



November 3, 2003

### **ULM Emerging Scholars and Mentors recognized for participation in program**

A select group of students and faculty from the University of Louisiana at Monroe was recognized at noon on Oct. 14th for their participation in the new "Emerging Scholars" mentoring program. The program is a way for ULM students and faculty members to advance their knowledge in the sciences, humanities, and the arts through a mentoring relationship.

The program began last spring with the first students and mentors working together on research, learning and building lasting professor-student relationships. Professors and students both agreed the program was a success and from there, "Emerging Scholars" began to grow. The purpose of the "Emerging Scholars" program is to provide professional experience for undergraduate students while engaging them in college life as early as possible. Students who sign up will participate in a project mentored by a faculty member.

### **Shrimp Boil a success / Chili Cook-off next**

The Ouachita Parish Chapter of the ULM Alumni Association celebrated another great Shrimp Boil on Saturday, October 25th. A big thanks to our cookers and to all who attended. The next event is our annual Chili Cook-off slated for November 15th. Applications are available now at the Alumni Center.

The 15th is ULM's last home football game and it will be regional televised on ESPN!

### **HOMECOMING EVENTS THIS WEEK!**

ULM will hold Homecoming 2003 "The Spirit Lives On" activities November 5- 8.

ULM Alumni will be honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner where one outstanding alumnus will be awarded with the Golden Arrow Award and one with the Service Award. This event will be held on Thursday Nov. 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Alumni Center.

Other happenings for the week are the Homecoming Golf Tournament at Frenchmen's Bend, the Annual Parade on campus, and the Homecoming Tennis Tournament. A complete schedule of events can be found online at <http://www.ulm.edu/homecoming/>. For more information about Homecoming events, contact the ULM Alumni Relations office at 1-800-261-0174 or 318-342-5420. For tickets to the game, contact the ULM ticket office at 318-342-3856.

### ***BASKETBALL PREVIEW***

#### **Lady Indians Look to pick up Where Last Season Ended**

When the 2003-04 women's basketball season ended, Louisiana-Monroe was playing as well as almost any team in the Southland Conference. The Lady Indians, 15-14 last year, upset third-

seeded Northwestern State in the first round of last year's SLC Tournament, before dropping a four-point decision at top-seeded Texas-San Antonio in the tournament semifinals.

That finish and the return of players like junior Nina Randle, a 5-11 guard who earned second-team All-SLC honors last year, and sophomore forward Michelle Biley, who averaged 8.2 points and 5.9 rebounds, has Lady Indians' head coach Mona Martin optimistic as ULM begins practice Saturday at Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

Martin admits the Lady Indians do not have a great deal of depth inside, particularly early with Brown unavailable for the first six games. But ULM will rely on baseline-to-baseline defense to overcome size problems and it worked last year, with Randle setting a school-record for steals in a season to go along with her 10.7 points per game. "Last year we were learning how to press and how to run and jump," Martin said. "We're going to have get really good in our pressing and we're going to use it a lot because we're going to be really small. Last year we used it a lot and our players enjoyed it. That was a big key for us last year, because we really learned to get after it fullcourt and we jelled toward the end and that made a difference for us."

While the Lady Indians return several key veterans, including 5-6 point guard Stephanie Williams who averaged 3.0 points and 2.1 assists last year, Martin is looking to some newcomers to mesh into the rotation early on. ULM will open its season at home vs. Tulane on Nov. 21.

### **Rebuilding over, INDIANS look to challenge for league title**

In recent years, Louisiana-Monroe's basketball seasons have followed a similar script. Revamp the roster and reload one season, make a run at the Southland Conference title the next.

In 1998-99, the Indians were 13-14, before going 19-9 in 1999-2000. With a new roster brought in for the 2000-01 season, the Indians finished 11-17, but that same nucleus formed a 20-10 team in 2001-02.

Last year was rebuilding time again, with eight new players added to the roster and the Indians finished 12-16.

If the pattern holds true, ULM should once again be in the thick of the SLC title chase as head coach Mike Vining welcomes back four starters and almost all of the key players from last year's squad that went 10-10 in the SLC and won five of six league games down the stretch.

The one loss that must be overcome is of first-team All-SLC selection Kirby Lemons, who led the Indians in scoring and rebounding. Finding answers to those kinds of questions begins Saturday for the Indians as they open practices at Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

There are several viable candidates to fill the scoring void of Lemons' 16.7 points per game. Inside, the Indians have a pair of weapons in 6-8 senior Wayne Bransom and 6-10 senior Chavis "Tank" Thompson. Bransom excels on the glass and defensive end where he averaged 5.4 points and had a team-high 29 blocks last season. Bransom also shot 53.5 percent from the field and averaged 7.1 points. Thompson is more productive on the offensive end, averaging 7.5 points and 4.8 rebounds last year.

On the perimeter, the Indians return starters Mark Keith (6-5), John Andrews (6-4) and point guard Brandon Horn (6-0). All three are seniors and will be counted on heavily by Vining on a team that will have plenty of leadership with seven of the 14 players on the roster seniors.

Keith was second on the team in scoring last year at 9.4 points per game and will look to add consistent scoring in his final season. Horn stepped up last year and alleviated many of the point guard concerns, starting all 28 games and averaging 2.8 assists.

Andrews may be the returnee with the best chance of earning postseason honors. Like Bransom, he is sometimes better on the defensive end, where he averaged 1.4 assists and had 25

steals, while routinely drawing the defensive assignment on the opponents' best perimeter scorer. Andrews averaged 8.2 points per game last year, and rebounded nicely from an early season shooting slump.

Veterans Larry Parker (6-7, Sr.) and Aaron Branch (6-2, Jr.) also return. Parker came off the bench to average 5.0 points last season, while Branch spelled Horn at point guard, averaging 0.8 assists.

While Vining likely knows what to expect from those returnees, the Indians also added some key newcomers. Forwards Isaac Gay (6-6, Fr.) and DeAndre Alexander (6-4, Jr.), and guard RoShon Jacobs (6-4, Fr.) could all challenge for playing time. Jacobs will not join the basketball team until after the completion of the football season.

Gay was the Louisiana Class 3A Most Valuable Player last year at Brusly High School after averaging 25.4 points per game. Gay was rated the No. 7 player in the state, while Jacobs was rated No. 8 after averaging 18.5 points and 3.5 steals at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge.

ULM will open the season at Bradley on Nov. 21, the first of the Indians' four games in the Las Vegas Classic. After first round games at Bradley and Miami, the Indians will head to Las Vegas for matchups with Rhode Island and Northeastern in the first week of the season.

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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. For a complete listing of all of the *good news*, please visit the ULM web site at [www.ulm.edu](http://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*.