2013
LSU
Rainmakers
Mid-Career Scholar Award
Science, Technology, Engineering
or Mathematics

Michael Malisoff
Mathematics

Sponsored by
CAMPUS FEDERAL
®
The
Louisiana State University
Office of Research &
Economic Development
and
Campus Federal

present the

2013
Rainmakers

MARCH 26, 2014
Who are the Rainmakers?

We've borrowed the metaphor from the business vernacular, but its origin is more ancient. In the broadest sense, a Rainmaker is one whose special skills and superlative effort bring prosperity to the tribe.

In the university context, Rainmakers are faculty who are nationally and internationally recognized for innovative research and creative scholarship; who compete for external funding and awards at the highest levels, and who attract and mentor exceptional graduate students.

This year, it is you who bring the most welcome resources and respect to your home departments and to LSU. We salute you!
A Message from
Vice Chancellor Kalliat T. Valsaraj

Welcome to the 2013 Rainmakers Awards ceremony and reception. This is a wonderful event which celebrates the essence of the University. It is the sixth in a series sponsored by Campus Federal Credit Union. It clearly acknowledges the importance and impact of faculty research and scholarship to the University, and the communities we serve.

Faculty we honor tonight were nominated by their colleagues and judged by their peers on the LSU Council on Research. They were chosen to receive an Emerging Scholar Award, Mid-Career Scholar Award or a Senior Scholar Award. Separate awards were chosen for Faculty in the Arts, Humanities, Social Science or Behavioral Sciences or areas in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. Awardees were chosen based on the high quality of their research and creative activities and scholarship as well as significant recognition by institutions external to the University.

Reading the brief biographies of the individual awardees and listening to comments you will hear from their nominators, I think you will agree that the 2013 Rainmakers are a truly outstanding group. They bring a special individual and collective honor to LSU.

On behalf of the University and Campus Federal, I want to thank you all for your participation in this ceremony.
Emerging Scholar Award
Arts, Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences

Michael Pasquier


He is the editor of the book "Gods of the Mississippi" (Indiana University Press 2013), which explores the history of religion in the Mississippi River Valley from the colonial period to the present. He also teamed-up with Zack Godshall, Assistant Professor of Screenwriting at LSU, to produce the documentary "Water Like Stone" (2013), which is a film about the people who live in Louisiana's vanishing wetlands. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Dr. Pasquier is currently working on a book about the cultural impact of engineering the Mississippi River in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. With support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio, Dr. Pasquier is in the final stages of developing an exhibit entitled "On Land / With Water: Tracking Change in a Coastal Community," which showcases the past, present, and future of life along Bayou Lafourche in ways that provide audiences with a deeper understanding of the social and environmental forces at play in Louisiana's ever-changing landscape.

And most recently, Dr. Pasquier has been asked by Routledge to write a textbook on the history of religion in the United States.
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Brian Shaw

Brian Shaw is Associate Professor of Trumpet and Jazz Studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and Co-Principal Trumpet of the Dallas Wind Symphony. In addition to his work at LSU, he is active as an international performing and recording musician on modern and valvless trumpets. His diverse research interests include 18th century German and Austrian trumpet repertoire, modern trumpet pedagogy, and the music of jazz trumpeter and composer Kenny Wheeler (b. 1930).

Shaw has been a prizewinner in several international competitions and is the dedicatee of numerous new compositions. His upcoming CD recording, redshift, accompanied by the Dallas Wind Symphony, was made possible by an ATLAS grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, and will be released in the Fall of 2014 on Klavier records. His 2008 debut album, titled Virtuoso Concertos for Clarino, includes some of the most difficult pieces ever written for the Baroque trumpet, and is accompanied by an orchestra comprised of New York’s finest period musicians.

As a jazz musician and scholar, Shaw directs the LSU Jazz Ensemble, which has hosted such luminaries as Wayne Bergeron, Wydiffe Gordon, and Rufus Reid during his leadership. His jazz books and transcriptions are published by Advance Music, Presser, Schott, and Universal Edition. Over the past two years, Shaw has served as a consultant to the newly established Kenny Wheeler Archive and Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Shaw also performs regularly on the popular LSU concert series “Hot Summer Nights and Cool Jazz” alongside pianist Willis Delony and bassist Bill Grimes.

Emerging Scholar Award
Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics

Hongchao Zhang

Hongchao Zhang is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and the Center for Computation and Technology (CCT). Dr. Zhang earned his B.S. degree in computational mathematics from Shandong University, China in 1998, his M.S. degree in applied mathematics from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2001, and his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Florida in 2006. From September 2006 to July 2008, he was an Industrial Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA) associated with the IBM TJ Watson Research Center. Since August 2008, Zhang has been an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and the Center for Computation and Technology (CCT) at LSU. Zhang’s research mainly focuses on nonlinear optimization theory, algorithms and their applications to sparse matrix computing, graph partitioning, inverse problems in medical imaging and petrophysics and derivative free optimization.
Mid-Career Scholar Award
Arts, Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences

Troy Blanchard

Dr. Blanchard is Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University. He joined the department as an Associate Professor in 2007 after serving on the faculty at Mississippi State University from 2001-2007. His primary research interests include demography, health, socioeconomic inequality, and social impact assessment. His research agenda focuses on the interconnections between community organizations (such as local businesses, voluntary associations, and churches), social inequality, and demographic outcomes within U.S. communities.

His research projects are designed to speak to both academic and policy related audiences and address key social problems facing communities. He has received competitive grants from a variety of federal agencies including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Dr. Blanchard also directs the Louisiana Population Estimates Program that is tasked with developing parish and municipal population estimates. His research has been featured in national, statewide, and local media outlets (such as Time Magazine, USA Today, and The Advocate) and he is a regular contributor to media coverage of social policy issues related to demography and social inequality.

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In 2001, he joined the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he is now the Roy Paul Daniels Professor #3 in the College of Science. His main research has been on controller design and analysis for nonlinear control systems with time delays and uncertainty and their applications in engineering.

One of his projects is joint with the Georgia Tech Savannah Robotics team, and is developing marine robotic methods to help understand the environmental impacts of hazards such as oil spills. His more than 80 publications include a monograph on constructive Lyapunov methods in the Springer Communications and Control Engineering Series. His other awards include the First Place Student Best Paper Award at the 1999 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control, two three-year National Science Foundation Mathematical Sciences Priority Area grants, and six Best Presentation awards in American Control Conference sessions. He is an associate editor for SIAM Journal on Control and Optimization and for IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control.
Senior Scholar Award
Arts, Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences

Sharon Weltman

Sharon Aronofsky Weltman (Professor of English at LSU) is the author of two books, Performing the Victorian: John Ruskin and Identity in Theater, Science, and Education (2007) and Raskin’s Mythic Queen: Gender Subversion in Victorian Culture (1999), named Outstanding Academic Book by Choice magazine. She also put together a scholarly edition of the original Sweeney Todd melodrama published in 2012 as a special issue of Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Film. She has in addition approximately 50 essays and reviews on Charles Dickens, Christina Rossetti, Charlotte Bronté, and others topics either in print or under contract. This July, she will direct a National Endowment for Humanities Summer Seminar for College and University Teachers called “Performing Dickens: Oliver Twist and Great Expectations on Page, Stage, and Screen” at University of California – Santa Cruz. Professor Weltman serves on many international boards and committees, including the Modern Languages Association Program Committee. She has presented over 40 conference papers, including multiple keynotes. Universities regularly bring her in to speak, including (in the UK) Oxford, Lancaster, and Birmingham, and (in the US) Berkeley, Notre Dame, and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Her current book project is “Victorians on Broadway: The Afterlife of Nineteenth-Century British Literature on the American Musical Stage.”

Rainmaker Award Recipients 2012

Emerging Scholar
Julia Buckner, Psychology
Prosanta Chakrabarty, Biological Sciences

Mid Career Scholar
Ashok Mishra, Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Rongying Jin, Physics and Astronomy

Senior Scholar
Rudolf Hirschheim, Information Systems & Decision Sciences
Kam-hiu Liu Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

2012 Rainmaker Recipients
(1st row l-r) Interim Vice Chancellor Thomas R. Klein; Prosanta Chakrabarty, Kam-hiu Liu, Rongying Jin, Campus Federal President & Chief Executive Officer Dawn Harris
(2nd row l-r) Campus Federal Board Member Ken Paxton, Rudy Hirschheim, Ashok Mishra, Julia Buckner
The Council on Research

Kalliat T. Valsaraj
Vice Chancellor
Office of Research & Economic Development

Evelyn Orman, Chair
School of Music

Mark C. Benfield
Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Jeffrey A. Carney
School of Architecture

Q. Jim Chen
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

John DiTusa
Department of Physics & Astronomy

Anne Grove
Department of Biological Sciences

Petra Munro Hendry
School of Education

Rudy Hirschheim
Department of Information Systems & Decision Sciences

Mark Jarrell
Department of Physics & Astronomy

Sarah Liggett
Department of English

Mandi Lopez
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Wen Jin Meng
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Ashok Mishra
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness

Krishnaswamy Nandakumar
Department of Chemical Engineering

Margaret A. Reams
Department of Environmental Sciences

Matthew R. Lee, Ex-Officio
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor
Office of Research & Economic Development

Gus Kousoulas, Ex-Officio
Associate Vice Chancellor
Office of Research & Economic Development
LSU Names Rainmakers

APRIL 9, 2014 BY DEPT. RESEARCH COMM. DIR. LEAVE A COMMENT

LSU's status as a top-tier research institution means that our faculty are leaders in their field, performing at truly outstanding levels every day. Once a year, LSU's Office of Research & Economic Development, with the support of Campus Federal Credit Union, take the opportunity to acknowledge some of our many outstanding faculty with the Rainmaker Awards for Research and Creative Activity.

Rainmakers are those faculty members who balance their extensive responsibilities, which extend far beyond the classroom, with external expectations such as securing funding for their research and establishing the impact of their findings to the scholarly community and society as a whole. These exemplary representatives of LSU garner national and international recognition for innovative research and creative scholarship, compete for external funding at the highest levels and attract and mentor exceptional graduate students.

"We are excited to acknowledge the incredible and impressive achievements of the 2013 Rainmakers," said LSU Vice Chancellor of Research & Economic Development Kalliat T. Valsaraj, who presented the awards in a ceremony held at the Club in Union Square. "These researchers and creative scholars represent our university's excellence and are standard-bearers within their own respective fields. We couldn't do this without the support of Campus Federal Credit Union, and we thank them for their support of our commitment to academic and research excellence."

Ron Monceaux, chief development officer at Campus Federal, was also on hand to congratulate the recipients.

"We [Campus Federal] understand the important role research plays not only in LSU's long-term success, but also in the economic and social stability of Louisiana," said Monceaux. "We appreciate the opportunity to support these innovative faculty members who represent not only academic accomplishments but also support and mentorship for LSU students. Campus Federal was founded by seven distinguished LSU faculty members in 1934, so it is a fitting legacy for us to continue supporting distinguished faculty for their accomplishments in research today."

Each of the following award-winning faculty members has met one or more of the criteria for high-quality research or creative activities and scholarship, which include, but are not limited to publication in a high-impact journal(s); a highly cited work; external awards; invited presentations at national and international meetings; high journal publication productivity; critically acclaimed book publication(s), performance(s), exhibition(s) or theatrical production(s); high grant productivity; and, for more senior candidates, outstanding citation records and high-impact invited presentations at national and international meetings.

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All Rainmaker recipients receive a one-time stipend of $1,000 and a plaque in recognition of their achievements.

For more information about the Rainmakers Awards, visit www.lsu.edu/research.

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