

This semester's honorees join an elite group of past LSU Distinguished Communicators, including:

Anino Adokpaye	David Mustain
Alexandria Augustus	Meredith Lapre
Nicholas Dauzat	David Leedom
Thomas Dauzat	Sarah Owens
Alexandra DeBrock	Shreya Purohit
Katie DeLuca	Ishtiaq Rouf
Lacey Deshotel	Samantha Simmons
Micah Fincher	Stephanie Simmons
Taylor Finchum	Anshul Tandon
Kristopher Francisco	Julie Thomas
Laura Gauthreaux	Shawn Treadaway
Ashley Herrick	Judith Udeke
Margeaux Johnson	Michael Vega
Jacqueline Jones	Melissa Wason
Jeff Kornuta	Shawn Wilkinson
Adam Murdaugh	Bryan Wilson
Daniel Meke	



Distinguished Communicators

Spring 2009



Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) helps LSU's students improve their written, oral, visual, and technological communication skills. It's the only program of its kind in the nation and because of it, LSU students are gaining the skills needed to be highly competitive in today's demanding marketplace.

*Recognition of Excellence
by the Faculty of LSU
and
Communication across the Curriculum*



COLLEGE OF ART + DESIGN

Brittany Andrews has studied Landscape Architecture in a program ranked 2nd in the nation by *Design Intelligence*. As an intern in Baton Rouge and Dallas, she has designed exterior spaces for residential and commercial properties. Her department awarded her an Architecture Development Fund Scholarship and has benefited from what she learned in her Study Abroad Program in Mexico City.

Advisor: William "Lake" Douglas, Landscape Architecture.

Marylyn Corrine Arnot has earned a 3.9 GPA while studying in Interior Design, the Honors College, Massey University in New Zealand, and Parsons New School of Design in New York. She held an internship in Houston with a design firm and has recently completed her Senior Capstone Project and Honors thesis on a cancer treatment facility with an emphasis on green design and patient psychology. She has actively contributed to her community and to the world, with service in Italy and Africa.

Advisor: Phillip Tebbutt, Landscape Architecture.

Mary Jo Ann Brown will graduate with a 3.8 GPA with a major in Interior Design and a minor in Art. As an intern, she has helped to arrange art exhibitions at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, the Children's Hospital of Florida, and Texas Orthopedic Hospital. She has studied painting and art at the Catholic University in Paris and collaborated with Landscape Architecture and Art students to produce a collective installation in Mexico City during her summers of study abroad. She has won multiple scholarships, served organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, and finished a half marathon.

Advisor: Teresa Ferrer, Interior Design.

Kenner Carmody will earn a Bachelor of Architecture degree with a minor in Architectural History. His internships and student work experience include projects in Finland, where he studied at the Helsinki University of Technology for a year, as well as Milan, Italy, and Baton Rouge. He is a charter member of Preservationists on Campus and worked with Project Acorn to build affordable single-family housing in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. CxC is particularly proud that he has been a mentor to others in the Art + Design Communication Studio since 2006. We may find another mentor, but Kenner will never be replaced. *Advisor: James Sullivan, Architecture.*

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Jeb McCulla will complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies. As an active member of Phi Delta Theta, he has organized community service and philanthropic events, and he has recorded the history, minutes, and proceedings of all the meetings and special events of that organization. He is also a member of the Organization for Communication Students in his home department. Throughout his undergraduate studies, he has worked at various companies in Baton Rouge and New Orleans where his outstanding communication skills have been quickly recognized.

Advisor: Nathan Crick, Communication Studies.

Yunan Yuan has earned a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA with a major in Computer Engineering and minors in Computer Science and Mathematics. She was one of the early volunteers who helped CxC design the first digital portfolios for communication skills, and she is now a recipient of the distinction for which they were designed. Her thesis is entitled "Intelligent-navigating, Maze-mapping, and Maze-solving Robot Equipped with Sensors, Compass, and GPS." Yuan has translated for the Chinese Law Digest at Harvard and worked for Microsoft, Chevron, Haliburton, LSU's Center for Computation and Technology, and the LSU Office of Multicultural Affairs. She has presented papers at Harvard's Asian and International Relations Conference and at the Argonne National Lab Symposium for Undergraduates in Science. *Advisor: John Devlin, LSU Law School.*

SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATION

Jeffrei Clifton has a 3.9 overall GPA as she completes a degree in Mass Communications with a concentration in Public Relations, accompanied by minors in Business Administration, Leadership Development, and History. Her internships in communications and public relations were at the Louisiana Dental Association and the Baton Rouge General Hospital. In addition to her professional activities, Clifton has been a leader in S.T.R.I.P.E.S., a program designed to mentor incoming freshmen at LSU, and has served as co-president of the Mass Communications Honor Society and as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Pet Adoption Companion. She has received many honors, including being selected by LSU Mortar Board as a Top Ten Freshman.

Advisor: Lisa Lundy, Mass Communications.

Dana Corona is completing a concentration in Public Relations with minors in Business Administration and Psychology and has a 3.86 overall GPA. She has internships and professional experience with Albemarle Corporation, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, the LSU Public Policy Research Lab, and the Trumpet Brand Studio. She was elected by the faculty to represent LSU at the Bateman National Case Study Competition, the nation's most prestigious competition for public relations students. As a volunteer, she created a media kit for the Children's Miracle Network and Our Lady of the Lake Foundation. *Advisor: Meghan Sanders, Mass Communication.*

Sarah De Leo is a research assistant for Todd Monroe where she has worked to separate single and double-stranding DNA. She will receive her degree in Biological Engineering with Honors. Her knowledge and experience have been expanded by internships and research opportunities at Columbia University where she worked with a Nobel laureate, at Wake Forest University where she studied nerve regeneration, and at MIT where she co-authored a published research article with her supervising professors. She has received a long list of awards while serving as a Senator for the College of Engineering, advocating for the Honors College, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, and working as the Emergency Room Scribe at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital.
Advisor: Marybeth Lima, Biological Engineering.

John Dykes will finish his degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Mathematics with an overall GPA of 3.8 and Research Honors. He held an internship at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in 2008. His projects include designing and testing a tidal energy capture device and building a remote controlled aircraft for the SAE Aero Design competition. He serves as President of the student chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and won third place in the 2008 AIAA Student Writing Contest (2008) for his report on the High Altitude Student Payload Project (HASP). His service includes organizing a database of refugees in Baton Rouge for the Red Cross after Hurricane Katrina and coordinating an annual "Eggstronaut" Competition for high school students interested in aerospace and other science fields. He also plays classical masterpieces on the piano and considered majoring in piano performance.
Advisor: Keith Gonthier, Mechanical Engineering.

Samantha Vallette will receive her degree in Biological Engineering with a minor in Biological Sciences. She has designed an environmentally safe playground for a local elementary school, analyzed safe practices in the processing of orange juice, and completed a team project to optimize ethanol production. She holds multiple scholarships, has been inducted into Tao Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and serves as the web designer for the Biological Engineering Student Organization.
Advisor: Marybeth Lima, Biological Engineering.

Alciades Velasquez is completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has served as the treasurer of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and secretary for the Millennium Volunteers of LSU. His internships and co-ops have taken him to St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands (Hovensa, L.L.C.), Venezuela (Sisteca Consultores, CA), and back to Baton Rouge with Jacobs Engineering. He is a fluent reader, writer, and speaker of Spanish and English, with experience in policy debate and impromptu speaking. CxC is grateful that Velasquez served as a member of the University-wide CxC Advisory Council.
Advisor: Eyassu Woïdesenbet, Mechanical Engineering.

Shaun Williams has been extraordinarily active in Louisiana politics and community service during his career at LSU. He has worked for the Vice-Chancellor for External Affairs, the Office of Public Relations, and the Parish Office of Veteran's Affairs. He has arranged meetings between Chancellor's office officials and state lawmakers, often serving as the voice of student opinion on matters from campus safety to facility maintenance. He is completing double majors in Political Science and Geography, as well as a minor in General Business Administration. CxC is pleased that he has served on the University-wide CxC Advisory Council. *Advisor: Fahui Wang, Political Science.*

Whitnei Williams is completing a degree in Communication Studies, having also studied journalism at Florida A&M University. She has served LSU as a mentor in the Genesis Mentoring Project, as the coordinator of publications and communication for the Martin Luther King Commemorative Celebration, and as a volunteer for the 2008 NBA All-Star Game's Jam Session and the Baton Rouge Women's Shelter.
Advisor: Loretta Pecchioni, Communication Studies.

COLLEGE OF BASIC SCIENCES

Mohamed Diabi has studied software development in Computer Science and is able to communicate his advanced technical knowledge to peers and to nontechnical stakeholders. To meet his personal goals for his education, Diabi has taken two advanced, graduate-level courses in supercomputing architectures and human-computer interfaces. He is the co-author of a forthcoming paper on tangible devices and human computer interfaces. His undergraduate thesis is entitled, "Designing Interfaces for Computing on the Grid." Diabi has served as a technical consultant to faculty and students, trouble-shooting research technology, multimedia classrooms, and faculty support in the Middleton Library support center.
Advisor: Brygg Ullmer, Computer Science.

Joseph Chatelain has been interested in the sciences since he was a small boy gathering insects, studying the planets, and reading magazines such as *Astronomy*. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and joins a growing group of LSU Distinguished Communicators who share this distinction. His early fascination with science led to his major in Physics, but having an interest in nomenclature in the sciences, he picked up another major in Latin, with a minor in Classical Civilization. He has assisted Professors Thomas Kutter and Geoffrey Clayton in the Physics and Astronomy Department on projects ranging from T2K neutrinos to red super-giant stars. In addition, he has tutored dozens of peers in Basic Sciences and been a guest lecturer on Roman history at the high school level. *Advisor: Jeffrey Clayton, Physics.*

Jennifer Finley has earned a 3.5 GPA as she completes a degree in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry. As a research assistant for Gregg Pettis in Microbiology, Finley's undergraduate research has involved the testing of factors related to virulence in the exopolysaccharide gene of the human pathogen *Vibrio vulnificus*. Her achievement in the foundational courses in her program earned her Sophomore Honors Distinction. Her service includes volunteer work at the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center and leadership as the co-founder of the Students of the American Society for Microbiology, which she has served as secretary and president. *Advisor: Karen Sullivan, Microbiology.*

Carl Frisby will finish his degree in geology with a 3.5 in his major, having worked full-time throughout his undergraduate years. His coursework has included Petrology, Geomicrobiology, and the Geology Field Camp in Colorado. Frisby is another Eagle Scout who has gone on to receive the CxC certification in communication, and he is continuing the pipeline by teaching Webelos Scouts enough about geology to get their "geology belt loop" and other awards. He has also taught Louisiana students the basics of geology at the "Ocean Commotion" event. Frisby has served the LSU Geology Club as its treasurer and is a student member of the Geological Society of America.

Advisor: Darrell Henry, Geology.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Elizabeth Aycock will receive a degree in Accounting and a minor in English, with a 3.85 cumulative GPA. In addition to appearing on the Chancellor's List and the National Dean's List, she is a member of Golden Key, Silver Wings, Phi Kappa Phi; and has received the Honesty and Integrity Award and the Citizenship Award. Her extensive service to LSU and the community includes Habitat for Humanity, Locks of Love (giving of her own hair), and volunteer work at Campus Daycare. She is a Teach for America candidate.

Advisor: Michele Diaz, Accounting.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Akinyanju Adeyanju has earned a degree in Chemical Engineering after outstanding work and two internships at Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Paris, Texas, and Roswell, Georgia. One of many internship projects was appropriately entitled "SOCCER," ("Stretch Outer Cover Can Expand Rewards") and involved developing expandable covers. While at LSU, Adeyanju has actively participated in and serves offices in the National Society of Black Engineers, the Nigerian Student Organization, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He received the Academic Excellence Award and the Torch Bearer Award from the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. *Advisor: Harold Touts, Chemical Engineering.*

Christopher Arauz will receive a degree in Biological Engineering with a 3.6 GPA in his major. He is a fluent reader, writer, and speaker of English and Spanish and has used his bilingualism in many settings, including medical mission trips to underdeveloped villages in Mexico. One of his academic projects, "Kinematic Analysis of the Parallax Crawler Using an Integrated Wii Tracking System," combines the popular game technology with robotics. He and his peers received a \$2,300 grant for a project to reduce waves in the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. Arauz has worked as a research assistant in the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and as an emergency room volunteer at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. *Advisor: Marybeth Lima, Biological Engineering.*

Santhana Balaji is completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering with a perfect 4.0 cumulative GPA. His honors thesis is based on building an 80-foot portable tower for hurricane data collection, including power systems, instrumentation, programming, and real-time communications. He has served as an undergraduate research aide in his department and has held internships at Introlox, L.L.C., and Occidental Petroleum. He has served as the captain of LSU's teams as they competed in the NSBE Tech Bowl (placed 3rd nationally) and the TREC engineering design competition. Balaji has worked in the Center for Academic Success, where he has coordinated over 5,000 student visits. He is certified as a "Collegiate Reading and Learning Associate" and has used his communication skills and talent for tutoring in his work with engineering and chemistry students. *Advisor: Shengmin Guo, Mechanical Engineering.*

Christopher Brown is a senior in Mechanical Engineering and has used his communication skills to represent the College of Engineering as a Student Government Senator, as the Treasurer of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and on the Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board. His awards include a national SMART Grant and a second place award at the Texas A&M Regional Engineering Conference. *Advisor: Michael Murphy, Mechanical Engineering.*

Lance Brumfield has been an undergraduate researcher at the LSU Center for Biomodular Multi-Scale Systems while he worked to complete his degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has held a College of Engineering Alumni Scholarship and will receive Academic and Research Honors at graduation. He is the team captain for LSU's entry in the Formula SAE Collegiate Design Competition, which involves designing, building, and racing a racecar. LSU is becoming perennially competitive in this competition because previous teams are coaching upcoming teams and sharing their knowledge and experience, according to Brumfield. Before he came to LSU, Brumfield was a LHSAA Academic All-State Football Player (2003).

Advisor: Eyassu Woïdesenbet, Mechanical Engineering.

Adebola Coker has grown up with a passion for engineering that came from her father who is an engineer in oil-rich Nigeria. After completing three internships and her degree, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Chemical Engineering with a focus on clean engineering so that she can insure a better future for the world. Coker has held many leadership positions at LSU, serving as the vice president of the Society for Women Engineers, as a senator of the National Society for Black Engineers, and on homecoming committees for the Residential Life Community Council.

Advisor: Karsten Thompson, Chemical Engineering.