



June 30, 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 alumni or friend to this list, we help spread the *good news* about our University. Today marks the one-year anniversary of the *Good News* e-mail. The first on-line newsletter was sent to **75** volunteers on June 26, 2003 and today's letter will reach over **1400** ambassadors for our University. Thanks to all of you for your continuing support and let's keep spreading the *GOOD NEWS* about ULM.

Smart Classrooms Will Be Ready for Fall Semester at ULM

Twenty-two classrooms at the University of Louisiana at Monroe have spent the summer being made over into "smart classrooms." "Smart classrooms" are lecture rooms and lecture halls that are equipped with computers, DVD and VCR players, a sound system, Internet connections, and document cameras.

ULM Associate Provost Dr. Eric Pani says the ULM classrooms will be very appealing to today's technology-savvy students and will help the faculty reach more students because of the additional resources available to them. Pani says, "Faculty may want to show their students information and research from their office computers or Internet sources. The classroom, in effect, can be an extension of the professor's office or laboratory. Smart classrooms allow faculty to enhance their lectures, include music, data, and images, and provide graphic displays that help clarify the principles being considered in the class. This will allow students to be more engaged in the learning process."

The project is being funded from the technology fee that ULM students pay each semester. The decision to use those funds for this purpose was reached by the student-led Student Technology Assessment Plan Committee. Assistant Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of History and Government, Dr. Gordon Harvey, is already using technology in his classroom. He says it's a big help. "We are realizing that today's students are learning in different ways than most of us educated in the 1980s and before did. They are very visual in the way they process information. Much of this can be traced to the influential role of television, which has come to dominate American culture. Smart classrooms allow professors to bring to the classroom charts, data, images, sounds, music, and web sites of their own or from other sources," said Harvey. Since the mid-1990s smart classrooms have grown to be an expectation for college campuses rather than an extra feature.

Using technology has an added long-term benefit. Harvey adds, "We are modeling it for our students. Some of our students hail from less-affluent school districts that haven't had the good fortune of abundant technology in the schools. Perhaps, they could not afford their own

home computer. By showing them how we use it in a classroom setting, modeling the technology, we are introducing them to the technology so that perhaps in their future work situation they will feel more comfortable in using it. This is especially important with those students at ULM who seek to enter the teaching profession. If we can model the use of information technology with these pre-service teachers, then they are more apt to adopt it in their classrooms. Or perhaps in the case of a less-affluent school system, they might work to secure private donations for such technology.”

ULM Explores Conference Affiliation

In its report presented to the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors in Baton Rouge, Carr and Associates recommended the Athletics Department at the University of Louisiana at Monroe develop a five-year strategic plan that includes moving all sports to the Sun Belt Conference. Currently, of ULM’s 17 men’s and women’s sports, two of them, football and swimming, are in the Sun Belt Conference. The remaining 15 are in the Southland Conference.

Carr and Associates analyzed three options: the university can either stay with the dual affiliation, move all sports to the Southland Conference or as they recommend move all sports to the Sunbelt Conference. ULM President James Cofer told the System Board of Supervisors that the university is exploring all options presented in the Carr report. Cofer said, “Through the hard work of many of our faculty, students and staff we addressed numerous problems on campus during the first two years of this administration. For example, when we first arrived on campus, we inherited a \$4 million deficit in the auxiliary budget, including athletics. At the end of this fiscal year just two years after starting to address the problem, there will be a surplus in these accounts. We accomplished this result by better management of the activities and privatizing housing, food service and bookstore operations. In addition, we are working on a strategic plan for the university and we feel that now it’s time to turn our attention to athletics. We will be exploring all the options available to us for conference affiliation with help from the community and our athletic boosters.”

In comparison to other regional collegiate football programs, ULM brings in and spends significantly less on staff and resources. ULM also spends less on average when compared to both the Southland and Sun Belt Conferences. The Carr report acknowledged that at least \$1 million in additional funds would have to come into the athletic program in order for it to succeed in any conference. Cofer added that these funds would have to be externally derived. “No additional funds will go into the athletic budget from the general budget over and above what the Regents allow,” said Cofer. “Funding is a critical issue. More funds have to be generated through community support and ULM athletic boosters. We need to know if the public wants a football team here and the only way to do that is by greater community participation, attendance and monetary support of our program. If we do not see more financial assistance for athletics we will not be able to compete in either conference,” said Cofer.

ULM faculty members agree with the president that the university is poised to focus on athletics. ULM Faculty Senate President John Rettenmayer, said, “It seems to me that it is important for us all to build on the enthusiasm and optimism that have been generated in the last two years. My observation is that faculty members are much more upbeat about the university’s prospects, and are more positive in their outlook (than at any time in at least 10 years). This turnaround stems from new leadership and the investment of money and, more importantly, faculty, staff, and student time and effort in renovating the campus and invigorating the curriculum. Dr. Cofer’s arguments, based on economic evidence and logical reasoning, regarding

the importance of the football program to the university and the community are persuasive. University athletics have been badly undercapitalized, a condition in which almost no businesses thrive and which very few businesses survive. I believe the faculty will support a serious effort to operate athletics at a viable level, particularly in light of President Cofer's assurance that doing so will not be at the expense of the university's academic programs."

Cofer went on to say that the university's job is educating the whole student. "We are not here for a student to get 50 minutes of instruction three times a day. Our job is to develop our students socially, culturally, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. We do that by providing a rich academic experience; vibrant and active student activities; a clean, attractive, and safe living and learning environment; significant leadership opportunities; a full range of intercollegiate athletic experiences; and frequent and meaningful contact with faculty both in and out of the classroom."

- > The preliminary Carr report can be found online at www.ulsystem.net. Click on news.
- > For information on how you can help, contact **Brian Moreau** at 318-342-5428.

Additional Athletic Updates

> Five University of Louisiana at Monroe players have been named to all-Sun Belt Conference first teams selected by 2004 football preview magazines so far this summer. The five are free safety Chris Harris, offensive tackle Bruce Hampton, punter Joel Stelly, kick returner Charles Estes and running back Kevin Payne. Stelly, the nation's No. 3 punter last fall with a 46.3-yard average, was the most popular Indian selection, making all-SBC first teams of all five preview magazines out thus far—Athlon, Lindy's, Sporting News, Street & Smith and Phil Steele's. Estes, Hampton and Harris were first team choices in four of the publications and Payne in one. Nine other Indians were selected to second, third or fourth-team preseason all-conference squads.

> First baseman Ben Jones and pitchers Jim Miller and Ryan Schwabe were named to the 2004 Southland Conference Baseball All-Academic Team .

> The University of Louisiana at Monroe track team earned regional and national honors during the NCAA tournament. Tim Waldon, a freshman from Gainesville Fla., was ranked 17th in the triple jump going into the NCAA meet June 11-13 in Austin, Texas. He jumped 48 feet -9 inches which placed him 25th. He is the number one ranked freshman in the nation with a personal best jump of 52 feet-8 inches. Two lady Indians competed May 28-29 in Baton Rouge during the Mid-East Regional qualifiers. Jill Lipp, a senior from Green Bay, Wis., competed in both the shot put and discus events. She placed 14th in the shot put with 48 feet and eighth in the discus throwing 168 feet 9 inches. This throw places her second among ULM's history of top performers. Veronika Karlsson, a junior from Ostersund, Sweden, placed seventh in the discus throwing 163 feet, 4 inches. She is third behind Jill as a ULM top performer. Both these women were All-NCAA Region athletes.

Alumni Travel Schedule

July 10th – Greater Houston Chapter Johnny's Pizza Party

July 23rd – Greater New Orleans Chapter Johnny's Pizza Party

July 30th - CenLa Alumni Chapter Johnny's Pizza Party and Golf Scramble

For additional information on the Alumni travel schedule, please view the Alumni Calendar of Events.

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

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: 1445