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## Dr. Elisabeth Fatila

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From left to right: Lauralee Sylvain, Andrew Brown, Brandon Cooper, Dr. Fatila, Kelsey Schellinger, Riley Cooper, and Jackie Ashley

## Dr. Elisabeth Fatila

by Elizabeth Kibodeaux, Electrical Engineering Sophomore

The E&S Magazine would like to introduce one of the fresher faces on our campus: Dr. Elisabeth Fatila, assistant professor of chemistry and molecular science and nanotechnology. Since she arrived at Louisiana Tech last year, Dr. Fatila made great strides in improving the chemistry labs and in her own lanthanide-based research. One may ask: How did a person from chilly Ontario come to work in warm, humid and charming Ruston, Louisiana?

Dr. Fatila was born and raised in St. Thomas, Ontario—a Canadian town of about 35,000 people. She stayed in Ontario for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees, acquiring both from the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario. She graduated from her undergraduate program in Chemistry and went on to receive her Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry.

Even though she published many findings from her Ph.D., Dr. Fatila felt lost on what to do with her education. After several co-ops, she realized that she preferred research, especially research involving lanthanides, over anything else. Through this passion, she discovered Professor Ken Raymond at the University of California in Berkley. She applied for a post-doctoral fellowship and much to her disbelief, she got it. Thus, her journey to the United States began.

Unfortunately, it did not take long before Professor Raymond's funding was cut, but, luckily for Dr. Fatila, she received an opportunity to work in Indiana in a research-based industrial position. She managed to publish several articles from this experience. While working there, she ultimately decided to apply for a position at Louisiana Tech. When called down for an interview, she discovered that she loved it here! When asked why, she said, "The biggest reason [was] the students. They are so respectful and kind and easy to work with."

Upon her arrival, Dr. Fatila sought to improve lab conditions, not only for her own research, but for the students as well. She enjoys working closely with students through her co-chair position in ACS and the many classes she teaches, including: General Chemistry, Inorganic and Advanced Inorganic Chemistry, and Introduction to Research. Her current research involves lanthanide coordination complexes and methodologies for making them. Dr. Fatila's efforts thus far show that her career at Louisiana Tech will be nothing short of remarkable, and her passion shown already demonstrates how fortunate COES students are to have such a talented professor of chemistry.