



June 15, 2006

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.

Next on the Alumni Travel Schedule:

www.ulm.edu/alumni/chapters.html

- **Friday, June 16th** – Greater Atlanta area after hours event.
- **Saturday, June 17th** – Greater Birmingham area evening at the ball park.
- **Saturday, June 24th** – Greater Carolina's area evening at the ball park.

**1-866-WARHAWK – (1-866-927-4295) – new toll free number to
the ULM Alumni Center**

TOP STORY

ULM Learning Communities Overflow With Student Interest

As the saying goes, you learn something new every day. Student Success Center staff members at the University of Louisiana at Monroe have discovered just how much their Learning Communities (LC) appeal to incoming first-year students, as the number signed up to participate in these innovative success programs has shot beyond even optimistic expectations.

The Learning Communities expanded from a pilot program instituted in the fall 2005 semester called Freshman Interest Groups (FIGS) involving 60 business students. Its success prompted the full-blown LCs.

Originally, academic support staff identified the new residence hall, Bayou Commons II, with 230 beds, as the LC residence hall. Before PREP (Preview Registration Environment Program) even began, however, the hall had filled because approximately 255 residents and commuters signed up for LC admittance.

PREP has only spurred more interest, to the point that Student Success Center staff members are now making room for more students.

Students take three classes together: FRYS (Freshman Year Seminar), freshman English, and a third class from the core. All courses in the LCs satisfy ULM's graduation requirements. The LC has a designated Learning Assistant who serves as a Teaching Assistant for the FRYS class and as a peer mentor for the LC. Each LC will also have a mentor from the Student Success Center.

“Research shows that students benefit both academically and socially from the communities,” said Barbara Michaelides, director of retention. “Besides the obvious social benefit of having an instant Ecommunity when students get to campus, there are academic benefits as well. Since the students attend three classes together, they will form study groups that help foster academic success. We are thrilled with the response because this program is nothing but beneficial to our students.”

As their first group activity, the participants will meet in Scott Plaza to attend Convocation together on Aug. 21.

More information is available at 318-342-3667 or on the web at:

<http://www.ulm.edu/learningcommunities>

Good News Turns 3

Today we celebrate the three-year anniversary of the ***Good News*** e-mail. The first on-line newsletter was sent to **75** volunteers on June 26, 2003. On June 28th, 2004, the newsletter was reaching over **1400** alumni and friends of ULM. Today's ***Good News*** e-mail is reaching over **10,400** alumni and friends of our university! Don't forget . . .

- If you change your e-mail address (or move), please let us know. Access the on-line update form at www.ulm.edu/alumni
- If ***Good News*** is being forwarded to you, send me your e-mail address and I'll add you to the list. walpole@ulm.edu
- If you receive a “your e-mail has bounced card” from us, please take the time to send us your new address (we realize that we will sometimes receive a bounce notice on a good address – please let us know that as well).

Thanks to all of you for your support and lets continue to work together to spread the ***Good News*** about our ULM.

Have you joined the ULM Alumni Association yet?

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

www.ulm.edu/alumni

Is There an Alumni Chapter Near me?

This year ULM and our local chapter leadership will host events in the following locations: Washington DC, Baton Rouge, Ouachita Parish, Houston, Morehouse Parish, Acadiana (Lafayette area), Imperial Calcasieu (Lake Charles), New Orleans, Carolina's, Dallas/Ft Worth, Caddo/Bossier, Jackson, Atlanta, East/West Carroll, Nashville, Arkoma (Tulsa), Texas Hill Country (Austin), Lincoln/Union, CenLa, Richland Parish, Winn/Jackson, Greater Birmingham. New Locations – Greater Chicago, Caldwell Parish, and in Oklahoma City.

Once the date for the event is set, we'll send an e-mail / a save the date post card / a couple of e-mail reminders / and a letter asking for RSVP's.

Alumni Dues Campaign Underway

The second year of our Anniversary Dues Campaign is underway. Letters to all alumni who last paid their dues in January – July and then to those who have not yet joined the ULM Alumni Association have been mailed. Private funds (your dues) are extremely important to the continuing successful operation of the ULM Alumni Association and all of ULM. Dues are \$25.00 for an individual alumnus * \$35.00 for a married couple * \$500.00 for a lifetime membership! I hope you'll take the time to include your check in the envelope provided and join us as we continue to play a vital role in the future of ULM.

- Want to financially support ULM from the privacy and comfort of your own home (which includes paying your alumni dues)?
<http://www.ulm.edu/giving/>

If you have an update for the Drumbeat (marriage, birth of a child, professional development news, etc.), send that information to drumbeat@ulm.edu **OR** you can send that information to us via the on-line update form located at: <https://ssl.ulm.edu/alumni/update.html>

Become a ULM Credit Card Carrying Supporter! <http://www.ulm.edu/alumni/>

- Go on line and apply for the ULM MBNA Master Card and or the ULM American Express card today! Call 1-800-833-6262 for more information.

HOMECOMING 2006 – celebrating 75 years of ULM – Saturday, September 30th, 2006!

STUDENTS FIRST

ULM Students Exceed National Praxis Pass Rates

University of Louisiana at Monroe M.S. students in Communicative Disorders (CODI) recently improved on national standards with a 100 percent pass rate on the esteemed Praxis Examination.

All who graduated during the 2005-2006 academic year passed the national Praxis Examination in Speech-Language Pathology prior to graduation.

The national pass rate for the same examination is 75 percent and can be taken up to three years following graduation. The test is necessary for individuals to be allowed to teach in most U.S. states.

Government Students Receive Illustrious Summer Internships

Two history and government students at ULM will participate in prestigious internships during summer 2006. Jessica Lenard will be attending the Women and Government Program at Nichols State

University and Chad Chavers will be serving as an intern in the office of U.S. Senator David Vitter. Both students will continue at ULM as seniors in fall 2006

STAFF UPDATE

ULM's Willson Receives CoSIDA's Bb Kenworthy Award

Judy Willson, director of media relations for the University of Louisiana at Monroe Athletics Department, is the 2006 winner of the Bob Kenworthy Award. College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) will present Willson with the award at their annual convention July 3 in Nashville, Tenn.

CoSIDA is recognizing Willson for her "civic involvement and accomplishments outside of the sports information office." And for Willson, that involvement began at home.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region and was followed quickly in the Louisiana and Texas area by Hurricane Rita, people throughout the country wondered how they could help. Willson answered the question.

In addition to her work for the fall semester, Judy contacted 29 Sports Information Directors (SIDs) who had been affected by the storm, some of whom lost everything to Katrina. The Kenworthy Award is named for Bob Kenworthy, former Sports Information Director at Gettysburg College, who was respected for his contributions to his community beyond his work.

"Knowing Bob as I do," wrote Union College's Eric McDowell in his nomination of Willson, "I know he would be proud for Judy to receive this award." McDowell went on to mention Willson's service to the national organization as a member of the board and a tireless worker, and added, "Yet, her heart and soul truly showed this past fall."

Willson not only opened her home for three weeks to visitors from the coast, but she spearheaded a fund-raising drive that gathered almost \$10,000. She encouraged the CoSIDA board to contribute almost \$45,000 more in gift cards, with the funds going directly to the affected SIDs.

"Sure, many national organizations would provide funds to those in need during a crisis of this nature," wrote McDowell. "Yet, how many would have a member who would consider targeting funds directly to her fellow members? Considering that many were young people with low incomes, including interns, this was a huge boost for them. One young SID's spouse even gave birth during the hurricane. We can only imagine the impact that these funds provided to that couple."

Willson was familiar with the area stricken by Katrina, having lived in New Orleans from 2000 through 2004 when she served as Assistant Commissioner of the Sun Belt Conference.

An at-large member serving her fourth year on the CoSIDA Board, Willson began her career while serving as a student assistant at her alma mater, Geneva College. She has held other full-time positions at the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association, Eastern New Mexico, the Lone Star Conference and the University of Denver.

ON CAMPUS

2006 Summer Camps at ULM Offer Variety of Educational Experiences

If your child is interested in a Band Camp, if you're interested in teaching your dog new tricks, if you'd like to learn how to swim or if you'd like to learn the art of baby sitting, ULM has a Summer Camp for you!

- A complete listing of Summer camps at ULM can be seen at: www.ulm.edu/summercamps

KEDM-FM Kicks Off Instrument Drive to Benefit New Orleans Musicians

Thousands of musicians lost their musical instruments to Hurricane Katrina last August. To remedy that loss, the staff of KEDM-FM, a public radio station housed at ULM, is collecting gently used musical instruments to distribute in New Orleans.

KEDM development director Susan Allain will transport the instruments to the Public Radio Development Exchange Annual Conference July 27-30. The Development Exchange will then donate instruments (collected from public radio stations nationwide) to the Tipitina's Foundation, a non-profit organization that is working to rebuild the music community in New Orleans.

"Everyone from school band students to professional musicians lost their instruments during the storm, so we thought this would be a great way to help out," Allain said. "We hope to make a statement by collecting the most instruments of all the other public radio stations. A lot of folks have a musical instrument just sitting in the closet of their home that isn't used anymore. We would encourage everyone to donate those instruments to our drive."

Instruments may be donated during business hours at KEDM's office, located at 225 Stubbs Hall on ULM's campus. Special dates for collecting instruments in Bastrop, Ruston and Winnsboro will be announced later.

Matt's Music, located in Monroe, is assisting with KEDM's drive. For more information about the benefit, contact Allain at 318-342-5556.

Bell Tower Books Announces Summer Hours

Bell Tower Books, located on the fourth floor of the ULM Library, has a good selection of books, vinyl and CD's, magazines and artwork for your shopping pleasure. If you have any books, etc. that you would like to donate please call 318-342 1050 and arrangements will be made to pick them up (locally) or you can deliver them to the circulation desk in the Library. Bell Tower Books is open from 10-2 on Wednesdays during the Summer.

School of Construction Management Building gets Upgrade.

Thanks to funding from ULM and through private donations, The Construction Building now has new windows, service has been completed on the HVAC, and new carpet is on the way. There are several more building upgrades currently in the planning stage.

For more information, please contact Keith Parker at 318-342- kparker@ulm.edu

***11 Days to the Unveiling of the Warhawk Logo
Stay Tuned for a Special Good News Update on the 26th!***

ULM Unveils Mascot Logo Designs June 26

After the ULM Mascot Committee unanimously voted to approve the final Warhawk logo designs, ULM staffers set an unveiling date of Monday, June 26 in Brown Gym. Everyone is encouraged to attend the celebration, which will be the first opportunity to purchase Warhawk merchandise.

The mascot committee's decision to approve the logo designs coincided with the majority opinion of the various focus groups, said Kevin Stuart, director of marketing at ULM. The focus groups met with Eric Rickabaugh, of Rickabaugh Graphics, and voiced their opinions about the different prospective logos.

"In the focus groups, which consisted of 80-100 people from across the ULM family, the designs adopted today were a runaway favorite," Stuart said.

ULM Bookstore Readies for Warhawk Take-Off

The unveiling of the new Warhawk Logo's will take place at 4:00 p.m. on June 26 in Brown Gym. Alumni and Friends can be among the first to have Warhawk gear by coming to the unveiling and stopping by the Bookstore area in Brown Gym where they will have t-shirts, polo shirts, caps, and other gear for sale (all the usual payment methods including credit cards will be accepted).

For our alumni and friends who will not be able to be in Brown Gym on the 26th, the special *Good News* e-mail (to be sent on the 26th) will carry the new link for ordering gear online.

ATHLETICS

<http://ulmathletics.collegesports.com/>

Mixon Selected by Diamondbacks in 47TH Round

Louisiana Monroe junior pitcher David Mixon was selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 47th round of the 2006 First-Year Player Draft last Wednesday.

The selection of Mixon marks the second straight season that the Diamondbacks have drafted a pitcher from ULM. Mixon joins former Indian standout Matt Green, who was selected by Arizona in the second round of the 2005 Draft.

Mixon, a hard-throwing right hander, worked both as a starter and closer for the Indians in 2006. Appearing in 25 games, Mixon posted a 2-8 overall record and a 5.76 earned run average. He worked 65 2/3 innings, including one complete game, while surrendering 93 hits and 62 runs, only 42 of which were earned. He also struck out 44 batters and walked 36.

The Americus, Ga., native and transfer from Chipola Junior College, proved vital in ULM's late-season surge toward the Southland Conference Tournament as the teams' closer. In the Indians final 10 games of the season, Mixon made seven appearances, posting a 0-1 record and a 0.93 ERA. During the stretch, he picked up four saves and opponents hit only 1.29 against him. In 9 2/3 innings pitched, Mixon surrendered only four hits, while striking out 11.

Espinal and Sithimorada Named to All-Louisiana Tennis Teams

Louisiana Monroe seniors Diana Espinal and Daliny Sithimorada were named to the All-Louisiana Women's Tennis Teams today by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association. Espinal was named to the first team, while Sithimorada received second team honors.

Espinal, a native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, has been the Lady Indians' No. 1 singles player for the past three seasons and was an all-Southland Conference selection as a freshman at No. 5 singles. She was named to the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District VI Women's At-Large Team on May 25 for her work in the classroom as well. Espinal finished the 2006 season with a 14-5 singles record and 9-8 at No. 1 doubles with Sithimorada. In April, Espinal returned home to compete in Federation Cup play for the Dominican. She was a key player in the team's advancement to the next level of Fed Cup play in 2007.

Sithimorada, a native of St. Pierre Du Perray, France, was an All-Southland Conference Second Team honoree in 2006 at No. 3 singles. Sithimorada finished the season with a singles record of 13-6 and 9-8 at No. 1 doubles with Espinal.

Williams Named to All-Louisiana Softball Team

Louisiana Monroe junior Heather Williams was recently named to the All-Louisiana Softball Team by the Louisiana Sportswriters Association.

Williams, a catcher from Poway, Calif., was named to the second team for her accomplishments in the 2006 season. In May, she was named to the all-Southland Conference third team.

Williams finished the 2006 season second on the team in batting average at .323. A starter in all 57 games this season, Williams led the team with 13 doubles, was second in hits with 54 and RBI with 32. She also had seven home runs to finish second in slugging percentage at .527. She caught 50 of the 57 games, recording a .981 fielding percentage and assisting the ULM pitching staff to a 3.06 ERA with 274 strikeouts.

Williams is spending several weeks this summer playing softball with USA Athletes International. Williams and four other ULM softball players are currently playing in Germany for the organization. The other players traveling this summer are pitchers Lindsay Rittenhouse and Sammie Dillard, and infielders Courtney Cleveland and Cary Roussel.

Giladi and Bartlett Named to Academic All-District Team

Two Louisiana Monroe track & field student-athletes were named to the ESPN the Magazine Academic All-District Track & Field Teams today by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Sophomore jumper Rani Giladi was one of ten student-athletes named to the Men's Track & Field Academic All-District VI First Team - University Division, while sophomore distance runner Amanda Bartlett was named to the Women's Academic All-District VI Second Team. As a district first team selection, Giladi will advance to the Academic All-America ballot.

Giladi, a native of Degania Bet, Israel, recently competed at the NCAA Mideast Regional in the triple jump. He was a three-time all-Southland Conference honoree for his performances in the indoor long jump and triple jump, and in the outdoor triple jump. He holds a 3.78 cumulative grade point average in accounting.

Bartlett, a native of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, was the cross country/distance runner for ULM in the 2005-06 season. She holds a 3.90 cumulative grade point average in chemistry.

The ESPN the Magazine Academic All-America Men's Track & Field Teams will be announced on Tuesday, June 20.

Soignier Named to Louisville Slugger's Freshman All-America Team

Louisiana Monroe freshman Ben Soignier added another postseason accolade to his collection when he was named to the Louisville Slugger's Freshman All-America Team, selected by *Collegiate Baseball* on Thursday.

Soignier was one of 11 shortstops from around the nation named to the squad and becomes the sixth ULM player to earn Freshman All-America honors. The previous recipients of Freshman All-America from *Collegiate Baseball* were pitcher Lee Graves and catcher Jay Aulds in 2001, designated hitter/third baseman Willie Core and pitcher Kenny Holubec in 1998 and pitcher Corey Artieta in 1996.

"This is a great honor," Soignier said. "I was able to accomplish a lot of the individual goals that I set at the beginning of the year, but fell a little short from a team standpoint. Being selected as a Freshman All-American will help push me even harder for the rest of my career."

A native of West Monroe, La., Soignier enjoyed a stellar freshman campaign that included a team-leading 18-game hitting streak, the only five hit game and multiple home run game by an ULM player this season and a batting average that peaked at .377.

On the season, Soignier led ULM in hits with 71, runs scored with 44, total bases with 98 and stolen bases with 18. He was second or tied for second in home runs (5), runs batted in (30), and slugging percentage (.480). Soignier also finished the year with 21 multiple hit games and seven multiple RBI games.

In conference play, he increased his production, leading the team in batting average (.396), hits (44), runs (28), doubles (7), RBIs (19), total bases (62) and stolen bases with 10. He enjoyed his most explosive game of the season on April 1, when he finished 3-for-5 with two home runs and five RBI at Texas State. He also pounded out a career-high five hits against Sam Houston State on March 26.

Soignier also found success on the hill for ULM during his inaugural season. On the year, he finished 1-5 with a 4.50 earned run average in 58.0 innings pitched, with a complete game. Despite the record, opponents hit only .254 against Soignier, as he scattered only 57 hits, while striking out 49 batters. During conference play, Soignier was even more impressive, as opponents hit only .226, as he amassed a 1-3 record with a 2.92 ERA in 37.0 innings.

"This is a great honor for Ben and our University," ULM head coach Jeff Schexnaider said. "Hopefully he can use this recognition as a stepping stone and have a successful career as a Warhawk."

IMPORTANT HOME PAGE LINKS

www.ulm.edu

- Need to update your alumni record?

<https://ssl.ulm.edu/alumni/update.html>

- Want to order the official ULM Ring (you can also call **800-854-7464**)? For a limited time, Josten's and the ULM Alumni Association will be allowing one change to the official ring and that is with the name engraved around the stone. During our 75th anniversary year, you can have the name of the school, when you graduated, put on the ring (**Northeast Louisiana University, Northeast Louisiana State College**, etc).

<http://www.ulm.edu/alumni/>

- To read about all the **Good News** at ULM, and keep up with events being held on and off campus, view the university web site and the University Calendar of events located at:

www.ulm.edu

- Shop the ULM Bookstore on line at: www.ulmbookstore.com

REMINDERS

- If you change your e-mail address, let us know! Send any new e-mail address to walpole@ulm.edu
- If you're a teacher, coach, or educator or if you're interested in helping ULM with its recruitment efforts at your school or in your area, please e-mail Mary Schmeer at schmeer@ulm.edu – your assistance could be the difference in a student attending our university.

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 30th of June.

ULM wishes you and yours a great day.

GO WARHAWKS!

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**.

10,421 Alumni & Friends received this edition of *Good News*

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