



March 31, 2005

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 our distribution list, we help spread the **Good News** about our University.

## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES NEW DUES CAMPAIGN!**

For us to say, "ULM is on the move again," would be a major understatement. Our physical plant is undergoing a complete renovation and upgrade – from \$70 million dollars worth of new apartment and suite style student housing, to a \$5 million dollar renovation of the SUB, to the conversion of Sandel Library into Sandel Hall, a one-stop shop for our students, to a new landscaped entrance spanning the length of the campus on Desiard street, ULM is taking on a much needed new look.

Enrollment is up 11% since 2002 with applications for the Fall 2005 semester, our first under full selective admissions, up 20% over this time last year. Freshmen enrollment is up 40% over the last two years with the average entering ACT score reaching 21 – the highest in our institutions history.

All our athletic teams will join the Sunbelt Conference in 2006.

94% of our Academic programs eligible for accreditation are accredited. We have built 32 new state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms each housing the latest in computer technology for the benefit of our students.

And there is so much more planned for our ULM.

ULM is poised to become stronger than ever and it's time our alumni association matched the growth that is occurring in all other areas on our campus.

Today, your ULM Alumni Association proudly announces our conversion to the new **"Anniversary Date"** dues campaign. This new campaign will make the month in which you last paid your dues, your Anniversary month. Each year, prior to your anniversary date, you will

receive a reminder letter from us letting you know its time to once again pay your alumni dues. The conversion to this program took just a little longer than we anticipated so here is our start-up schedule for our new campaign:

- For those whose anniversary month will be April – your letter will be mailed next week.
- For those whose anniversary month was Jan/Feb/March – your letter will follow shortly thereafter
- For those whose anniversary month is May – your letter will come next
- We will then mail to those who have not joined the association
- By June, we will be on schedule for the rest of the year (thanks for your patience and understanding).

By joining your ULM Alumni Association, you will become a member of an elite group of “Maroon and Gold” enthusiasts who will enjoy many benefits such as eligibility to vote and hold office in the Alumni Association \* Free Drumbeat Newsletter \* VIP invitations to special ULM events \* Networking opportunities \* use of ULM’s Division of Career Services \* eligibility to rent the Alumni Center Social Hall and much more.

We are fortunate to have over 48,000 graduates. Of this number, our “best year” of membership was 4,247. We are better than 4,247 and your support will make this year our best year yet – with better years to come.

Our goal for the association is to have 10,000 dues paying members. We realize this won’t happen over night but we feel it will happen. By joining your ULM Alumni Association today, you can help ensure the news from ULM is always ***Good News!*** Be watching for your letter and let’s make this year the first of many ***Good News*** years for our Alumni Association.

## **ON CAMPUS**

### ***Sculpture Garden Receives Its First Display***

Adding in their own brand of campus beautification, the University of Louisiana at Monroe School of Visual and Performing Arts installed the first composition to the innovative new Sculpture Garden earlier this month. The Sculpture Garden is located in front of Spyker Theatre behind Biedenharn Hall.

Originally proposed by ULM Associate Professor of Art Cliff Tresner and supported by Dr. L. Keith White, Director of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, ULM’s Sculpture Garden will be a rotating display and sale opportunity for alumni, local artists and other respected artists given the invitation. “I think it will be a very culturally enriching environment,”

Tresner said. "I already enjoy this space more simply by placing one work there. With the ongoing installation of other work it will be a pleasant place to visit. I hope that the idea grows, and I for one would like to see sculpture throughout the campus."

Greely Myatt, an artist from Memphis, Tennessee, established the inaugural piece, a 19 foot steel structure capturing a moment in time when the artist happened upon a lightning-struck tree that had managed to cradle its almost severed top-half upon itself.

As the ULM Sculpture Garden grows, the constitution and selection of work may change along with the placement and landscaping.

### ***A Reminder - CARE National Conference Coming to ULM***

The University of Louisiana at Monroe will host a national conference on rural education, April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, as the result of a \$200,000 grant it recently received from the National Science Foundation. The CARE Conference will focus on the themes of organizing every school for teaching and learning success; insisting on quality teacher preparation, program accreditation, and licensure; and developing and sustaining professionally rewarding career paths for teachers from mentored induction through accomplished teaching. ULM will apply advanced Internet technology to provide the broadest possible participation in the CARE Conference. Use of the University's Access Grid Node, a state-of-the-art facility that employs the Internet to provide full voice, video, and data interaction among multiple locations, will permit full participation by people at four remote sites scattered across the country. Additionally, email and streaming video technology will allow anyone with Internet access to observe the sessions and send questions or comments to the conference speakers. Among the keynote speakers are:

- Dr. Rachel Tompkins, president of the Rural School and Community Trust, a non-profit organization helping schools and communities get better together;
- Dr. Sharon Draper, the 1997 National Teacher of the Year <http://www.ccsso.org/ntoy97.html> and author of the award-winning essay, "The Touch of a Teacher," published by the National Governor's Association;
- Dr. Knight Roddy, a science educator from Clinton, La., and the recent recipient of the National Rural Education Association Science Award; and
- Dr. Richard Ingersoll, associate professor of Education and Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, and a researcher whose work has been cited by former President Clinton in numerous speeches.

Information about the conference can be obtained by emailing [care@ulm.edu](mailto:care@ulm.edu) <mailto:care@ulm.edu> or by visiting <http://www.ulm.edu/care/>

### ***“No Ties Allowed” – A Business Benefit (final reminder)***

“No Ties Allowed” – A Business Benefit - is set for Friday, April 8, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the University Conference Center on the 7th floor of the ULM Library. The evening is hosted by ULM’s College of Business Administration. Equinox Jazz will provide entertainment.

Individual Tickets are \$40 and include the cost of wine, beer and soft drinks. Sponsorships can be purchased for \$1,000. Sponsorships include tickets for eight and mention in all programs, signs and advertisements. During a silent auction, one item up for bid is a private flight to New Orleans for a 3-hour sail and picnic on Lake Ponchartrain. For more information call Debbie Sexton at (318) 342-1104.

## **STUDENTS FIRST**

### ***ULM Students Win Big at the Louisiana Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting***

The recent 79th annual meeting of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences provided ULM the opportunity to bring home several awards. ULM faculty and students, involving a total of 27 ULM authors, made seventeen presentations. In the second annual student poster competition at this event, three ULM graduate students swept the competition, winning first, second, and third cash prizes. Twelve student posters had been selected for competition from among nearly 30 submissions around the state.

The Louisiana Academy of Sciences was founded in 1927 at Centenary College. The goals of the academy are to unite the scientists of Louisiana for the purpose of encouraging research and education in all branches of science, to encourage and conduct scientific discussions; to publish and disseminate scientific material; to conduct all enterprises deemed to promote the causes of science; to foster the applications of science to the problems of humanity, to encourage and assist teachers in Louisiana’s elementary and secondary schools with the caliber of instruction necessary to generate and maintain an interest in all areas of science and to be an active voice representing science in both higher education and K-12 in Louisiana.

### ***5th Annual Student Research Symposium***

The 5th Annual Student Research Symposium is scheduled at the University of Louisiana at Monroe on Wednesday, April 27th from 7:30 a.m.

until 4:30 p.m. in the University Conference Center. The Conference Center is located on the 7th floor of the library. There will be an awards ceremony that will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The symposium is used as a vehicle to showcase the outstanding research being conducted by both undergraduates as well as graduate students at ULM and it allows the presentation of unique and high quality work of our student family. Students who are actively pursuing their degrees and who have been officially enrolled in either undergraduate or graduate programs during the 2004-2005 academic years are eligible to participate in the event.

## **ATHLETIC UPDATES**

### ***Vining Steps Down as ULM's Men's Basketball Coach***

Mike Vining, the winningest basketball coach in Southland Conference history, announced his retirement on March 22<sup>nd</sup> after 24 years as the Indians Head Coach. Vining was only one of 29 active Division 1 coaches during the 2004-05 season to reach 400 career victories as a collegiate head coach. "We are grateful for all that Mike has done for this basketball program," said ULM Director of Athletics Bobby Staub. "His selfless dedication and commitment to this institution is greatly appreciated." Vining, who was a two-sport athlete for the Indians while a student, took over as head coach in 1981 from Benny Hollis. He retires as the winningest coach in ULM history. His teams posted six 20-win seasons and won 19 games three other times. His teams won seven Southland Conference titles, six SLC tournament championships, the TAAC tournament championship, and he took the Indians to the NCAA tournament seven times. Coach Vining will continue to assist the ULM Athletic Department in other capacities. The search for a new coach has already begun with five men already interviewing for the job.

- The University of Louisiana at Monroe golf team won its first tournament of the season in impressive fashion, beating host Southeastern Louisiana by 15 strokes in the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate. We had all five guys in the round the whole time, said ULM head coach Chris Wilson. It was a total team effort and I feel we really made a statement this weekend. Junior Tim Kunick won the individual championship, narrowly edging Louisiana Tech's Preston Smith by two strokes. The Indians sealed the victory after a final round score of 289 which was the second lowest round by any team in the tournament. ULM has had trouble in the past finishing tournaments but showed no signs of slowing down at the par 72

course designed by PGA veteran David Toms. All five ULM golfers got in the action by placing in the top 25 in the tournament. Sophomore Jondavid Metzger finished tied for sixth place while true freshman Pat Collogan tied for thirteenth place. Juniors Casey Russell and Bryan Vahlberg round out the Indians in the top 25 finishing tied for twentieth and twenty-second. Since this first place finish, our golfers finished sixth in the Border Olympics held at Laredo Country Club and then they barely had time to pack the clubs as they headed to Little Rock where they finished fifth at the First Tee/UALR Collegiate Classic. The Indians will compete in one more tournament, April 11-12 in Jonesboro Arkansas at the Arkansas State Indian Classic, before they hit the links to defend their Southland Golf Championship April 25-27.

- Junior Golfer, Tim Kunick (mentioned above) was named as the co-Southland Conference Golfer of the week for his outstanding play at the Carter Plantation Intercollegiate.
- ULM's women's tennis team (8-5, 3-1 SLC) is already showing vast improvements over last year. After beating Southland Conference rival Nicholls State 7-0, ULM Head Coach Jill Breslin is pleased with her team's performance. "The team played very against Nicholls State." "Every member of the team stepped up and did their part." The Lady Indians return to Southland Conference Action with matches against Stephen F Austin on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and McNeese State on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Veronica Karlson and Johan Persson qualified for the NCAA Mideast Regional in the discus throw for the Louisiana-Monroe Men's and Women's Track and Field Team after their performances at the Louisiana Lafayette Invitational. The Mideast Regional will take place on May 27, in Indianapolis, Ind. Karlson Won the discus throw with a mark of 48.72m. Persson placed second in the discus for the men, with a mark of 51.70m. The women also had other strong performances at ULL. Adrienne Ford won the 400-meter dash, Tiffany Holmes placed second in the 100-meter dash and fifth in the 200-meter dash, Lilia Rivera placed third in the shot put, Felicia Lee finished fourth in the high jump, and the women's 4x400 Meter Relay team of Adrienne Ford, Arzelia Hall, Shamonica Pickett and Kenesha Matthews finished second. For the men, Maya Aden won the 5000-meter run, Patrick Morgan finished second behind Aden, Danny Webster placed third in the 3000-meter Steeplechase, and Rani Giladi came in fourth in the triple jump.

### ***Track Re-Union Reminder***

A reunion is being planned for former Track and Field Athletes at the home meet at ULM on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Some early RSVP's include World Record

holders Don and Dave Styron. The reunion, organized by Ronnie Overby, will become an annual event at the last Track meet held each season at ULM. For additional information, drop Ronnie Overby an e-mail - [ronnie1064@cox.net](mailto:ronnie1064@cox.net)

### ***Baseball Game hosts Rib Cook-off***

Prior to the ULM home baseball game on April 9<sup>th</sup> (ULM hosts Lamar – game time is 3:00), you can sample ribs which were cooked by 20 teams in the ULM/Monroe Jaycees Rib Cook-off (eating time is 1:00) for \$5.00 per person. For information on the event including how to enter a team, contact Adam Holland at 318-282-6938!

## **ULM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS**

Your alumni association, and tons of local volunteers, is busy planning the Spring / Summer travel schedule. Please check the Alumni Calendar of Events often for the latest news on when we'll be coming to your area.

<http://www.ulm.edu/cgi-bin/alumni.pl>

We have events already scheduled for **Morehouse Parish \* Dallas/Ft Worth \* Monroe \* Washington, DC \* East/West Carroll Parish \* CenLa \* Houston \* Baton Rouge \* Raleigh, NC \* Atlanta \* Acadiana (Lafayette area) \* Imperial Calcasieu (Lake Charles area) \* Caddo-Bossier \* Lincoln/Union \* Texas Hill Country (Austin, TX area) \* Greater New Orleans \* Jackson, MS** - with an additional 9 more events to schedule! Once we secure the date for the event, you'll receive an e-mail / a save the date post card / a reminder e-mail or two / and then a letter with RSVP information.

- **DON'T FORGET . . .** If you change your e-mail address, let us know! Send any new e-mail address to [walpole@ulm.edu](mailto:walpole@ulm.edu)

And that concludes this edition of **Good News**. As always, thanks for helping spread the **Good News** about our University. Our next **Good News** e-mail should arrive in your inbox around the 15th of April, which of course is tax day....but more importantly, it is the end of Spring Fever week at ULM and that means it is OOZEBALL Friday!

***GO INDIANS!***

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**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. If you would like to be removed from this list, please contact Tom Walpole (contact information is below). Thanks for your continuing support of **ULM**.

**13,099** Alumni & Friends received this *Good News* e-mail.