

Letter From the Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology



Dr. Lori Latrice Martin

Director

Graduate Studies

Associate Professor

Sociology, African & African American Studies

Welcome to the inaugural issue of DuBois Courier. The newsletter is named in honor of one of the most important sociologists in the late 19th century and much of the 20th century. His work on race and religion continue to impact sociology and other disciplines.

The first-ever issue of the official newsletter of the graduate studies program in sociology at Louisiana State University includes a number of wonderful features.

Dr. Dana Berkowitz, associate professor, recently published a book. The book, *Botox Nation*, was featured on Good Morning America. Learn more about Dr. Berkowitz and her research interest in the faculty profile feature.

Doctoral student, Vanessa Parks, is highlighted in the graduate student profile. Vanessa is engaged in important work on disasters and community development. Learn more about her work in this issue.

Find out more about the graduate courses offered by the Department of Sociology, recent publications by faculty and graduate students, and more.

For more than 80 years the department has awarded graduate degrees and our commitment to the graduate studies program remains strong.

Editor

Lori Latrice Martin, PhD

Associate Editor

Derrick Lathan

Assistant Editors

Ifeyinwa Davis

Dari Green

Jahaan Chandler

CHAIR'S CORNER

Department Chair – **Yoshinori Kamo**
Associate Professor, Sociology



Congratulations to Lori Martin and her editorial staff on starting Graduate Studies Newsletter. This is a great idea that is long overdue, and I blame the previous DGS for not having done that sooner (whoops, that was me...).

This is my 28th year at LSU Sociology, and I can genuinely say that the program is in the best shape. We have good senior leadership, young, dynamic assistant/associate professors and instructors, the largest-ever number of graduate students (50 at this point, but will be more in fall), and reliable, cheerful staff members.

There are abundant collaborations between faculty members and graduate students, resulting in quite a few publications by our graduate students. Although the market for new Ph.Ds is still tough, our recent graduates are doing relatively well in job placement, going to universities like Brigham Young, Mississippi State, Auburn, Tennessee, and Xavier, among others. Others are working in research institutions as researchers or post-docs.

I am just finishing faculty members' "annual evaluations," and have been amazed with a variety of our research agenda. They range from gang behaviors to disaster preparedness to family and identity to class, racial, and gender stratification. We do from cutting-edge quantitative analyses (of often tens of thousand cases) to ethnography (often utilizing videos). It is very difficult not to find something you like in our offerings.

And of course, we love to have fun. We will have a crawfish boil in late April along with beginning of year and end of year parties (thanks to our hosts, Dr. Shrum and Susan). Our graduate student association is having Happy Hours on Fridays and Tailgates on game days (thanks to SGSA). Watching Tigers games should be fun this year under Coach O...

Geaux Tigers!

GRADUATE STUDIES

Director – Lori L. Martin

Associate Professor, Sociology and African & African American Studies

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

Michael S. Barton (PhD, Albany)

Criminology, Urban Sociology

Sarah Becker (PhD, Massachusetts)

Communities and Crime, Ethnography

Qualitative Methods

Dana Berkowitz (PhD, Florida)

Gender, Bodies and Embodiment,

Sexualities, Families

Troy C. Blanchard (PhD, LSU)

*Associate Dean of College of Humanities
and Social Sciences*

Social Demography, Stratification,

Community, Religion

Chantel Chauvin (PhD, LSU)

Violent Crime, Delinquency, Gender and
Crime

Skylar Gremillion (PhD, LSU)

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Gender, Law, Inequality, Online

Communications

Yoshinori Kamo (PhD, Washington)

Department Chair

Inequality, Family, Comparative

Rhiannon A. Kroeger (PhD, Ohio State)

Families and Health, Family Formation,

Social Demography

Matthew R. Lee (PhD, LSU)

*Vice Provost for Academic Programs &
Support Services*

Criminology, Health, Race/Ethnicity

Lori L. Martin (PhD, Albany)

Race and Ethnicity, Demography,

Inequality

Michelle A. Meyer (PhD, Colorado State)

Disaster, Environment, Community, Social
Stratification

Robert O'Neil (PhD, LSU)

Social Interaction, Theory, Sex and Gender

Heather M. Rackin (PhD, Duke)

Population, Medical Sociology, Family

Mark J. Schafer (PhD, Indiana)

Education, Social Development, Rural
Sociology, Social Change

Edward S. Shihadeh (PhD, Penn. State)

Race and Ethnicity, Criminology, Urban
Ecology

Wesley M. Shrum, Jr. (PhD, Princeton)

Science & Technology Studies, Africa,

Internet & Cell Phones, Video Ethnography

Tim Slack (PhD, Penn. State)

Stratification, Demography

Ginger Stevenson (PhD, LSU)

Criminology, Interpersonal Violence,
Deviance

Samuel Stroope (PhD, Baylor)

Health, Research Methods,

Culture/Religion

Jose Torres (PhD, Virginia Tech)

Criminology, Social Control, Policing

Matthew A. Valasik (PhD, UC Irvine)

Criminology, Gangs, Spatial Analysis

Mark H. Walker (PhD, Iowa)

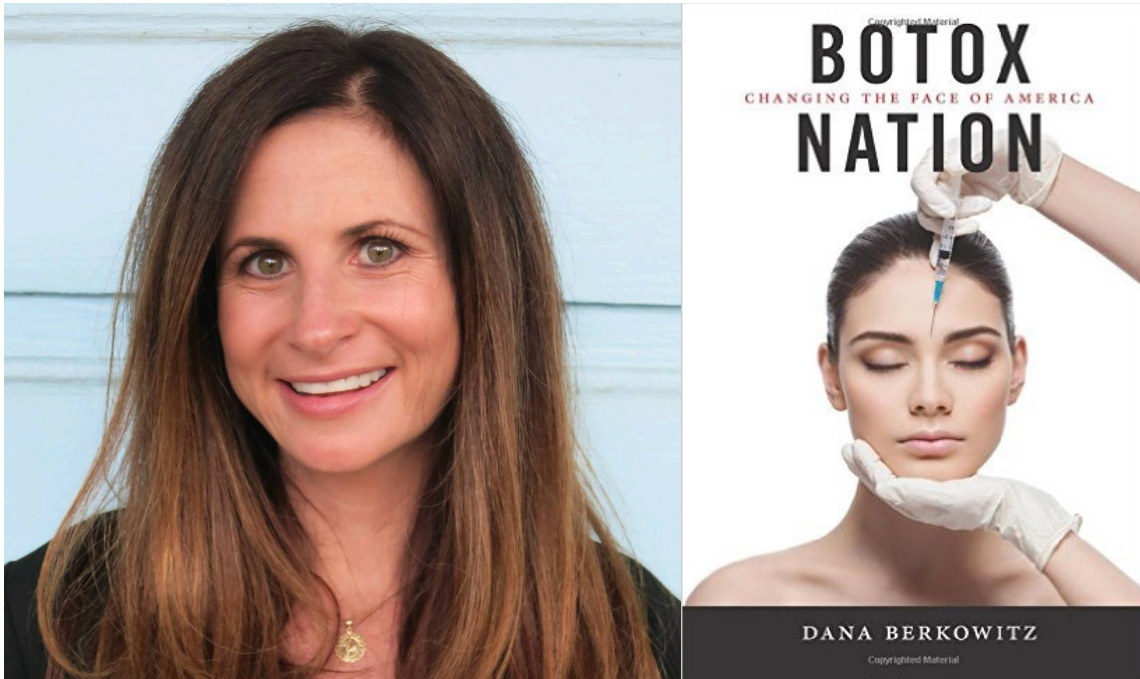
Social Psychology, Social Networks, Self
and Identity

Frederick D. Weil (PhD, Harvard)

Community, Social Capital, Political
Sociology, Comparative-Historical

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Dana Berkowitz



Dr. Dana Berkowitz primary research interests are in the areas of gender, bodies and embodiment, sexuality, families, sociological and feminist theories, and qualitative methodologies. From drag queens to gay fathers to Botox, her work consistently explores timely and provocative issues that advance knowledge on how individuals participate in and challenge the existing gender order. Dr. Berkowitz is the author of **Botox Nation: Changing the Face of America** (NYU Press), which is the first in-depth social investigation of Botox as a cultural phenomenon. Combining in-depth interviews, analysis of media, and her own experiences, Dr. Berkowitz uses Botox as a captivating lens through which to view how norms about bodies, gender, and aging are constructed and reproduced on cultural and individual levels.

Dr. Berkowitz teaches such courses as: Sociology of Gender, Gender & Bodies, Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Men & Masculinities and seminars in Feminist Theory, Gender & Sexualities, and Qualitative Methods. She designs her courses as a catalyst for students to move beyond the role of passive observer toward an active sociological scholar of social, historical, and cultural processes. Her says her courses are challenging but they are also quite fun. She is eager to recruit students who are willing to participate in scholarship that broadens our sense of what is possible.

GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We have about 50 graduate students from all over the country and outside the United States. Our current and past foreign students are from Turkey, Taiwan, Japan, China, Kenya, and the Philippines, among others. Each "cohort" consists of 5-13 students and most of our students are funded as Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants.

Our Ph.D alumni are, again, all over the world. Most of them are teaching in colleges and universities, but others are in research institutions, governmental agencies, or private industries.

Our graduate program is primarily designed for producing PhDs, rather than terminal MAs. Applications and supporting materials for all graduate study (including three letters of recommendation) must be submitted through the online application site for the LSU Graduate School.

Admission

The Department generally requires an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.5 for admission. Admission and funding is normally for the Fall Term. Applicants desiring financial support should submit credentials by the end of January. Even students who are admitted without funding, however, may be considered for assistantships as resources become available.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department offers a number of graduate assistantships to qualified students. They involve research or teaching under the supervision of one or more faculty members. For those without funding, but from an under-represented group, we have tuition awards (exemptions) available.

The Graduate School offers a number of fellowships and scholarships to exceptional and superior students. Among these are Enrichment Funds for incoming students, Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships, Huel D. Perkins Diversity Fellowships, and Board of Regents Graduate Fellowships. Upon receiving promising candidates, the Director of Graduate Studies will make nominations for these awards.

Graduate Assistants and other fellowship recipients are exempt from tuition but still have to pay university fees. Graduate Assistants and fellowship recipients are also eligible for the premium assistance program for Student Health Insurance.

GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW **Cont.**

The MA Program

Our MA Program requires two years of graduate study and is expected to lead onward to the PhD. Minimum course requirements are 36 hours of graduate work. Students may be permitted to transfer up to twelve hours of coursework at the graduate level from another institution.

After satisfying coursework requirements, a master's degree is conferred upon completion of either an empirical research paper or a master's thesis, to be defended before the student's MA committee.

The PhD Program

The PhD program in sociology is designed to prepare students for a career in sociology that combines research and teaching. A broad general knowledge of sociological theory and research methodology is required. Students will also choose and develop a research program in a specialty area.

Our students typically develop a close working relationship with one or more faculty members and co-author research papers with them. In this way, the student begins as an apprentice and finishes with a substantial research record.

Minimum course requirements for PhD are 54 hours of graduate work. Students finish all course work, then take the General Exam, write and defend their dissertation proposals, and write and defend their PhD dissertations.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

Vanessa Parks



Vanessa Parks is a graduate student in the Department of Sociology. Vanessa's research interests include disaster resilience, health disparities, environmental sociology, and community development. Her thesis research focused on young men's attitudes about birth control in a rural Mississippi community with high negative sexual health outcomes and abstinence-based sexual education policies. She specializes in interdisciplinary health research, and she has participated in a number of needs assessments in impoverished communities and several program evaluations related to health and education policies.

She received her master's degree in Sociology from the University of Mississippi, where she was a teaching assistant and an intern for the **Center for Population Studies and Institute for Community-Based Research**. Upon graduation, she was awarded the Larry DeBord Award for Outstanding Graduate Students in Sociology. She was a **Brock Scholar** at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she received her bachelor's degree, with honors, in English Writing.

Vanessa is a devoted yoga practitioner and teacher in training. She loves running, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Kieran, and their two dogs, Alma and Louie.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

By Faculty and Graduate Students

Barton, Michael S., Frederick Weil, Melinda Jackson, and Darien Hickey. "An Investigation of the Influence of the Spatial Distribution of Neighborhood Violent Crime on Fear of Crime." Forthcoming *Crime & Delinquency*.

Chiu, Wei-Cheng, Mark Schafer, and Yoshinori Kamo. Forthcoming. "Cultural Capital and Academic Performance in Taiwan: The Role of Art Tutoring." *International Journal of Contemporary Sociology*.

Green, D, Pulley, T., Jackson, M., Martin, L.L., & Fasching-Varner. (2016). Mapping the margins and searching for higher ground: Examining the marginalization of black female graduate students at PWIs. *Gender and Education*. 1-15.

Guan, Win and Yoshinori Kamo. 2016. "Contextualizing Depression: A Multilevel Network Approach." *Society and Mental Health* 6:129-145.

Jackson, M., Green, D., Martin, L.L., & Fasching-Varner, K. (2016). Band-Aids Don't Fix Bullet Holes: A Response to "We Were There Too." *Democracy and Education*, 24(2), 1-6.

Thomas, D., Lathan, D., Maryland, A. & Martin, L. (2017). The educational plight of black men and boys in Baton Rouge: A critical demography perspective. In Horton, H.D., Martin, L.L., and Fasching-Varner, K (Eds). *Race, Population Studies, and America's Public Schools*. (17-36). Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.



Danielle Thomas, PhD



Ashley Maryland



Derrick Lathan

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

7121 Seminar: Classical Sociological Theory (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. Historical survey of sociology with primary emphasis on European (Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) and early American (Mead and Park) sociologists.

7131 Seminar: Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7121 or equivalent. Current theoretical arguments in sociology.

7201 Research Methods in Sociology (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2201 or equivalent. Introduction to inferential methods in sociological research; emphasis on interpretation and current research.

7203 Advanced Research Methods in Social Science (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7201 or equivalent. Also offered as POLI 7963. Survey of advanced methodology in the social sciences; emphasis on general linear model and causal models.

7211 Seminar: Methods of Social Investigation (3)

Prereq.: EXST 7003 or equivalent. Research methods in the social sciences; interplay of theory and methods of research; formulation of research problems and design; measurement and scaling; sampling; ethics in research; and critiques of social science research.

7213 Specialized Topics in Social Science Methods (2-3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7203 or POLI 7963 or equivalent. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. of credit when topics vary. Also offered as POLI 7964.

7351 Seminar: Topics in Rural Sociology (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in rural sociology.

7391 Seminar: Topics in Social Organization (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social organization.

7491 Seminar: Topics in Social Institutions (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social institutions.

7591 Seminar: Topics in Social Issues (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social issues.

7691 Seminar: Topics in Social Interaction (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social interaction.

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION **Cont.**

7791 Seminar: Topics in Population and Ecology (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 6 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in population and ecology.

7901, 7902 Independent Reading and Research (3,3)

Prereq.: successful completion of at least one year of graduate work.

7903 Proseminar in Sociology (1)

Required twice of both master's and Ph.D. candidates. Pass-fail grading. Contemporary research and critical issues in sociology.

8000 Thesis Research (1-12 per sem.)

"S"/"U" grading.

8900 Research in Sociology (1-6)

Open only to students engaged in a specific, organized research project under faculty supervision. Student must be engaged in design and implementation of research and analysis and interpretation of data.

9000 Dissertation Research (1-12 per sem.)

"S"/"U" grading.



PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS

2016 Joe Cleary, Win Guan, LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Melinda Jackson; Matthew LeBlanc, Xavier University; Ya-Feng Lin

2015 Will Bryerton, Lone Star College; Michael Cope, Brigham Young University; Kayla Fontenot, U.S. Census Bureau; Durmus Ali Yuksek, Turkish Military Academy

2014 Brett Lehman, Auburn University; Ashley Perry, Mississippi State University

2013 Donovan Ceaser, California State University, East Bay; Chantel Chauvin, Louisiana State University; Skylar Gremillion, Louisiana State University; David Maddox, Bellarmine University; Le'Brian Patrick, Xavier University; Sarah Walsh, The Policy & Research Group

2012 Candice Myers, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Lisa Winters, Coastal Carolina University

2011 Raymond Barranco, Mississippi State University; Jessica Doucet, Francis Marion University; Aaryn Ward, Pearl River Community College

2010 Emily Berthelot, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Tim Brown, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Julia D'Antonio, Loyola University; Makiko Hori, University of Tennessee-Chatanooga; Jessica Pearce, South Louisiana Community College

2009 Anna Cutlip, Pfeiffer University; Lacie Michel, Louisiana Tech; Paige Miller, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Claire Norris, Xavier University; Shaun Thomas, University of Arkansas

2008 Michael G. Bisciglia, Southeastern Louisiana University; Chiung-Yin (Joy) Hu; Mark O. Melder, Louisiana Tech; Matthew Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University

2007 Russell R. Davis, University of West Alabama; Richard B. Duque, University of Vienna; Chanika R. Jones, Southern University

2006 Amanda Abraham, Institute for Behavior Research at the University of Georgia; Timothy C. Hayes, University of North Carolina-Pembroke; Asha D. Luthra, Shell Exploration and Production Co.; Monisa Shackelford Mooney, Pensacola Junior College; Marcus Ynalvez, Texas A&M International University

2005 Theresa Davidson, Samford University; Amy Manning Kirk, Sam Houston State University

2004 Susana Guerra, Tracfone Wireless, Inc.; Jospeter Mbuba, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

2003 Carl Marie Riden, Longwood University; Ginger Stevenson, Louisiana State University

2002 Catherine Elizabeth Burton, The Citadel; Patricia Campion, Tennessee Tech University;

M. Kelly James, Winthrop University; Chizuko Wakabayashi, University of Niigata Prefecture

2001 Troy Christoph Blanchard, Louisiana State University; Alison K. Neustrom, Public Affairs Research Council; Robert Paul O'Neil, Louisiana State University; Melissa Oliver Stainback; Linda Anderson Tobin, Austin Community College

PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS **Cont.**

2000 Rebecca (Carter) Powers, East Carolina University; William Craig Carter, Middle Tennessee State University; Shirley A. Keeton, Fayetteville State University; Michelle Marie Livermore, Louisiana State University; Rebel Mary Reavis, University of Tennessee-Martin; Marsha Norton West; George Preston Wooddell, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

1999 Stephen Edgar Costanza, Central Connecticut State University; Matthew Raleigh Lee, Louisiana State University

1998 Kiyomi Ando, Meijo University, Japan; Ivan Mihailov Chompalov, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; Vaughn Allen Decoster, University of Arkansas; Nicole Thomson Flynn, University of South Alabama; Jo Kuhn Galle; Michael Owen Maume, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; Tobias Albert Ten Eyck, Michigan State University

1997 Yanyi Kasongo Djamba, Auburn University at Montgomery; Deborah Marie Hanrahan; Graham Christophe Ousey, College of William and Mary

1996 Kuo Hua Chen, Tamkang University, Taiwan; Deann K. Gauthier, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; Mary Lynn Gautier, Georgetown University; John Collins Kilburn, Texas A&M International University; San-Yi Li, Providence University (Taiwan); Esther J. Olinde; Dawood Hussein Sultan, University of Tennessee-Martin

1995 Carl Leon Bankston III, Tulane University; David Emile Maurer, University of New Orleans; James Adu Opore, University of Cape Coast

1994 Frederick Carson Mencken, Baylor University; Neller Ree Simpkins

1993 Alphonse Rubagumya

1992 Diane Catalano Keithly, Southern University; Jianghong Li, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

1991 Larry Allen Gould, Northern Arizona University; Joan Marie Morris, University of Central Florida; Roberta Loupe St. Pierre, Louisiana State University

1989 Ann C. (Dellenbarger) Ziebarth, University of Minnesota; Oisezoje Godwin Ohiwerei, New Jersey City University; James William Robinson, Louisiana State University-Eunice

1988 Jeffrey Michael Clair, University of Alabama-Birmingham; Gloria R. Martinez, University of the Philippines Los Baños; Carol Yvette Thompson, Texas Christian University

1987 E Clark Forrest Jr; Bethania Maria Gonzalez; James Francis Quinn, University of North Texas; Cheryl L. Thayer-Doyle

1986 Ollie Collden Christian, Southern University; Leroy Allen Furr, University of Louisville; Robert Earl Sanderson, University of Arkansas-Little Rock

1985 Carol Sue Campbell, McNeese State University; Pamela Jean Jenkins, University of New Orleans

HOW TO APPLY

Domestic Degree-Seeking

A domestic degree-seeking applicant is one who wants to complete a graduate program at the Masters, Doctoral, Educational Specialist, or Certificate level and is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Both the Graduate School and the department applied to must approve admission.

Step 1: Select a Graduate Program

LSU offers more than 120 graduate degree programs, more than 10 graduate certificates, and some programs can be completed online.

Step 2: Review Department Admission Requirements

Review the [department's website](#) to view its admission deadlines and requirements.

Step 3: Review Graduate School Admission Requirements

All applicants must have the following in order to be considered for unconditional admission:

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a foreign institution.
- A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 (A = 4.0) on all undergraduate work (or in the final 64 credit hours) and any graduate work already completed.
- Acceptable GRE score.

Step 4: Draft and Gather Additional Application Materials

Step 5: Send GRE Scores

Send official GRE scores to the Graduate School using the ETS institution code **6373**.

Step 6: Upload and Request Transcripts

Step 7: Fill Out and Submit Application

There are a limited number of application fee waivers on a first-come, first-serve basis to applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who belong to under-represented groups or who hold active or veteran military status. Applicants affiliated with the following programs should fill out the waiver request form and supply a signed letter of support from the program director: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), McNair Scholars, Project 1000, Post Baccalaureate Research and Education Programs (PREP), GEM Fellowship Program, and Initiatives for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD).

The [Fee Waiver Request form](#) should be submitted online. Application fee waivers cannot be requested for late applications.

SITUATED IN A MID-SIZE SOUTHERN CITY...

As unique sites for observing “public ethnicity” (Lu and Fine 1995:536), restaurants bring together social actors as participants and spectators in performances of culture.

Restaurant Breakdown by Classification

Chinese	73
Italian	63
Japanese	31
Lebanese/Greek	28
Mexican/Tex-Mex	



CONTACT US

Department of Sociology

Louisiana State University

126 Stubbs Hall

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Telephone: (225) 578-1645

Website: <http://www.lsu.edu/sociology>

Twitter: [@LsuSoc](#)

Facebook: [@LSUSociology](#)

Yoshinori Kamo

Department Chair

kamo@lsu.edu

Lori Latrice Martin

Director of Graduate Studies

lorim@lsu.edu