## THE PURSUITE

SCHOLARSHIP

RESEARCH

INNOVATION

EXCELLENCE

# Science BROAD

From South Africa to France, LSU science faculty and students are taking their research experiences global



### Mathematics Professor Named **Roy Paul Daniels Professor**



Michael Malisoff is the third LSU faculty member to be named a Roy Paul Daniels Professor. A member of the mathematics faculty since 2001, Malisoff has made many significant contributions to mathematics education and research.

He is currently on the editorial boards of IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control and Systems and Control Letters. He has been awarded more than \$1 million in federal research grants as principal investigator, including two, three-year grants from the NSF Mathematical Sciences Priority Area Program.

Malisoff received his Ph.D. in 2000 from Rutgers University with doctoral research in optimal control and Hamilton-Jacobi theory. He was a DARPA Research Associate in the Department of Systems Science and Mathematics at Washington University in Saint Louis as part of the Joint Force Air Component Commander Project. His main research involves controller design combined with analysis for nonlinear control systems with time delays and uncertainty and their applications in engineering. Malisoff has contributed more than 70 publications to control theory and its applicants while his first book, Constructions of Strict Lyapunov Functions, emerged in 2009.

"I am very thankful to receive this distinguished professorship," said Malisoff. "Exploring interdisciplinary mathematics, and working with colleagues and students from engineering and mathematics, has always been a great pleasure and a privilege for me."

One of Malisoff's current projects involves the development of controllers for marine robots that can be used to search for residual pollution from oil spills. After the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Malisoff partnered with a colleague at Georgia Tech, Fumin Zhang, and Mark Patterson from the College of William and Mary, to design marine robotic methods for conducting surveys on the weathered crude oil off the coast of Louisiana.

The project's long-term objectives are to develop marine survey methods that are adaptive, fault tolerant, repeatable and robust to uncertainty. Marine robots are useful due to the high costs and hazards involved with human-based surveys. The robots can retrieve water and sediment samples, making it possible to monitor the long-term impacts of environmental disasters, hazards, and stresses. Malisoff's team spent three weeks conducting fieldwork at Grand Isle during the summer of 2011. Currently, their work aims to better understand how to compensate for communication delays, which result from unfriendly sea conditions.



Adrian Owen

#### College Welcomes New Associate Director of Donor Relations

Adrian Annette Owen is the new associate director of donor relations for the College of Science. She will be working with Senior Director of Development Ann Marie Marmande and other development staff to create and implement new strategies for stewarding donors, while creating meaningful opportunities to engage alumni. Owen comes to LSU from the state of Oklahoma, where she worked with grant-makers in the area to provide funding for nonprofits.

"I am very excited to be at LSU and I look forward to working with the development team to strengthen and grow the College's resources," said Owen.

#### **National Recognition** continued from page 23 **–**

NASPA is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. The organization serves a full range of professionals who provide programs, experiences, and services that cultivate student learning and success in concert with the mission of our colleges and universities. Founded in 1919, NASPA comprises more than 13,000 members in all 50 states, 29 countries, and 8 U.S. Territories. Through high-quality professional development, strong policy advocacy, and substantive research to inform practice, NASPA meets the diverse needs and invests in realizing the potential of all its members under the guiding principles of integrity, innovation, inclusion, and inquiry. The award was presented to Melissa Brocato, CAS director, during the NASPA 2013 Annual Conference in Orlando, March 18.