

## Great Things are Happening at ULM!

### ULM Welcomes New President

Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr., is in his first year as President of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Having arrived on campus a few months ago from the University of Missouri, Dr. Cofer delivered his Investiture Address during the May 2002 Commencement ceremony.

In his previous address to the University, Dr. Cofer presented his values, which are academic excellence, respect and responsibility, as well as inclusion and openness. At the May 2002 commencement, Dr. Cofer presented his priorities for ULM during his tenure as president:

"I have three priorities. The first of these is our students, specifically our future students. We must continue to attract bright, energetic young men and women to this institution if the University of Louisiana at Monroe is to prosper and grow. Recruitment of new students has to be one of, if not *the* top priority.

My second priority is students, specifically our current students - educating and retaining them. Our job is to develop our students socially, culturally, emotionally, physically, and intellectually, so that they may be prepared to take their place not only in Northeast Louisiana but anywhere in the world they choose.

My third priority is also students, specifically our former students. Whether you are of the Class of '33, or the Class of '02, or any of those in between, you are still our students. You, our alumni, represent and transfer the history, traditions, and culture of this institution and are the far-flung ambassadors of all who stay here. Whether you called it N-L-U or U-L-M, please remember it as O-U-R University. Affiliate immediately with the ULM Alumni Association chapter nearest your home, and recommend ULM to others. And, most important of all, please come back to campus to visit with us as often as you can. You will always be welcome."

### Dr. Cofer Greets ULM Construction Alumni

It is my pleasure to extend best wishes to the alumni and friends of the ULM School of Construction. As many of you are aware, I am in my first year of being the President at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. One of the first official meetings that I had upon my moving to Monroe and working at ULM was to meet with the Industry Advisory Council on April 12, 2002. I observed the strong ties and the commitment that so many of you have made not only to the School of Construction but to ULM. This dedication and involvement demonstrates the strength that makes the School of Construction so successful. As I am listening and learning from the various people in the area, I certainly understand why your School graduates so many talented young people from this particular discipline.



*"Whether you called it N-L-U or U-L-M, please remember it as O-U-R University"*

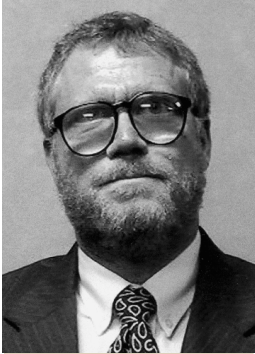
There are many challenges ahead of us as we move our University forward. I want you to join the faculty, staff, students and me as we meet these challenges with positive solutions. The Alumni and the friends of the School of Construction are an integral part of this process. I appreciate your support and thank you for the tremendous impact that you have at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr.

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*Dr. Keith A. Parker*

*"Behind every  
truly successful  
program  
there is an  
organized body  
of alumni."*

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

**Dear Alumni and Friends,**

If I had to pick a single word to describe the past few months in the life of the School of Construction, it would be "Exciting!" Our new President, Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr., and his wife, Deborah, have arrived on this campus with "their work boots on." Dr. Cofer is rebuilding this University from the ground up and is giving the School of Construction the opportunity to play a major role in the future of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. We are ready for the tasks at hand and are preparing for the opportunities of the future.

As most of you know, one of my major efforts over the last few years has been to get more of our alumni actively involved with the School of Construction. We are beginning to see these efforts bear fruit. We have met with alumni in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Dallas and have had more requests to be on the Industry Advisory Council than we can accommodate. I consider this a good start, but only a good start. There is much more to do.

We are in the advanced stages of launching a major fund raising campaign in conjunction with the ULM Foundation. You will be receiving a letter from the School of Construction in the next few months introducing this campaign. At a minimum, we need our alumni to join the ULM Alumni Association. I would like to invite each of you to return to our campus for Homecoming this year. Also, I would like to ask you to look around your area, identify local School of Construction alumni, and help us get organized in your area. Behind every truly successful program there is an organized body of alumni. Let's continue in that direction.

Finally, you should receive a survey from us during the beginning of the Fall semester. Please take the time to fill it out and return it. We are up for reaccreditation next year and will need the results of the survey.

**Dr. Keith A. Parker,  
Director, ULM School of Construction**

### **Director's Challenge**

Dr. Keith Parker, Director of the ULM School of Construction, initiated his "Director's Challenge" at the April Industry Advisory Council meeting by making a personal donation of \$1,000.00 and challenging the IAC members to put up to \$500.00 per member in each of the next two years. The goal is to raise \$15,000.00 in each of the next two years for short-term operating expenses.

The funds will be used primarily for recruiting, advertising, promoting and increasing the School's visibility. Any funds received above the targeted total of \$30,000.00 will be placed in the Potts Fund. Although Dr. Parker made his challenge to the IAC members, contributions from others are certainly welcomed.

*Dr. Parker initiates his Director's Challenge in the presence of Larry Favalora, Chairman, and the IAC.*

Donations should be made to:  
**"ULM Foundation -- School of Construction"**  
and sent to Dr. Parker, ULM School of  
Construction, 700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540  
The ULM Foundation will send you the  
appropriate tax forms.



# FACULTY UPDATES

## Professional Development

January 7-11 Dr. Manry attended the **OSHA 500 Trainer Course** in Houston, TX.

January 25 Dr. Manry and Dr. Parker attended the **OSHA 300 Log Seminar** in Baton Rouge, LA.

March 8 Dr. Manry attended the **OSHA Competent Person Training Class** in Lafayette, LA.

March 18-23 Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, Mr. McCaskill, and Ms. Prevost attended the **AGC National Convention and Conexpo** in Las Vegas, NV.

April 10 Dr. Manry attended the **Mechanical Electrical Academic Consortium (MEAC) National Conference** in Roanoke, VA.

April 11 Dr. Parker and Ms. Prevost attended the quarterly meeting of the **Association of Louisiana Utility Councils** in Lake Charles, LA. Dr. Parker was nominated and selected for the position of Director in the Association.

May 1-4 Ms. Prevost attended the annual meeting of the **Construction Writers Association** in Washington, DC.

May 21 Dr. Parker and Dr. Manry attended the **NAWIC Shreveport Chapter Annual Awards Banquet** in Shreveport, LA.

June 24-26 Dr. Manry attended the **Design, Construction, and Rehabilitation of Portland Cement Concrete Pavement** in Skokie, IL.

Dec. 4-6 2002 Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, and Ms. Prevost are scheduled to present a paper about the role of construction programs in underground damage prevention, as part of the educational session of the **Damage Prevention Convention** in San Diego, CA.

## Energy Audit Program

The Energy Audit Program sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, housed and run by the School of Construction came to an end on June 30, after its planned duration of three years. The grant consisted of conducting research and gathering data about energy efficiency and savings for state-owned buildings. Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, Ms. Prevost, undergraduate and graduate students compiled energy audit reports for ULM, Morehouse Parish K-12 schools, the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, and the State Farm office on I-20.

## ULM to Create College of Arts and Sciences

As part of the on-going effort to reorganize the campus, the new ULM administration requested permission from the Board of Supervisors to create a new College of Arts and Sciences by merging the College of Liberal Arts with the College of Pure and Applied Sciences. The merger will take effect in the Fall.

"This proposal will strengthen the academy by renewing the University's traditional role as the purveyor of the arts, sciences, and humanities," Interim Provost Stephen Richters said. "This new configuration will allow the College of Arts and Sciences to become the central hub of the academy that will provide service to the other three Colleges through the new university core curriculum."

At the same time, the College of Pharmacy, the College of Allied Health and Rehabilitation Professions, and the College of Nursing will be combined into a single College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

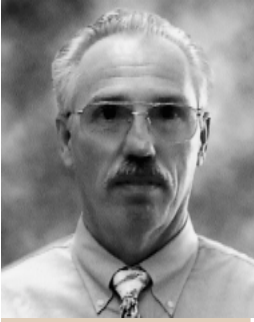
## Alumnus Returns as Instructor

This semester, Greg Smith, a 1990 graduate of the ULM School of Construction, returned to ULM to teach *Introduction to Heavy Techniques*. Born in West Monroe and raised in Chatham, La., Smith has worked in several areas of the construction industry. "I have always had an interest in construction," Smith said. "I chose ULM because I knew about the construction program here. It is very reputable." While a student at ULM, Smith was the president of the AGC student chapter his senior year, and a member of *Sigma Lambda Chi*.

This is not the first time Smith has been back to ULM. Smith worked for Breck Construction Company, Inc., as the Project Superintendent over the ULM Airway Science Building, which was completed in 2002. Besides teaching a class at the ULM School of Construction, Smith is also working on getting his Master's in psychology from Louisiana Tech, while working full-time with Lance Bickham Contracting as the foreman of a carpentry crew.

## Softball Field Project

As part of the efforts to improve the campus, the University administration asked Dr. Parker and the School of Construction to help build a locker room for the women's softball players. Mr. Bobby Ensminger will project manage the construction of the building, which will include a changing room, two showers and three bathrooms. The project started at the end of June and should last through December 2002.



David Dorsch

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**David Dorsch, '72**

**Owner, David Dorsch Consulting**

"My first major career step was earning my degree from ULM," David Dorsch declares. As a consultant since 1987, David has been involved with helping owners such as The World Bank and The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey correct problems with their structures. "I work with engineers in designing and supervising repair systems. I am currently working with a contractor on a long term contract they have with a state highway department for using compaction grouting to repair sink holes that develop under and around their roadways."

The most notable project David is currently engaged in is at the World Trade Center site in New York. David was hired to train people to seal the leaks and cracks in the foundation slurry wall to prevent flooding of the site. David is also doing some training for epoxy injection for repair of cracks in concrete pile caps at the site. "I never thought about a project of this magnitude," David said of the clean-up operation after the 9/11 national tragedy.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, a few blocks from the United States Capitol building, David now lives in the suburbs in College Park, MD. "I have always had an interest in construction," David recalls. "As a child I would look at every construction project I came in contact with. In grade school I had tools of my own and would earn money by fixing my neighbors houses." After high school, David got a job with the local highway department as an engineering aid and inspector and then went to work for a general contractor doing layout on new buildings.

In 1964, during the Vietnam War, David entered the Air Force. "I was trained to operate and maintain a flight simulator that was used in training B-52 pilots." As David was more interested in construction as a career, he left the service at the end of his four-year enlistment. David explored returning to college while working for a subcontractor close to where he lived. "I came across an article about colleges that needed students. ULM, then Northeast State College, was listed as one of those colleges and stated that they had a construction program. I called and spoke to Thurman Potts and went down to check it out. I was impressed both by Mr. Potts and the campus itself. I liked the fact that the construction program at ULM did not compete with engineering or architectural programs. I signed up for the next semester."

David transferred in with 60 credits and a 2.0 average. All three years David studied at ULM, he made the Dean's list each semester, and was on the

honor roll at graduation. While at ULM David was a member of the student chapter of the AGC, a member of SLX and the SLX chapter president one semester. In addition, David was a member of the Student Government as well as the Chief Proctor for Olin Hall.

"If I had to state one thing the construction program at ULM did for me it would be confidence," David said. "Even though I had much to learn about construction after I graduated, the foundation that the program gave me allowed me to converse with engineers, architects and other contractors and at least understand what they were talking about. As time went on I found out that my education was in fact superior to some of the engineers and architects I encountered. I never had the feeling, that many contractors do, that I was somehow inferior to the "professionals" in my education or experience. Now that we have the Construction Certification program, we as constructors can be recognized as being on the same professional level as they are. Although I don't do form work design or beam design or air conditioning systems design, I use the things I learned in these and the other courses all the time. One course in particular that has helped me many times is Construction Law."

After graduation in 1972, David worked for several general contractors on new buildings. A major project assignment was the rehabilitation of the Washington, DC, railroad station into a visitor's center for the railroads and the U.S. government. In the mid 70's his career changed directions. "I was hired by a subcontractor specializing in grouting. The job involved repair of structures using chemical and cement grouts. Many of the projects for this company involved stopping water leaks in the new Washington, DC, subway system. I became the vice president in charge of all estimating and field operations, and also designed and built special equipment."

Later on, David joined a much larger contractor that specialized in the repair of concrete structures. David started as a division manager, quickly got promoted to vice president and finally became one of four owners of that company. David specialized in grouting and concrete repair projects in various parts of the United States. He was also involved as a speaker and instructor for seminars held by various organizations throughout the country and has published a number of technical articles.

In the late 80's David sold his portion of the company and started his own company, David Dorsch Consulting, specializing in the concrete repair and grouting field. "During my career, which now spans over 30 years, I have always found the construction industry to be interesting and exciting. However I have found that

(Continued on page 5)

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*"As time went on I found out that my education was in fact superior to some of the engineers and architects I encountered."*

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**Interested in becoming our next Alumni Spotlight Guest?**

**Send us your news or get in touch with Dr. Keith Parker at (318) 342-1860 or e-mail: [cparker@ulm.edu](mailto:cparker@ulm.edu)**

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# INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Alumni Spotlight (continued from page 4)

repairing structures is much more challenging and rewarding than building them originally.” David’s clients are a very diverse group. David is performing all the functions of a business manager as well as that of the technical side of the operation. Since he does not have any direct employees, David does all the paperwork and bill collections as well.

“My advice for today’s students would be to take full advantage of all that is offered to you. Take all the field trips to factories, contractor’s offices, concrete plants or anything else connected to construction materials or management. You can never know too much about how things in the industry work. The construction industry is a huge place with room for everyone. It is also a very competitive place so the better you understand the process, the better you are able to perform, the higher and faster your career will grow.”

Currently, David is a Certified Professional Constructor, a member of the American Institute of Constructors, and a member of ACCE, the body that accredits the construction programs. He is also a member of the Policy Committee for the Construction Certification Commission, a member of the International Concrete Repair Institute and works on several of their committees for developing industry guidelines. David is also an active member of the ULM Construction Industry Advisory Council.

Nineteen IAC members were present at the IAC spring meeting. Charles Poole, former IAC Chairman, received an appreciation plaque for outstanding services to the ULM School of Construction. Mr. Poole served as Chairman of the IAC from 1989 through 2001.

The following people were nominated for IAC membership:

Randy Bentz, '01 -- T.J. Lambrecht  
Cayce Hand, '74 -- Hand Construction  
Jud Jacobs, '97 -- Brasfield & Gorrie  
Todd Littleton, '97 -- Whitaker Construction  
Karl Meeks, '93 -- JPI  
Paul O'Donald -- Hensel Phelps  
Drew Scahill, '98 -- J.E. Kingham  
Lee Smith, '83 -- Austin Commercial  
Kendal Terral, '88 -- D'Arbonne Construction  
John White, '96 -- B.A.S. Construction

## IAC Chairman's Corner: Mr. Larry Favalora

The Industry Advisory Council held its spring meeting on April 12, 2002, which was my first meeting as the Chairman. This meeting was the most positive since being appointed to the Council three years ago. The School of Construction seems to be running well and is on target with the five year strategic plan formulated last year to move the School forward.

The University which has had budget and enrollment problems now has a new permanent President, Dr. James E. Cofer. President Cofer met with us for over an hour and gave us insight on where he wants the University to go. He was only on the job two weeks but had a clear-cut direction on bringing ULM to the forefront again. His immediate goals were cleaning up the campus using volunteer labor, increasing enrollment, and retaining students.

We have since learned that the School of Construction is being realized as a hidden jewel and Dr. Cofer intends to keep the School of Construction a cornerstone program of the University.

Dr. Keith Parker is organizing Alumni meetings in Shreveport and Dallas. We are planning a meeting in New Orleans for South Louisiana and a meeting in the Houston area. We need your ideas and financial support to equip our School with the latest technology, so the students coming into the work force will be productive immediately.

Your funds will also be used to increase the Thurman Potts Fund, which produces \$4,000 annually for the School. This amount is inadequate to fund the School of Construction. The Potts Fund currently has a principal amount of approximately \$65,000 and we want to increase it in five years to \$2,000,000 through contributions from alumni and corporations. You will learn more about this in the upcoming months.

Our fall meeting will be on October 25, 2002, and at that meeting the University President will have been on the job seven months. We expect much more positive news from the Administration at that meeting.

In closing, my son is a sophomore in the program and is enrolled with the sons of three alumni who graduated with me in 1973. We now have a second generation of constructors which the School is educating. If you know of anyone interested in a career in Construction Management that would make a good student for the School of Construction contact Dr. Parker.

I would also ask you to visit the School’s web site at [www.ulm.edu/construction](http://www.ulm.edu/construction) and I believe you will be impressed.

Larry Favalora, IAC Chairman

Groundbreaker  
Newsletter  
Spring 2002



Larry Favalora

The Advisory  
Council  
currently has  
33 members  
and meets  
twice a year  
at the  
ULM School  
of  
Construction

Next Industry  
Advisory  
Council  
Meeting  
October 25, 2002

David Dorsch  
will be our  
guest speaker  
at the  
2002 Monroe  
Digger's Night  
Out

# STUDENTS' NEWS

## Adopt a Team!

The School of Construction needs your help! We are looking for companies willing to adopt and sponsor one of our competition teams.

Every year in the spring, the School of Construction sends two or more teams to the QUOIN/ASC Competition in Dallas, TX. This year, we are planning to send three teams of six people per team, competing in one of the following categories: heavy highway, construction management, and design build.

A team sponsorship includes the costs of preparation for the competition, as well as travel and lodging for the students while competing in Dallas. We estimate the costs at around \$2,000.00 per team.

**Help us make a difference! If your company is interested in adopting a team, or wants more information, contact Dr. Keith Parker at (318) 342-1860 or e-mail at [coparker@ulm.edu](mailto:coparker@ulm.edu)**

## Guild Community Project

On March 16 and 17, 2002, nine Guild members worked on the siding of the Monroe Boy Scout office on Oliver Road. The volunteers for this community project were Leslie Dyess, Brandon Neal, Nick Nicholson, Charlie Paris, James Reneau, Marc Rockett, Stewart Smith, Josh Tarver, and Riley White. Check out the pictures at [www.ulm.edu/construction/boyscout.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/boyscout.htm)

## 2002-2003 Guild Officers

Nick Nicholson	President
Erik Looney	Vice President
Leslie Dyess	Secretary
Andrew Brown	NAHB President
Marc Rockett	AGC President

## Sigma Lambda Chi

The Xi Chapter of *Sigma Lambda Chi* held its Awards Ceremony on April 12. Approximately 40 people attended the steak cookout at Mr. McCaskill's house. Congratulations to Lisa Holland who received both awards for "Highest G.P.A" and "Outstanding Student."



*Lisa Holland receives Outstanding Student and Highest G.P.A Award.*

## AGC Annual Convention

Thanks in part to the money raised at the October Guild Banquet, twelve ULM Construction students attended the National AGC Convention and CONEXPO held in Las Vegas, NV, March 18 through 22, 2002. They were Oscar Bejarano, Andrew Brown, Brad Caldwell, Spencer Cruse, Jason Favolora, Lisa Holland, Erik Looney, Curtis Meeks, Charlie Monk, Tina Moore, Nick Nicholson, and Jason Pierce. The students attended the AGC meeting, visited the world's largest construction equipment exhibit, and worked the ULM School of Construction booth.

## Crawfish Boil

The Annual School of Construction Crawfish Boil organized by the Guild took place on Saturday, April 13, 2002. Numerous alumni came out to meet the students, play horseshoes and volleyball, enjoy beverages and suck on those mudbugs! We look forward to seeing you next year! Check out the pictures at [www.ulm.edu/construction/2001.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/2001.htm)

## AGC Golf Tournament

The 2002 Thurman Potts/AGC Scholarship Golf Tournament took place on April 15. This year, 120 players competed in teams of four. Every year, all the proceeds from the AGC Golf Tournament go toward the Thurman Potts/AGC Scholarship. The 2002-2003 scholarship recipient is Nick Nicholson of Calhoun, La.

## NAWIC

On May 21, Tegwin Hughes, President of the Shreveport Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, presented Dr. Keith Parker with a \$500.00 check. This financial gift is meant to help students who may fall short of funds. Present from the ULM School of Construction were Dr. David Manry, Jenina Perkins, Amy Simon, and Leslie Dyess.

## The 2002-2003 SLX officers are

Nick Nicholson	President
Marc Rockett	Vice President
Michael McFerren	Pledge Trainer

**The following students joined SLX in the Spring 2002 semester:** Cody Bordelon, Timothy Clifton, Leslie Dyess, Alex Hayward, Charles Mardis, Christopher Mardis, Charles May, Michael McFerren, Nikolaj Morris, Nick Nicholson, Marc Rockett, Jack Skaggs, and Brian Welch.

**Invited to join SLX for the Fall 2002 semester are** Kirk Anderson, Melton Bell, Chris Butler, Graydon Chandler, Christopher Looney, Brandon Neal, Joshua Seale, Allyson Sheppard, Amy Simon, James Stratton, Joshua Tarver, William Watson, and Larry Wilkins.

## Construction Alumni Meet ULM President in Dallas

On June 23, over 80 ULM Alumni, most of them construction graduates and their families, joined ULM President Dr. James Cofer, his wife Deborah, Dr. Keith Parker, and representatives of the ULM Alumni Association for a crawfish boil in Dallas, TX, organized by the ULM Alumni Association.

On June 21, construction graduates from the Shreveport area also met for a social gathering with Dr. Keith Parker, and representatives of the ULM Alumni Association to discuss starting a Shreveport Alumni Chapter. Check out more pictures on the web site [www.ulm.edu/construction/alumni.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/alumni.htm)

### Why Join the Alumni Association?

Whether you went to Ouachita Parish Junior College, Northeast Center of LSU, Northeast Junior College, Northeast Louisiana State College, Northeast Louisiana University, or the University of Louisiana at Monroe, you are a thread in the rich fabric of this school's history.

The ULM Alumni Association serves to foster a spirit of loyalty and fraternalism among graduates, former students, students and friends of the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and to achieve unity of purpose and action in promoting the best interests of the University. Membership allows you to network with over 47,000 graduates and former



*President Cofer  
talks with ULM  
Construction  
graduates.*

students, including over 1,200 construction graduates; it also entitles you to vote and get involved with the Alumni Association Board of Directors; and to enjoy ULM Alumni publications, and special hotels and car rental rates.

Individual Membership is \$25; Couple Membership is \$35; and Life Membership is \$500. The membership period runs from July 1 through June 30. Dues paid by December 31 are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For more information contact the ULM Alumni Relations Office at (318) 342-5420 or (800) 261-0174.

**Keep in touch with your fellow classmates and alumni! Call Dr. Parker or check out our web site for information on the ULM Alumni Chapter closest to you!**

### Send us your company logo!

Check out the list of companies employing our graduates  
[www.ulm.edu/construction/employme.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/employme.htm)  
e-mail your logo or web site address to [coprevost@ulm.edu](mailto:coprevost@ulm.edu)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY 2002 GRADUATING SENIORS

**Bejarano, Oscar C.  
Booth, De Andre D.  
Breux, Timothy A.  
Caldwell, Michael B.  
Clifton, Timothy R.  
Cruse, Spencer T.  
Day, Kelton W.  
Domino, Paul G.  
Dunn, Collin R.  
Flowers, Madison C.**

**Holland, Lisa M.  
Jones, Gary B.  
Keller, Keith R.  
Kulinski, Marty  
Marzula, Joseph A.  
Meeks, Curtis L.  
Ogle, Vicki L.  
Peoples, Ronald  
Pierce, Jason A.  
Rose, Darrick**

**Check Out  
Our Students'  
Resumes  
at  
[www.ulm.edu/  
construction](http://www.ulm.edu/construction)**

**The  
Groundbreaker  
is published by  
the ULM School  
of Construction  
for its alumni,  
students, and  
friends.**

**It is funded by  
the Potts Fund.**

**Editor  
Vanessa Prevost**

**Assistant  
Nellie Garrett**

## Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 24 Monroe Digger's Night Out  
Guest Speaker: David Dorsch
- Oct. 25 Industry Advisory Council  
Meeting
- Oct. 26 Homecoming
- Dec. 14 Graduation

**Check out our web site for more  
upcoming events**

**[www.ulm.edu/construction/upcoming.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/upcoming.htm)**

## ULM Athletics Rises to the Challenge

With your purchase of one or more season tickets, you will send the message that yes, you want to see the Indians' football program succeed and you enjoy seeing strong football opponents in Malone Stadium. Our goal is to sell 15,000 season tickets. That's quite a challenge, but we believe it can be done.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enjoy Indians' football and to be a difference maker in our football program. We need your help as we are "Rising To The Challenge."

Bruce Hanks, ULM Director of Athletics

## 2002 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location
Aug. 31	Mississippi	Oxford, MS
Sept. 7	Kansas St.	Manhattan, KS
Sept. 14	McNeese St.	Monroe, LA
Sept. 21	Arkansas St.	Monroe, LA
Oct. 5	Tulane	Monroe, LA
Oct. 12	Idaho	Monroe, LA
Oct. 19	New Mexico St.	Las Cruce, NM
Oct. 26	Utah St.	Monroe, LA
Nov. 2	North Texas	Denton, TX
Nov. 9	Auburn	Auburn, AL
Nov. 16	Middle Tenn. St	Murfreesboro, TN
Nov. 23	LA-Lafayette	Monroe, LA

Go Indians!

**For ticket information call  
(318) 342-3ULM  
or check out the web site at  
[www.ulmathletics.com](http://www.ulmathletics.com)**

# ULM PRESIDENT'S BIOGRAPHY

Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr., is in his first year as President of The University of Louisiana at Monroe. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and his Master of Business Administration from Mississippi State University, and his Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His dissertation, "A Decade of Indifference: The Effects of Federal Financial Aid Policy from 1987 to 1996 on Within-Year Persistence of Four-Year Undergraduate Students" won the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Melvene Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award.

President Cofer understands firsthand the financial needs of an institution of higher education due to his service as Vice President for Finance and Administration for the University of Missouri and University of Arkansas Systems, and Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services and Treasurer for Murray State University, as well as Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs and Treasurer of the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia. President Cofer has also served as Chief Fiscal Officer for the State of Mississippi. In 1995, Dr. Cofer worked with the Hungarian Ministry of Education and the Hungarian Rectors Conference in Budapest on an Eisenhower Fellowship.

During his career, President Cofer has also understood well the needs of faculty in higher education, teaching at the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Mississippi College, Jackson State University, and Mississippi State University. President Cofer has published and continues to publish articles and book chapters on the effect of student loan debt on student decisions, and has made numerous national and international presentations.

President Cofer has been active in an extensive list of state, civic, and professional organizations, including the National Association of College and University Business Officers, Eisenhower Foundation International Advisory Council, and the Missouri Commission on College Affordability. Awards for his distinguished leadership and public service include the Jaycees Outstanding Young Men of America, Public Administrator of the Year by the American Society for Public Administration, and Who's Who in the South and the Southeast.

President Cofer and his wife, Deborah, have a daughter; son and daughter-in-law; and one grandchild, James E. Cofer, III.



# ALUMNI MINI SPOTLIGHTS

Congratulations to our Construction Alumni who are or have been holding key positions in major construction industry organizations.

## **Robert "Popie" Billeaud, '75**

### **Louisiana AGC President**

President, J.B. Mouton, Inc., Baton Rouge, La.

*"I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to attend the Construction Program at ULM. The faculty's vast experience in the construction industry was a unique learning experience."*

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## **Gary B. Ferguson, '74**

### **2001 AGC of North Louisiana President**

Vice President, Melvin Butler Inc., Shreveport, La.

*"I think the School of Construction prepared me well for the day-to-day management of a construction company."*

"For many years I have been involved in the AGC of North Louisiana. Following are some of the endeavors that were implemented during my presidency. 1. A mentoring opportunity for the younger generation of construction personnel to develop the future leaders of the construction industry and the AGC of North Louisiana. This entails a forum to share industry experiences and to work together to solve challenges facing today's workforce. 2. Lead the AGC to form a partnership agreement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to enhance member's jobsite safety practices, leading to a dramatic drop

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## **Clint Graham, '89**

### **AGC Monroe District Chairman**

Vice President of Operations, Lincoln Builders, Inc., Ruston, La.

*"ULM School of Construction provided me with the tools and the foundation I need to build a successful career in the construction industry."*

"Lincoln Builders received numerous awards such as the Awards of Excellence 2001 for the Physical Fitness Center in Barksdale, La., by the *Louisiana Contractor Magazine*; Top 10 Contractor by *Louisiana Contractor*, for four consecutive years; Top 200 Environmental Firm by *Engineering News Record (ENR)*; Top 400 Contractor by *ENR* for three

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## **Chuck Crawford, '71**

### **2000 AGC Monroe District Chairman**

General Manager, Friedrich and Associates, Monroe, La.

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## **Alex Hayward, '71**

### **Northeast Louisiana Home Builders Association President**

President, Hayward Construction, Monroe, La.

"I am a current and founding member of CSI Lafayette chapter, and have served the Louisiana Associated General Contractor in many capacities, presently as President. Louisiana AGC has been very active in the health care industry for the past 12 years. J.B. Mouton practices in south Louisiana. Approximately half of our work is performed for repeat clients on a negotiated basis. Another ULM graduate, Charles Salassi, '80, is working with us."

in jobsite accidents. 3. Broaden a cooperative partnership with the National Association of Minority Contractors and the National Association of Women in Construction which includes development of joint venture partnerships for business expansion purposes. 4. Lead the AGC of North Louisiana into a partnership with F.W. Dodge, the nation's largest reporting service of construction projects, thus making our construction plans room the largest in the state. Also Internet access is provided, offering firms 24-hour 7-day a week access in the electronic plans room. Melvin Butler Inc., is currently expanding and renovating the Mansfield City Hall and Police Complex. We are also working at General Motors in Shreveport, where a multi-million dollar plant expansion is taking place. We have just started a \$2.5 million renovation project at the Caddo Parish Courthouse."

consecutive years; and the Safety Plus Award for Large Contractor by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer. Lincoln Builders has been involved in many multi-million dollar projects in Louisiana such as the West Ouachita High School in West Monroe; the Squire Creek Country Club in Choudrant; the Good Hope Middle School in West Monroe; the Ike Hamilton Exposition Center in West Monroe; the First Baptist Church Worship Center in West Monroe (Best of 2000 Award by *Louisiana Contractor Magazine*); and the CenturyTel expansion in Monroe (Best of 1999 Award by *Louisiana Contractor Magazine*). I have been married for 15 years to Kim. We have three children Taylor (11), Mary Hollis (6), and Garrett (4)."

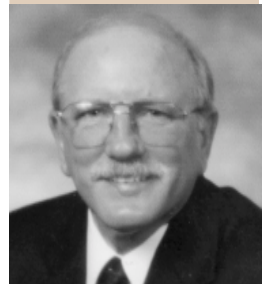
In 2000, Chuck Crawford received an award for his contribution to the pier project at the War Veteran Home in Monroe. Chuck Crawford's son, Gabe is a 2000 graduate of the ULM School of Construction.

Alex Hayward's son, Alex Hayward, Jr., is currently enrolled at the ULM School of Construction.

## **Groundbreaker Newsletter Spring 2002**



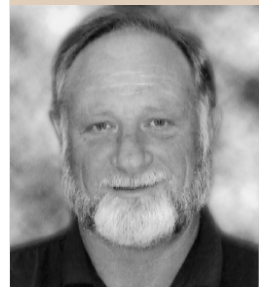
R. "Popie" Billeaud



Gary Ferguson



Clint Graham



Chuck Crawford

**Keep in Touch**

**It's great to  
hear from you!**

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Bond, Doug, '94**

Project Manager, Centex Rodgers, Inc., Nashville, TN. "I am currently working on-site in Fayetteville, AR, building a complete replacement facility for Washington Regional Medical Center. The new facility is 345,000 SF and will be licensed for 181 patient beds. This is the largest healthcare project currently under construction in the State of Arkansas. The construction cost for the project is over \$60 million."

**Bond, Eddie, '99**

Marketing/Estimating, Frank Dale Const., Southlake, TX.

**Brakefield, Jay, '01**

Administrative Assistant, Louisiana Utilities and Construction, West Monroe, LA. "I started in May 2001, and am planning to become vice-president in 5 years. I bid state highway stripping work for Louisiana and Arkansas. I have one son, Garrett Miller, and we are expecting our second."

**Cole, William (Bill) F., '72**

Vice-President, Senior Project Manager, FoxCor, Inc., Little Rock, AR. "I spent 24 years with Fluor Daniel traveling throughout the United States including Maine (twice), California (twice), Indiana, Texas, Tennessee (three times), Georgia, Virginia, and South Carolina. Six years ago, I joined a long time friend as one of the first employees of FoxCor, Inc., in Little Rock, AR. I am currently working in Houston, Texas, on a joint venture with Nabholz Construction on a \$75 million renovation project."

**Cooper, William A. III, '00**

Project Engineer, Frank Dale Construction, Southlake, TX.

**Cummings, Craig, '84**

Senior Vice president, JPI Construction, Irving, TX.

**Darden, William (Billy) F., '79**

Engineering Technician, State of Louisiana DOTD, West Monroe, LA.

**Davis, Mark S., '81**

Vice Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Monticello, AR.

**Ensminger, Joseph, '01**

Construction Superintendent, America's Home Place, Jackson, MS.

**Grigson, James (Randy), '82**

Director of Store Planning, Sterling Jewelers, Inc., Akron, OH. "I went to work with Linbeck Construction in March of 1984, for 4 1/2 years. While with Linbeck, I worked on the 17-story Xerox Phase 2 building at Las Colinas in Irving, TX, then was transferred back to Houston, on the IBM Office Building in Clear Lake, TX. After, the Clear Lake project, I was transferred to Miami, FL, and worked on the Miami Arena, from groundbreaking to ribbon cutting, where the NBA Miami Heat would play in their inaugural season of 1988. I was on that project with a fellow ULM graduate David Pettiet. Since 1988, I have been employed with Sterling Jewelers, Inc. Sterling is the second largest retail jeweler in the U.S. with 1,110 stores across the country. I am the Director of Store Planning, working very closely with our corporate architect and upper management on design roll-outs of our stores across the U.S. and am in charge of G.C. selection, job buyout, and project management of our stores. Currently, I have 4 construction managers and 2 construction coordinators reporting directly to me. Sterling builds on average 130 projects a year, with a total capital outlay of approximately \$40 million. Our national logo is Kay Jewelers, which you will find in almost every mall across the country. Sterling also has hundreds of regional stores throughout the U.S., such as JB

Robinson, Rogers, Goodman, Weisfield, Shaw's, Belden, and Osterman Jewelers. Also, we have a free standing store called "Jared The Galleria of Jewelry", with approximately 55 stores across the country, 3 in Dallas/Ft. Worth, 4 in Houston and 4 in Denver. I always have fond memories of my days at ULM then NLU. The professors in the Construction Department Thurman Potts; Ben Bateman; Felix Garrett, God rest his soul; Herb McCaskill; John Ball and Charles Rich prepared me well for my career in the construction industry, and I am sure my classmates at the time and colleagues would agree. Keep up the good work."

**Guice, Christopher, '01**

Senior Field Engineer-DFW Airport, Austin Commercial, Dallas, TX.

**Hammack, Robert, '01**

Estimator, Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC, Birmingham, AL.

**Houser, Josh, '99**

Project Engineer, Frank Dale Construction, Southlake, TX.

**Hunt, Jim, '73**

Site Manager, Dynegy, Houston, TX.

**Hyatt, Steve, '82**

CPA/Financial Services, Hnedak Bobo Group, Memphis, TN.

**Kendall, Brady, '96**

Project Manager, Frank Dale Construction, Southlake, TX.

**Kidd, Josh, '99**

Project Manager, Frank Dale Construction, Southlake, TX.

**Long, Brent S., '87**

Vice President of Preconstruction and Estimating, Choate Construction Co., Charlotte, NC.

**Long, Christopher L., '86**

Project Manager, Centex Rooney Construction Co., Plantation, FL.

# ALUMNI UPDATES (Continued)

**Long, Kent R., '86**

Vice President of Estimating, Centex Rooney Construction Company, Plantation, FL.

**Luczak, Michael, '86**

PDG Environmental, Inc., Houston, TX.

PDG Environmental is a national environmental and specialty contractor.

**Martin, William Anthony, '79**

Secretary/Treasurer, Martin Building Specialties, Inc., Houma, LA.

"I graduated in August 1979. My wife, Phyliss and I started our Division 10 Specialty company in March, 1991, Martin Building Specialties, Inc. Since the beginning, we have been based here in Houma, La. We now bid projects throughout the entire state of Louisiana. We are a SBE/WBE organization and have been very successful due to our minority status. We have continually grown each year. This past year, 2001, we recorded almost \$1.5 million in sales. It has been fun reading the *Groundbreaker* and recognizing names of those with whom we have done business over the years: Martha Richey, formerly with The Finney Company and now on her own; Scott Thompson with Lincoln Builders; Brian Duplechin, Derek Hebert, Greg Landry, all with The Lemoine Company; and even Larry Favalora. I enjoy the *Groundbreaker*, keep up the good work, keeping the alumni up to date on what is happening at our School of Construction."

**Matkins, Richard, '80**

Project Manager, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Washington, DC.

**McCoy, Jerry D., '84**

Senior Estimator, Hill & Wilkinson, Ltd., Plano, TX.

**Meeks Karl, '93**

Regional Vice President, JPI Construction, Irving, TX.

**Smith, Donald L., '83**

Senior Estimator, Turner SPD Construction, Worthington, OH. "I have been with Turner for nine years. Turner's goal is to hire the best of the best and I am proud to have graduated from the School of Construction. I believe that I was better prepared for the Construction industry because of the program."

**Smith, Michael, '89**

Vice President Field Operations, Frank Dale Construction, Southlake, TX.

**Taylor, Richard, '90**

Project Manager, Hendrix-Corriher, Mocksville, NC.

"My first day at Hendrix-Corriher was February 11. I commute back and forth. We still live in High Point, still have the same wife, 3 boys and a dog (greyhound). I am working on negotiating several design build projects in the region. I have a good opportunity here."

**Tuberville, Josh, '01**

Construction Manager/Realtor, Tuberville Builders, Inc., Shreveport, LA.

"We are a residential and commercial general contractor serving northwest Louisiana, and east Texas."

**Wells, Ryan, '96**

Scheduling Department, BE&K Construction, Birmingham, AL.

"I've been with BE&K Construction since I graduated. I've worked survey/layout subcontracts, and now have been scheduling for the past 2.5 years. So far so good. It's good to see that there are still a few familiar faces left, although I hate to hear that Mr. Herb is leaving. I'm currently working the "power plant circuit." We are building our second simple cycle power plant for Dynegy up in Louisa, KY. We're right next to an old ULM football rival, the Marshall University "Thundering Herd" in

Huntington, WV. I'm definitely too far north for a southern boy. It looks like the next place I'm headed is a combined cycle power plant in Carrollton, GA, sometime this summer."

**West, Mark, '99**

Project Manager, Frank Dale Construction, Ltd., Southlake, TX.

**Young, Clint, '94**

Construction Manager, JPI Construction, Irving, TX.

**Zeringue, Gary, '80**

Air Traffic Controller, Federal Aviation Administration, Orlando, FL.

"I have been working for the US government for the past 14 years as an air traffic controller. Before that, I was working in oil field construction in South Louisiana."

## MEMORIAL

We pause a moment to remember the Alumni and Friends of the School of Construction who have passed on and will be dearly missed.

**Culpepper, Fred Carroll, Jr.**, died April 21, 2002, at the age of 83. Former President of Ford, Bacon, & Davis, Fred was co-owner of Breck Construction Company.

**Nabholz, Robert "Bob" D.** died April 14, 2002, at the age of 78. Bob was the founder of Nabholz Construction Corp.

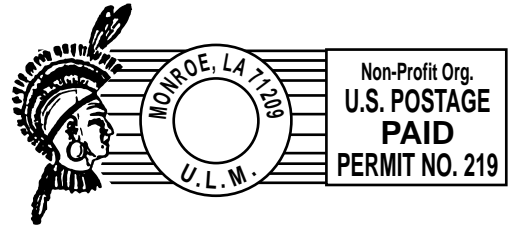
**Rogers, Lamar Elwood, Sr.**, died May 13, 2002, at the age of 82. Lamar taught at the ULM School of Construction from 1966 until 1980.

**Truelove, Joseph Glen, Jr.**, died June 6, 2002, at the age of 40. A 1988 ULM Construction graduate, Glen was employed by Hensel Phelps Construction Co.

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 School of Construction  
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## ALUMNI NEWS, KEEP US INFORMED !

### ALUMNI UPDATE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Grad.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Co. Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in becoming a member of the Industry Advisory Council.

Your news to be published in the newsletter:

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Signed/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return your news to **Editor Groundbreaker**, University of Louisiana at Monroe, School of Construction, Monroe, LA 71209-0540. Or e-mail to: [coparker@ulm.edu](mailto:coparker@ulm.edu) ; or fax to (318) 342-1861