

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" 

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. Marybeth Lima, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"Using Math and Science to Develop and Design a Community Playground"*+

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

"Why Dinosaurs Didn't Live in Louisiana, Although We Have a Single Dinosaur Fossil, but Giant Camels Did: The Parade of Ancient Life in Our State"*+


Dr. Laura Whitlock, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

"Welcome to Our Solar System"*+ (Grades 3-5)

Dr. Clinton Willson, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Groundwater: How in the World Does Water Flow Under the Ground?"

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

"How many sets of teeth do I have?" 

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 Area"*+

"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. Marybeth Lima, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
 "Using Math and Science to Develop and Design a Community Playground"*+
 Dr. Patricia Molina, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans
 "Girls Can Be Scientists"
 Dr. Alika Yu, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University School of Dentistry
 "How many sets of teeth do I have?" 🌟

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. 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"*+
 "Faith and Reason: Historical and Current Relations between Science and Religion"*+
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 "To Infinity and Beyond: Everything You Want to Know About Biological Engineering"*+
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 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)
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 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. Alika Yu, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University School of Dentistry
 "How many sets of teeth do I have?" 🌟

Earth and Environmental Sciences

- Dr. Brooks B. Ellwood, Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
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 "Geology Around the World"
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Dr. Brian S. Mitchell, Professor, Tulane University

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

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

"Tangible Science Portals: New Approaches for Bringing Interactive Science to the Classroom"*+ 

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

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

Dr. Clinton S. Wilson, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Groundwater: How in the World Does Water Flow Under the Ground?"

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. Marybeth Lima, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"Using Math and Science to Develop and Design a Community Playground"*+

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"It's Physics - No, It's Toys!"+

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

Dr. Laura A. Whitlock, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

"It's Physics - No, It's Toys!"+

"Welcome to Our Solar System"*+



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

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

"Fungi Gone Crazy" 🌟

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

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, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"From Biology and Informatics to Bioinformatics: The Science of Life and How Computer Science Can Help Discover Important Knowledge For It"+

"Students Who Listen to Hard Rock, Play Soccer and Watch Action Movies Tend to Make an 'A' Grade in Math Courses But Make a 'B' or Less in Chemistry: Discovering Such Associative Rules and More Using 'Data Mining"+

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

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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): the most lucrative biological reason in history?"*+ 🌟

"Funny Science: Using Humor to Convey Information about the Process of Science"*+ 🌟

Dr. Marybeth Lima, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

"To Infinity and Beyond: Everything You Want to Know About Biological Engineering"*+

"Using Math and Science to Develop and Design a Community Playground"*+

Dr. Giovanni D. Lorusso, Doctor of Medicine, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans

"How Are Cancer Cells Different From Normal Cells, and How Do We Diagnose Cancer?"+

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

"Disease Resistance and Wound Healing in the American Alligator"

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

"Why Dinosaurs Didn't Live in Louisiana, Although We Have a Single Dinosaur Fossil, but Giant Camels Did: The Parade of Ancient Life in Our State"*+

Dr. Marjan Trutschl, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport and LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

"Connecting the Dots"*


"How to Find the Needle in the Haystack"*

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


"Is a career in dentistry for me?" 


Earth and Environmental Sciences

Dr. Gabrielle Allen, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Cyberinfrastructure: How Computer Science is Changing Scientific Research" 

"Computational Science: Modeling Systems from Hurricanes to Black Holes" 

"The CyberTools Project: Louisiana Science and Cyberinfrastructure" 

"Modeling Black Holes, Gamma-Ray Bursts, and other Relativistic Objects in the Universe" 

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"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"*+


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

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

"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

- Dr. Steven G. Hall, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
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 "Wildlife Research at LSU: Black Bears, Alligators, Cranes, Wetlands, Waterfowl and Quail"*+

Engineering

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 "Myths and Memories Surrounding Motion Sickness"
 "Preventing Seasickness and Other Forms of Motion Discomfort"*+
- Dr. Afef Fekih, Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 "Electrical Engineering: Past, present and future" 
- Dr. Jost Goettert, Director of Microfabrication and Adjunct Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"
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- Dr. Brian S. Mitchell, Professor, Tulane University
 "From Silly Putty to Superconductors: Careers in Materials Science and Engineering"*+
- Dr. Michael Murphy, E.S. "Ned" Adler Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"
- Dr. Dimitris Nikitopoulos, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"
- Dr. Su-Seng Pang, Jack Holmes Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College
 "Impact Response of Composite Sandwich Structures with a Hybrid Core"
 "It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"

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


- John Dewey


Dr. Stephen Soper, Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Small Things Make Big Contributions to Medicine"

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

"Tangible Science Portals: New Approaches for Bringing Interactive Science to the Classroom"*+ 

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

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

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
"Groundwater: How in the World Does Water Flow Under the Ground?"

General Science and Education

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

"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"*+ 

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"Toward Living in Space: Biology Experiments on board NASA's Vomit Comet"*+ 

"The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR): the most lucrative biological reason in history?"*+ 


"Funny Science: Using Humor to Convey Information about the Process of Science"*+ 

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"It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"

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


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


Mathematics and Computer Sciences

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"Cyberinfrastructure: How Computer Science is Changing Scientific Research" 

"Computational Science: Modeling Systems from Hurricanes to Black Holes" 

"The CyberTools Project: Louisiana Science and Cyberinfrastructure" 

"Modeling Black Holes, Gamma-Ray Bursts, and other Relativistic Objects in the Universe" 

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"*+

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

"Just When You Thought Math Couldn't Get Any Harder"

Dr. Sumeet Dua, Assistant Professor, Louisiana Tech University

"From Biology and Informatics to Bioinformatics: The Science of Life and How Computer Science Can Help Discover Important Knowledge For It"+

"Students Who Listen to Hard Rock, Play Soccer and Watch Action Movies Tend to Make an 'A' Grade in Math Courses But Make a 'B' or Less in Chemistry: Discovering Such Associative Rules and More Using 'Data Mining'"+

"Now That You Have Collected Lots of Data, What to Do With It? The Science of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD)"+

Dr. Antonio M. Lopez, Jr., Professor and the Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Chair in Computer Science, Xavier University of Louisiana


"Career Fields: Programming is Ubiquitous"


Dr. Marjan Trutschl, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport and LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport

"How to Find the Needle in the Haystack"*

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

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Physical Sciences

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

Dr. Vladimir Kolesnichenko, Assistant Professor, Xavier University

"Nanotechnology: the Chemist's Outlook" 

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"Comets and Craters"

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

"Impact Response of Composite Sandwich Structures with a Hybrid Core"

"It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"

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

"Water in Protein Interiors"

"The Exotic Behavior of Ordinary Ice"

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

"Small things Make Big Contributions to Medicine"

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

"From Chemistry Lab to Computer Hard Disk"

Dr. Warren Waggenspack, Jr., Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"It's a Small-Small World: Microtechnology and Society"

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

"Small Things Make Big Contributions to Medicine"

Dr. Laura A. Whitlock, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

"It's Physics - No, It's Toys!"+


"Welcome to Our Solar System"*+

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


K-12 Parents & Educators


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

Dr. Gabrielle Allen, Associate Professor, Louisiana State University and A&M College

"Cyberinfrastructure: How Computer Science is Changing Scientific Research" 

"Computational Science: Modeling Systems from Hurricanes to Black Holes" 

"The CyberTools Project: Louisiana Science and Cyberinfrastructure" 

"Modeling Black Holes, Gamma-Ray Bursts, and other Relativistic Objects in the Universe" 

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

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

"Geology Around the World"*+

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

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

Dr. DesLey V. Plaisance, Assistant Professor/Coordinate Graduate Studies in Mathematics, Nicholls State University

"Sweaty Palms and All - A Discussion of Mathematics Anxiety"+ 


Dr. Laura A. Whitlock, Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University at Shreveport

"Welcome to Our Solar System"*+


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

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" 

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"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 at a cost of \$.65 each 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.