



December 15, 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.

## **FACULTY UPDATES**

### ***ULM Researchers Have Made A Discovery That Could Lead To A New Pill To Battle Obesity, Fight Disease***

Most people know that consuming fewer calories is good for their health; but achieving a lower-calorie diet is a challenge, particularly during the holidays. What if you could take a pill along with your holiday feast that would allow you to eat the foods you crave, but signal to your body that you're eating less? Thanks in part to researchers at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, such a pill could be in the works in the future, allowing people not only to be more fit but also to fight obesity and disease. Scientists from the UL Monroe School of Pharmacy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Toxicogenomics of North Carolina and the Karolinska Institute of Sweden have discovered that PPAR-alpha, a receptor in the body that helps lower cholesterol and triglycerides, also helps the body fight disease. "We've found that this receptor that exists in all of us becomes more active as a result of a lower-calorie diet, actually helping the body fight disease" said Dr. Harihara M. Mehendale, ULM Professor and Kitty DeGree Endowed Chair in Toxicology. "More importantly, you don't have to be on a restricted diet for long before the body responds in this beneficial way." Researchers are working to produce a drug that will trick the body into thinking it's getting fewer calories and increase the activity of the PPAR-alpha receptors, leading to better overall health.

Dr. Mehendale's research is being supported by grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund, Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Community Program Human Potential, Swedish Science Council and KaroBio. Several students at ULM are involved in Dr. Mehendale's research. They are gaining real-world lab experience and in turn, ULM is preparing researchers for tomorrow.

ULM student and part of Dr. Mehendale's research team, Jaya Chilakapati, says the discovery of PPAR-alpha is exciting. "This project shows the relevance of maintaining a restricted diet. In the animals that were fed a restricted diet, you can actually see that they were more active. It shows us the importance of eating less and how healthy we can be just by restricting the number of calories we eat." ULM is the only state supported School of Pharmacy

in Louisiana and accepts 100 new students per year into the Professional Pharm-D Curriculum. The university also offers master's and Ph.D. degrees in Pharmacy, Pharmacy Administration, Pharmaceutics, Medical Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Toxicology tracks. ULM Pharmacy students experienced a 100% first time pass rate on the 2004 NABPLEX Board exam.

The School of Pharmacy within the College of Health Sciences also provides specialty services for the entire state through the services of the Louisiana Drug and Poison Information Center (handling over 85,000 calls per year), the Louisiana Institute of Toxicology, and affiliation with the State Department of Health and Hospitals' Medicaid program. The School of Pharmacy's research and contract funding exceeds \$5 million per year.

- Photos of Dr. Mehendale and students working in the lab can be viewed at <http://www.ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/dec04/labpics.html>
- Read more about Dr. Mehendale and his research at [www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/mehendale](http://www.ulm.edu/pharmacy/mehendale)

### ***Vietnam Combat Huey Helicopter Flown by ULM Professor Now on Display at Smithsonian's National Museum of American History***

The helicopter flown in war-time by Ernest Bruce, associate professor of aviation at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, has secured its place in American History. The Huey helicopter, 091, that Bruce flew more than 30 years ago in Vietnam is currently on display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. Bruce said, "Seeing the helicopter that I flew in Vietnam displayed in a place of honor gave me a sense of pride and somewhat of a closure for the war experience." On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, the exhibit "The Price of Freedom" was opened at the Smithsonian. "I was on hand along with about 15 of my Vietnam comrades," Bruce said. "We were interviewed by the media and spent hours answering question from the visitors that were viewing the helicopter," Bruce said.

Earlier this year Bruce flew the Huey one last time as it made its way to the nation's capital. It was decided that the pilot flying the first leg of the aircraft's journey to the Smithsonian should be a pilot that flew the 091 in Vietnam, so Bruce was contacted and offered the honor of again flying the helicopter.

The story of the 091 began a few years ago when producers of the movie documentary "In the Shadow of the Blade" wanted to make a movie about the famous Huey (UHI) helicopter that was used to take infantry into and out of battle. They found 091 in a Fort Worth aviation museum.

It was restored and put into top flying condition and was then used to make a tour during which Vietnam veterans were interviewed about their experiences during the war. The producer wanted the markings that the helicopter bore in Vietnam placed back on the helicopter. During repair, the history of the 091 was researched and it was learned that the helicopter had served in the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company called the Robin Hoods. A lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967, Bruce was assigned to fly the assault helicopter to take the infantry into battle. The helicopters were painted on the nose with artwork that identified the name of the company. Bruce's company had a hat with a feather painted on its helicopters because they lived in the woods as Robin Hood did.

The 091 was shot down in Vietnam but was repairable. It was sent back to the states, repaired and issued to a stateside unit. Eventually it was declared surplus by the Army and donated to the museum where it was later selected by the Smithsonian to become the highpoint

of a final journey for an aircraft with tremendous meaning to millions of veterans, an aircraft with a distinctive sound, what some refer to as the "sound of freedom."

## ULM COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### *Monroe Garden Club to Promote ULM, Community*

The Monroe Garden Club announced the establishment of a fund to create a "Welcome to Monroe Home of ULM" sign at a press conference held on Wednesday, December 15 at Space Planners Architects, Inc. Ellen Allums, President of the Monroe Garden Club, chose the welcome sign, which will be located on the west bound I-20/Garrett Road exit, as her president's project. She said "I felt we needed to have an entrance to our city and something that would slow people down and give them an incentive to stop."

The overall cost for the project is \$35,000. Key sponsors include Space Planners Architects, Inc., Arkansas Stone, Steel Fab, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, CenturyTel and the Monroe Garden Club. Allums said that more contributions, including donations of electrical work, landscaping, dirt, and a sprinkler system, are needed to construct the sign.

Allums hopes to raise the necessary funds quickly so that they can host a ground breaking in January and have the project completed by February. Once finished, the sign will be maintained by the City of Monroe. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Ellen Allums at 318-325-7885.

## ATHLETIC UPDATES

- Five Louisiana Monroe football student athletes earned All-Sun Belt Conference honors, Brandon Guillory (New Orleans, La.), Bruce Hampton (New Iberia, La.), Chris Harris (Little Rock, Ark.) and Joel Stelly (Cecilia, La.) were named to the all-conference first-team, while John Winchester (Logansport, La.) earned second-team honors. Our Indians finished the year 5-6 / 4-3 in the Sunbelt Conference.
- The University of Louisiana at Monroe's basketball highlights show will on KARD-TV at 9 p.m. The show features highlights of ULM games, comments by Coach Mike Vining and interviews with Indian players and assistant coaches. Wayne Gentry of Showcase Productions produces the show, which will run Dec. 12 and Dec. 19. After a two-week absence, the show will return on Jan. 9 and run every Sunday night after that until the end of the season. The games can also be heard on the ULM website, [www.ulmathletics.com](http://www.ulmathletics.com).
- Men's Basketball Notes - ULM is the top rebounding team in the Southland Conference with a rebound margin of +13.7 to +12.5 for second-place Texas-San Antonio / they are first in rebounding defense, holding opponents to 26.5 rebounds a game / second in the conference in free throw accuracy with .752 percent. Our Indians are currently 4-2. **Coach Mike Vining** is three victories away from reaching the 400-win plateau. His official career record is 396-285. Coach Vining is No. 29 in victories among active Division I coaches, No. 4 among all-time Louisiana collegiate coaches, No. 6 nationally

among active coaches in the most seasons with his current school at 24 years and, he is No. 3 in victories among coaches coaching at their alma mater behind Jim Boeheim of Syracuse (28 years, 676 victories at the start of the season) and Dave Bike of Sacred Heart (26 years, 412 victories before the season).

### ***Athletic Reunion***

As information comes to us regarding reunions, we want to make sure to share it with our alumni. A reunion is being planned for former Track and Field Athletes who competed in the late 50's and 60's. The event will take place at the **Home meet** at ULM on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Some early RSVP's include World Record holders Don and Dave Styron. The reunion, organized by Ronnie Overby, will become an annual event at the last Track meet held each season at ULM. For additional information, drop Ronnie Overby an e-mail - [ronnie1064@cox.net](mailto:ronnie1064@cox.net)

We'll repeat this announcement in future editions of *Good News*.

### **END OF THE SEMESTER / YEAR CALENDAR**

- Fall Commencement at ULM is set for Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, in Fant-Ewing Coliseum at 2:00 p.m. Karen Puckett, President and Chief Operating Officer of CenturyTel, will deliver the commencement address. As Chief Operating Officer of CenturyTel since 2000, Puckett directs all of the company's operations, including sales, marketing, field operations, engineering, call centers and other support functions.
- ULM will officially close for the Christmas Holidays on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m. and will re-open on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005, 8:00 a.m.

### **HOME PAGE LINKS**

- For a complete listing of all our Chapter and Indian Athletic Foundation events, please view the Alumni Calendar of Events

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

- Need to update your alumni record?

<https://www.ulm.edu/webform/alumni/update.html>

- The official ULM ring can be ordered by calling **800-854-7464** or you can visit the ULM Bookstore located in Sandel Hall (formerly Sandel Library).

<http://www.ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/oct04/ringpics.html>

- 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/>

**DON'T FORGET . . . If you change your e-mail address, let us know! Send any new e-mail address to [walpole@ulm.edu](mailto:walpole@ulm.edu)**

And that concludes this edition of *Good News*. As always, thanks for helping spread the *Good News* about our ULM. Our next *Good News* e-mail should arrive in your inbox around the 30<sup>th</sup> of December.

On behalf of the ULM Alumni Association, and all members of the ULM Family, here's wishing you and yours a very *Merry Christmas*.

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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 Tom Walpole (contact information is below). Thanks for your continuing support of **ULM**.

**Good News Count: 11,357**