



OSI QUARTERLY

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Fall 2005



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Thank You Dr. Patton



Dr. Sonja Wiley-Patton joined LSU's faculty as an assistant professor in the E. J. Ourso College of Business Administration August 2002 and

has conducted outstanding research, functioned as a student research director and mentor, while writing and directing grants. Currently, she is involved with the LSU Office of Strategic Initiatives' Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (LA-STEM), Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Ronald E. McNair Research Scholars Program. She has been especially valuable as a selection committee member with choosing students that have the potential to become academically successful and acquire a Ph.D. in the STEM areas. In addition, she helps to promote those students that desire to extend their careers into the private sector. She lists teaching Management of Information Systems, Electronic Commerce, Medical Informatics, Technology Adoption, and Human Computer Interaction as her main interests.

Dr. Patton was born in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and lived most of her life in Arkansas. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a Bachelors Degree in Mass Communications. Choosing to live in a warm sunny climate and to develop her surfing career and hula skills, she attended the University of Hawaii and received her Masters Degree in Global Communications in 1966, and Ph.D. in Communications and Information Sciences in 2002.

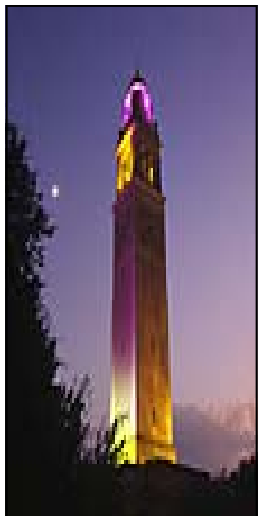
She is currently investigating why health care professionals are resistant to using information technology in clinical processes, a project funded by the National Science Foundation. In response to the growing national concern regarding patient safety and medical errors, a unique collaboration between academics and health care is investigating how the adoption of information technology can be used to improve patient care. "We want to understand what organizational, financial and even psychological barriers doctors and other health professional are facing when it comes to technology," said Wiley-Patton. "Once we understand what influences health care professionals to adopt information technology then we can put our research theory into practice to help save lives. "When

asked her view on the role research directors have on undergraduates she comments, "I view my role as both a mentor and professional. It is my desire and responsibility to teach young people the importance and craft of conducting both empirical and qualitative research."

Dr. Warner praises her in saying, "Dr. Sonya Wiley-Patton is one of LSU's most successful and dedicated young faculty, who believes that mentoring is an important part of her academic responsibilities. She devotes an extraordinary amount of time inside and outside the classroom to the training and mentoring of many of our undergraduates. LSU is proud to call Sonya Wiley-Patton 'one of our own.'"

Life is not all work and no play for Dr. Wiley-Patton. She is married to Keith Patton, CWO, United States Navy and is the proud mother of Zoe Elizabeth age 5-1/2 and Angelina Ora'Le, age 3-1/2. Rumor has it she enjoys bargain shopping and loves to find those hard-to-find hidden antique treasures. She recently acquired an antique baby grand piano that she and Zoe are learning to play.

Message from Vice-Chancellor Warner



"LA-STEM and HHMI Selection Weekend"

Mardi Gras weekend holds great excitement and wonder for the high school seniors who will congregate on LSU's campus to participate in the selection weekend for the LA-STEM and HHMI Programs.

OSI is proud to sponsor our third annual selection weekend on February 24th and 25th. We believe that this will also be the case for this selection weekend.

In the past, some of LSU's most remarkable students and student leaders have come from this group of select students. Approximately, 35 students have been invited to attend. The selection begins Friday at noon with an overview of the two programs, followed by a luncheon that leads into a rigorous schedule of interviews. A selection committee consisting of LSU faculty and administrators will interview and socialize with students to determine if their goals and objectives meet with the goals and objectives of these programs.

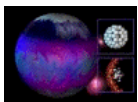
Friday night applicants and parents will attend a banquet at the LSU Magnolia

Room when students will present group Power Point presentations. Early Saturday morning interviews begin and will convene at noon.

Seniors from 19 parishes across Louisiana and one from the state of Kentucky were nominated by their school administration to apply. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System will have the largest percentage of attendees (29.17%).

The OSI staff is very pleased to have the opportunity to entertain and recruit such outstanding students to LSU.

Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (LA-STEM) Research Scholars Program



Edwin Lee and Andrew Davidson
LA-STEM Scholars
2005 Summer Undergraduate
Research Forum (SURF)



Katherine Stammen
LA-STEM Scholar
2005 Graduate



Tam Nguyen
LA-STEM Scholar
HHMI Gilliam
Fellow



Lemroy Culbert
LA-STEM Scholars
2005 Summer Undergraduate
Research Forum (SURF)



Karin H. deGravelles
Manager,
LA-STEM Research
Scholars Program

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| <p>2006 Selection Process</p> <p>The first round of the 2006 LA-STEM Selection Process is complete, with 35 students invited to LSU's campus for OSI Selection Weekend 2006. During this two-day event, each candidate will attend 3 group interviews, participate in a group project, explore LSU, learn more about LA-STEM, and have the chance to meet and speak with current</p> | <p>students and their parents. One candidate remarked on OSI Selection Weekend 2005: <i>"My entire experience with the LA-STEM Research Scholars Program has been wonderful thus far. The staff has made me feel as though I'm already part of the family. Those whom I've spoken with since the selection weekend remembered my name and even asked about my mother."</i> Among the activities planned for OSI</p> | <p>Selection Weekend 2006 are several student speakers, a student panel, a parent panel, campus tours, and a dinner for students, parents, faculty, staff, and LSU administration. Selection of scholars will be completed in early March.</p> |
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Senior LA-STEM Research Scholars

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| <p>Tanya Auzenne Biological Sciences May 2006</p> <p>Tanya plans to pursue a combined M.D./Ph.D. program. She is currently conducting research on asthma directed by Assistant Professor Stephania Cormier in Biological Sciences.</p> <p>Joel Broussard Chemistry May 2006</p> <p>Joel plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry. He is currently conducting research on the <i>Synthesis of Antiviral and Antitumoral</i></p> | <p><i>Compounds</i> directed by Associate Professor William Crowe and Professor Luigi Marzilli in the Department of Chemistry.</p> <p>Tam Nguyen Biological Sciences May 2006</p> <p>Tam plans to pursue doctoral study in biological sciences at Wake Forest University beginning in fall 2006. She was recently awarded the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship, which provides up to five years of funding for graduate study and is awarded to five students per year. She is currently</p> | <p>conducting research on obesity and diabetes directed by Associate Professor Jacqueline Stephens in Biological Sciences. Congratulations Tam!</p> <p>Katherine Stammen Biological Sciences December 2005</p> <p>Katie graduated from LSU Magna Cum Laude in December 2005. She plans to attend LSU Medical School-Shreveport beginning in fall 2006. Congratulations Katie on being the first LA-STEM graduate!</p> |
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NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

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| <p>Spring 2006 has already been an exciting semester, full of good news from our seniors on awards and acceptances. Each of the students graduating in 2005-06 has contributed immensely to the HHMI/LA-STEM community: Tam and Katie were among the first HHMI Undergraduate Mentors in spring 2003. With Tanya, they were the first LA-STEM Research Scholars in spring 2004. Joel was appointed as an</p> | <p>HHMI Undergraduate Mentor in summer 2004, joined LA-STEM in spring 2005, and served as the Summer Bridge Lead Mentor in 2005. We'd like to thank them, and the faculty and graduate mentors who have guided them, for all of their contributions. Particular congratulations to Tam on being named an HHMI Gilliam Fellow. We hope that, through LA-STEM's close work with LSU's Office of Fellowship Advising, Tam will be one of</p> | <p>the first of many LA-STEM Scholars to go on to win nationally competitive postgraduate awards. This semester marks the beginning of a new course structure in which students choose which sessions they would like to attend, allowing for smaller and more personal workshops and greater individual focus. And of course we can't wait to meet the 2006 candidates and their parents at Selection Weekend!</p> |
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Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professors Program



Welcome Back!

Spring 2006 is here and we are excited about the new activities it has brought to our program! **Scholarship Informational** held on Monday, November 14, 2005, was a success! Prospective applicants had an opportunity to ask questions to program managers, HHMI Mentors as well as Vice Chancellor and HHMI Professor Isiah Warner. One participant remarked, "It's nice to know that someone at the top really cares about us..."

Though competition was fierce, we

are inviting eight students to participate in **OSI Selection Week-end**. (See more details on the LA-STEM page.) Current HHMI Undergraduate Mentors, anxiously awaiting to interact with the new candidates, answer questions about several aspects of the program including the success course. Developed especially for program participants, geared towards developing **mentorship, educational ability, and research skills** has been adapted to increase the effectiveness of the course. Many of our students have

achieved success in one or more of our focused areas.

One example is **Amanda Pitcock**, chosen during the Spring 2005 selection process, has been listed **first author** on a publication in an international science journal. There are more success stories than time and space will allow to be shared here, but we are looking forward to sharing many more stories in future additions... Stay Tuned!

Education, Mentoring and
Research Course
Event: Peer Mentoring



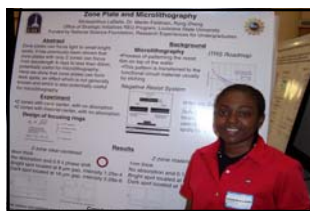
HHMI Undergraduate Mentors and Research

Research...

Let's take a look!

Karlie Plaisance, Senior in Biological Sciences: Karlie is currently conducting research on radiation, DNA Mutations directed by Dr. J. Battista. Karlie plans to attend graduate school to pursue her Ph.D. upon graduation, **May 2006**.

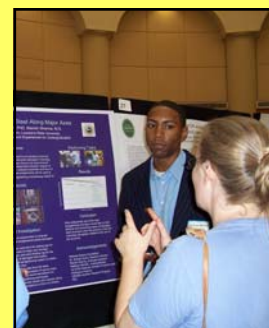
Adewimimo Oyekenu, aka "Akin" is a Junior in Computer and Electrical Engineering. He is conducting research focused on the *Accurate Alignment Technique for Nonimprint Lithography*. His research is supervised by Dr. M. Feldman.



KhriSSy LaSalle,
HHMI Mentor
2005 SURF Conference

Amanda Pitcock a sophomore in Biological Sciences is conducting research at LSU's Veterinary School. Amanda's research studies the Metastasis of Prostrate Cancer.

Corey Black, a Sophomore in the Biology Department is researching *Adipose Signaling*. Corey, a 2005 OSI Summer Bridge participant, has this to say about the great strides he has made since his participation in the program, "*Thank you for your support. I could not have done it without your guidance...*"



Matthew Mitchell
HHMI Mentor
2005 SURF Conference

Sayi Liggonah
HHMI Mentor
2005 Graduate
Mathematics



NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

Sayi Liggonah (pictured on the upper right) is our **fourth** HHMI Undergraduate Mentor to graduate. December, 2005 Sayi graduated, **Suma Cum Lade** receiving her bachelors degree in Mathematics. As Senior Discussion Board Leader for both programs, Sayi played a central role in the success of the program course and the cultivation of the community. Way to go Sayi!!! I would be remiss if I didn't express my pride for former HHMI Mentors, **Tam Nguyen, Katie Stammen, and Joel Broussard**.

(See their stories: "Senior LA-STEM Research Scholars" section) It's an honor to have had the opportunity to be your mentor. The graduate programs that will be graced with the presence of any one of these graduates are by far the luckiest in the nation! We look forward to having our graduates visit us (maybe write a feature article for our newsletter) in the upcoming semesters. Thank you!

As promised, an update...working along side Karin as the new LA-STEM manager: It has been GREAT! She has come into her

own. Though there has been a change in guard, **MLK (Monica, Lisa and Karin)** are still working together for all students in "The Program".

Dr. Lynda Louis has also been an invaluable part of our recent success. Since arriving here, she has been a important part of our continued growth within both programs. Though it was through tragedy we were blessed with her presence, We are very happy to have her with us.



Lisa Batiste-Evans
Program Manager
HHMI Professors Program

McNair Research Scholars Program

Director's Message



I am proud to brag about one of our previous participants, Pamela Aaron Ratliff. She entered the Program the Summer 1996 and graduated Fall 1996 with a 4.0 grade point average receiving a Bachelors Degree in General Studies from the *University of New Orleans*. Her undergraduate research included topics titled "A S.M.A.R.T. Project for Kids" and "Summer Math Reading and Technology". She attended Louisiana State University receiving a *McNair Tuition Waiver* and Masters in Public Administration (May 1999). As an outstanding student she was on the "The National Dean's List" and received the "Certificate of Achievement for Exemplary Work in Presentation of Research-1996" from Pennsylvania State University. Janice Stollman (LSU) was her faculty mentor and Dr. Ken Denny (UNO) her research director. The following describes her philosophy on life.

BRAG CORNER



**Pamela Aaron
Ratliff**

"The McNair Program was instrumental in guiding my career by providing me with hands-on experience and exposure to the field of research in addition to giving me the support and motivation needed to successfully complete a graduate degree."

"Moving Forward"

Achieving success is more than just fulfilling the tasks on your to-do list. It requires perseverance against all odds, good planning and decision-making, as well as the ability to be flexible yet focused on your goals. From early on, I knew that I wanted to make the most of my life and the way to achieve this was through knowledge and education. One of the most wonderful aspects of the journey to success is the unexpected gifts that appear along the way whether it be a person, opportunity, or thing. A very special gift (or should I say blessing!) in my life was meeting Mrs. Connie Stelly and her staff at LSU's Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The McNair Program was instrumental in guiding my career by providing me with hands-on experience and exposure to the field of research in addition to giving me the support and motivation needed to successfully complete a graduate degree.

Following my participation in McNair, I graduated from LSU in the top 5% of my class with a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) degree concentrating in Health Care Administration and Management. This inspired me to seek additional experience in health care but this time I decided to do so at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. While attending Hopkins, I worked as a research assistant and as a nurse extern in an oncology unit at a local medical center. I received numerous awards and honors including a research award from the *Office of the Provost*, being selected as a finalist in the *National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International Center Global Health Promotion Research Program*, and participating in the *Baltimore Schweitzer Fellowship Program* where I developed and facilitated a community outreach program for at-risk teens focused on health education training.

In recent years, I have served as a Partnership Program Coordinator at the *National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Information Service (CIS)*, California Region where I developed a program plan to implement, market and evaluate the *CIS Partner Training Institute* for partner organizations in Northern and Southern California focused in the areas of breast and cervical cancer and clinical trials education. I am presently the Program Coordinator of the *Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR)*, a joint program of the *UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center* and the *UCLA School of Public Health* with support from the National Cancer Institute. The MTPCCR's purpose is to increase ethnic diversity in the field of cancer control research by encouraging minority master's level health science students and master's trained professionals to pursue a doctoral degree and career in research. Currently, 18% of our participants are either accepted or enrolled in doctoral programs in addition to two having completed their PhD's. Of these participants, over 66% have plans to work in the field of cancer control which is exceptional. In recognition of our achievements, the MTPCCR was awarded the *2004 Society for Public Health Education (SoPHE) Program Excellence Award*, which recognizes outstanding contributions by a program in existence for at least three years to the practice of health education. Due to the overwhelming response, we replicated the program in Southern California and have devised a manuscript detailing the process that I co-authored. Based on my personal and professional experiences working with graduate students, I would like to leave you with a few useful tips to help you reach your academic and/or career goals: 1) Choose 1-2 academic/career goals (either immediate or long-term); 2) Develop a yearly plan to reach your goals (eg. 2 yrs, 5 yrs, 10 yrs, etc.); 3) Identify mentors currently working in your area of interest and schedule one-on-one meetings to establish rapport and discuss their career paths; and 4) NETWORK, NETWORK, and MORE NETWORKING – It is very important to get involved in organizations in your field, attend events such as conferences, lectures/seminars on special topics of interest to you, and participate in advisory boards or committees to collaborate on an ongoing basis with other professionals. Remember, you are ALL blessed with unique talents and skills but oftentimes they are not utilized and lie dormant. Therefore, I hope my story has encouraged and inspired each of you to continue forth in developing those hidden gifts so that they may positively serve you, your loved ones, and those you come in contact with for the betterment of mankind!

By Pamela Aaron Ratliff