

## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Jennifer Duhe <jennifer.duhe@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 2:58 PM  
**To:** Daniel McCarthy; Kyle Piller  
**Subject:** Availability to meet with Dr. Wainwright this afternoon

Good afternoon,

Dr. Wainwright needs to meet with the two of you as well as Mike Rivault this afternoon, regarding the DEQ and our Lake Maurepas Study. This is time sensitive.

Please provide your availability as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Jennifer

--

**Jennifer Duhe**  
Executive Assistant  
Office of the President  
SLU Box 10784  
Office: (985) 549-2280  
[southeastern.edu](http://southeastern.edu)



## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Daniel Mccarthy <dmccarthy@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2025 11:41 AM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Subject:** Fwd: draft email

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Daniel Mccarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)>  
**Date:** Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 8:48 AM  
**Subject:** draft email  
**To:** William Wainwright <[william.wainwright@selu.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@selu.edu)>, Robert Rivault <[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)>

Dear Mr. Ballard,

I read your June 7th article on the proposed Air Products Blue Hydrogen project in Louisiana with great interest. There is one very important component of this project that I feel you need to be made aware of. Scientists from Southeastern Louisiana University have been conducting extensive environmental monitoring of the entire Lake Maurepas ecosystem for the past two and a half years. This work has been entirely funded by Air Products, and the goal is to establish baseline environmental data on the condition of the ecosystem before any carbon dioxide is injected under the lake, the thought being that we will then be able to detect any impacts due to the proposed sequestration when it does happen. As I said, the study is extensive. We have four of our faculty supervising studies on the populations and health of the aquatic fauna (fishes, crabs, shrimp, clams, alligators), the plants in the surrounding wetlands, and the chemical makeup of the water and soil in and around Lake Maurepas. Before our work, there was next to nothing known about the region. Now, we know a lot. Perhaps the most important aspect of our work is that our scientific results are completely independent from Air Products. We own all of the data and have the right to publish everything and make the data available to the public. Here is a link to the website which provides far more detail and also has all of our reports

<https://www.southeastern.edu/college-of-science-and-technology/center-for-environmental-research/lakemaurepas/>

Our University has no opinion about the process of Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS), however, we do have a strong opinion about the environmental health of our region, and the impact that it has on our community. Air Products was not mandated to support our work, but they thought that it was the responsible thing to do, and also this allows us to make informed *science-based* judgments about the potential impact of the sequestration. Right now, all of the concern is based upon speculation. It is our hope that other proposed sequestration projects undertake a similar sort of independent environmental study in the region where they are planning to bury the carbon dioxide.

Please let me know if you would like any more information about our work. I feel that this work is a very important part of the whole CCS discussion. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

--

Daniel McCarthy  
Dean of Research and Innovation  
Meade Hall 103  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Hammond, LA 70402

[LinkedIn S&T website](#)

985 549-2055



--

Daniel McCarthy  
Dean of Research and Innovation  
Meade Hall 103  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Hammond, LA 70402

[LinkedIn S&T website](#)

985 549-2055



## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Mike Rivault <mike.rivault@southeastern.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2025 3:10 PM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: The Advocate -- heavy metals in crabs

Do you have time to discuss?

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** David Mitchell <[dmitchell@theadvocate.com](mailto:dmitchell@theadvocate.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 10:53 AM  
**Subject:** RE: FW: The Advocate -- heavy metals in crabs  
**To:** Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>, Mike Rivault <[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)>

When are you guys free to talk?

David J. Mitchell

Reporter

**The Advocate**

*Environmental Team*

(225) 324-1877

@newsiedave

newsiedave.bsky.social

My work is supported with a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, administered by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

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**From:** Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 12:12 PM  
**To:** David Mitchell <[dmitchell@theadvocate.com](mailto:dmitchell@theadvocate.com)>; Mike Rivault <[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: The Advocate -- heavy metals in crabs

David:

Sorry. I have been out of town quite a bit over the last month or so. I am back so I would be able to chat with you sometime this week or next.

I am also copying our Mike Rivault (Southeastern's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer) as most requests need to be run through his office.

Kyle

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 12:21 PM David Mitchell <[dmitchell@theadvocate.com](mailto:dmitchell@theadvocate.com)> wrote:

Hey, I never heard back from you guys. I'd like to talk to you about your finding. Please call when you can. Tks.

David J. Mitchell

Reporter

**The Advocate**

*Environmental Team*

(225) 324-1877

@newsiedave

newsiedave.bsky.social

My work is supported with a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, administered by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

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**From:** David Mitchell

**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 9:09 AM

**To:** [Kyle.Piller@selu.edu](mailto:Kyle.Piller@selu.edu)

**Subject:** The Advocate -- heavy metals in crabs

Professor Piller,

We met the other day at the BR Clean Air Coalition meeting after your interesting presentation on your baseline research of Lake Maurepas in advance of CCS. As I discussed, I'd like to meet up with your colleague who has found the heavy metals in the crabs and do a story on her findings.

Frankly, your whole presentation was interesting, but the crabs are pretty much immediately newsworthy. I'd like to visit with you guys, take some pictures of where you are examining the crabs and perhaps get out in a boat where you are collecting some of the samples.

Fortunately and unfortunately, I will be out of town next week, but I was hoping we could do something the week after. Also, I'd like to talk to you guys for future stories about the collaboration aspect of this science partnership with Air Products. It seems like a point that could be made in some stories going forward. It would be an opportunity for you guys to comment and maybe speak generally about what you are finding and your interest in other CCS projects.

In advance, thanks for your consideration on this.

David J. Mitchell

Reporter

**The Advocate**

*Environmental Team*

(225) 324-1877

@newsiedave

newsiedave.bsky.social

My work is supported with a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, administered by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
Voice: 985-549-2191, [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)



**Mike Rivault**

Chief Marketing & Communications Officer  
University Marketing & Communications

Office: [\(985\) 549-5861](tel:9855495861)

[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)

[southeastern.edu](http://southeastern.edu)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Margaret Adelman <margaret.adelman@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 3, 2025 12:15 PM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hiring one postdoc and two research assistants for Maurepas Phase 3.5

Further proof she has no idea of what's going on.

Margaret Adelman  
Grants Development Specialist  
Office of Sponsored Research and Programs  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
SLU 10508  
Hammond, LA 70402  
985.549.5312 Phone  
985.549.5094 Fax

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Fereshteh Emami Piri <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 4:29 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Hiring one postdoc and two research assistants for Maurepas Phase 3.5  
**To:** Margaret Adelman <[margaret.adelman@selu.edu](mailto:margaret.adelman@selu.edu)>, Patrick Moyer <[patrick.moyer@selu.edu](mailto:patrick.moyer@selu.edu)>  
**CC:** Georgina Little <[georgina.little@selu.edu](mailto:georgina.little@selu.edu)>, Cheryl Hall <[chall@selu.edu](mailto:chall@selu.edu)>

Pat, can you please help on this? Thanks

--  
Fereshteh Emami  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry  
Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Southeastern Louisiana University 10878  
127W Pursley Hall  
Hammond, LA 70402  
Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)  
Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:985-549-2335)

On Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 4:28 PM Margaret Adelman <[margaret.adelman@selu.edu](mailto:margaret.adelman@selu.edu)> wrote:  
Good afternoon, Fereshteh,



I have not seen a Phase 3.5 project narrative or budget/budget justification. Can you please provide me with all of that information? Our office will need to review and approve these documents before any positions can be approved by Dr. Little or Dr. Moyer.

Regards,  
Margaret

On Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 4:15 PM Georgina Little <[georgina.little@selu.edu](mailto:georgina.little@selu.edu)> wrote:

Dr. Hall and Ms. Adelman,

I approve of this proposal to fund these three positions to be paid for by the Phase 3.5 Maurepas project grant, if funded. As grants manager, if you approve, can you please forward your approval to Dr. Moyer, who will then secure approval from Dr. Golding. This preapproval is needed so that the positions can be created upon award.

Thank you,  
Dr. Little

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fereshteh Emami Piri** <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)>

Date: Thu, Nov 14, 2024 at 4:11 PM

Subject: Hiring one postdoc and two research assistants for Maurepas Phase 3.5

To: Georgina Little <[georgina.little@selu.edu](mailto:georgina.little@selu.edu)>

Gina,

As part of phase 3.5 Maurepas project (GR201353 Emami, P - Lake Maurepas Monitoring Phase III (53798)), I am sending this email for the chain approval of hiring the following. Would you please approve and forward it to the sponsored research office for the next steps and copy me too? Please let me know if you need more information. Thanks

**Postdoctoral Researcher (\$60,000):** The postdoctoral researcher will focus on analyzing pollution source impacts of the three rivers on water quality of the lake. The postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for data collection, data analysis, and report/manuscript writing.

**Research Technician/Assistant (\$100,000; \$50,000/each).** The first research technician will oversee the day-to-day activities of the project including leading, equipment maintenance, data entry, and sample processing. The second research assistant will be participating in all fieldwork, driving the vehicle and the boat, and collecting samples.

Thank you,  
Fereshteh

--  
Fereshteh Emami  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry  
Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Southeastern Louisiana University 10878  
127W Pursley Hall

Hammond, LA 70402  
Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)  
Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:985-549-2335)

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**M. Georgina Little, Ph.D.**  
(Pronouns: She/Her/Hers- [What's That?](#) )  
Interim Department Head, Dept of Chemistry and Physics  
Pursley Hall rm 210, Office: (985) 549-2159  
[georgina.little@southeastern.edu](mailto:georgina.little@southeastern.edu)



--

Margaret Adelmann  
Grants Development Specialist  
Office of Sponsored Research and Programs  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
SLU 10508  
Hammond, LA 70402  
985.549.5312 Phone  
985.549.5094 Fax

**Sean Fiegel**

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**From:** William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 10:14 AM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Cc:** Dan McCarthy; Tara Dupre; Sam Domiano; Jacob Penton  
**Subject:** Fwd: letter [REDACTED]  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu>  
**Date:** July 21, 2025 at 8:01:32 AM PDT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jacob Penton <jacob.penton@selu.edu>  
**Date:** July 21, 2025 at 7:52:23 AM PDT  
**To:** William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu>  
**Cc:** Sam Domiano <sdomiano@selu.edu>, Dan McCarthy <dmccarthy@selu.edu>, Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Subject: Re:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All the best,



**Jacob Penton, CPA, CFE**

Chief Audit and Compliance Officer

Office: (985) 549-2873

[jacob.penton@southeastern.edu](mailto:jacob.penton@southeastern.edu)

[southeastern.edu](http://southeastern.edu)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 9:47 AM William Wainwright

<[william.wainwright@selu.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@selu.edu)> wrote:

Gentlemen, please see below. Can you forward an update to Dr. McCarthy?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Daniel Mccarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)>

**Date:** July 21, 2025 at 6:11:52 AM PDT

**To:** William Wainwright <[william.wainwright@selu.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@selu.edu)>

**Cc:** Provost Office <[provost@selu.edu](mailto:provost@selu.edu)>, Kyle Piller  
<[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>

[REDACTED]

**Reply-To:** [dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)

Dr. Wainwright,

Any update on this? Thank you.

Dan

--

Daniel McCarthy  
Dean of Research and Innovation  
Meade Hall 103  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Hammond, LA 70402  
[LinkedIn S&T website](#)  
985 549-2055



## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Margaret Adelman <margaret.adelman@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 3, 2025 12:22 PM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Subject:** Fwd: New items to purchase

Being sassy to Alicia.

Margaret Adelman  
Grants Development Specialist  
Office of Sponsored Research and Programs  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
SLU 10508  
Hammond, LA 70402  
985.549.5312 Phone  
985.549.5094 Fax

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Alicia M. Himber** <[alicia.himber@southeastern.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@southeastern.edu)>  
**Date:** Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 7:42 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: New items to purchase  
**To:** Margaret Adelman <[margaret.adelman@selu.edu](mailto:margaret.adelman@selu.edu)>



**Alicia M. Himber**  
Coordinator  
Chemistry and Physics  
Office: (985) 549-3935  
[alicia.himber@selu.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@selu.edu)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Fereshteh Emami Piri** <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)>  
**Date:** Mon, Feb 19, 2024 at 3:56 PM  
**Subject:** Re: New items to purchase  
**To:** Alicia M. Himber <[alicia.himber@southeastern.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@southeastern.edu)>

I believe I mentioned it in my previous email! I asked you to order it if it is compatible with our samples!

--

Fereshteh Emami  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry  
Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Southeastern Louisiana University 10878  
127W Pursley Hall  
Hammond, LA 70402  
Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)  
Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:985-549-2335)

On Mon, Feb 19, 2024 at 3:52 PM Alicia M. Himber <[alicia.himber@southeastern.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@southeastern.edu)> wrote:  
did you decide to purchase the harvest right dryer?

**Alicia M. Himber**  
Coordinator  
Chemistry and Physics  
Office: [\(985\) 549-3935](tel:985-549-3935)  
[alicia.himber@selu.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@selu.edu)

On Fri, Feb 2, 2024 at 12:22 PM Fereshteh Emami Piri <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)> wrote:  
We are trying to find out if Harvest right freezers are appropriate for our catfish and blue crab samples. They have a [laboratory grade freeze dryer](#) that is equipped with temperature and time control, but not sure if it works well with our samples. If it can do lyophilization of our samples, please order the medium size one.

--

Fereshteh Emami  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry  
Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Southeastern Louisiana University 10878  
127W Pursley Hall  
Hammond, LA 70402  
Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)  
Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:985-549-2335)

On Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 4:24 PM Alicia M. Himber <[alicia.himber@southeastern.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@southeastern.edu)> wrote:  
the freeze dryer will have to be purchased with a purchase order. tractor supply does not take purchase orders. you will need to find another vendor for the freeze dryer. james purchased one last

year from harvest right. you may be able to find one that works from them. i'll forward you their sales email.

**Alicia M. Himber**

Coordinator

Chemistry and Physics

Office: [\(985\) 549-3935](tel:9855493935)

[alicia.himber@selu.edu](mailto:alicia.himber@selu.edu)

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 12:31 PM Fereshteh Emami Piri <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)> wrote:

--

Fereshteh Emami

Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry

Department of Chemistry & Physics

Southeastern Louisiana University 10878

127W Pursley Hall

Hammond, LA 70402

Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)

Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:9855492335)

## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 1:19 PM  
**To:** Daniel McCarthy  
**Subject:** Job Ad Draft  
**Attachments:** Research\_Assistant\_Professor\_Chemistry.docx

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

Duane and Catherine Shafer Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates, and Director of the Center for Environmental Research, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402

, [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)



## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:40 PM  
**To:** Eva Hillmann; Robert Moreau; Christopher Murray; Fereshteh Emami Piri  
**Subject:** Media Interviews

The Marketing and Communications office at Southeastern just reached out to me. They asked that you inform their office of any media requests prior to conducting any interviews, particularly in regards to our Maurepas project. Please reach out to Mike Rivault ([mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)) if you are contacted for a media interview.

Kyle

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

Duane and Catherine Shafer Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates, and Director of the Center for Environmental Research, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402

 [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

**Sean Fiegel**

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**From:** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 12:37 PM  
**To:** Fereshteh Emami Piri  
**Subject:** Meeting?

Fereshteh:

I would like to schedule a time to meet with you in person to talk about the Maurepas project.

Are you available next week on M, T, or W morning (July 28, 29, or 30) at 8AM?

Kyle

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
[website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

## Sean Fiegel

---

**From:** Jennifer Duhe <jennifer.duhe@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 3:17 PM  
**To:** Kyle Piller  
**Cc:** Daniel McCarthy  
**Subject:** Re: Availability to meet with Dr. Wainwright this afternoon

Yes, Dr. Wainwright would like you to facetime in on Dr. McCarthy's phone.

Thank you!

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 3:14 PM Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)> wrote:  
I could possibly FaceTime in if my participation is critical.

Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
[REDACTED] [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 3:12 PM Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)> wrote:  
I am not available until next week as I am at a conference in Minnesota right now.

Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
[REDACTED] [: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 2:57 PM Jennifer Duhe <[jennifer.duhe@selu.edu](mailto:jennifer.duhe@selu.edu)> wrote:  
Good afternoon,

Dr. Wainwright needs to meet with the two of you as well as Mike Rivault this afternoon, regarding the DEQ and our Lake Maurepas Study. This is time sensitive.

Please provide your availability as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Jennifer

--

**Jennifer Duhe**

## Sean Fiegel

---

**From:** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2025 4:22 PM  
**To:** Margaret Adelman  
**Subject:** Re: Lake Maurepas Article

Yes. Unfortunately, she did the interview without informing any of us or informing the public information office. So the president's office was caught off guard when the story came out. Needless to say, they weren't overly pleased about it

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

Duane and Catherine Shafer Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates, and Director of the Center for Environmental Research, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402

 [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 4:15 PM Margaret Adelman <[margaret.adelman@selu.edu](mailto:margaret.adelman@selu.edu)> wrote:  
You saw this, right?

<https://lailluminator.com/2025/06/19/scientists-find-alarming-levels-of-toxic-metals-pollution-in-lake-maurepas/>

--

Margaret Adelman  
Grants Development Specialist  
Office of Sponsored Research and Programs  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
SLU 10508  
Hammond, LA 70402  
985.549.5312 Phone  
985.549.5094 Fax

## Sean Fiegel

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**From:** Daniel Mccarthy <dmccarthy@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 8:10 AM  
**To:** Georgina Little  
**Subject:** Re: Copy of Press Release

Sure, I will get it to you. And can you send me your evaluation of her for the past year?

Daniel McCarthy  
Dean of Research and Innovation  
Meade Hall 103  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Hammond, LA 70402  
[LinkedIn S&T website](#)  
985 549-2055



On Mon, Aug 4, 2025 at 7:51 AM Georgina Little <[georgina.little@selu.edu](mailto:georgina.little@selu.edu)> wrote:

Good morning,

Can I get a copy of the press release the university gave (re: Lake Maurepas Project and Dr. Emami)? It was referred to in a news article by AN17. I'd like to stay on point with the University response when our department receives questions.

--

**M. Georgina Little, Ph.D.**  
(Pronouns: She/Her/Hers- [What's That?](#))  
Interim Department Head, Dept of Chemistry and Physics  
Pursley Hall rm 210, Office: (985) 549-2159  
[georgina.little@southeastern.edu](mailto:georgina.little@southeastern.edu)



fereshteh



## Messages

Show Less

7/31/25



[Redacted]



7/24/25



FYI....no email response from Fereshteh



7/22/25



FYI.... I reached out to Fereshteh via email nearly 24 hours ago and have not received a response. Wait until tomorrow and send one more email?



6/26/25



This is [Redacted]. I'd like to chat with you about Fereshteh. I have an update from yesterday and want advice on how to proceed.



6/20/25

The brochure almost needs to be a menu of services and capabilities. Yes, there is a plan for Fereshteh. I will call you when I get a chance



6/20/25

The brochure almost needs to be a menu of services and capabilities. Yes, there is a plan for Fereshteh. I will call you when I get a chance

I am back now. Is there any plan Fereshteh? I am sure you heard about her abandoning one of the undergraduate who was supposed to work in her lab this summer?



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fereshteh Emami Piri** <[fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)>

Date: Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 12:12 PM

Subject: Re: Phase III Lake Maurepas Project

To: Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>

Kyle,

Would you please let me know about the reason for this decision, considering that the project is still in progress and I'm currently working on it?

Kind regards,  
Fereshteh

--

Fereshteh Emami  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry  
Department of Chemistry & Physics  
Southeastern Louisiana University 10878  
127W Pursley Hall  
Hammond, LA 70402  
Email: [fereshteh.emami@selu.edu](mailto:fereshteh.emami@selu.edu)  
Phone: [985-549-2335](tel:985-549-2335)


On Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 12:40 PM Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)> wrote:

Dr. Emami:

Please see the attached letter in regards to your appointment on Phase III of the Lake Maurepas project. A hard copy of this letter has been put into your Department mailbox.


Kyle Piller

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
 [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)



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Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
 [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

--

Daniel McCarthy  
Dean of Research and Innovation  
Meade Hall 103  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Hammond, LA 70402  
[LinkedIn S&T website](#)  
985 549-2055



**Sean Fiegel**

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**From:** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 4, 2025 10:08 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting Today

Team:

I am going to call a team meeting for whomever is available today at 3PM in the Maurepas room to discuss the situation with the recent press release and subsequent responses. Please attend in person if you can, alternatively, I will set up a google meet.

Kyle

--

Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
[REDACTED], [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

August 21, 2025

William S. Wainwright  
Office of the President  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
Dyson Hall, Room 106  
SLU Box 10784  
Hammond, Louisiana 70402

Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail ([william.wainwright@southeastern.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@southeastern.edu))

Dear President Wainwright:

FIRE<sup>1</sup> is concerned by Southeastern Louisiana University's removal of associate professor Fereshteh Emami from her role as principal investigator (PI) on the Lake Maurepas Chemical Monitoring Project following her interview with a journalist about her team's results. That Emami was instructed not to speak directly to the media without providing advance notice to the university and then kicked off the project one month after the article's publication strongly suggests that SLU retaliated against Emami because of her interview. We urge SLU to reinstate Emami to her role as PI and revise its policy requiring faculty to coordinate media interviews through the university.

On June 19, the *Louisiana Illuminator* reported that Emami and her research team had found "dangerously high levels of toxic metals and other contaminants" in Lake Maurepas, which they traced to pollution from agriculture and industrial activities in the rivers feeding into the lake.<sup>2</sup> The article was based on an interview with Emami about her findings.

Just five days later, on June 24, Kyle Piller, director of the SLU's Center for Environmental Research, told Emami that she needed to "inform [the marketing and communication office] of any media requests *prior* to conducting any interviews, particularly in regards to our Maurepas

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<sup>1</sup> As you likely recall from recent correspondence, FIRE is a nonpartisan nonprofit that defends free speech. You can learn more about our mission and activities at [thefire.org](http://thefire.org).

<sup>2</sup> Wesley Muller, *Scientists find 'alarming' levels of toxic metals, pollution in Lake Maurepas*, LOUISIANA ILLUMINATOR (June 19, 2025), <https://lailluminator.com/2025/06/19/scientists-find-alarming-levels-of-toxic-metals-pollution-in-lake-maurepas/>. The recitation here reflects our understanding of the pertinent facts. We appreciate that you may have additional information to offer and invite you to share it with us. To these ends, please find enclosed an executed privacy waiver authorizing you to share information about this matter.

project”<sup>3</sup>—despite the fact that SLU policy allows faculty to respond directly to media requests “specific to the purview of that department” and only inform the communications office of the request and response afterward.<sup>4</sup> Then, on July 28, Piller contacted Emami again to tell her that, effective July 31, she was being terminated not just as PI but from any involvement with the Lake Maurepas Monitoring Project.<sup>5</sup> When Emami asked the reason for her termination, Piller said her “continued involvement was no longer in the best interest of Air Products Lake Maurepas Monitoring Project.”<sup>6</sup> Since then, SLU has characterized Emami’s removal from the project she designed and led for the past three years as a routine personnel matter, declining to explain its reasoning.<sup>7</sup>

SLU’s removal of Emami from the Lake Maurepas project following her interview with the *Louisiana Illuminator* raises serious constitutional concerns. As a public institution, SLU’s actions and policies implicating faculty expression must comply with the First Amendment,<sup>8</sup> which protects the right of faculty members like Emami to comment on matters of public concern. And it is well-established in that regard that the First Amendment restricts public universities from penalizing a professor for his or her protected speech.

Emami’s interview with a journalist about her research findings is protected speech on a matter of public concern.<sup>9</sup> Specifically, issues related to the environment and natural resources are matters of public concern generally, and the health of Lake Maurepas, in particular, is a matter of significant and ongoing local public concern<sup>10</sup>—a fact aptly demonstrated by its role

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<sup>3</sup> Email from Kyle R. Piller, Director of the Center for Environmental Research, to Fereshteh Emami, associate professor (June 24, 2025, 3:40 PM) (on file with author) (emphasis added).

<sup>4</sup> *Media Inquiries, Advertising and Public Records Requests Policy*, Policy Procedure, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIV. (rev. May 8, 2018), [https://www.southeastern.edu/resources/policies/policy\\_detail/media\\_inquiries/](https://www.southeastern.edu/resources/policies/policy_detail/media_inquiries/) [<https://perma.cc/Q7MK-B5K4>] (“If a department receives an inquiry regarding information specific to the purview of that department (examples – real estate stats from the Southeast Louisiana Business Center or expertise from a biology professor for an article regarding a biology-related topic) the individual department may respond. In such cases, however, the individual receiving the inquiry should still notify UCCS of the inquiry and response made.”). Piller repeated his instruction regarding corresponding with journalists on July 14. Email from Piller to Emami (Jul. 14, 2025, 12:08 PM) (on file with author).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Piller to Emami (Jul. 28, 2025) (on file with author).

<sup>6</sup> Email from Piller to Emami (Jul. 29, 2025, 7:31 PM) (on file with author).

<sup>7</sup> David J. Mitchell, *Professor who revealed Lake Maurepas pollution pulled from team*, THE TIMES-PICAYUNE NOLA (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://app.nola.com/article/professor-who-revealed-lake-maurepas-pollution-pulled-from-team/content.html>; Wesley Muller, *University sidelines scientist who exposed toxic metals in Lake Maurepas*, LOUISIANA ILLUMINATOR (Jul. 31, 2025, 6:04 PM), <https://lailluminator.com/2025/07/31/southeastern-sidelines-scientist/>.

<sup>8</sup> *Healy v. James*, 408 U.S. 169, 180 (1972) (“[T]he precedents of this Court leave no room for the view that, because of the acknowledged need for order, First Amendment protections should apply with less force on college campuses than in the community at large. Quite to the contrary, ‘the vigilant protection of constitutional freedoms is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools.’”) (internal citation omitted); see also *Papish v. Bd. of Curators of the Univ. of Mo.*, 410 U.S. 667, 667–68 (1973) (disciplinary sanctions must comply with the First Amendment); *Dambrot v. Central Mich. Univ.*, 55 F.3d 1177 (6th Cir. 1995) (university policies must comply with the First Amendment).

<sup>9</sup> Speech on a matter of public concern is that which may “be fairly considered as relating to any matter of political, social, or other concern to the community.” *Connick v. Myers*, 461 U.S. 138, 146 (1983).

<sup>10</sup> *Salge v. Edna Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 411 F.3d 178, 186 (5th Cir. 2005) (employee’s speech was on a matter of concern when the issue was of “considerable interest in that small community” and “made against a

as a campaign issue in local elections and the media coverage it receives.<sup>11</sup> “The public interest in having free and unhindered debate on matters of public importance” is “the core value of the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.”<sup>12</sup>

Because Emami spoke on a matter of public concern, her speech is protected regardless of whether she spoke as a private citizen<sup>13</sup> or pursuant to her official duties.<sup>14</sup> When a faculty member speaks outside the scope of their official duties about a matter of public concern, they speak as a private citizen—even when their speech “concerns information acquired by virtue of [their] public employment.”<sup>15</sup> But the First Amendment also protects university faculty when they speak pursuant to their duties of scholarship or teaching.<sup>16</sup> Thus, even if SLU considers Emami’s media interview about her research within the scope of her official duties, it would still be protected as “speech related to scholarship or teaching.”<sup>17</sup>

Likewise, as we recently explained in a prior letter to SLU,<sup>18</sup> SLU’s policy requiring faculty to refer media requests to the Office of University Communications and Creative Services

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background of existing community debate”); *Kennedy v. Tangipahoa Parish Library Bd. of Control*, 224 F.3d 359, 373 (5th Cir. 2000) (expression “made against the backdrop of ongoing commentary and debate in the press involves the public concern”).

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Muller, *supra* note 2 (noting that Rep. Kim Coates, a state legislator from Tangipahoa Parish, “ran for office on a platform of protecting Lake Maurepas”); Rick Mullin, *The battle for Lake Maurepas*, CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS (Apr. 2, 2023), <https://cen.acs.org/environment/battle-Lake-Maurepas/101/i11>.

<sup>12</sup> *Pickering v. Bd. of Ed.*, 391 U.S. 563, 573 (1968); see also, e.g., *Snyder v. Phelps*, 562 U.S. 443, 451–52 (2011) (“Speech on matters of public concern is at the heart of the First Amendment’s protection.” (cleaned up)); *Connick*, 461 U.S. at 145.

<sup>13</sup> *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, 547 U.S. 410, 417 (2006). (“[T]he First Amendment protects a public employee’s right, in certain circumstances, to speak as a citizen addressing matters of public concern.”); *Janus v. Am. Fed’n of State, Cnty., and Mun. Emps., Council 31*, 138 S. Ct. 2448, 2471 (2018) (“[W]hen a public employee speaks as a citizen on a matter of public concern, the employee’s speech is protected unless ‘the interest of the state, as an employer, in promoting the efficiency of the public services it performs through its employees outweighs the interests of the [employee] as a citizen, in commenting upon matters of public concern.’”).

<sup>14</sup> *Buchanan v. Alexander*, 919 F.3d 847, 852–53 (5th Cir. 2019) (recognizing that faculty speech related to teaching and scholarship is protected).

<sup>15</sup> *Lane v. Franks*, 573 U.S. 228, 240 (2014) (the “critical question” in determining whether an employee speaks as a private citizen is “whether the speech at issue is itself ordinarily within the scope of an employee’s duties, not whether it merely concerns those duties”). Generally, when faculty speak to the media about their work, it is considered speech as a private citizen because speaking to the media is “neither part of [their] job description nor part of the practical reality of [their] everyday work.” *Matthews v. City of New York*, 779 F.3d 167, 174 (2d Cir. 2015).

<sup>16</sup> *Buchanan*, 919 F.3d at 852–53.

<sup>17</sup> Every federal court of appeal to examine the question has concluded that, in the context of a university instructor, “speech related to scholarship or teaching” is protected. See, e.g., *id.*; *Kilborn v. Amiridis*, 131 F.4th 550 (7th Cir. 2025); *Heim v. Daniel*, 81 F.4th 212 (2d Cir. 2023); *Porter v. Bd. of Trustees of N.C. State Univ.*, 72 F.4th 573 (4th Cir. 2023); *Meriwether v. Hartop*, 992 F.3d 492 (6th Cir. 2021); *Demers v. Austin*, 746 F.3d 402 (9th Cir. 2014).

<sup>18</sup> Letter from Charlotte Arneson, Campus Rights Advocacy Program Counsel, to William S. Wainwright, president (Aug. 14, 2025), <https://www.thefire.org/research-learn/fire-letter-southeastern-louisiana-university-august-14-2025>.

(UCCS)<sup>19</sup> imposes an unconstitutional prior restraint<sup>20</sup> on faculty’s right to speak as private citizens on matters of public concern.<sup>21</sup> Prior restraints are “the most serious and the least tolerable infringement on” freedom of expression,<sup>22</sup> presenting a risk so great that the “chief purpose” in adopting the First Amendment was to prevent their use.<sup>23</sup> They are valid only in the most demanding of circumstances,<sup>24</sup> and courts analyzing prior restraints impose a “heavy presumption against [their] constitutional validity.”<sup>25</sup>

Specifically, SLU’s policy directs faculty and staff “not [to] directly respond to media requests for interviews unless coordinated through UCCS,” refer “[a]ll media inquiries regarding university programs and activities in general” to UCCS, and refer “inquir[ies] about potentially controversial university policies or procedures” to UCCS to “coordinate an appropriate response.”<sup>26</sup> By requiring faculty and staff to coordinate media interviews through UCCS “to ensure that an appropriate image of the university is projected,” SLU prevents faculty and staff from choosing to speak to media as private citizens on matters of public concern without first obtaining the university’s approval. To the extent that this policy is also applied to faculty speech regarding their own scholarship, as appears to be the case with Emami, the policy also violates faculty’s academic freedom.<sup>27</sup>

Beyond violating the rights of faculty, restrictive press policies harm the public and—ultimately—the public’s trust in its institutions of higher education. The right of government employees to speak freely in their individual capacities on matters of public concern, including to the media, finds a close corollary in the public’s right to know. As the Supreme Court has observed, blanket infringements on government employees’ speech “also impose[] a

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<sup>19</sup> *Media Inquiries, Advertising and Public Records Requests Policy*, *supra* note 4.

<sup>20</sup> See *Watchtower Bible & Tract Soc’y of N.Y. v. Village of Stratton*, 536 U.S. 150, 165–66 (2002) (requiring approval from officials before speaking is “offensive—not only to the values protected by the First Amendment, but to the very notion of a free society”); *Nebraska Press Ass’n v. Stuart*, 427 U.S. 539, 559 (1976) (a prior restraint is “the most serious and least tolerable infringement on First Amendment rights.”).

<sup>21</sup> *Garcetti*, 547 U.S. at 425; *United States v. National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)*, 513 U.S. 454, 468 (1995); *Pickering*, 391 U.S. at 568. While SLU’s policy allows departments to respond directly to inquiries regarding information within the department’s purview, only notifying SLU of the inquiry and response, restrictions on faculty speech on topics outside their specific area of scholarship unconstitutionally restrict faculty’s right to speak as private citizens on matters of public concern—including matters related to university governance.

<sup>22</sup> *Nebraska Press Ass’n*, 427 U.S. at 559.

<sup>23</sup> *Near v. Minnesota*, 283 U.S. 697, 713 (1931).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.* at 716.

<sup>25</sup> *New York Times Co. v. United States*, 403 U.S. 713, 714 (1971).

<sup>26</sup> *Media Inquiries, Advertising and Public Records Requests Policy*, *supra* note 4 (“In order to ensure that an appropriate image of the university is projected and maintained among various publics, all news releases or media statements should be arranged through UCCS[.] ... Southeastern faculty and staff should not directly respond to media requests for interviews unless coordinated through UCCS. All media inquiries regarding university programs and activities in general should be referred to UCCS. Should a department receive an inquiry about potentially controversial university policies or procedures ... that inquiry should be referred to UCCS, which will coordinate an appropriate response.”).

<sup>27</sup> *Buchanan*, 919 F.3d at 852–53; *Heim v. Daniel*, 81 F.4th 212 (2d Cir. 2023); *Porter v. Bd. of Trustees of N.C. State Univ.*, 72 F.4th 573 (4th Cir. 2023); *Meriwether v. Hartop*, 992 F.3d 492 (6th Cir. 2021); *Demers v. Austin*, 746 F.3d 402 (9th Cir. 2014).

significant burden on the public's right to read and hear what Government employees would otherwise have written and said.”<sup>28</sup>

The unique function of public universities like SLU to serve as “peculiarly the ‘marketplace of ideas’”<sup>29</sup> cannot be squared with burdening the journalistic right to seek information or faculty members' rights to share that information. We request a substantive response to this letter no later than September 4, confirming that SLU will reinstate Emami to her former position as PI on the Lake Maurepas Monitoring Project and revise its media policy to align with its constitutional obligations to respect faculty academic freedom and free speech rights.

Sincerely,



Jessie Appleby  
Program Counsel, Campus Rights Advocacy

Cc: Daniel McCarthy, Interim Dean of Research and Innovation  
Kyle Piller, Director of the Center for Environmental Research  
Mike Rivault, Chief Marketing and External Relations Director

Encl.

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<sup>28</sup> *NTEU*, 513 U.S. at 470; *see also Stanley v. Georgia*, 394 U.S. 557, 564 (1969) (it is “well established” that freedom of expression “protects the right to receive information and ideas”).

<sup>29</sup> *Keyishian v. Bd. of Regents of Univ. of State of N.Y.*, 385 U.S. 589, 603 (1967).



## FIRST AMENDMENT LAW CLINIC

October 1, 2025

Dr. Alan Cannon  
Faculty Senate President  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
500 W. University Ave.  
Hammond, Louisiana 7002

Via: U.S. Mail and E-Mail; [Gregory.cannon@southeastern.edu](mailto:Gregory.cannon@southeastern.edu)  
Re: Update to Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy

Dear Dr. Cannon,

We write on behalf of concerned faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University (“the University”) regarding the potential update to the Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy (“the Policy”). We urge you, and other members of the Faculty Senate, to prioritize protecting the First Amendment rights of the University’s faculty members when debating the merits of the Policy. As currently written in the September 16, 2025 draft, the Policy threatens the very principles of academic freedom that it purports to respect.

Here, the principles of academic freedom could not be more significant. As the Supreme Court pronounced in the seminal case *Sweezy v. State of New Hampshire*, “The essentiality of freedom in the community of American universities is almost self-evident. [...] To impose any strait jacket upon the intellectual leaders in our colleges and universities would imperil the future of our Nation.” 354 U.S. 234, 250 (1957).

On its face, the Policy is vague, overbroad, and exposes faculty members to impermissible viewpoint discrimination for engaging in protected speech. The policy is unconstitutionally vague because it fails to give faculty members adequate notice of what it prohibits. For example, teachers are cautioned to “be careful not to introduce into the teaching controversial matters unrelated to the subject,” but the term “controversial” is undefined, as is the qualifying phrase “related to the subject.” Reasonable minds can disagree on what is relevant to any given subject, and it is unclear what controversies are to be avoided.

The Policy is also overbroad, as it prohibits speech that is plainly protected by the First Amendment. See *Hill v. City of Houston, Tex*, 764 F.2d 1156, 1162-1163 (5th Cir. 1985) (a policy is constitutionally overbroad if it prohibits a substantial amount of protected speech in relation to its legitimate sweep and is “too imprecisely drawn to pass First Amendment scrutiny.”). For example, the Policy prohibits profanity, off color jokes, and similar forms of vulgarity. Although



such speech may be offensive to some, it does not fall into categories of unprotected speech such as true threats, obscenity or incitement of violence.

Most troubling, because of its imprecision, the Policy invites viewpoint discrimination in its application. A policy that punishes offensive speech is unconstitutional because “giving offense is a viewpoint.” *Matal v. Tam*, 582 U.S. 218, 220 (2017). The Supreme Court has long held that the government cannot prohibit the expression of ideas because the ideas themselves offend some of their hearers. *Street v. New York*, 394 U.S. 576, 592 (1969).

We appreciate that this is a difficult time as universities face immense political pressure and close scrutiny. But it is precisely because of the complexities of this moment that strong protections for First Amendment principles and academic freedom are so necessary. We urge the members of the Faculty Senate to approach today’s consideration of the Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy as an opportunity to affirmatively stand up for the principles of academic freedom and commitment to the First Amendment rights of educators.

Sincerely,



Bruce Hamilton, interim director  
Annie Cleveland, legal fellow  
First Amendment Law Clinic  
Tulane University School of Law



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**Re: Illuminator Article**

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**From** Kyle Piller <kyle.piller@selu.edu>

**Date** Thu 6/19/2025 1:54 PM

**To** Mike Rivault <mike.rivault@southeastern.edu>

**Cc** William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu>; Dan McCarthy <daniel.mccarthy@selu.edu>

Here is another story from Fox News with a video component...

<https://www.fox8live.com/2025/06/19/scientists-find-alarming-levels-toxic-metals-pollution-lake-maurepas/>

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

Duane and Catherine Shafer Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates, and Director of the Center for Environmental Research, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402

Voice: 985-549-2191, [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)

On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 12:41 PM Mike Rivault <[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)> wrote:

<https://lailluminator.com/2025/06/19/scientists-find-alarming-levels-of-toxic-metals-pollution-in-lake-maurepas/>

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**Mike Rivault**

Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

University Marketing & Communications

Office: [\(985\) 549 5861](tel:9855495861)

[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)

[southeastern.edu](http://southeastern.edu)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Outlook

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**Re: Illuminator Story**

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**From** Provost Office <provost@selu.edu>**Date** Wed 10/1/2025 9:52 AM**To** William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu>

Received and read. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 1, 2025, at 8:50 AM, William Wainwright <william.wainwright@selu.edu> wrote:

**William S. Wainwright, Ph.D.***President*[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The material included in this email transmission is intended solely for the use of the designated recipient. This communication may contain information that is confidential or privileged. Confidentiality and privilege are not lost by this email having been sent to the wrong person. If you are not the designated recipient or the person responsible for delivering it to the designated recipient, please notify the sender immediately at the number given above. Distribution, photocopying, or use of this communication by anyone other than to the intended recipient is expressly prohibited.--

Forwarded message

**From:** Kyle Piller <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>**Date:** Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 2:27 PM**Subject:** Illuminator Story**To:** William Wainwright <[william.wainwright@selu.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@selu.edu)>, Daniel McCarthy <[daniel.mccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:daniel.mccarthy@selu.edu)>, Robert Rivault <[mike.rivault@southeastern.edu](mailto:mike.rivault@southeastern.edu)>

The Illuminator story is published.....

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Kyle R. Piller, PhD  
Schlieder Endowed Professor, Curator of Vertebrates,  
and Director of the Center for Environmental Research,  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, Hammond, LA 70402,  
Voice: 985-549-2191, [website: www.kylepiller.com](http://www.kylepiller.com)



## Re: Stipulations

**From** Daniel Mccarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)>

**Date** Tue 7/8/2025 12:41 PM

**To** provost@selu.edu <[provost@selu.edu](mailto:provost@selu.edu)>

**Cc** William Wainwright <[william.wainwright@selu.edu](mailto:william.wainwright@selu.edu)>; Sam Domiano <[sdomiano@selu.edu](mailto:sdomiano@selu.edu)>; Jacob Penton <[jacob.penton@selu.edu](mailto:jacob.penton@selu.edu)>; Cheryl Hall <[cheryl.hall\\_2@selu.edu](mailto:cheryl.hall_2@selu.edu)>

Tena,

I need to add another important dimension to this situation. We are trying to submit to AP our Phase IV budget, which at this stage will come in at over \$16M in new money over three years. We have prepared a budget that has a new PI for the Chemical Analysis component, but we are not able to do that until this situation is resolved. We will not be able to proceed with Phase IV if she is still on the project. She already has done nothing on Phase 3.5 that was supposed to start in January 2025. I am reasonably concerned that delay on this has the potential to jeopardize not just this project but other ones we are working on.

Dan

On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 11:48 AM Daniel Mccarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)> wrote:

Ok. We are ready to act when given the go ahead.

On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 11:14 AM Provost <[provost@selu.edu](mailto:provost@selu.edu)> wrote:

Dan,

It was determined that further conversations are needed before any action is taken.  
Please hold tight for now.

Thanks,  
Tena

Forwarded message

**From:** Provost <[provost@selu.edu](mailto:provost@selu.edu)>

**Date:** Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 8:53 AM

**Subject:** Re: Stipulations

**To:** <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)>

Meeting with Dr. Wainwright and others tomorrow to discuss.

On Mon, Jun 30, 2025 at 9:48 AM Daniel Mccarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)> wrote:

Tena,

Any update on this?

dan

On Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 8:08 AM Provost <[provost@selu.edu](mailto:provost@selu.edu)> wrote:

Good morning.

Let me check on this and get back to you.

On Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 6:33 PM Daniel McCarthy <[dmccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:dmccarthy@selu.edu)> wrote:

Tena,

We are planning to remove Fereshteh Emami from the Air Products project. We have lots of documentation to support this decision. Having said that, she will fight this and most likely fight it aggressively. I am concerned that she will not understand that her work is the property of the University, and not her's, so I feel that it is important that we provide her with a document that explicitly explains this. I met with Cheryl about this, and she agreed that we need this but recommended that the letter be reviewed by the ULS lawyers (it used to be Winston, but I think that it is his son now?). Either way, Kyle's text is what we would like to present to her. Could you please forward this to the DeCuir folks and have them review it? Thank you.

Dan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kyle Piller** <[kyle.piller@selu.edu](mailto:kyle.piller@selu.edu)>

Date: Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 8:27 AM

Subject: Stipulations

To: Daniel McCarthy <[daniel.mccarthy@selu.edu](mailto:daniel.mccarthy@selu.edu)>

Proposed stipulations....

All of the chemical monitoring data and samples (water, sediment, crab/catfish tissues) from Phase III remain the property of Southeastern Louisiana University and the Lake Maurepas Monitoring Project and must be provided to the Director of the Lake Maurepas Monitoring project. Dr. Emami retains the ability to analyze and publish scientific manuscripts based on the chemical monitoring data from Phase III, up through the cessation of her involvement on the project. Any aspect of the chemical monitoring data from Phase III that is analyzed and included in other scientific manuscripts by Maurepas project researchers must include Dr. Emami (and her team members, if necessary) as co-authors, who have the right to be involved in all aspects of the manuscript's approval, including reviewing, critiquing, and revising prior to submission.

Any scientific papers produced by Dr. Emami that are based on the chemical components of catfish and crab tissues from Phase III must include members of the Aquatic Team (Lake Maurepas Monitoring Project), who provided all of the biological samples to Dr. Emami and her team. Co-authors from the Aquatic Team retain the ability to review, critique, and comment on any manuscript that incorporates the chemical data involving catfish and crab tissues prior to submission. In addition, if any member of the Maurepas team publishes scientific manuscripts that include aspects of the chemical components of catfish and crab tissues must include Dr. Emami (and her team members, if necessary) as co-authors, who also retain the right to provide constructive criticism on these manuscripts prior to submission.

All equipment and supplies purchased on Phase III of the Maurepas monitoring project are the property of Southeastern Louisiana University and the Lake Maurepas Monitoring project and must be made available to project staff.

All lab space in Pursley Hall currently occupied by Dr. Emami and her team remain the property of Southeastern Louisiana University and may be re-assigned, as needed, in consultation with the



Department Head of Chemistry and Physics, the Dean of the College of Science and Technology, and the Dean of Research and Innovation at Southeastern Louisiana University. WMOSTPRR2

Kyle R. Piller, PhD

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