "The American Alligator: From Marsh to Medicine"*+
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Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.
Daniel J. Boorstin

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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. Juana Moreno, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University

"Opportunities in Computational Materials Science"*+ 

Dr. Rastko Selmic, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech University


"Flying Sensors"*+

Dr. Heath Tims, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University

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Dr. Pedro Derosa, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech/Grambling State

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"Fossil elephants from Louisiana and Texas"

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"The Versatility and Wonders of Physics"

"The Ways and Means for Academic Excellence for All; Passing Standardized Tests"

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"Learning or Teaching Effective Problem-Solving"

Dr. Pedro Derosa, Associate Professor, Louisiana Tech/Grambling State

"Using Computers to Clean Nuclear Wastes: Designing Molecules for Nuclear Waste"+

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, Director, Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Technology and Industrial Engineering, Louisiana Tech University

"ABET and the Role of Students during Accreditation Process"*+

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"Electrical Engineering: Past, present and future"

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"What Does a Civil Engineer Do?" *+

"Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle towards a Sustainable Future"*+ 

"Historic Civil Engineering Structures in Louisiana" *+

"Restoring Coastal Louisiana - Benefits and Challenges" *+

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"*+

"Drinking Like a Fish: Water Quality in Aquaculture and the Environment"*+

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Dr. Yuri Lvov, Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"Nanotechnology based on natural objects: biomimetic for cyborg microorganisms and smart bone implants"

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

- John Dewey

Dr. Brian S. Mitchell, Professor, Tulane University

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

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General Science and Education

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"A scientist's view of developing patents and intellectual property"

"Rockets and starships: An overview of astronomy and astrophysics in the early 21st century"*+

"Understanding wintergreen candy: A lifetime of making things glow in the dark"*+

Dr. Vince LiCata, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
"HIV/AIDS: Science, Politics, and Artistic Responses"*+
"Toward Living in Space: Biology Experiments on board NASA's Vomit Comet"*+
"The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR): a multi-billion dollar biological reaction"*+
"Funny Science: Using Humor to Convey Information about the Process of Science"*+
"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. 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"*+
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"Role of Chemistry in Drug Discovery"

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

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

Mathematics and Computer Sciences

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

"Careers in Mathematics and Mathematical Research"*+

"Applications of Abstract Algebra"*+

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

"Let's Measure Trees"*

"Can You Guess How Fast Trees Grow?"

"Applying math in estimating tree height"

"Tough equations? Solve them easily using numerical methods"

Dr. Weizhong Dai, Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"Simulation of Hydrogen Absorption/Desorption in Metal-H₂ Reactors for Hydrogen Storage"

"Simulation of Particle Motion Using the Generalized Finite-Difference Time-Domain Method"

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

Malcolm S. Forbes

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Dr. Galina Z. Goloverda, Assistant Professor, Xavier University of Louisiana

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- Dr. Juana Moreno, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University
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- Dr. Noshir Pesika, Assistant Professor, Tulane University
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The following topics are appropriate for K-12 parents (*) and educators (+):

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 "The Versatility and Wonders of Physics"+
 "Educational Reforms from A to Z" +
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 "Best Practices for online Course Design and Delivery"+
- Dr. Sumeet Dua, Director, Computer Science, Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Technology and Industrial Engineering, Louisiana Tech University
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 "Wireless stimulation of mammalian cells- a new application of multiferroic nanoparticles"+
- Dr. Joanne Cain Marier, Section Chief of Health Law and Medical Ethics, LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans
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 "Allocation of Resources in Critical Care"
 "End of Life Decision Making: A Summary of Advance Directives"
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 "Human Research: Advancing Knowledge While Protecting Human Subjects"
- Dr. Arturo J. Mendez, D.D.S., M.Sc., Professor and Head of the Department of Prosthodontics, Louisiana State University, Health Sciences Center
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Dr. Patricia E. Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans (New Orleans area only)

"Alcohol Use By Teenagers: How Prevalent Is It?"+

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"Protein Kinases and Human Diseases"

Dr. Gary Stringer, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Professor Emeritus of Geology and Curator, Division of Geosciences 

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"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

George Washington Carver

Speaking of Science

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