



August 25, 2003

ULM CHEERLEADERS AND WARBONNETS WIN AWARDS IN COMPETITION

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Cheerleaders and Warbonnets dance team attended Cheerleading and Dance Camp at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, July 18-21. While there the Warbonnets received second place in the Home Dance Division and were awarded a superior trophy. The Cheerleaders received first place in the Cheer Division, second place in the Fight Song Division, and fourth place in the Sideline Division. They also received the Leadership Award, an award voted on by all the squads attending the camp.

Highlights from President Cofer's e-mail to the ULM Family

- > Last December ULM saw the warning lifted by SACS. This summer SACS informed us that all of our reports were in order and they would not require additional information until the next reaffirmation visit in 2009. We received an unqualified opinion on our financial audit, and this summer we ended the year with a surplus in both the general fund and the auxiliary fund. In auxiliaries, which include such activities as intercollegiate athletics, housing, the bookstore and food services; we experienced a surplus of approximately \$700,000. Last year we had a deficit of approximately \$800,000. This turnaround of \$1.5 million allowed us to significantly reduce the accumulated deficit, buy new computers for our students, and enhance security and safety lighting in and around the residence halls.
- > On the general fund front, we received a substantial increase in our state appropriation this year. We also ended the year "in much better shape" than last year. As evidence of that improved condition, many of our faculty and staff received new computers over the summer, Brown Auditorium is being renovated, and our large lecture halls are being refurbished.
- > This summer your colleagues put the finishing touches on our first ever retention plan. When you see the plan this fall, which will be available on our website, notice that it builds on our strengths: our faculty and staff.
- > Over the summer, Jeff Galle and a dedicated group of faculty, staff, and community leaders have been gathering information for the development of our strategic plan. This information gathering phase has garnered some lively debate and comment, which is good. That is what we wanted. We must know the realities and the perceptions if we are to craft a strategic plan for our future. This fall the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will begin the process of matching

the realities and the perceptions, the expectations and needs, the finances and the programs. If the effort so far is indicative of the end results, we should all feel very comfortable with the process and our future.

> Your hard work last year was noted by the University of Louisiana System when they commented on the release of the latest ACT Student Satisfaction Survey, "The progress made at ULM far exceeds the student satisfaction at the national and state levels during this one-year change. ULM made the most progress with 'services and programs' of any university in the UL System." You will find a link to the story on our website.

> These are but a few of the activities on our campus during the year. Other noteworthy happenings included a 15% increase in externally funded grants and contracts; the outstanding high school Advanced Placement training program conducted by Dr. Jo Ann Welch; the addition of Dr. Don Skelton as Vice President for Advancement, and Charlie Weatherbie as our new football coach; and the commitment of 100 faculty mentors this fall in our Emerging Scholars program.

> The stage is set for the coming year to be even better. We will be focusing on recruiting and retaining more students, improving student life activities, increasing the level of external support, solidifying our image, improving internal and external communications, and developing opportunities for increased scholarship. We already have many activities planned for this year.

> Lastly, I want to say congratulations to all of you for such a successful year. Thank you for all of your continued hard work and dedication. On a personal note, thank you for allowing me to do my life's work at the highest possible level as the leader of this great institution. I can think of no other place in the world that Deborah and I would rather be right now than in Monroe, Louisiana, with the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTS TAILGATE IN BATON ROUGE

The ULM Alumni Association will be hosting a tailgate on Saturday, August 30 at LSU. The gathering begins at 1:30 p.m. and food will be served at 3 p.m. Podnuh's B-B-Q will cater the event. Look for the Maroon and White ULM tent in Parking Lot D on the corner of Nicholson and Skip Bertman Drive beside the baseball field.

UPCOMING ULM ALUMNI EVENTS IN NEW ORLEANS AND ACADIANA

The Greater New Orleans Chapter of the ULM Alumni Association will held Friday, August 29 at Parkway Tavern located on Canal Blvd. in New Orleans beginning at 6 p.m. The menu will include crawfish pasta, mini po-boys, jambalaya, potato salad, and drinks. Kids are welcome. The price is \$12 per person.

ACADIANA ALUMNI EVENTS

The Acadiana Chapter of the ULM Alumni Association is holding an event on Thursday, August 28 at the Holiday Inn Central Holidome in Lafayette. The Holidome is located at 2032 N.E. Evangeline Thruway in Lafayette (on the Baton Rouge side of the Thruway phone # is 337-

233-6815/800-942-4868). Dress for this event is very casual. The event starts at 7 p.m. The price is \$10 per person and the menu includes a variety of finger foods, and drinks.

For reservations for the **New Orleans** and or **Acadiana Alumni Event**, please contact Tommy Walpole at 318-342-5419, or 800-261-0174 / walpole@ulm.edu).

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*.