



April 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.

ULM Student Achievements

- > Eighty-seven students at the University of Louisiana at Monroe have been initiated into Alpha Lambda Delta, a scholastic honor society for freshmen students with 3.5 grade point averages or higher. Alpha Lambda Delta is a national society that honors academic excellence during a student's first year in college and promotes intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning and assists students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their roles in society.
- > Sharon Price Manning, a clinical laboratory science senior at ULM, recently received a \$1000 scholarship from the American Society for Clinical Pathology. The ASCP is a national certifying agency for clinical laboratory scientists. The scholarship is awarded to students in their clinical year of the clinical laboratory science program. The money will allow Manning to finance her clinical year. "My clinical schedule is eight to four, five days a week, making it impossible to have a job, so any extra money is a huge help," said Manning. She plans on working as a hospital laboratory scientist after her graduation in August.
- > The NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) vocal competition was recently held at Louisiana Tech University and ULM students earned: 5 First place finishes, 2 Second Place, 3 Third Place, and 3 Fourth Place finishes.
- > The ULM Speech and Debate Team continued its successful season by winning awards at the American Forensics Association National Championship Tournament, which was held at California State University, Long Beach on April 2nd – 5th. The tournament featured the nation's top 850 students, representing 113 colleges and universities from throughout the nation

Board of Regents Report Shows ULM Receives High Marks on Quality of Teacher Preparation

In a report released by the Louisiana Board of Regents, the University of Louisiana at Monroe scored an "A+" and an "A" on the Institutional Performance Index. The report, the 2003-2004 Teacher Preparation Accountability System, is essentially broken down in two parts: the Institutional Performance Index (quality score) and a Quantity Index. ULM's quality score is excellent. It is based on a combination of students' PRAXIS scores and their ratings on the

graduation satisfaction survey. ULM has a 100% passage rate on the PRAXIS examination and an “A” on the Graduate Satisfaction Survey resulting in a total score of an “A” on the Institutional Performance Index. “We are pleased with the outstanding ratings of the quality of our teacher preparation programs. The high ratings on the graduate satisfaction survey by our program completers make us especially proud,” said Dr. Luke Thomas, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

ULM’s score on the quantity index of the report indicates that the university should have more students completing their high quality teacher education program. The “C” score is an indication of the number of 2002-2003 program completers at ULM. “We were prepared to see our quantity decrease this year because of enrollment decreases during the past few years. The score essentially reflects enrollment numbers from 4 years ago. However, we expect to see an increase in the quantity scores of this report in about 2-4 years when the scores begin to reflect our recent enrollment increases,” said Thomas. “ULM had 40 alternate Certification teachers complete the program in August who were not counted in these final completer scores. If they had been counted, ULM would have had an “A” or “A+” in quantity,” said Dr. Jeanne Burns, Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives for the Louisiana Board of Regents.

ULM President James Cofer says, “We are not surprised by our scores this year. We are excited to hear that our students feel prepared in the classroom thanks to our high quality teacher education program, but we knew that we would not rate as high in the quantity area. The scores you see in this report are based on our lowest graduating class in years. In fact, our enrollment went up this past fall for the first time in 8 years and included a 5% increase in teacher education enrollees. However, this particular increase will not be reflected in the state quantity scores until students entering fall 2003 complete the program in 4 years. We are proud of our programs that focus on preparing high quality teachers and we do have efforts in place to recruit more education majors in the future.”

ULM is working now to increase their numbers and continue to emphasize recruiting for teacher education especially in high need areas such as mathematics, science and special education. Just this week ULM has been recruiting out of state.

Examples of ULM’s recruiting efforts:

- The Dean from the College of Education and Human development and other professors and administrators routinely accompany ULM recruiters at recruiting events that are held throughout the state, at surrounding states and on the ULM campus.
- There is a new initiative in place to work with science teachers in the region.
- ULM is currently utilizing the aide of TeachNortheast recruiters to increase enrollment.
- The Teacher Cadet Program allows ULM to work with area high schools and students that are interested in going into teacher education. This program will be expanded soon.

ULM Names 2004 Outstanding Professors

The 2004 Outstanding Professor Award winners at the University of Louisiana at Monroe have been announced. The Outstanding Professor Awards are given annually to those professors who exhibit excellence in teaching, research, and service throughout the year. “Because of their outstanding overall accomplishments, these individuals were nominated for the award by their

colleagues or students and were selected by a committee of their peers. This award is doubly meaningful, therefore, because it provides recognition from both the students and the faculty and staff," said Dr. Stephen Richters, ULM Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Outstanding Professor Award recipients for 2004 are: School of Nursing: Debra Brossett, assistant professor of nursing; Department of Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Walter Creekmore, professor of education; Department of English: Mona Oliver, associate professor of English; Department of Chemistry: Dr. Mark Arant, associate professor of chemistry; Department of Accounting: Dr. Michelle McEacharn.

ULM Gets Approval from State Bond Commission for New On-Campus Housing and Other Projects

The University of Louisiana at Monroe now has the authorization it needs to move forward with its on-campus student housing project that will provide new apartment- and suite-style residences. At a state bond commission hearing held Thursday morning in Baton Rouge, ULM was approved for bond funding not-to-exceed \$80 million. ULM's estimated need for all endeavors, including the new student housing, renovation of the Student Union Building (SUB) and a new Student Health Center is approximately \$68 million.

Nick Bruno, Vice President for Business Affairs is enthusiastic about the approval of the bond saying this now allows ULM to move forward with its highly anticipated new student housing and other updates to the University's landscape. "We are on schedule working with JPI Campus Quarters and continue to refine negotiations to finalize the costs and specifics associated with the various projects funded by the issuance. This is another step in the right direction for ULM and our students," said Bruno.

Plans for the new residential facilities call for the renovation of Ouachita and Madison Halls and the demolition of eight existing residence halls constructed in the 1950s and 1960s making way for the new buildings. The ninth, Olin Hall, will be demolished by the state's Facility Planning and Control office.

Demolition is expected to begin in Summer of 2004 for the apartment portion of the project, with planned completion in the fall of 2005. The suite-style student living project will follow with occupancy planned for the Fall of 2006. JPI Campus Quarters will also provide comprehensive management services on an ongoing basis for ULM's entire on-campus housing program, which totals approximately 1,500 beds.

Some changes to the revamped SUB would include an all night computer lab, a late night coffee shop/lounge, a ballroom and meeting rooms for campus organizations. The new SUB would also serve as a campus information center, providing students with one-stop shopping for any information they need concerning ULM. The transformation of the SUB will make it more of a living room for the students.

Current plans for the SUB call for the demolition of the Indian Bank and the old campus bookstore. The concept also calls for the current SUB and the old SUB to be joined by the

walkways to create a single building from the two. The outside renovations will include arched lanterns and more windows to give the SUB an open air feel. The inside renovations will create a plaza atmosphere with much more room for students.

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: 891