### Sea Grant Says Farewell to Two Employees

Louisiana Sea Grant lost two valued, long-time employees to retirement recently. Beverly Knox and Jo Paula "J.P." Lantier both decided it was time for a change of pace.

"Beverly and Jo Paula were great assets to the Sea Grant team," said Charles "Chuck" Wilson, LSG executive director. "These two remarkable women will be greatly missed, not only by us, but by the university as a whole."

Knox came to LSU in 1976 and worked for the School of Veterinary Medicine until 1981 when

she took time off to care for her daughter. She returned to LSU in 1986 as an account clerk at Sea Grant and advanced to become the program's accounting supervisor through her performance on varied work assignments, job-related accounting courses and a dedicated work ethic.

Indonesian Student Aids in



Beverly Knox

"Sea Grant is a great group of people to work with," Knox said, adding that she'll miss learning about the research that is taking place.

Knox plans to spend her retirement volunteering with her church, aiding local children

through Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), nelping out at her sister's business, and making more time for her husband and grandchildren. Lantier started her career at LSU in 1979 at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center Library. She joined LSG in1980 where she

worked for more than 27 years as an administrative assistant. Her responsibilities evolved from processing research applications and maintaining project files to organizing proposal reviews, managing networked information systems and databases, planning special events

and responding to program inquiries from researchers and the public.

With her youngest daughter about to graduate high school and her husband already retired, Lantier decided now is a good time to make the transition to



Jo Paula "J.P." Lantier

thing about Sea Grant was the interesting people, the ability to travel and visit other programs and the constantly changing atmosphere and assignments," Lantier said, "As long as I was at Sea Grant, I never stopped learning." •



Louisiana Sea Grant College Program Sea Grant Building • Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7507

# COASTAL CLIPS





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Charles A. Wilson, Executive Director

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### Hurricane Damage Assessments Louisiana Sea Grant-funded graduate student Tanza Erlambang's goal of earning his master's degree was more harrowing to -Erlambang immigrated to Louisiana

for advanced studies in resource economics shortly after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami devastated his native Indonesia. As many as 230,000 people died in the disaster - 167,000 in Indonesia alone. Erlambang lost some of his in-laws in the catastrophe. Then, only a few months after arriving at LSU, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita laid waste to much of coastal Louisiana.

achieve than most.



"Based on Tanza's fisheries background and the need following the 2005 hurricane season, we decided to change the focus of his thesis," said Rex Caffey, Louisiana Sea Grant Extension leader and Erlambang's major professor. "It was obvious that he should be part of a project to develop more precise estimates of coastal infrastructure damages resulting from storm surge."

Under Caffey's guidance, Erlambang developed surge-specific damage models and completed his master's thesis, "Estimating the Economic Impact of Hurricane Damage on Coastal Fisheries Infrastructure." He successfully defended his research in December and graduated in May.

Although Erlambang hopes to stay in Louisiana for the coming year, he eventually plans on returning to Indonesia and applying his research training toward the assessment and recovery of coastal storms and tsunamis.

### Franze Named New Marine Extension Agent

Carol Franze is the new Marine Extension agent in the Tangipahoa and St. Tammany parish area for Louisiana Sea Grant and the LSU AgCenter.

"Carol will be a tremendous asset to Sea Grant," said Rex Caffey, LSG Extension leader. "She's done a lot of work in the Lake Pontchartrain area, including working on

the committee to improve Pontchartrain beach, wetland restoration on the south shore and providing counsel to the Pontchartrain Artificial Reef Working Group."

Franze earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees in biogeography from the University of New Orleans. She comes to Sea Grant from UNO, where she was a research associate.



Carol Franze

Editors: Roy Kron, Paula Ouder. Art: Robert Ray.

papers and book chapters, producing more than 12 books, and continually building academic Latin America, according to ERF.

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## COASTAL CLIPS

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# Louisiana Sea Grant Alumni Update

Name: Alejandro Yáñez-Arancibia Occupation: Senior scientist and professor, Institute of Ecology A.C., Mexico. Also a member of the Gulf of Mexico Research and Information Needs Planning Project (GMRP). Honors: 2007 recipient of the William A. Niering Outstanding Educator Award given by the Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) for excellence in coastal and estuarine education. Excellence in the quality and communication of Yáñez-Arancibia's research is the basis of this international recognition, particularly because of his activities teaching estuarine ecology in eight countries, publishing an outstanding number of

bridges between the United States, Europe and Previous Positions: Following post-doctorate work at Louisiana State University in 1982, he served as a visiting professor at LSU a num-

ber of times, including a sabbatical in 2004-2005 coordinated by Louisiana Sea Grant. He has extensive coastal management teaching and research experience in the United States, Brazil, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Chile and Latin America.



Alejandro Yáñez-Arancibia

as a counterpart of John Day (professor emeritus) in our teaching and research approach of tropical coastal ecosystems. Part of my activities has included working to build a strong academic bridge between a number of institutions and colleagues in the United States who are interested in both research and teaching activities, and working in unison south of

Memorable Professional Moment: "It is amazthe border.' ing that both Professor Day and myself – who have worked together for so many years - have been honored with the Niering Award." (Day received the award in 2003.)

ercy Viosca was one of Louisiana's most acclaimed biologists and conservationists. He also was an accomplished photographer, capturing a visual record of the state's natural resources. Nearly 50 years after his death, Viosca's photographs - once boxed-up and tucked away on a shelf – are available at the click of a mouse.

The Hill Memorial Library at LSU began scanning more than 1,100 of his images not long after they were salvaged by Louisiana Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter Extension agent Mark Schexnayder. Sea Grant funded the archiving project.

"I recovered a lot of the photos from the basement of the old Wildlife and Fisheries office in the French Quarter before the building

was converted to the Louisiana Supreme Court headquarters," said Schexnayder. "They were in Percy's old files that were destined for a landfill. Some of the photos also came from Yvonne Viosca, Percy's late daughter."

Born in 1892, Viosca was a native of New Orleans and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Tulane University. During his career, he founded the Southern Biological

Top) Percy Viosca holds a fish. (Bottom) One of many flood photos Viosca shot.

Supply Co., which provided crawfish and other aquatic specimens for research and commercial use. He was curator of reptiles, amphibians, and fishes for the Louisiana State Museum, served as the Louisiana Board



of Health entomologist and was director of the Division of Fisheries for the Louisiana Department of Conservation. Viosca also was one of the country's first freelance biologists

"Viosca's contribution to the understanding of the state's natural resources was considerable," said Mark Martin, photographic collections archivist with Hill Memorial Library. "He was lauded as one of the state's greatest biologists by Tulane just before his death in 1961.

"The photographs he took not only recorded flora, fauna and other natural resources, but they also captured some of the state's cultural history. There is an extensive number of photos of irises in their native habitat and under cultivation. He photographed the flood of 1927 in the Caernarvon vicinity. There are photos of geese and ducks, boats, bridges and water recreation

(Continued next page)



### Viosca . . . Continued from page on

"The collection also contains a number of images where he had Boy Scouts build a dam across Sandy Creek to see what impact it would have on fish populations. There are even a few photos from his personal life and one postcard," said Martin.

Those visiting the online photo collection will be pleased to see many crisp Viosca images that have almost a fine art quality. Nearly 900 negatives of 1,116 images were available to be turned into digital prints. The bulk of the photos were taken from the 1920s to 1940s, but some of the photos date to the early 1960s.

Visitors to the online collection also have the ability to leave comments,

something that excites Martin. "Although there were notes with some of the files and photos, we're librarians, not botanists or biologists, and can't say exactly what type of plant is in the photo or if an image is of a salt, brackish or freshwater marsh," said Martin

"This system allows viewers to leave comments and tell us about the plants, animals and even the places in the photos.

"I imagine some of the places pictured don't even exist now. This archive gives us an opportunity to look at some areas of the state as they were 80 years ago and compare them to how they are today," Martin added.

Viosca's photography is accessible through the Louisiana Digital Library at http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/. Visitors should click on the "Institution" link on the left side of the screen and then select "Louisiana State University Libraries" to reach the collection.

## Louisiana Coastal Hazard Mitigation Guidebook

Recent experiences with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are costly reminders of the physical impact that coastal storms

have on the landscape of south Louisiana. If you live here, history indicates that you have a 1-in-10 chance of being affected by a hurricane, which means that you have a far greater chance of experiencing a hurricane every year than winning the Louisiana Lottery.

To improve coastal communities' odds of better coping with a storm, the Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy Program has prepared the Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Guidebook



Louisiana Coastal Hazard Mitigation Guidebook

The 250-page book – which examines issues from zoning and structure siting to construction methods

> and legal issues – is being printed and will be available by the end of June. "The intent of

the guidebook is to present basic strategies that can help planners, managers and property owners in coastal communities better prepare for and recover from hurricanes," said Jim Wilkins, LSG Law & Policy Program director. "Even though Hurricane Katrina was the most destructive and costliest ropical cyclone in

the history of the United States, it is important to remember that many previous storms were likely more powerful and that there are more storms in our future. "It is up to us, as individuals and local

governments, to take the lead in protecting our lives and property and to establish resilient and sustainable communities through our decisions on where and how to build. The techniques discussed in the guidebook can be implemented by local governments as well as individuals without dependence on state or federal governments. In other words, this is a 'self-help' book," Wilkins said.

The strategies outlined in the guidebook will reduce, but not eliminate, the risks from coastal natural hazards such as storm surge, other flooding, subsidence and sea level rise, and are meant to serve as an extra layer of protection or a last line of defense.

The guidebook also demonstrates how communities can adopt a flexible approach to hazard planning, allowing them to accommodate a wide range of attitudes toward restrictions on the use of property to mitigate hazards.

Copies of the book are available from the LSG Law & Policy Program (www.lsu.edu/ sglegal) or by contacting Wilkins at jwilkins@lsu.edu. •

### New Assistantship Program Offers Employment Opportunities

Four graduate students are about to begin assistantships that could lead to employment with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)

Initiated by LDNR's Office of Coastal Restoration and Management – Coastal Resource Division (CRD) and administered by Louisiana Sea Grant, the assistantship program provides stipends for up to three years to four full-time master of science students. The students also complete a 240-hour internship with the Coastal Resource Division as part of the program.

"The Coastal Science Assistantship Program is designed to involve students in research relevant to the state's coastal restoration efforts, expose them to CRD and provide a potential avenue for recruitment of new Department of Natural Resources personnel," said Kirk Rhinehart, CRD administrator. "Providing these assistantships allows CRD to direct scientific research that will help answer questions about planning, designing and constructing coastal restoration projects."

As part of her assistantship, Lauren Alleman, a master's student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, will focus her research on the restoration ecology of black mangrove. These trees trap and stabilize sediment and provide habitat for a myriad of species that are essential to a healthy coast, but using nursery-raised seedlings is costly. Alleman, working with her major professor Mark Hester, will develop restoration guidelines to help delineate where seedlings, propagules (seeds of black mangrove that germinate while still attached to the parent plant) or a combination of the two are most cost-effective in coastal restoration efforts. University of New Orleans master's student Luis Martinez's assistantship research will examine the geomorphology along the Isle Dernieres barrier island system. The Isles Dernieres have sustained some of the most significant rates of shoreline loss in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Martinez's goal is to produce a regional framework for

an Erosion Vulnerability Index (EVI) that

## NOAA Administrator Visits LSU

Retired Vice Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher Jr., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) administrator recently visited LSU. While in Baton Rouge, Lautenbacher met with Louisiana Sea Grant and other NOAA employees, and addressed members of the campus community who hold an interest in the state's coastal environments.

Lautenbacher learned of some of the successes as well as persistent problems of hurricane recovery along the Gulf of Mexico coast, and he offered support and understanding for the challenges that lay ahead. His presentation, titled "NOAA: Helping Build Coastal Resiliency for Louisiana," discussed some of the active NOAA projects in state and the Gulf.

"He was pretty candid and spoke to us comfortably, as if he was enjoying communicating what NOAA is up to," said Glenn Thomas, Sea Grant and LSU AgCenter associate professor-fisheries. "NOAA is looking down the road at issues that are really going to affect the country like global climate change and seafood availability. He talked about some of the really big concerns of coastal communities." •

### Film Demonstrates Hurricane Impacts

The geographic impact of hurricanes is the focus of a new Web film produced by Louisiana Sea Grant. The video can be found at www.laseagrant.org/media/ ImpactHurricane/index.html.

"Our goal was to have the film completed and online by the start of hurricane season on June 1," said Roy Kron, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program communications manager. "We assigned

the project to our communications intern, Jill Hancock, and she did an outstanding job. It puts into perspective how much land mass a hurricane can affect.'

The film makes its points by using the total land area flooded from Texas to Alabama, as well as the area that endured high winds, during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Rectangular and circular overlays that represent the area of the Gulf Coast



(Top) Boys Scouts build a dam across a sandy creek (Bottom) An unidentified man spraying pesticide to control mosquitos.



highlights potential areas along Louisiana's Gulf shoreline that are at most risk for erosion, while developing a technique that reduces the effort and expense of comprehensive monitoring of restoration projects. His major professor is Ioannis Georgiou.

students who have yet to be named.

Coast and Environment's Aixin Hou, Irv Mendelssohn and Sean Graham on marsh recovery research. The other student is to work with Gary Shaffer at Southeastern Louisiana University.

to faculty at Louisiana colleges and universities pursuing appropriate coastal restorationrelated research. Up to four new students will receive assistantships each year, with a maximum student stipend of \$20,000 annually. Between October and Dec. 15 each year, LSG will accept applications. Funded faculty will select the student assistant.

laseagrant.org/opps/assistantship.htm. •

Conrad Lautenbacher

The two other assistantships will go to One will work with the School of the

Funding for the assistantships is available

For more information, visit www.

affected by the storms are placed on different

Dianne Lindstedt, Louisiana Sea Grant

the hurricane impacts concept as a classroom

education coordinator, originally developed

activity teachers can use with their students,

and she has been sharing the activity with

educators. The Web film was developed

as way to reach a larger and more diverse

audience.

locations of a map of the United States.

### Students Dive into Portable Ocean

Shrinking the ocean to roughly the size of a refrigerator box is an amazing feat, but Louisiana Sea Grant researcher Jaye Cable is up to the task.

Cable, with Baton Rouge's Westdale Heights Academic Magnet Elementary School science teacher Mary Legoria, has developed a "portable ocean" booth to teach kindergarteners through fifth graders about the physics, biology and chemistry of the ocean - without getting wet. "Many students in this age group haven't even seen the ocean, much less have an appreciation for what lives there or how the ocean environment operates," said Cable, an associate professor in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at LSU.

Cable and Legoria are in the final stages of preparing portable ocean lesson plans to go who experienced it. with the booth.

Images on the outside of the teaching tool show students how deep the ocean is in relation to the continents. At the top of the



Teachers and students field tested the portable ocean at Louisiana Sea Grant's annual Ocean Commotion. The learning tool was incredibly popular with those

booth, the colors are light and bright. But like the ocean itself, colors get darker as the depth increases. As students step inside, reflective paints and stickers give them an

idea what life is like in the deep sea. A small flashlight is the only light source.

A prototype was used at Ocean Commotion, an annual LSG-sponsored education event for more than 2,000 students in grades K-8, to fine-tune the end product. "It was incredibly popular," said Cable. "Everyone wanted to go in."

She now plans to build a more durable version of the portable ocean, possibly made as a tent. for future Ocean Commotions and local use. For teachers across the country portable ocean plans, templates and lessons will be made available online.

"To have well-rounded citizens who are truly stewards of our global environment, we need to start teaching students at an early age the critical

importance of the ocean and how we can protect it." Cable said.

She can be reached at *jcable@lsu.edu*.

## Red Snapper Ecology and Fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico

Red snapper is among the most ecologically and economically important reef fishes in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Yet, fisheries management for the species is among the most controversial in the United States.

Research published in a new 400-page book, Red Snapper Ecology and Fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, is having an effect on those management practices.

"One of the most important impacts from a study published in the book resulted in a change in the minimum size limit for red snapper," said Dave Nieland, Louisiana Sea Grant research and planning manager and a co-editor on the book. Before the study, the minimum red snapper size limit for commercial fishermen was 15 inches.

"The majority of the undersized fish were either dead or dying when thrown back in the water," said Nieland. "Based on data from the study, the minimum size was reduced to 13 inches this year. Now those smaller fish that are being caught aren't being unnecessarily wasted; they're part of the harvest."

Red snapper in federal Gulf of Mexico waters are managed as a single, large population, with no legal distinction between the fish off Texas and those off Florida. But one of the studies in the book finds that there are subtle genetic differences among red snapper off each state's coastline, indicating there is little mixing of populations. Those findings could result in more local application of fishery management policies.

"Not many years ago, everyone believed that red snapper lived to be 10 to 15 years old. We now know they can live up to 60 years," noted Nieland. "That knowledge has done more to influence red snapper management than anything else."

And, arguably, as the most comprehensive text on the species, Red Snapper Ecology and Fisheries in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico will have a profound influence on the commercial and recreational fisheries. The book is available from the American Fisheries Society (www.afsbooks.org).

A clearinghouse of data on red snapper also is being compiled by Sea Grant, which helped support the book's publishing and some of the research, and will be available soon on the Louisiana Fisheries Web site (www.seagrant fish.lsu.edu). To be notified by an RSS feed when the information is available online, click on the Subscribe to Web Feeds button at the bottom of the home page and follow the instructions.

Mexico

