



OSI QUARTERLY

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ISSUE II

July–September News



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ABOUT DR. WARNER

He is a husband, father and mentor to many.

Warner was born in DeQuincy, La., but was raised in Bunkie, La. He earned his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Southern University and his doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Washington. LSU Boyd Professor and Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. Isiah Warner has received a number of honors with his most recent being an honorary doctor of science degree during Marquette University's May 21 commencement ceremony. Warner was in attendance with Louisiana native and well-known journalist Cokie Roberts, who

delivered the commencement address. Warner was one of four to receive honorary degrees at the ceremony. In 1988, he served as the Dr. Ralph H. Metcalfe senior chair at Marquette University.

Earlier this year, Warner was invited to speak at the 6th annual George Washington Carver Convocation at Tuskegee University in Alabama. Tuskegee University President Benjamin F. Payton presented him with the George Washington Carver Achievement Award for his work "as an educator, administrator and humanitarian." He discussed the strides that African-Americans have made in

chemistry at LSU. In addition to the Marquette and Carver honors, Warner was selected in May to receive the 2005 Charles E. Coates Memorial Award. The Coates Award is granted "in recognition of outstanding contributions to the professions of chemistry or chemical engineering, the corresponding professional society and the community."

"I always feel embarrassed to receive an award since I do not expect to receive awards for doing my job," Warner said of receiving the Coates Award. "However, it is always a great honor to receive an award from my peers here in Baton Rouge. That alone makes this honor very special."

Message from Vice-Chancellor



OSI is currently administering the McNair Research Scholars Program, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professors Program, and the LSU Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program. So much of what we do in these programs relies on the assistance and guidance of faculty in working with our students. The role the faculty plays in mentoring these students is vital to each student's success and their continued education. The students are granted the opportunity in performing research under the tutor-

age of some of the finest researchers in the country. For these students to have the opportunity to be involved in research at a Research I university provides them with the background necessary to be accepted to the finest graduate schools.

The summer program participants worked with the following faculty: Fareed Aboul-ela-Biological Sciences; Pratul Ajmera-Electrical Engineering; Richard Avent-Civil Engineering; Al Burns-Marketing; Amy Campbell-Physics and Astronomy; Areendam Chanda Economics; Leigh Clemons-Theatre; Huagen Ding-Biological Sciences; Yeakoub Houssef El-Khamra - Center for Computation and Technology; Martin Feldman-Electrical

Engineering, Sean Lane-Psychology; Guoqiang Li-Mechanical Engineering; Todd Monroe - Biological Engineering; Richard Nelson-Mass Communication; Timothy Page-Social Work; Dinesh Pinisetty - Mechanical Engineering; Lance Porter-Mass Communication; Andrew Schwarz-Information Systems and Decision Science; and Vince Wilson Environmental Studies.

I applaud these faculty and many others for their dedication to our undergraduates. These faculty represent the very best of our faculty mentors on campus. Thus, they are more than teachers or research directors to our students.



"MLK"



Monica Sylvain,
Program Manager
LA-STEM Research
Scholars



Lisa Batiste-Evans,
Program Manager
HHMI Professors
Program



Karin deGravelles,
Assistant Program
Manger, LA-STEM
Research Scholars
Program and HHMI
Professors Program

OSI
2005 Summer
Bridge Participants

OSI Summer Bridge Program

Note from the Program Managers:

For the past eight weeks the Office of Strategic Initiatives hosted its second annual Summer Bridge program! We had the pleasure of getting to know thirty-three students who were accepted into "The Program" (a term coined by the existing HHMI Undergraduate Mentors and LA-STEM Scholars), which focuses on research, academic excellence and mentoring.

Education enhancement activities such as Chem-Demo, reader's theatre, a field trip to Albemarle, and a mural project (to be hung outside the OSI office soon!) were essential to this summer's success (see list at right for descriptions). The 'family' atmosphere and interdependent support system present in our community encourages all students to be successful. Nurturing the 'family' atmosphere were five senior mentors from "The Program" and one Undergraduate Success in Science (USS) student from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who served as Resident Mentors (RMs) this summer. The RMs, with the "Summer Bridge Mentees," participated in movies, games, and workshops that the RMs developed on topics like getting along with your roommate, ethics, and professionalism, as well as conducting an LSU scavenger hunt.

During the Closing Ceremony on July 29, the 2005 OSI Summer Bridge Students presented their interpretations of their summer experience to parents, faculty mentors, OSI Summer REU students and LSU dignitaries in the Magnolia room in the LSU Student Union. We, MLK, were very pleased, (to say the least!) with this year's Summer Bridge. We hope that the activity list, pictures and quotations on the rest of this page will show you why! Special thanks to all of the parents: you really made our time this summer more enjoyable!

Summer Bridge Activity Descriptions:

ChemDemo: *Glue, Borax, Exploding Balloons!* These cool chemistry demonstrations were taught to the Summer Bridge students as a service learning project this summer. The students are now equipped to conduct these chemistry demonstrations in the local high schools to get students excited about science.

Readers Theatre: *Acting in science?* Students used this experience to become more comfortable with public speaking. They used their voices, facial expressions, and bodies, to interpret the emotions, beliefs, attitudes, and motives of their characters without relying on costumes or stage sets.

Mural Project: *Art and Science?* Interdependence is central to our community and the mural project was a great way to create something that expressed their vision for an HHMI/LA-STEM community. Working in 2 groups for about 9 days, students created a mural that is reflective of the students' personal visions of Interdependence, Diversity, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and their place within these.



Albemarle Field Trip: *Glass Blowing and Ibuprofen?* There's a lot going on at Albemarle! Students toured labs that featured everything from preparing 1000 mg Ibuprofen to glass blowing and fireproofing research.



OSI Summer Research

OSI's vision to "support the high achievements of LSU students, faculty, and staff through **EDUCATION, MENTORING, and RESEARCH**" is closer into view through the newly funded OSI REU program, "**Broadening the Participation in Interdisciplinary Science**"! LA-STEM Scholars Lemroy Culbert, Andrew Davidson, Ronnie Harper, Shyue Lu, Rachel Ohlmeyer, Kortney Raeuchle, Joshua Reaves, and Alex Walter-Higgins were excited about the prospect of conducting research after only one year of college, while the HHMI Undergraduate Mentors Matthew Mitchell, Dominique Henderson, Akin Oyekenu, and KhriSSy LaSalle relished the idea of summer research here at LSU! "I feel like I am truly part of the team now!" expressed one of the OSI Summer REU students when asked about how their summer research experience compared to the academic year experience. All of the OSI REU students worked full time in their respective research laboratories allowing them to become fully immersed in their research. Most of these students continued the research they'd begun during the academic year, but some used this opportunity to pursue new research interests. Joining the LA-STEM and HHMI students in OSI's first annual REU experience this summer were David Dinh and Patrick Keating. Each of the OSI REU students presented their research in the **SURF Conference** (see picture below) held in the Energy, Coast & Environment Building on July 28, 2005!



OSI
2005 Summer
Research Participants

Comments by OSI Summer Bridge Contributors!

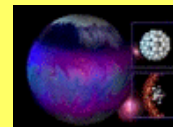
"This summer was indubitably the best summer I've ever had..." (2005 OSI Summer Bridge Student)

"Having a structured program to help make connections between the STEM topic areas and promote interdisciplinary learning and training will enhance their college and career experiences." (Dr. Todd Monroe, Biological Engineering, Louisiana State University)

"I was so impressed by the 2005 OSI Summer Bridge participants and their willingness to be open and honest about issues of otherness. . . These students were deeply connected to many aspects of appreciating the differences that others bring to college." (Dr. Katrice Albert, Vice Provost, Equity and Diversity, Louisiana State University)

"We all feel strongly that the Summer Bridge Program provides a wonderful opportunity for your particularly talented, new students to "hit the ground running" in their technical area of interest. We are proud of the fact that LSU has been willing to provide the resources and emphasis for this approach." (Dr. Joe Sauer, Senior Research and Development Advisor, Albemarle Corporation)

2005 OSI Summer Bridge was funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the National Science Foundation.



Research Corporation



2005 OSI Summer Research was funded by National Science Foundation and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute

"Like everyone said at the closing ceremony, the summer bridge program . . . [has] so far given me so much more than I could have ever wished for!"

- 2005 OSI Summer Bridge Student

McNair Research Scholars Program

Funded by USDE



2005 McNair
Summer Research
Scholars

Summer Orientation

The McNair program staff welcomed the new summer participants during a luncheon at LSU Faculty Club. Continuing participant, **Shaundreka Rhines**, a Political Science major from Southern University, conducted a PowerPoint presentation titled "Gender Differences in Legislative Behavior." Under the supervision of LSU Assistant Professor **Kathleen Bratton** of the Department of Political Science, her research focused on both history and current trends as it relates to gender and the legislative process. **Brandy Williams**, a Finance major from the University of New Orleans, was titled, "An Analysis of Initial Public Offerings—Recent Performance." Under the supervision of LSU Professor **Gary Sanger** of the Department of Finance, **Williams'** research explained the process of Initial Public Offerings.

Summer participants were welcomed and presented an overview of the program by Director **Connie Stelly**. After lunch, participants joined the McNair staff for a tour of the program offices.

Craig Callender, Office of Computing Services, reviewed laptop policies, procedures, and proper usage techniques for Beaumont equipment. Assistant Director **Lahna Roche** reviewed specific program requirements and deadlines. Administrative Coordinator **Mary Riedlinger** distributed laptops, supplies, and graduate record preparation materials.

McNair Scholars Never Quit!

McNair Scholars and recent McNair graduates have spent the summer continuing their education through specialized training in a variety of different areas.

Mindi Batson from Southeastern Louisiana University completed an internship as a *Recreation Counselor* for a summer camp in Vermont. Her work with children with disabilities at this camp has given her experiential learning in her chosen major, Psychology.

A senior Army ROTC Cadet from Southern University, **Shaundreka Rhines** recently attended *Warrior Forge*, a thirty-three (33) day Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC), in Ft. Lewis, Washington. The program is designed to train cadets and National Guard officer candidates to Army standards, develop leadership, and evaluate officer potential. In May 2006, **Rhines** will be commissioned as a 2nd **Lieutenant** and hopes to branch JAG or Military Intelligence.

Recent McNair graduate, **Jyric Sims**, interned as the Interim Chief Operating Officer at *Gadsden Regional Medical Center in Alabama*. Upon completion of his internship, **Sims** will attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham to pursue dual masters degrees in Public Administration and Public Health.

Kenneth West II, another recent graduate, is currently participating in a dietetics internship at *North Oaks Health Systems*. This internship is required in order for **West** to become a Registered Dietician. In addition, he has been working with fellow *TRIO* programs *Upward Bound* and *Talent Search* at *Southeastern Louisiana University* and will teach a research class for them in the fall.

Message From the Director-Connie C. Stelly



"Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, while every tomorrow is a vision of hope"-Kalidasa.

I often wonder how our McNair participants keep it all together with their busy schedules and their continued academic success. Of course, this program continues to put great demands on them; but, they keep on keeping on. When they tell me their plans for the summer it gives me great pride to see that they make every effort to have their "todays well lived". For them summers are not a time for relaxation because they are constantly striving to achieve their goals and make their dreams come true. Their hard-work gives me great hope for the future of this country. Keep up the good work!!



Shaundreka Rhines
Political Science
Southern University



Brandy Williams
Finance
University of New
Orleans