



Assistant Professor Michael Brylinski of LSU's Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Computation and Technology, or CCT, is among the recipients of Oak Ridge Associated Universities' annual Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities is a consortium of doctoral-granting academic institutions. The Powe Award recognizes exceptional academic work by university junior faculty within several disciplines: engineering or applied science; life sciences; mathematics and computer science; physical sciences; and policy, management or education. The award grants \$5,000, matched by the member institution, designed to enhance the recipient's professional growth.

"Recruitment and recognition of high achieving faculty are important in moving LSU to the top rank of America's research universities," explained Kalliat T. Valsaraj, associate vice chancellor of LSU Office of Research & Economic Development. "The Ralph E. Powe award

marks Dr. Brylinski as prominently in that category." Brylinski conducts research in the area of computational biology at LSU, and hopes that the Ralph E. Powe award will help his group develop a research program at LSU focusing on the modeling of biological networks using structure-oriented approaches.

Dr. Sheri Wischusen, LSU College of Science director of undergraduate research and her husband William Wischusen, associate chair for introductory biology, hosted a conference titled "BIOS Workshop: Student Success and Retention" in San Francisco on June 7-8. The purpose was to teach faculty from other institutions how to replicate their successful pre-college academic boot camp programs. Sheri and Bill's participation in the workshop resulted in six other institutions wanting to replicate the BIOS concept on their campuses.

In 2005, the Wischusens created Biology Intensive Orientation for Students, or BIOS, to help students make a successful transition to college and improve the academic performance of incoming biology students in their introductory classes. Seven years later, this intensive one-week orientation program has not only positively impacted student performance in their major, but also improved program retention rates. Each department in the LSU College of Science now operates a boot camp, and this August over 360 students will participate in CoS boot camps. More than 30 schools throughout the nation have replicated the program, including UCLA and Loyola Chicago.

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## KUDOS

### Astronaut Performs LSU Chemistry Professor's Experiment

At 3:40 AM on June 26, John A. Pojman, Chemistry Professor at LSU, received a call from Don Pettit, an astronaut on the International Space Station. Dr. Pettit discussed the experiment he was about to perform, which was created by Professor Pojman, experiment, Miscible Fluids in Microgravity (MFMG), tests if miscible fluids can act like immiscible fluids. On earth, gravity mixes the fluids, but in a weightless environment of ISS, it is possible to observe subtle phenomena. This is the fifth experiment that Pojman has developed for the International Space Station.

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Sophie Warny, Curator of Paleontology at LSU's Museum of Natural Science, recently contributed to a study that was published online July 17 in Nature Geoscience. The goal of the study was to gain a better understanding of what future climate may look like on Earth. The university-led study found that ancient Antarctica was much warmer and wetter than previously expected, and climate was suitable to support sub-tropical vegetation.

## STAR SCHOLARS

### Distinguished Graduate Stewart Humble Shares His Story of Success

Honors College student Stewart Humble managed to accumulate an abundance of awards and honors before receiving his bachelor's degree. Humble graduated in May from the College of Science with College Honors and was named a member of the Tiger Twelve Class of 2012. He was also named a University Medalist for his perfect GPA. He was also named a University Medalist for his perfect GPA. He was also named a University Medalist for his perfect GPA. He was also named a University Medalist for his perfect GPA. He was also named a University Medalist for his perfect GPA.

