

In Memoriam

Marilyn L. Zimny – 1927-2006

Marilyn L. Zimny, professor emeritus of anatomy and retired vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, died of complications of cancer January 7. She was born on December 12, 1927, in Chicago.

Zimny retired in 1998 after 44 years of service to the health professions in Louisiana, but it wasn't long before she was pressed into service once more, serving as interim vice president for academic affairs at the LSU System from January 2000 through June 2002.



After earning her doctorate from Loyola University in Chicago in 1954, Zimny joined the LSU Health Sciences Center faculty as an assistant professor of anatomy. She rose through the academic ranks after teaching and being

awarded federal research funding, and publishing 125 scientific articles, becoming a full professor in 1964. In 1975, she became the first female head of anatomy at LSU Health Sciences Center and one of only four female anatomy department heads in the country.

In 1961 and 1962, Zimny was named to membership of a select group of faculty sent to San Jose, Costa Rica, to establish a medical school there. Although not fluent in Spanish, she was determined to give her best to the students and so she spent each evening having her lectures translated and being tutored by a local physical therapist so she could give her daily anatomical presentations in their native tongue. She was honored at the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class of the Costa Rican Medical University.

Zimny joined AAA in 1957, served on the Executive Committee in the early 1980s, then again while program secretary from 1990-94. She was president of the Southern Society of Anatomists.

Her research in degenerative arthritis was considered to be tops in the field nationally. She was also known for her studies in ground squirrels about the physiology of animal hibernation and its relationship to human body function, particularly metabolism. She fondly referred to the students working in her lab on these experiments as her "ground squirrels" as well.

She took a sabbatical to work in electron microscopy at the Institute of Arctic Biology at the University of Alaska. Her findings had application in increasing

Bacro Honored for Use of Educational Technology In Teaching Anatomy

AAA's 2006 Basmajian Award will be presented next month to Thierry Bacro, associate professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

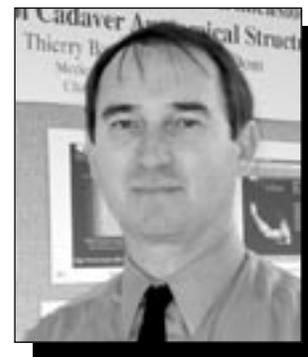
This award recognizes health science faculty who are in the formative stages of their career, teach human or veterinary gross anatomy, can document excellence in their contribution to the teaching of gross anatomy, and have outstanding accomplishments in biomedical research or scholarship in education. Bacro is credited with integrating educational technology in anatomical sciences in creative and meaningful modalities.

Robert Malcolm, MUSC associate dean for continuing medical education, views Bacro as both a "superb teacher of human gross anatomy" and a "major innovator" in the development of web-based anatomy courses and testing of students' knowledge. Bacro serves as MUSC director of faculty development for web-based instruction and as course director for dental gross and neuroanatomy. In the former position, he assists faculty in integrating educational technology in their teaching. Bacro is also on the steering committee of the MUSC Apple Tree Society, a group of educators committed to improving their teaching by attending retreats, taking society-sponsored short courses, and attending seminars on teaching and learning.

As nominator Robert Ogilvie notes, Bacro not only serves his institution very well through his support of technological innovation and educational leadership, but has also been a valuable "servant of education throughout the state of South Carolina by his effective collaborative interaction."

Bacro is principal investigator on a U.S. Department of Education GAANN project (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) related to cell and neurobiology. This grant is designed to train Ph.D. candidates at MUSC to be effective anatomy teachers. He also leads the faculty development and mentoring component of a grant to integrate physician training and biomedical research in South Carolina and is developing the technology for a new graduate course on the biology of neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases.

Bacro received a degree in physical therapy from the Medical University of Lille in France and a BS in sports injuries from the University of Cape Town. After completing



New Fellows Program Recognizes Top Tier Of AAA Members

A new Fellows Program approved by AAA's Board of Directors will honor distinguished members who have demonstrated excellence in science and in their overall contributions to the anatomical sciences.

Under the new program, to be implemented for 2007, AAA members will be asked to nominate regular or emeritus members who, in their view, rank in the top 10% of all AAA members based on the following criteria:

- Accomplishments in academic or corporate administration
- Accomplishments in professional service
- Accomplishments in education and research

In general, candidates for AAA Fellow will be considered only after 10-15 years of postdoctoral contribution, although exceptional candidates with fewer years may be considered. Fellow candidates recommended by the selection committee also must be approved by the AAA Board.

Look for additional information and nomination details in the June *AAA Newsletter*, on AnatomyLink (www.anatomy.org), and in upcoming issues of *E-Stratum*, AAA's new online member memo. ❖

Bacro Honored *continued from previous page*

an MS in exercise science at the University of South Carolina, he received his Ph.D. in developmental biology and anatomy from the USC School of Medicine in 1994.

This year's Basmajian Award committee was chaired by Jeffrey Laitman; other members were Benedikt Hallgrímsson and Anna Lérant. The award will be presented at the AAA Awards Banquet in San Francisco on Tuesday, April 4.

To submit a nomination for next year's Basmajian prize, check the awards guidelines on AnatomyLink – www.anatomy.org. Nominations are due December 1. ❖

knowledge of how man might better survive harshly cold environments.

Beloved by many generations of LSU Health Sciences Center students, Zimny was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Service Award by the LSU Alumni Federation. She was voted Best Pre-Clinical Lecturer by LSU Health Sciences Center students for three years in a row and Most Popular Teacher by the 1979 Class of LSU dental students.

James Williams, now a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Rush Medical College, clearly remembers his first meeting with Zimny nearly 25 years ago. "As a young anatomist," Williams recalls, "I was very nervous to see that she would be moderating the session in which I would present. She invited me to lunch before the presentation, chatted about any number of things, encouraged me with her talk and roaring laughter, and then left an indelible imprint on me as she gave me a big slap on the back and said, 'Kid, you are going to do just fine.' That one small gesture made a huge difference in my life. At times, I can still feel the imprint of her hand."

Zimny was awarded an LSU Distinguished Faculty Fellowship in 1987 and a professorship was established in her name in LSU Health Sciences Center's School of Medicine by the alumni in 1995. She was given the Women in Medicine Award by LSUHSC's School of Medicine in New Orleans in 1996.

Reflecting upon the changes she saw during her academic tenure when she retired, one of the most notable was that more and more women were entering the health professions. "When I began teaching at LSU in 1954, you were lucky to have a couple of women in the class. Now women represent about half of the class in medicine," Zimny said in 1998.

Zimny is survived by her beloved friend, June "T" Thomas, and seven cousins.

Adapted from an obituary appearing on the LSU web site (www.lsuhscc.edu/mlzimny.htm).

Psst!! Pass it on...

There's an AAA membership application on page 35.

Please pass it on to a student or colleague.

Thank you!

Win Friends! Influence People!

Spend some time at the AAA Membership Booth #702 at EB. It's a great place to see old friends, make new ones, and tell everyone in sight why they should become an AAA member.

To volunteer for booth duty, contact Angela Benson at 301-634-7910 or abenson@anatomy.org.

Slots go fast, so be sure to call today!