



February 16, 2004

Alumni and Friends:

Here is the latest *Good News* from ULM. After reading this e-mail I hope you will forward it everyone on your ULM Buddy List. Each time we add an alumnus or friend to this list, we help spread the *good news* about our University.

Enrollment up.....again!

The University of Louisiana at Monroe has gained in enrollment for the second consecutive spring semester. ULM's spring enrollment, as of the 14th day of classes this semester, is 7,976. That's up from spring 2003 14th day enrollment of 7,914, - a 0.8 percent increase, according to Veronika Avery, coordinator of media relations for the university.

"Our enrollment increase is reflective of the changes being made at this institution," said Stephen Richters, ULM provost and vice president for academic affairs. Last semester, enrollment rose by 407 students to 8,558. "Last fall's enrollment increase, the first one we had seen in eight years, was also an indication of change at ULM. Our group efforts are improving this university every day and making it even more student-focused," Richters said.

Lisa Miller, director of recruitment and admissions at ULM, directly attributed the spring enrollment increase over last spring to "combined efforts" of administration, faculty, staff and students. ULM President James Cofer met late last month with the university's Faculty Senate and discussed recruiting and retention. At that time, he predicted an increase in enrollment over last spring. He also asked the Faculty Senate for its help to get classroom instructors and professors to assist in campus-based recruiting efforts, such as "Evening at ULM," scheduled for Tuesday.

The university has held off-campus-recruiting events during the last two months in places like Shreveport, Lafayette, Alexandria and Metairie. Recruiting new students and retaining enrolled students are essential to the university's financial well-being, Cofer said at the meeting with faculty.

An Evening with ULM in Monroe

ULM will host an "Evening with ULM" in Monroe for students in Ouachita Parish on Tuesday, November 17th, 7-8:30 p.m., University Library Conference Center. Local students will have the opportunity to discover the educational opportunities that can make a difference in their future. ULM President Dr. Jim Cofer, university administrators, and faculty will be discussing financial aid, new scholarship opportunities, programs of study, and career opportunities

ULM Reaches Five-Game Football Agreement with Arkansas; Games in Little Rock Home Games for Indians

ULM made a definitive statement for remaining a member of Division I-A in football with the announcement that it had reached an agreement to play Arkansas five times over the next 10 years in Little Rock, Ark., with each meeting a home game for the Indians.

ULM will play Arkansas at Little Rock's War Memorial Stadium this fall and in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. War Memorial Stadium seats 53,727 and Razorback games played there over the last four seasons, a span of 10 games, have averaged 52,357 in attendance.

New NCAA rules going into effect this fall will require all I-A members in football to average 15,000 in home attendance or be placed on probation. Two consecutive years of attendance of less than 15,000 at home games could result in suspension of I-A membership.

"Over 10 years ago, the administration, fans and boosters of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, as well as our community, made a commitment to compete in football on the NCAA's highest level," ULM Director of Athletics Bruce Hanks said.

"We believe that this community, our students and fans desire and deserve to see major college football. In the last few months and years with our membership in the Sun Belt Conference for football and the hiring of Charlie Weatherbie and his staff to direct our football program we have put the pieces in place to be successful on this level. While I believe that our fans will come out in numbers to meet the 15,000 average attendance requirement, this agreement was a cushion for events such as bad weather. At the same time, it provides five exciting games with an outstanding program for our fans to attend. "

Hanks was quick to point out that this boost for the ULM football program would not have been possible were it not for the leadership provided by Arkansas Director of Athletics Frank Broyles. "Frank Broyles has long been a leader in college athletics and willing to help other schools," Hanks said. "He has a history of creativity and innovation that is good for I-A football and its members."

Broyles said that while the agreement helps ULM, the series is also beneficial to the Arkansas football program. "This was a great opportunity for us to establish a long-term series while helping Louisiana-Monroe retain its Division I-A status," Broyles said. "I appreciate Bruce Hanks working with us to find an agreement that is beneficial to both institutions. I know that Louisiana-Monroe is committed to competing at the Division I-A level for years to come. This is an important step towards that goal."

The games will have aspects of a home game for both teams. Both schools will be allowed to include the game tickets in their season ticket package if they choose. Arkansas will still handle the bulk of administrative activities related to the games. The games will be designated as ULM's home game for attendance figures and for the required number of Division I-A home games.

Playing Arkansas in Little Rock is not something new for ULM. The Indians and Razorbacks have twice met in Little Rock, most recently during the 1999 season. The two previous games have averaged over 50,000 in attendance.

"I believe these games will bring a great deal of excitement for our fans," Hanks said. "It's an opportunity to take on a big-name SEC opponent and our fans only have to travel three hours for the games. Also, we have played in Little Rock in the past and the community support for college football is impressive. They do a great job with these games."

New Bench Honors Deans of Former College of Liberal Arts

The ULM English Department recently donated a bench to the campus in honor of the three deans who served in the former College of Liberal Arts. The bench, which sits at the northeast corner of the Administration building, has etched on it the names of the three deans and the dates of their service to the university: Dean William Hammond (1931-1968), Dean Frank Morgan (1968-93), and Dean Carlos Fandal (1993-2002). They were the only three Deans to serve the former College of Liberal Arts (now Arts and Sciences) over the University's seventy-year history. Fandal currently serves as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

GOOD NEWS is e-mailed around the 15th and 30th of each month by your ULM Alumni Association. This e-mail contains a brief sampling of all the good news surrounding our university. For a complete listing of all of the *good news*, please visit the ULM web site at www.ulm.edu If you would like to be removed from this list, please contact Tommy Walpole (contact information is below). Thanks for your continuing support of ULM and I hope you'll help spread the *good news*.

Good News Count: 494