



## LOUISIANA IMPACT RESEARCH AWARDS

A LOUISIANA RESEARCH  
COLLABORATIVE EVENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025  
8:30AM – 1:30PM  
LITE CENTER

### RESEARCH CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, PLACE & PURPOSE OF LOUISIANA

8:30-9:00	Coffee & Snacks	10:45-11:30	Research Presentations
9:00-9:15	Dr. Jaimie Hebert & Welcome	11:30-12:00	Lunch & Snacks
9:15-10:20	Research Presentations	12:00-12:10	Dr. Ramesh Kolluru
10:20-10:35	Break	12:10-1:20	Research Presentations
10:35-10:45	Dr. Dianne Olivier	1:20-1:30	Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser

### THE CULTURE OF LOUISIANA

**David Squires, Associate Professor of English & Isuru Rathnayake, PhD student, English, College of Liberal Arts**

*Reading Ernest J. Gaines in the Archives*

**Elena Babatsouli, Associate Professor of Communicative Disorders, College of Liberal Arts**

*Louisiana Family Language Use and Child Speech Developmental Norms in English*

**Nathan Rabalais, Associate Professor of Modern Languages, College of Liberal Arts**

*Cultiver Notre Jardin: Rethinking 'Traditional' Cajun and Creole Foodways*

**Virgile Beddok, Associate Professor of English, College of Liberal Arts**

*Settling St. Malo - The Movie*

### INNOVATION, EDUCATION & OUR UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**Kevin Guillory & Jonathan Shirley, Louisiana Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center (LEED Center)**

*Educating & Cultivating the Heart of an Entrepreneur*

**Gretchen Vanicor, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability & Community Engagement and Kiwana McClung, Academic Affairs**

*Connecting Students to our Community: How to Create a Safe and Welcoming Community Engagement Experience*

**Blair Begnaud, Jonathan Brown and Gretchen Vanicor, Office of Sustainability & Community Engagement**

*Data Informed Decision Making: Making the Case for Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure Improvements Around the UL Lafayette Campus*

## INNOVATION & EXPLORATION

**Billy Poirier, Water Resources & Environmental Engineering major, NASA/UL Lafayette Regional Application Center**

Faculty references: Rodney Yantis & Courtney Chicola

*STELLA and Beyond: Replicating NASA Satellite & Sensor Technologies*

**Bree Landry, Environmental Science, Digital Geography major, NASA/UL Lafayette Regional Application Center**

Faculty references: Rodney & Courtney Chicola

*Roaming with the TerraROVER: Exploring Areas that Can Be Difficult to Access*

**Bree Landry, Environmental Science, Digital Geography major, NASA/UL Lafayette Regional Application Center**

Faculty references: Rodney Yantis & Courtney Poirier Chicola

*Tracking Troubled Waters: Community-Based Field Research with the AREN AquaROVER*

10:20-10:35 BREAK

10:35-10:45 Dr. Dianne Olivier, Interim Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

## PEOPLE, PLACE & OUR SHARED ENVIRONMENTS

**Jeanne Cartier, Professor of Nursing, College of Nursing**

*Increasing Students' Understanding of the Complexities & Challenges of Living in Poverty Through an Experiential Learning Activity: The Community Action Poverty Simulation*

**Beenish Chaudry, Assistant Professor of Computing & Informatics, College of Engineering**

*How Well Do Clinical Terminologies Represent Climate-Related Illnesses of Low Socio-Economic Communities: A Gap Analysis*

**Clancy Ratliff, Professor of English, College of Liberal Arts**

*Saving Species, Saving the Climate: Poetic Inquiry and Environmental Advocacy Rhetoric*

**Ian Patterson, Assistant Professor of Biology, College of Sciences**

*Using Insect-Specific Viruses to Prevent Mosquitoes from Transmitting Arthropod-Borne Viruses*

**Kevin Torgensen, PhD student, Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, College of Sciences**

Faculty reference: James Albert

*Highlighting Global Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Fishes Using New Methods of 3D Photogrammetry*

**Robyn Zerebecki, Assistant Professor of Biology, College of Sciences**

*Investigating How Tidal Inundation and Plant Composition Influence Black Mangrove (*Avicennia Germinans*) Growth and Survival to Inform Coastal Restoration Practices*

11:30-12:00 BOXED LUNCH

12:00-12:10 Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, VP for Research, Innovation & Economic Development

### INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY & THE LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENT

**Mohammad Jamal Khattak, Professor of Civil Engineering, College of Engineering**

*Development of Green Construction Material Using Locally Available Rice and Sugarcane Industrial Byproducts*

**Caitlin DeNux, Visiting Assistant Professor of Teaching, Geosciences, College of Sciences and Terry Chambers, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering**

*Evaluating Soil Health Improvements Utilizing Cover Crops in a Pre-Established Broccoli Production AV System in Louisiana*

**Afeez Jimoh, PhD student, Earth & Energy Sciences, College of Sciences**

Faculty reference: Erez Aghion

*Computational Modeling of Ion Transport Dynamics in Ion Exchange Membranes for Sustainable Energy Systems*

**Sydney McDermott, PhD student in Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, College of Sciences**

Faculty reference: Craig McClain

*Observations of the Condition of Deep-Sea Benthic Communities in the Immediate Vicinity of the Deepwater Horizon Wreckage*

**Sydney McDermott, PhD student, Environmental & Evolutionary Biology, College of Sciences**

Faculty reference: Craig McClain

*Comparisons of Three Deep-Sea Wreck Communities in the Gulf of Mexico*

**Rui Zhang, Associate Professor of Geosciences, College of Sciences**

*Monitoring Ground Water Level by Turning the Fiber Optical Network on UL Lafayette Campus into a Distributed Acoustic Sensor (DAS)*

## HEALTH, WELLNESS & OUR SHARED EXPERIENCES

**Bailey Singleton, Psychology major, College of Liberal Arts**

Faculty reference: Amy Brown

*Consent in Media Consumption: Exploring Content Warnings as Accessibility through Sexual Assault Survivor's Perspectives*

**Elizabeth Drell, Psychology major, College of Liberal Arts**

Faculty reference: Amy Brown

*Alcohol Intoxication as a Moderator of Bias Against Transgender Victims of Sexual Assault*

**Jacob Norris, Master Student in Psychology, College of Liberal Arts**

Faculty reference: Emily Sandoz

*The Relationships Between Ego Depletion and Social Behaviors Across Different Degrees of Psychological Flexibility*

**Sebnem Cilesiz, Professor of Education, College of Education & Human Development and**

**Emily Sandoz, Professor of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts**

*When the Going Gets Tough: Examining Perspectives on Resilience Across University Stakeholders*

*Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, Dean of The Graduate School*  
**CLOSING REMARKS & LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**



SCAN QR CODE ABOVE TO LINK TO  
DETAILED SCHEDULE AND FULL  
PROGRAM INFORMATION



FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE LOUISIANA  
RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE, THE LOUISIANA IMPACT  
RESEARCH AWARDS AND RELATED PROGRAMS, PLEASE VISIT:  
[HTTPS://BUSINESS.LOUISIANA.EDU/RESEARCHCOLLABORATIVE](https://business.louisiana.edu/researchcollaborative)

Showcasing research aligned with the people, place, and purpose of Louisiana, this program is a true collaboration between Academic Affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Development, the Graduate School, the Office of Sustainability & Community Engagement, and Brian Bolton, Professor of Finance and the Dwight W. Andrus, Jr. / BORSF Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Finance.