The Bayou

The History and Traditions of The University of Louisiana at Monroe
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The University of Louisiana at Monroe is a multipurpose, state-assisted institution of higher education which offers high quality academic and experiential opportunities to meet the academic, cultural, vocational, social, and personal needs of undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students. Today, ULM claims more than 55,000 alumni and an annual enrollment of approximately 8,500 students.

ULM’s campus, one of the state’s most attractive, is located in the eastern part of Monroe, a city whose metropolitan area population exceeds 250,000. The name “The Bayou” was chosen for this publication because beautiful Bayou DeSiard flows through the 238-acre tree-shaded campus and has been the major feature of our university since 1931. It is the goal of this publication to ensure that the traditions and history of ULM are remembered, celebrated, and passed on to all future Indians!

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55 Things You Must Do While At ULM:

1. Go to Week of Welcome, Convocation, and Grovestock the first week of classes
2. Run through the Scott Plaza fountain
3. Take a canoe ride on Bayou DeSiard
4. Watch the Sound of Today perform
5. Work out at the Activity Center
6. Watch the Water Ski Team perform
7. Look out over the campus from the 7th floor of the Library
8. Eat chicken strips at the Wig Wam
9. Eat chicken nuggets at Chick-Fil-A
10. See a performance by the School of Visual and Performing Arts
11. Beat the drum during Homecoming Week
12. Play Oozeball during Spring Fever
13. Study, study, study!
14. Watch Johnny O’Neal play
15. Tailgate in the Grove
16. Eat a Po-boy and an ice cream cone at Ray’s PoGe
17. Meet Dr. H.P. Jones at the sacred tree on the Ides of March
18. Walk across the footbridge with your friends and feel it shake
19. Run the University Mile
20. Order a Johnny’s Pizza
21. Go to the ULM Art Gallery in Bry Hall
22. Visit with President Cofer
23. Go to the Emy Lou Biedenharn Garden
24. Sample chili at the Annual Chili Cookoff
25. Watch a baseball game from the third base side of Indian Field
26. Go to the Ark-La-Miss fair
27. Be a part of ULM Christmas traditions
28. Go to one of the ULM Museums
29. Watch a sunset from the deck of the Waterfront Grill
30. Support ULM Athletics: tickets are free for students!
31. Go to a concert sponsored by CAB
32. Look at Monroe from the West Monroe levee at night
33. Pull an all-nighter and go to the midnight breakfast during finals
34. Wear maroon and gold on Fridays
35. Pick a major
36. Take a road trip with your friends
37. Eat barbeque at Daniken Trail
38. Join at least one campus organization
39. See your advisor
40. Shop!
41. Play volleyball on the beach behind Copser Hall
42. Eat a $1 lunch on campus
43. Hang out on the Ouachita River
44. Find out the story of the Pink House
45. Go to Tinseltown
46. Learn the Fight Song and Alma Mater
47. Go to a performance in Biedenharn Recital Hall
48. Go to Antique Alley
49. Eat a steak at Schulze cafeteria
50. Go Greek!
51. Eat at Wingstop
52. Take a yearbook photo
53. Fall in love?
54. Eat at IHOP or Waffle House after 2 a.m.

55. Graduate!
The University of Louisiana at Monroe is more than a collection of students, teachers and buildings. This university is a very special place with a 75-year history of educating young people. You are a part of our history and traditions. You have joined a community of scholars; those seeking the truth of greater knowledge and a better life.

The purpose of this book is to introduce you to the beloved traditions and proud history of our institution. Our university has been known by several names, but it is one place and we are one family. These are the cherished memories that unite us across the decades.

You are now a part of the ULM legacy and you are responsible for carrying on these traditions. This is your manual. Read it and learn more about the rich history of our institution.

James E. Cofer, Sr.
President
How It All Began...

The history of the University of Louisiana at Monroe is a record of educational leadership and achievement.

In 1922, Timothy Oscar Brown, superintendent of Ouachita Parish Schools perceived the need for an institution that would provide college training for the great number of local high school graduates. After a thorough study of the situation, Brown presented the idea in an address to the Monroe Kiwanis Club, where it was favorably received. The challenge was that additional legislation would be necessary to provide a satisfactory method for the establishment and maintenance of a junior college. Accordingly, a bill was introduced in the regular session of the Louisiana State Legislature in May 1928, and was subsequently enacted into a law providing for the establishment of junior colleges. Included in Act 173 was the right of a school board to call an election to vote a parish-wide tax for the support of such an institution. Following the adoption of the bill, the Kiwanis Club, cooperating with the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, and the Chamber of Commerce, perfected a plan to found a junior college in accordance with the Junior College Law.

On November 9, 1928, the Ouachita Parish School board organized a Junior College District and called a special election to vote the special tax of one mill for a period of ten years for the construction, equipment, and operation of the junior college. The Police Jury and the School Board of Ouachita Parish, in joint session on January 4, 1931, purchased the site for the college. The building, including equipment and grounds, represented an investment of over $350,000.00.

The first session of the Ouachita Parish Junior College began on September 28, 1931, with a full corps of teachers and an enrollment of 416 students. At that time, this was one of the only junior colleges in Louisiana. Thus was realized the dream of T.O. Brown – that educational advantages beyond high school graduation should be the possession of the citizens of Ouachita Parish. Ouachita Parish Junior College graduated its first class of 135 students in June 1933.

University Names

ULM has followed a course of vigorous growth in its transition from a junior college to an institution offering a comprehensive range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. In September 1931, the university opened for its first session as Ouachita Parish Junior College, which was operated as part of the Ouachita Parish School System. In 1934, Louisiana State University received authority from the State Legislature to operate the facilities of the university as Northeast Center of Louisiana State University. The name of the institution was changed to Northeast Junior College of Louisiana State University in 1939. The following year, the State Legislature authorized the transfer of all lands connected with Northeast Junior College to Louisiana State University.

The 1950 Legislature approved the expansion of Northeast Junior College of LSU to a four-year senior college granting academic degrees. The name of the institution was changed to Northeast Louisiana State College, and its control was transferred from the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors to the State Board of Education. The name was changed to Northeast Louisiana University by the 1970 Legislature. The constitution, adopted by the people of Louisiana in 1974, provided that the administration of state colleges and universities be changed from the Louisiana State Board of Education to the Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities effective May 1975. This board’s name was changed again on June 8, 1995, to the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors. On August 27, 1999, the university officially changed its name to the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

1931 Ouachita Parish Junior College
1934 Northeast Center of Louisiana State University
1939 Northeast Junior College of Louisiana State University
1950 Northeast Louisiana State College
1970 Northeast Louisiana University
1999 University of Louisiana at Monroe
Presidents’ Names and Biographies

Dr. Clyde Cornelius Colvert
Ouachita Parish Junior College
September 28, 1931 - October 31, 1944
C.C. Colvert served as the first president of Ouachita Parish Junior College. Born in Clarksville, Texas, he grew up in Eagle Mills, Arkansas, and received his master’s degree in education from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. from George Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee. He worked as an educator for 13 years before T.O. Brown, superintendent of the Ouachita Parish School System, hired him to help establish the new junior college in Monroe in 1931. Following a severe economic downturn in 1934, Colvert helped orchestrate an arrangement whereby the college would be operated by LSU as the Northeast Center of Louisiana State University. He stepped down as president of Northeast Junior College of LSU in 1944 to assume a teaching position at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Colvert died in 1991.

Dr. William Rodney Cline
Northeast Junior College of Louisiana State University
December 1, 1944 - August 15, 1950
Dr. Rodney Cline is a graduate of Louisiana Polytechnic Institute with a master’s degree from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from George Peabody College for Teachers. He taught at various schools in south Louisiana and at the demonstration school at Louisiana Tech where he also taught education. He later served as academic dean at Louisiana Tech before becoming dean of John McNeese Junior College in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He is the author of numerous scholarly publications in the field of education.

Mr. Lewis Cecil Slater
Northeast Louisiana State College
August 15, 1950 - June 30, 1958
Lewis C. Slater was born in Severy, Kansas, in 1893. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Colorado in 1914 and the master’s degree in chemistry and engineering from Louisiana State University in 1915. Slater joined the Northeast Center of LSU staff in 1938 as head of the Department of Biology and Natural Sciences. Between teaching assignments, he was the chief chemist for Bogalusa Pulp and Paper Company and the Bastrop Pulp and Paper Company. Slater was named president of the newly-designated Northeast Louisiana State College, a four-year institution, in 1950. He retired from the institution in 1958.

Dr. George T. Walker
Northeast Louisiana State College
July 1, 1958 - December 31, 1975
Dr. George T. Walker was born in Jonesboro, Louisiana, in 1913. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University in 1935, a master’s degree in accounting and business administration from LSU in 1936, and a Ph.D. in business administration from LSU in 1948. From 1935 to 1940, Walker taught commerce at several universities in Louisiana, including the Northeast Center of LSU in Monroe. From 1945 to 1948, Walker served as assistant to the dean of the Junior Division, Louisiana State University. In 1948, he was named dean of applied arts and sciences at Northwestern State College and was later named dean of administration. Walker assumed the presidency of Northeast Louisiana State College in 1958.

Dr. Dwight D. Vines
Northeast Louisiana University
January 1, 1976 - June 30, 1991
Dr. Dwight D. Vines was born in Jackson Parish in 1931. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University, his M.B.A. from LSU and his Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Colorado. He joined the faculty at Northeast Louisiana University in 1958 as an instructor of management, and advanced through the academic ranks to professor. In addition, he served as dean of the College of Business Administration for nine years before being named president of NLU.

Mr. Lawson L. Swearingen, Jr.
Northeast Louisiana University
July 1, 1991 - December 31, 2001
Lawson L. Swearingen, Jr., was born in Ruston, Louisiana, in 1944. He received his bachelor’s degree in government from NLU in 1966 and earned his Juris Doctorate from Tulane Law School in 1969. Swearingen practiced law in Monroe for 22 years, which included 11 years of service as a state senator in the Louisiana legislature. In 1991, he was tapped to serve as president of NLU. During his administration the name of the university was changed to the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr.
University of Louisiana at Monroe
April 1, 2002 - present
Dr. James E. Cofer was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1949. He received his bachelor’s degree in business administration and his M.B.A. from Mississippi State University. He earned an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1998. Prior to assuming his position at ULM, Cofer served as the Vice President for Finance and Administration with the University of Missouri System and the University of Arkansas System. In 1995 as an Eisenhower Exchange Fellow, Cofer worked in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Culture in Budapest, Hungary. He has also served as the chief fiscal officer for the State of Mississippi and the University System of Georgia. He is the author of numerous scholarly publications.

Note: Dr. Stephen A. Caldwell served as acting dean of the Northeast Center of LSU for the 1936-37 academic year, and Dr. Thomas Rakes served as interim president of ULM from January 1, 2002 to March 31, 2002.
Ouachita Parish and the Twin Cities

The twin cities of Monroe and West Monroe, situated on opposite banks of the beautiful Ouachita River and centrally located at the crossroads of railway and highway systems, are the hub of commerce in northeast Louisiana.

The earliest inhabitants of the Ouachita area, famous for its trading post, were the Ouachita Indians and the Caddo Indians. In the Indian language, the term “Ouachita” means “clear sparkling water” or “silver water.”

To protect the trading post from Indian attacks, Don Juan Filhiol, who later changed his name to John Filhiol, came to the area in 1783 to build Fort Miro, named after Governor of Louisiana Don Estevan Miro. On May 1, 1819, The James Monroe steamboat, named after then-President James Monroe, was the first to ever pass the banks of Fort Miro. That night, the town held a huge celebration and decided to change its name from Fort Miro to Monroe in commemoration of the steamboat. John Filhiol remained the town’s commandant until 1800, when he resigned office and later died at his plantation home. Monroe was officially incorporated in 1820, and is the parish seat.

West Monroe is the result of the efforts to establish two towns on the west bank of the Ouachita River, Trenton and Cotton Port. The town of Trenton, named after William Trent, was established in 1851. Dr. Christopher Dabbs originally owned the land that was proposed as the site for Cotton Port. After failed attempts at the establishment of the town, Dr. Dabbs sold the property in 1858. By March 1859, the establishment of the town was finally granted, but another town in Avoyelles had already taken the name Cotton Port. The name West Monroe was accepted in November 1883 for the town which included land from the Trenton and Cotton Port settlements, and a charter was granted in 1889. The first bridges to connect Monroe and West Monroe were built in the late nineteenth century. Today, West Monroe enjoys flourishing growth and adds another jewel along the shores of the Ouachita.

Buildings

The University Library with its distinctive architectural style is without any doubt ULM’s signature building and was built in 1999. The library occupies five floors, and the university administration is located on the sixth floor, and a conference center is on the seventh floor. The facility has a fully-equipped computer lab, media presentation/studio room, bibliographic instruction room, study/meeting rooms, and an expanded Special Collections area.

The other noticeable landmark on campus is Brown Hall, built in 1931 and named for Timothy Oscar Brown, superintendent of public education in Ouachita Parish. Brown Hall, located on DeSiard Street, was the original building at the opening of Ouachita Parish Junior College and was for a while the only building on campus. Graduation ceremonies were originally held in Brown Auditorium, which was renovated in 1982 and seats 700. The parking lot in front of Brown Hall was built in 1970. Construction projects are currently underway to widen DeSiard Street and will include renovations of the parking lot and the addition of a new wrought-iron fence to enhance the entrance of the campus.

The other buildings on campus were built in three major phases: the Junior College Era, the Four-Year College Era, and President George T. Walker Era.

Junior College Era (1931-1950)

The Student Union Building, originally called the Northeast Center Social Hall, was built in 1938. The Student Union addition, connected to the rear of the original building was built in 1962 and includes a bowling alley, game room, Chick-Fil-A, and a large lounge and reception area. Bry Hall, named for Henry Bry, a Ouachita Parish judge in 1807 and first president of the State Board of Public Works, was built in 1939. It was first used as the Junior College library and now houses the art department. Biedenharn Hall, named for Joseph Augustus Biedenharn, the first man to bottle Coca-Cola, was built in 1939. Additional classrooms and music studios were added in 1957, a small recital hall was added in 1958, and a full renovation was completed in 2003. The Emly-Lou Biedenharn Recital Hall, named for Joseph’s daughter, was also built in 2003 and seats 284. The University Faculty House, built in 1940 as the President’s home, was renovated in 1965 and 1999 and now serves as the university guest house. Caldwell Hall, named for Stephen A. Caldwell, superintendent of Morehouse Parish Schools and dean of Northeast Center of LSU, was built in 1948 to accommodate some of the science areas.

Four-Year College Era (1950-1958)

Harris Hall, named for Susie West Harris, a mathematics teacher at Monroe City School and Ouachita Parish High School, was built in 1955 to house 108 students. Nicholson Hall, named for James W. Nicholson, president of Louisiana State University in 1883, was constructed in 1956 to house 108 students. This building burned in 1997 and was later demolished. Stubbs Hall, named for Francis Peter Stubbs, a Confederate States Marshal for Louisiana and a senator, was built in 1956 and houses the campus radio
stations 90.3 KEDM and 91.1 KXUL. Conner, businessman Spyker College, grandson of Mrs. James A. Noe, whose husband founded KNOE/WNOE radio/TV stations, was built in 1957 to house 108 students. Filihol Hall, named for Don Juan Filihol, who established Fort Miro where Monroe now stands, was built in 1957. The Student Health Center, built in 1957, houses the counseling center and the infirmary.

President George T. Walker Era (1958–1976)
The Wigwam, originally named Gunby Dining Hall for Andrew Augustus Gunby, a judge on the Circuit Court of Appeals, was built in 1960. Bread Hall, named for Marquis John Louis Alexander De Breard, a French settler and assessor of Ouachita Parish, was built in 1961 to house 150 students. Madison Hall, named for H. Flood Madison, a member of the Morehouse Parish School Board and State Board of Education, was built in 1961 to house 300 students. Garrett Hall, named for Franklin Garrett, one of the founders of the Monroe School System, was completed in 1962. Monroe Hall, named for the people of Monroe, was built in 1962 to house 166 students. Ouachita Hall, named for the parish in which the university is located and for the original name of the institution – Ouachita Parish Junior College, was built in 1962 to house 152 students. Sandel Hall, named for Percy M. Sandel, a judge of the Fourth Judicial District and a prominent leader in promoting the establishment of a junior college in Monroe, was built in 1963 as the university library. The building is now home of the Visitors Center, the Office of Recruitment and Admissions, the ULM bookstore, and a coffee shop. Hudson Hall, named for Roderick Gray Hudson, a district attorney and businessman, was built in 1964 to house 408 students and was demolished in the summer of 2004. Schulze Dining Hall, named for Monroe City Judge Charles Schulze, was originally called the Men’s Dining Hall, and was completed in 1965. Sherro Home Hall, named for William John Sherro, Jr., a Monroe business and civic leader, was built in 1965 to house 408 students and was demolished in the summer of 2004. Hanna Hall, named after Dr. Clint Oliver Hanna, a member of the faculty and dean of instruction, was built for classroom and lab use in 1966. Spyker Theatre, originally called Northeast Theatre was added to Brown Hall in 1966 and seats 200. Masur Hall, named for Sigmund Masur, a Monroe civic leader, businessman and philanthropist, was built in 1966 to house 432 students. Slater Hall, named for Lewis C. Slater, the first president of Northeast Louisiana State College, was built in 1966 to house 400 students. Coenen Cafeteria, named for Theodore J. Coenen, a state representative instrumental in establishing Ouachita Parish Junior College as Northeast Center of LSU, was built in 1966. The Administration Building, a three-story building housing the College of Business Administration and the College of Arts and Sciences, was built in 1967. The building housed the first belltower with clocks on the four sides. The completion of the building changed the main entrance to the campus from DeSiard Street to University Avenue. The Alumni Association paid for the brick structure in front of the building that carried the name Northeast Louisiana University and now University of Louisiana at Monroe. Lemert Hall, named for Dr. Harry M. Lemert, a member of the faculty and dean of fine arts, was completed in 1967 to house 212 students. Olin Hall, an eleven-story structure named for the Olin Family and for Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, was built in 1968 to house 832 students, and was demolished on September 25, 2004 in front of thousands of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Sugar Hall, named for Leon Sugar, president of Monroe Wholesale Drug and a leader in establishing the university Booster Club and Foundation, was completed in 1971 and houses the School of Pharmacy. Strauss Hall, named for Fred Strauss, a Monroe businessman and philanthropist was built in 1973 and houses the College of Education. The Band Building, home of The Sound of Today, was built in 1973. The Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center, named for the wife of James A. Noe, a former governor and owner of the radio/TV stations KNOE in Monroe and WNOE in New Orleans, was built in 1974.

Athletic Facilities
The original Brown Stadium, named after Timothy Oscar Brown, was built in the 1938 and was located right behind Brown Hall. The stadium was moved to its current location in 1967 and is now home to the Indian track and field and Lady Indian soccer. Bob Groseclose Track at Brown Stadium, named for former track coach Bob Groseclose, seats 3,400 fans. Brown Gym, at the east end of Brown Hall, was built in 1931, and renovated in 1961. Fant-Ewing Coliseum, home of basketball since 1971, has a capacity of 8,000, and is named for the late Wilson Ewing, a former part owner of the Monroe News-Star. In 1999, the facility was renamed Fant-Ewing in memory of former men’s basketball coach Lenny Fant. Heard Stadium, home of Indian tennis since 1976, was named for Raymond Heard, a former president of the Board of Education, and has a total of 15 courts available for tournament play. Malone Stadium, home of Indian football since 1979, was named for James L. Malone, ULM’s winningest football coach, and has a capacity of 30,427. Oxford Natatorium, home of swimming and diving since 1979, was named for Dr. Lake C. Oxford, assistant academic vice president and director of institutional
research at NLU, and houses an indoor olympic-size pool and diving well. **Indian Field** is home of Indian baseball. The 2,000-seat structure was constructed in 1982 and opened in 1983, just in time for the Indians to win their first Southland Conference Championship. **Lady Indian Softball Field** was originally the Indian baseball field and became the home of Lady Indian Softball in 1983. **The Grove**, in its current location, was created in 1991 when the original site was taken for construction of the Activity Center.

**Other Buildings**


**Dedicated Areas on Campus**

ULM formally dedicated four areas on campus in 2001. **The Kitty DeGree Library Bell Tower** was named for a leading benefactor of the university and the first recipient of the ULM Hall of Distinction Award in 2004. **The Mayme and Tom Scott Plaza** is the area surrounding the fountain in front of the library in the central part of campus and is named for a founding member of the ULM Foundation. The Scotts embodied the qualities of character displayed on stones surrounding the fountain: honesty, grace, courage, dignity, compassion, generosity, wisdom, loyalty, perseverance, and prudence. **The Clarke M. Williams, Jr., Seminar Room** is one of the three seminar rooms on the 7th floor of the Library. The terrace located on the 7th floor of the Library was dedicated to **Catherine and William R. “Billy” Boles.** In 2004, the English Department donated a bench to the campus in honor of the three deans who served in the former College of Liberal Arts now the College of Arts and Sciences: Dean William Hammond (1931-1968), Dean Frank Morgan (1968-93), and Dean Carlos Fandral (1993-present).

**Demolition, Construction and Renovations**

In 2004, ULM received approval from the Louisiana Board of Supervisors to develop a $70 million student living project to provide new apartment- and suite-style on-campus student housing. The project called for the demolition of three dorms in 2004, including Hudson Hall, Sherrouse Hall and Olin Hall, which had been the tallest building on campus and a ULM fixture for almost 40 years. Six other dorms, including Lermert, Monroe, Slater, Breard, Casper and Harris Halls are scheduled for demolition in 2005 and 2006. The project also includes the renovation of Sandel Hall and the Clark M. Williams Student Success Center which will be located in the Wig Wag. A student referendum was passed in the spring of 2003 to use funds to renovate the Student Union Building in the near future.

**Publications**

**The Pow Wow**

The Pow Wow is ULM’s award winning student-run newspaper. The first issue of the Pow Wow was published in 1932, and it was published on a bi-weekly basis until 1956. The first reporters were enrolled in a basic reporting class and had to write for the paper for a grade. The September 20, 1969, issue was the largest campus newspaper in the history of the state at the time. So far, 75 volumes have been published. Past volumes of the Pow Wow have been diligently archived and can be found on the 5th floor of the ULM Library in the Special Collections section.

**The Chacahoula**

The Chacahoula, ULM’s official yearbook, chronicles the history of the university and the lives of its students. It is funded solely through student fees. In Indian terms, Chacahoula means “beautiful water,” which only seems appropriate since the campus was founded on beautiful Bayou DeSiard. The first 60-page publication was published in 1933 by the senior class of the Ouachita Parish Junior College and was dedicated to T.O. Brown. The original editor-in-chief was Elsie Auld. So far, 71 volumes of the Chacahoula have been published and can be found on the 5th floor of the ULM Library in the Special Collections section.

**Outstanding Professors – A Tradition of Excellence**

In September 1931, Ouachita Parish Junior College opened its doors with an enrollment of 416 students and seven faculty members. They were **Bess Mary Crider**, English (M.A. from the University of Maryland); **Dorothy Younse**, English (M.A. from Columbia); **Doris Turner**, geography (M.A. from Columbia); **F. F. Smith**, history (pursuing a Ph.D from Harvard); **Bruce R. Redditt**, mathematics (M.A. from Johns Hopkins); **Dr. G. G. Albritton**, physics and chemistry (Ph.D. from the University of North
Carolina); and C. C. Colvert, psychology (M.A. from the University of Arkansas and later Ph.D. from George Peabody College). The 1932 session opened with an enrollment of 536 and a faculty of 21. Today there are more than 400 full-time faculty members.

The tradition of honoring and rewarding excellence at ULM started in 1969 under the leadership of the Alumni Association. Every year, professors who exhibit excellence in teaching, research, and service are recognized and celebrated by the whole ULM family. These are individuals nominated and selected by their colleagues, students, and alumni because of their outstanding overall accomplishments. Past outstanding professors include:

1969 Dr. August G. Danti
1970 Dr. Hebert S. Wallace
1971 Dr. Ruth Garner
1972 Dr. Hugh Doney and Dr. Horace P. Jones
1974 Dr. Neil H. Douglas and Frances P. Baldwin
1975 Dr. E. Russ Williams and Annelies Hayward
1976 Dr. Dale Thomas and Louise Harris
1977 Dr. Morgan R. Kidd and Dr. Gary G. Ferguson
1978 Dr. William J. Keller and Carolyn C. Dolecheck
1979 Dr. William M. Bourn and Marie Pierron Watson
1980 Dr. John N. Davisson and Dr. Paul Dunn
1981 Dr. David E. Robertson and Nadia A. Bugg
1982 Dr. Lawrence S. Baum and Dr. Beryl Franklin
1983 Dr. Eugene H. Fox and Dr. Jerry D. Holmes
1984 Dr. Arthur D. Sharplin and Paul L. Rawson
1985 Dr. Mervin Kontrovitz and Nancy A. Lowery
1986 Dr. Joyce S. Choate and Dr. James L. Caldwell
1987 Dr. Maynard Dolecheck and Dr. Martha Lou Adams
1988 Dr. Rene A. DeHon and Dr. George Roberts
1989 Dr. J. Fleming McClelland and Dr. Bill B. Letson
1990 Dr. Paul W. Ferguson and Jack White
1991 Dr. Walter Creekmore and Anita Mitchell
1992 Dr. Carey Pope and Dr. Maury M. Haraway
1993 Dr. Pankaj Desia and Dr. Eric A. Pani
1994 Dr. Louis N. Ace, Dr. Margaret R. Edwards and Dr. August G. Danti
1995 Dr. Harihara Mehendale, Dr. LaRue Sloan and Dr. Jerry Holmes
1996 Dr. Charles Allen
1997 Dr. Robert Stevens, Dr. Veronica Lewis, Dr. Paxton Oliver, Dr. Benny Blaylock and Dr. Eric Pani
1998 Dr. Carole Cheatham, Dr. Joseph McGahan, Dr. Roger Jones, Dr. Robert Judd, and Dr. Gary Stringer
1999 Dr. Lawrence Jauch, Dr. Fred Groves, Dr. Charles Holloway, Dr. Indra Reddy, and Dr. Gary Findley
2000 Dr. George Roberts, Dr. Donna Luse, Dr. Bob Cage, Dr. Lea Olsan, Dr. Linda Sabin, Dr. David Roane, and Dr. Darrell Kruger
2001 Dr. Judy Fellows, Dr. Jerry Wall, Dr. Christopher Blackburn, Dr. Margaret Edwards, and Dr. Michael Camiller
2002 Dr. Ron Berry, Dr. Otis Lovette, Dr. Terry Jones, Linda Reid, and Dr. Greg Leader
2003 Dr. Helen Lock, Dr. Jose Cordova, Dr. James T. Hood, Dr. Mark Doherty, and Dr. Paul Sylvester
2004 Mona Oliver, Dr. Mark Arant, Dr. Michelle McEacharn, Dr. Walter Creekmore, and Debra Brossett
Statements to Students

Clyde Cornelius Colvert, simply called C.C. Colvert, guided what is now ULM through the first 13 years of its development as he served as the first president of the institution. During his time with the university he wrote more than 120 columns entitled “Colvert’s Corner” for The Pow Wow. To this day, his writings still reflect the meaning of school spirit at ULM.

“The spirit and loyalty of the Ouachita Junior College students has been on the increase all this year. I believe that every student is proud of this growth and such growth means progress of the right kind. You have a student body, faculty, building, and equipment that is worthy of your active support and loyalty. Your college is second to no other college, and the scholarship of the student body is unusually high. You have a right to be proud of your college.”

C.C. Colvert, November 3, 1933

“College Spirit, what is it? It is the indefinable atmosphere which surrounds a student body and faculty and commands admiration, respect and loyalty. As seniors, you are about ready to leave the college. Your idea of college spirit you leave with us. You are our leaders in the college. As juniors you are almost seniors. What college spirit have you to instill and teach to those juniors of ours who will be with us next September? This is something worth thinking about.”

C.C. Colvert, April 13, 1934

“The college is proud of the fact that there are very few rules and regulations in the institution. This college is also proud of the fact that the chief regulation is that students are to act as ladies and gentlemen at all times. It is the duty of all the college student body and faculty to see that this important regulation is strictly adhered to.”

C.C. Colvert, November 28, 1934

Alma Mater

The university Alma Mater has evolved through the years to reflect the different name changes of the institution. The Alma Mater is sung at Convocation and at other official university events. The very first Alma Mater was written by Bess Mary Crider, Head of the English Department and Roger C. Frisbie, Director of the Music Conservatory. The current ULM Alma Mater was written and arranged by Jon Lindsey from the Music Department.

Ouachita Parish Junior College

In the sunny land of Dixie,
Under skies of blue,
Stands a school to whom the Indians
Ever will be true

Ouachita, dear Alma Mater,
Homage bring we now,
Here our truest heart’s devotion
To thy name we vow.

When out from the field of battle
March thy warriors brave,
May thy colors proudly gleaming
In glad victory wave.

By the path to fame and glory,
Rugged though it be,
We will climb the heights triumphant
Still inspired by thee.

Northeast Center of LSU and Northeast Junior College of LSU

Where stately oaks and broad magnolias shade inspiring halls,
There stands our dear old Alma Mater who to us recalls

Fond memories that waken in our hearts a tender glow,
And makes us happy for the love that we have learned to know.

All praise to thee, our Alma Mater, molder of mankind,
May greater glory, love unending be forever thine,
Our worth in life will be thy worth – we pray to keep it true,
And may thy spirit live in us forever, L.S.U.

Northeast Louisiana State College

All honor to our Alma Mater, by the bayou’s clear blue water.
Deep within our hearts we seek her lofty goals in life.
N.L.S.C. by name we call her, by the bayou’s clear blue water.
Gracious name for all who know her beauty clear and bright.
We bow to thee, our Alma Mater, by the bayou’s clear blue water.
May thy glories glow in splendor ever in our sight.
N.L.S.C. by name we call her, by the bayou’s clear blue water.
Deep within our hearts we seek her lofty goals in life.
All hail to thee, N.L.S.C., faithful we will be to thee.
Northeast Louisiana University
Near the bayou’s tranquil water and the highway’s ceaseless flow,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater through the years that swiftly go.
Our loyalty to you we pledge, and true to you we’ll ever be.
We’ll lift the tribal banner high for all the world to see.
Faithful we will be and true, ever loyal N-L-U.

Where magnolias shed their fragrance, graceful pine trees touch the breeze,
And tender memories linger in the shadow of the trees.
Our loyalty to you we pledge, and true to you we’ll ever be.
We’ll lift the tribal banner high for all the world to see.
Faithful we will be and true, ever loyal N-L-U.

University of Louisiana at Monroe
By the bayou’s tranquil water,
Where friendships thrive and grow,
Proudly stands our Alma Mater
Ever home for us to go.
Here cypress stand in splendor
And gracefully they touch the breeze.
Though friends may leave
And lives may change
Faithful we shall always be.
Shining bright the bayou’s gem
Ever loyal to ULM.

Seal and Motto
The traditional seal or emblem of the institutions under the Board of Education were an adaptation of the official pelican seal of the State of Louisiana. The colleges used the pelican feeding the young surrounded by the name and location of the institution. However, the faculty and staff at Northeast believed that the institution needed an emblem and motto which characterized this institution of higher learning. In 1967, a special committee was asked to present designs and mottos for consideration, and the result of that work was a new seal for the university. It features a flaming torch, an open book, and the motto, “Seek the Truth.”

Education as the primary means of seeking truth is the idea expressed by the seal. The flaming torch, which is symbolic of knowledge that dispels ignorance and fear, is the focal point of the seal. Rays that emanate outward from the torch express the desire of the institution to spread knowledge through the community, the state, and the nation. An open book, symbolizing scholarly activity, is at the center of the design, since it is primarily through scholarly pursuits that the aims of the university are realized. The motto embodies the realization that the work of a university is a continuing process. The seal was designed by art professor Edward E. Schutz.

University Ring - “One Ring, One University, Connected For Life”
The first-ever official ULM ring was unveiled at the 2004 homecoming. The official ring, made by Josten’s, Inc., is a new way for ULM to celebrate and build on its rich traditions, culture, history, and pride. ULM is the first university in the University of Louisiana System to own an official, delegated ring.

As a constant reminder of your time at ULM, this ring represents you to the world and provides a unique and distinctive symbol of recognition to fellow alumni. 1931 recognizes our beginning as Ouachita Parish Junior College. The bayou symbol represents the place of our beginning and reflects the first words of our Alma Mater, “By the bayou’s tranquil water...” The six cypress trees represent our history of establishment, as they represent Ouachita Parish Junior College, Northeast Center of LSU, Northeast Junior College of LSU, Northeast Louisiana State College, Northeast Louisiana University and The University of Louisiana at Monroe. The Indian below the cypress trees symbolizes a composite of local Native American tribes of the area and reflects the mural on the Student Union Building. The opposite side of the ring contains the year of graduation over a depiction of the two most significant buildings on campus — Brown Hall and the Library. Underneath lies our official seal — always inspiring us with an open book to “Seek The Truth.” The stylized “L” in the center of the stone should be worn with its curve facing forward. This “L” represents the wonderful athletic traditions here at ULM, including championships and significant accomplishments in football, basketball, track, golf, tennis, baseball, softball, swimming, and diving, as well as representing all of the fine athletes who have competed on ULM’s fields since 1931. Surrounding the stone is our proud name, The University of Louisiana at Monroe. Students and alumni can now wear this ring proudly and gratefully — always reminded of our Maroon and Gold and all who remain a part of ULM— “Shining bright the bayou’s gem; ever loyal to ULM.”
School Colors

White and blue were the original colors adopted by the student body of Ouachita Parish Junior College in 1931. But, when LSU took over management of the school in 1934, it was LSU’s own colors, purple and gold, that floated as the masthead. In 1950, right before state legislation approved the change in the school’s governing body from LSU’s Board of Supervisors to the State Board of Education, football Coach James L. Malone, beginning his 17th season as war chief of the Tribe, ordered blue and white game uniforms thinking that the change in governing body and university name would bring back the institution’s original colors. However, a student assembly was held later on during the 1950-51 school year and campus groups presented new color choices for students to adopt. It was the spirit squad who presented the winning maroon and gold combination that is still being used today to represent the university.

Fight Song

The fight song was written by members of the band who locked themselves in the band room late one night and refused to leave until they created a fight song for the university. The song was then adopted by the rest of the student body. The lyrics have evolved with the university, but the tune remains unchanged.

Cheer for the ULM Indians,
With their fighting spirit bold.
We will keep our banners waving,
For the old maroon and gold.
Our battle cry rings to the sky,
Our goal is victory.
But win or lose, we’ll stand by you,
And ever loyal we will be.
U-L-M Go Tribe Go!

Mascot

The university’s mascot, the Indian, was chosen at a school assembly on September 30, 1931. Several depictions of the Indian have been used through the years. In 1959, a committee was appointed the task of reviewing and unifying the numerous depictions of the Indian. The committee researched extensively the Ouachita Indians, who were a sub-tribe of the Caddo Indians. Edward E. Schutz, art instructor, then completed the formal portrait which was approved and can still be found today on the Student Union Building. The emblem was also used in The Pow Wow and Alumni News, on sports uniforms and schedules, auto decals, banners and stationery. As a tribute, the Alumni Association commissioned Anita K. Peterson to make a rendering of the official emblem on canvas in 1974. In the 1980s, the university was looking for an official name to call its Indian mascot. It was athletic trainer Charlie Martin’s son, Mike, 12 years old at the time, who came up with the name Chief Brave Spirit and won the naming contest. ULM also has an “Indian on the Horse” who charges up and down the field at home football games. For many years, coach Mike Vining has provided horses for this grand tradition.

Chief Brave Spirit

Sound of Today Marching Band

The ULM Sound of Today is one of the most recognized college bands in the United States. The Sound of Today performs at all home football games and travels to select out-of-town games with the Indian football team. Membership is comprised of students from virtually every academic program on campus. The band was organized on September 21, 1932, under the direction of E. Lowery Jefferson with 23 members. The first football game performances were given that same year at the Loyola Freshman game on October 7, the LSU Freshman game on November 11, and the Little Rock Junior College game on November 24. The first public concert was held on February 15, 1933, in the auditorium. The name of the band came from Jack White, band director at the time, in the early 1970s when he received a flyer that said “Give your band the sound of today with our music.” White decided from that point that the band’s name would be The Sound of Today.

The Sound of Today

Spirit Groups

Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders promote spirit across campus by leading Indian fans in cheers and chants at pep rallies, football and basketball games, and other campus activities. In 2004, the 19-member cheerleader team competed at the Universal Cheerleaders Association’s College National Cheerleading Championship and won the national championship title in the Small Co-Ed Division I.

ULM Cheerleaders in 1943
Warbonnets

Energy, dedication, and a love of dance characterize the Warbonnets dance team. They are a modern dance and precision group that serves as the official football and basketball dance line. They serve as representatives of the university at parades and festivals throughout the United States and the world.

Indian Scouts

The Indian Scouts serve as the official hosts and hostesses for athletic and alumni events. They assist with recruiting for athletic teams, publicize various sporting events, and provide support for sporting events on campus.

Ten Little Indians and Indianettes

Although they no longer exist today, the Ten Little Indians and the Indianettes were two spirit groups who played a major role in the history of the university. The Ten Little Indians dance team was first organized during the fall of 1970. Fifteen girls were picked out of the Warbonnets to be members. They performed in a group of ten at every home basketball game. Since their formation in 1940, the Indianettes performed at every football game in their Indian costumes of purple and white flannel with ornamental metal trimming around the short flared skirts and formed a striking picture as they maneuvered on the field and perfected many intricate and colorful formations.

Indian Trackers and Hometown Indians

In 2003, the Office of Recruitment and Admissions created a special recruiting group called the Indian Trackers. Composed of students selected based on their campus involvement, academic achievement, communication skills and enthusiasm for ULM, this group’s duties include conducting campus tours, greeting visitors, and helping out at Browse on the Bayou and other recruiting events. The Hometown Indians are volunteer student recruiters who share information about ULM with prospective students, faculty, and guidance counselors in their hometown high schools.

31 Ambassadors

The 31 Ambassadors is a high profile, high-energy organization composed of ULM’s finest students. 31 Ambassadors at ULM serve as the official host for alumni-related activities while sponsoring events aimed at increasing student awareness of ULM and our Alumni Association.

The 31 Ambassadors organization, known originally as NLU 31, was formed in 1981, during the university’s 50th anniversary, after Don Weems and several students recognized a special need to create an awareness of the activities and benefits provided through the Alumni Association. The name “31 Ambassadors” commemorates the university’s founding in 1931. The 31 Ambassadors group is sponsored by the Alumni Association and is largely self-sustaining with additional funding coming from the generous contributions of benefactors and the Alumni Association.

Student Organizations

Student organizations on the ULM campus are designed to promote student growth by developing and/or promoting programs and activities that reflect varied co-curricular, developmental, leadership, social and recreational needs of our students. Currently, there are over 100 active organizations on campus.

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association was created in 1951 to promote better citizenship through the development of practice in democratic living, to develop the best interests of the college and its student body, and to satisfy current and future needs for adequate student representation and student-faculty-administration relations. The first SGA officers were Gene Clark, president, Gene Smith, vice-president, Anna Stokes, secretary, and Harry Hubenthal, treasurer.
Today, SGA is still the governing voice responsible for promoting, supporting, and meeting the needs of the ULM students, and acts as a liaison among the students, faculty, and the administration. Through various departments and task forces, SGA senators directly handle issues that may arise in the area of student life, campus programs, and university procedures. The SGA is funded through a student activity fee each semester and sponsors many ULM events.

Campus Activities Board
In 1973, the Student Government Association established the Union Board as a separate entity to arrange and handle entertainment and lecture programs for students. The Union Board changed its name to the Campus Activities Board in 2000. CAB provides ULM students programs that foster and stimulate social, cultural, multicultural, intellectual, leadership, and recreational skills. In addition to the numerous weekly events such as karaoke night, films, games, dances, speakers, and tailgating parties, CAB also sponsors the biggest events on campus such as Grovestock, Las Vegas Night, Miss ULM, Spring Fever and at least one major concert per year.

Other Student Organizations

- American Meteorological Society
- Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana
- Association of Information
- Association of Women in Science
- Baha’i Campus Association
- Baptist Collegiate Ministry
- Baptist Student Fellowship
- Beta Alpha Psi
- Beta Gamma Sigma
- 31 Ambassadors
- ACM
- Alpha Epsilon Delta
- Alpha Eta Rho (Aviation)
- Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Alpha Lambda Delta
- Alpha Omicron Pi
- Alpha Phi Alpha
- American Agricultural Economics Association
- American Association of Airport Executives
- 1985 first men’s Greek organization
- 1936 Chachahoula staff
- International Student
- January 1957 Greek women’s organization
- 2003 BCM Survival
- 9x
- Kappa Tau Alpha
- KXUL Radio
- Lambda Alpha Epsilon
- Lambda Pi Eta
- Lambda Tau National Medical Technology Society
- Louisiana Society of Health Systems Pharmacists

GreekSeekers!
Honors Program
Indian Scouts
Indian Spear
Indian Students Association
Indian Trackers
Interdenominational Ensemble
Interfraternity Council
International Students Association
Iota Phi Theta

Beta Sigma (Biology)
Block and Bridle
Chautauqua Nexus
Cheerleaders
Chi Beta Gamma
Circle K International
Clinical Laboratory Science Society
College Democrats
College of Pharmacy Student Council
Collegiate Music Educators National Conference

Construction Guild
Delta Sigma Phi
Delta Sigma Theta Inc.
Department of Kinesiology
English Studies Society
F. I. R. E.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Gamma Iota Sigma (Insurance)
Gerontology Association
Governor’s Program on Abstinence

Jr. Panhellenic Council
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
Kappa Delta Pi
Kappa Delta Sorority
Kappa Epsilon
Kappa Kappa Psi
Kappa Mu Epsilon
Kappa Omicron Nu
Kappa Pi

1957 Greek women’s organization
Military Science
Mortar Board
NAACP
National Student Speech/Language Hearing Assoc.
Pan-Hellenic Council
Pharmacy Graduate Student Association
Phi Alpha Honor Society
Phi Alpha Theta (History)
Phi Delta Chi (Pharmacy)

Phi Eta Sigma (Freshman)
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Phi Lambda Sigma
Phi Mu Fraternity
Phi Tau Gamma
Philosophy Symposium
Pi Delta Phi (Foreign Languages)
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Pi Sigma Epsilon
POW WOW

Powerlifting Team
Psi Chi
Psychology Club
Public Relation Student Society of America
Rho Chi Society
Rho Lambda
S.T.A.A.R.T
Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish)
Sigma Gamma Epsilon
Sigma Tau Delta

Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society (Nursing)
Society for Human Resource Management
Society for Professional Journalist
Speech and Debate Forum
Student American Dental Hygiene Association
Student Nurses Association
Student Occupational Therapy Association
Student Social Work Association
Tau Beta Sigma (Band)
Tau Omicron Chi

Track Phi Track
ULM Flying Tomahawks
Vietnamese Student’s Association
Warbonnets
Water Ski Team
Zeta Phi Beta
The Bayou
Fall Traditions

PREP

Started in the summer of 1976 by Barry Delcambre, registrar at the time, PREP stands for Preview Registration Environment Program. All first-time freshmen are required to attend PREP the summer prior to their freshman year. The mission of PREP is to introduce the academic, social, and cultural aspects of ULM and to promote a sense of dedication and pride among incoming students. The PREP staff, composed of leaders in academics and student life, is one of the most sought after positions on campus.

Week of Welcome

Started in the fall of 2003 as a joint effort of Recruitment and Admissions, Student Life and Leadership and other campus groups, the Week of Welcome’s purpose is to help incoming freshmen network with other students, faculty and staff to foster a sense of belonging to the ULM family. The Week of Welcome is also a way to highlight the many student organizations on campus. Traditions of the Week of Welcome include Move-In Mania, where campus representatives welcome and assist students to move into their residential hall; Back to School Pep Rally, where students meet athletes from all the fall sports and build spirit; Welcome Reception for Out-of-State and International Students held before classes begin so students and their families can network and become familiar with the campus; Spirit Day, held on the WOW Friday and every Friday thereafter, where students, faculty, and staff proudly wear their maroon and gold apparel, and many other activities.

Convocation

The official opening of the fall semester begins with Convocation. On the afternoon of the first day of classes, students, faculty, administrators and staff members assemble in front of the University Library to begin the traditional march to Fant-Ewing Coliseum. Led by the President of ULM, the Sound of Today, ULM’s proud marching band, crosses the Bayou DeSiard bridge and enters the Coliseum followed by all participants. Once in the Coliseum and after a mini-concert by the Sound of Today, the semester is declared open. Everyone is welcomed to campus, and the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes are recognized. The ceremony culminates as all in attendance join in to sing the ULM Fight Song and Alma Mater.

Grovestock

Grovestock immediately follows Convocation and is a celebration of food, music, and fun for all in the Grove. Grovestock is sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and allows students and faculty one last summer blowout before the start of classes.

Envision ULM

The first Envision ULM event was celebrated in 2004 at the Monroe Civic Center with about 900 people in attendance to mark the beginning of the 75th anniversary celebration of the university. Guests at the event enjoyed a fine dinner, music, and presentations by ULM representatives, and the first-ever ULM Hall of Distinction Award was presented to Monroe philanthropist Kitty DeGree for her distinguished record of service to and support of the university. The other main highlight of the evening was the auction for the right to administer the ceremonial “pushing of the plunger” to implore Olin Hall on September 25, 2004. Eric Hogan, Monroe Chamber president, and Ann Raines, former Monroe City Council woman, won that chance by making the $8,000 winning bid. Envision ULM is to become the university’s most significant annual community event and is the opportunity for the university and the community to come together to celebrate and showcase their mutual support.

Tailgating in the Grove

Tailgating at ULM was enhanced by university boosters Mariana and Bill Burroughs, Buddy Embanato, and others beginning in 1979 when Malone Stadium opened. Their efforts contributed to the immense growth of the gathering in the Grove during these years. However, in 1991, a threat to this tradition occurred when plans were finalized for construction of the Activity Center, a construction which was to be placed in the area where tailgating had been set up. Fortunately, Jeff Thompson, development officer for the NLU Annual Fund, and Don Weems, director of Alumni Affairs, started brainstorming as to where to relocate. The area south of Malone was largely overgrown and inaccessible, but the proximity to the stadium made the new location very desirable. Through the efforts of many people, this area was cleared, and the current location of tailgating was created.

Homecoming

Homecoming week is one of the most important times of the year at ULM with many exciting events being held by different organizations. Alumni come back to campus to enjoy the many festivities including the university mile race, homecoming parade, the election of the Homecoming Queen and King, brunches and banquets, reunions, pep rallies, Gumbo Ya-Ya, golf and tennis tournaments, tailgating and the homecoming football game.
As an old Indian omen to bring the Indian team good luck, the Student Government Association in conjunction with other campus organizations begin the annual non-stop Beating of the Drum 24 hours before the game.

The Campus Activities Board sponsors an annual Miss-ter Pageant, where male ULM students dress up as women and compete to win the "prestigious" title to represent our football opponent’s most attractive and most talented female student. The Homecoming Court representatives act as judges and the ULM President crowns the pageant winner.

Every year, the Campus Activities Board sells homecoming T-shirts featuring the homecoming theme, and the Student Government Association has begun a new tradition of giving the first 100 T-shirts away beginning at midnight on Sunday before Homecoming week.

On game day, The Sound of Today leads the Indians and all spirit groups including the famous 2004 National Champion Cheerleaders through the Grove and to Malone Stadium with the beat of the ULM Indian Drumline. The Sound of Today plays after the homecoming game and after all home football games for the football revelers and alumni.

Historical footnote on ULM Homecoming:
The first homecoming queen in fall of 1932 was Coach Jim Malone’s sweetheart, Marjorie, who later married Coach Malone and who was elected by the Indian football team even though she was a student at LSU in Baton Rouge. This was the team’s way to honor their beloved coach.

Shrimp Boil
Every fall before one of the home football games, the Alumni Association sponsors and hosts its annual La Louisiana Shrimp Boil in the Grove for alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the university.

Pep Rally
Pep Rallies are held the week before every major home game. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters gather to show their maroon and gold spirit and help spread the excitement about the upcoming game. Spirit groups such as the Cheerleaders, Warbonnets, and the Sound of Today perform to the delight of the audience.

Big Switch
The Big Switch, sponsored by the 31 Ambassadors, offers selected students the unique opportunity to experience university life for a day as the university president, or as a member of the faculty or administration. In turn, the president and the selected faculty members and administrators become these students and attend their classes. The Big Switch provides a lot of fun for all participants as it enhances good relationships between students and the administration and improves mutual understanding of what it is like to be an administrator, faculty member, or student at the university.

Chili Cook-off
To enhance the tailgating experience, to promote more on-campus activities, and to lend athletics even greater support, ULM supporters Tom Deal, Frank Elkin III, and Don Weems decided to plan, organize, and direct an annual celebration of food and competition in 1984. Since then, the Chili Cook-off has been a very popular fun-filled event that has attracted chili-heads from as far away as Texas and Arkansas. Participants are placed in the student, the faculty/staff, or the open division. On several occasions national chili cook-off champions have competed in the open division of the competition. In 2004, the Alumni Association hosted its 20th annual chili cook-off.

Christmas Madrigal
Christmas Madrigal Dinners, where guests enter the Great Hall of a medieval manor and step back in time, are a centerpiece of the School of Music. Held on three consecutive nights just after Thanksgiving, this Renaissance feast features traditional music, dance, group singing, and a meal that people might have enjoyed in England or Scotland in the 1400s through the mid 1600s. The Madrigal Dinner concept was originally introduced to the university by Dr. John Burgin, professor of Music, in 1974, and has become a significant part of the region’s celebration of Christmas. Nearly one thousand guests gather annually to celebrate the winter festival of Christmas complete with feasting, group singing by the Chamber Singers, and wassail sipping by candlelight, while being teased by the jester.
Christmas at ULM

The Christmas Tree Lighting at ULM is the result of the Student Government Association’s effort to bring to the campus new traditions, which would involve the entire ULM family. What began as a small, twinkling idea of SGA senators in 2002 has ignited as a bright and shining star for the entire campus and Monroe area. This new tradition held in early December also includes a candle lighting ceremony and Christmas carol singing to bring the holiday spirit to ULM. The event has grown with the 2003 addition of ULM Holiday Cards. These large, painted plywood cards are designed and painted by student organizations and displayed on campus and at business sites throughout the city.

Spring Traditions

Mardi Gras Ball

To celebrate a true Louisiana tradition, the Student Government Association hosted its first Mardi Gras Ball in 2003, with more than 500 students, faculty and staff in attendance. The university president and his wife begin the festivities at the ball by leading the King and Queen of the Krewe of Janus and a parade of people to the first dance, before the ULM Mardi Gras King and Queen are announced and celebrated.

The Linden Tree

In the mid 1990s, Dr. H. Perry Jones, professor of history, led efforts with other faculty to designate a place on campus for sonnets to be read and appreciated by all who gathered. The site selected for the activity was under a tree on the north side of Stubbs Hall. The tree was designated as the Linden Tree because during the Middle Ages that type of tree was considered a sacred symbol of exalted, divine power, valor and victory. The Ides of March, the 15th day of the month, was selected for the annual reading in memoriam of the day Julius Caesar was killed. As the years have passed, the genres of the readings have expanded to include more than formal sonnets. Another interesting and important aspect of this tradition is that after each reading under the Linden Tree, the audience responds with five measured claps, no more and no less, in accordance with Roman custom.

Spring Fever Week

Spring Fever is an annual week-long event which traces back to another celebration begun in the early 1960s by an instructor named Ethel Trice who taught western dance in the department of Health and Physical Education, now called Kinesiology. Each spring, the western dance classes would gather and have a dance on Go West Day. In 1967, the SGA entertainment committee partnered with the H&PE department to offer students an entire day of western-themed activities to accompany the dance. In 1973, the Union Board became an entity apart from SGA and changed the annual spring event to Spring Fever Day. As interest among the student body increased, Spring Fever Day became Spring Fever Week with concerts, movies, entertainers, dances, and cook-outs on the list of activities. Each year a T-shirt is specially designed to commemorate the week.

Oozeball

Oozeball is without any doubt ULM’s dirtiest tradition. Instituted in 1989 by the 31 Ambassadors, Oozeball has become one of the primary events of Spring Fever Week. On the Friday of Spring Fever Week, students grab their oldest, most rugged clothes and shoes and make their way to the muddy pits behind the tennis courts, where men, women, and co-ed teams compete in a mud volleyball tournament. At the end of the tournament, three teams are crowned Oozeball champions. Students and players then make their way to Malone Stadium for a free crawfish boil.
Crawfish Boil
The annual crawfish boil is another one of the most popular 31 Ambassadors’ sponsored events. Usually held right after Oozeball, it is the perfect opportunity for students to truly experience one of the most spicy and famous Louisiana traditions.

Miss ULM

Every year, many aspiring misses compete for the prestigious title of Miss ULM. The pageant participants are judged in several categories including talent, swimsuit, evening wear, interview, and overall composite. The winner receives full tuition and fees for the next two semesters and has the opportunity to compete in the Miss Louisiana pageant. Crowned in 1954, Sarah Batton Yocom was the very first Miss ULM – then NLSC. The annual event, sponsored by the Campus Activities Board, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003.

Man and Woman of the Year
Each year the Student Government Association nominates and elects the ULM Man and Woman of the Year based on work done for the university, the community, motivation to make a difference, and work ethic. Besides being honored at an awards ceremony, the recipients of the award also receive a scholarship and a plaque denoting their efforts.

Year-round Traditions

Browse on the Bayou
Browse on the Bayou is the official campus visit day for prospective students and families. Started by Enrollment Services as High School Career Day, the event was jazzed up and became Browse on the Bayou in the fall of 1997. Prospective students and their families learn about academics, student life, athletics, and financial aid, and have the opportunity to take guided tours of the campus. Browse on the Bayou is typically held in conjunction with home sporting events in the fall and spring.

Emerging Scholars Program
Started in 2002 in an effort to increase student retention rates, the purpose of the Emerging Scholars Program is to strengthen undergraduate research by pairing freshmen and sophomores with faculty members in an area of common interests. More than 100 students participate in the program each semester. Students selected for the program receive a $400 stipend per semester to participate as junior colleagues in the professional activities of their mentor professor. Whether in science or history, art or agriculture, Emerging Scholars and their mentors are adding important new ideas and creations to the university and mankind’s body of knowledge.

Midnight Breakfast
Each semester, on one night during final exams week, students gather at midnight to enjoy a midnight breakfast, kick back and hang out with friends. The Midnight Breakfast gives students the opportunity to take a break from their intense studying and to enjoy free food served by faculty members and staff. President Cofer started this tradition in 2002 to involve every member of the ULM family in the final exam process.
Commencement

Ouachita Parish Junior College graduated its first class of 135 students in June 1933. The ceremony was held in Brown Auditorium. In June 1962, Northeast Louisiana State College awarded its first master’s degrees to Olive Cochran, Elizabeth S. Firnberg, Marguerite W. Headrick, Betty Hill, Florine M. King, and Olive R. Wall. The institution was integrated for the first time in the 1960s and the first African-Americans to graduate from Northeast Louisiana State College were Sarah McCoy in 1964 and Donald Smith in 1967.

Today, Commencement ceremonies are held in the spring, fall and summer in Fant-Ewing Coliseum. Commencement is the solemn, yet joyous, celebration of those who made it to the end. It is the time to take your final walk as a student and your first walk as a graduate in front of your proud family and friends. When the year finally arrives for you to say goodbye to your student life at ULM, you will surely have fond memories of the many friends you have met, your midnight study sessions at the library, your meetings with professors, and may be even your mid-term and final exams. The excitement and pride to finally get that cap, gown, and diploma will reach its peak and many remember graduation day as one of the most exciting days of their lives. While some of you will enter a career and others will attend graduate school, wherever you go, you will look forward to a bright future and remember your days at ULM forever. After the commencement ceremony you will officially become an alumnus of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.
**Football**

The ULM football team has won **two national championships**, produced 53 all-Americans, and sent more than 50 players to the NFL, including three Super Bowl quarterbacks. The success of ULM football began early in the school’s junior college days. As Northeast Center of LSU in the college’s fifth year of existence, 1935, the Indians were acclaimed the **No. 1** junior college team in the country after going undefeated and untied and allowing only six points the entire season. Two years later, led by Bobby Kellogg, later an all-SEC back at Tulane, the Indians were again unbeaten. The team tied once, beat Arkansas A&M 111-0 in their first game and finished the year as the nation’s highest scoring team, junior or senior college. When ULM’s 20-year junior college era ended in 1951, the National Junior College Athletic Association rated ULM, then-Northeast, the No. 6 all-time JC program based on its yearly national rankings.

ULM has had several nationally ranked division II teams, including the 1967 squad that featured star running back Joe Profit, the first African-American to play football at a predominately white Louisiana college and later the seventh player selected in the NFL draft. After becoming a member of Division I-AA in 1982, ULM consistently made the national rankings. Under the leadership of Pat Collins and led by future Super Bowl quarterback Stan Humphries, the Indians went 13-2 and won the **1987 I-AA national championship** by defeating Marshall, 43-42, in the title game.

In 1992, ULM was ranked **No. 1** at the end of the regular season in the final NCAA 1-AA poll and finished the season 10-3. **ULM moved into Division I-A football** in 1994 and late that season shocked Southeastern Conference member Kentucky, 21-14. After competing as an independent during its first seven years in 1-A, the university became a charter member of the Sun Belt Football Conference in 2001.

**Men’s Basketball**

Men’s basketball has been one of the most consistently successful ULM sports. The Indians have won **more season and tournament championships in the Southland Conference than any other member** and **made the most NCAA Tournament appearances** at seven. ULM has also appeared in two National Invitational Tournaments and was the first Louisiana university besides LSU to be selected for that prestigious meet. At one time, Indian teams had a streak of 21 consecutive winning seasons, the nation’s fourth longest in Division I basketball behind Louisville, UCLA and Toledo.

There had been outstanding teams before his arrival, but ULM enjoyed its most consistent success after Lenny Fant became coach in 1957. Fant was head coach for 22 years, winning 326 games, and his winning tradition has been continued by his two protégés who followed him as coach, first Benny Hollis and now Mike Vining, stretching the ULM coaching dynasty to 48 years. Vining is not only ULM’s all-time leading winning coach with 394 victories but also ranks as the Southland Conference’s No. 1 winner and is in the top 30 nationally.

ULM has won a total of 18 conference or district season or tournament championships over the years and is **one of the relatively few universities to send its basketball teams to three national tournaments**—the NAIA during the school’s college division days, the NCAA and the NIT.

Among the outstanding players who have worn Indian uniforms are Calvin Natt, an all-American and NBA all-star; Glynn Saulters, the first player from a Louisiana college to make the U.S. Olympic basketball team and also later a professional player; and Wojciech Myrda, who recently broke the NCAA record for career blocked shots. ULM has produced a total of six all-Americans and 31 first team all-conference players.
Women's Basketball

ULM has a strong tradition in women’s basketball. It is, for example, one of only three Louisiana universities to play in the NCAA Final Four in the sport. It is also one of only three teams in the state and one of two in the Southland Conference to have players selected to nationally recognized all-American teams.

The Lady Indians’ greatest basketball success came in the 1980s when All-Americans Eun Jung Lee and Lisa Ingram led ULM to 102 wins against only 15 losses, three conference championships and three trips to the NCAA Tournament. The greatest of those teams was the 1985 edition that went to the Final Four and finished with the country’s best record, 30-2. ULM also ranked among the national attendance leaders during that period, as high as second place.

Later teams have not matched the high standard set by the 1982-86 players, but ULM has continued to produce outstanding squads. The 1987 team, for example, went back to the NCAA Tournament under Coach Linda Harper, and Roger Stockton’s 1994 squad won 21 games and played in the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

Baseball

Recent major league pitching stars Chuck Finley and Ben Sheets personify the success that ULM has enjoyed in baseball over the years.

ULM was a power in the old Gulf States Conference, winning nine conference and NAIA district championships in the 1960s and 1970s. The greatest of those college division teams was the 1970 club that was runner-up in the NAIA World Series. That team was powered by a great four-man pitching rotation led by all-American Tom Brown, later to pitch in the major leagues.

Finley would pitch on division I Indian teams of the early 1980s before going on to win more than 200 games in the majors. ULM’s finest division I years would come in the late 1990s and early 2000s when current LSU coach Roger Finley in 1983 led ULM a nine-division team to victory over Cuba in the 2000 Olympics before reaching the majors as an All-Star Game hurler for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Track & Field

John Pennel, who broke the 17-foot barrier in the pole vault; Dave & Don Styron, the greatest twin combination in track history; Olympic javelin thrower Breaux Greer; NCAA heptathlon champ Lauri Young; Coach Bob Groseclose—these are some of the magic names of ULM’s glorious track history.

Indian track athletes have broken or tied six world records; won 15 national individual titles, eight in NCAA division I; placed in the top 25 in eight NCAA team championship meets; produced five undefeated seasons and won 19 conference team championships.

Tennis

With 8 wins, ULM’s women’s tennis team has won more Southland Conference championships than any other team, has been nationally ranked four times and produced two All-Americans.

Before the men’s tennis team was disbanded in 2002, it had won 13 SLC titles—the most of any school—plus six in other conferences. It had been nationally ranked six times and produced two All-Americans.

Golf

The Indians are the current kings of the Hill in the Southland Conference, one of the stronger golf leagues in the country. ULM won the 2004 championship with a dramatic sudden death playoff victory over three-time champion Lamar. Before that, the Indians had two previous second-place finishes in the SLC tournament in 1986-87 and 1994-95. The only previous conference title came in 1967-68 when ULM won the Gulf States Conference crown.
Softball

Softball became an Indian sport in 1980. Under Coach Rosemary Holloway, the Lady Indians have won the 1992 National Invitational Tournament championship, claimed three Southland Conference titles, ranked in the Top 20, and produced the league’s only all-American, Sarah Dawson.

Women’s Soccer

Lady Indians soccer began in 1999 and is ULM’s youngest sport. The team experienced its first victory, after two losses, over Tennessee Tech on Rachal Casillas’ goal. Stacy Lamb, a four-time all-conference player at Lees-McRae College in North Carolina, became head coach in 2001 and led ULM to a breakout season. Lamb was subsequently recognized as “Coach of the Year” by both the Southland Conference and the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. In 2004, the Lady Indians were 14-6-2, the best record in school history and the highest winning percentage in the conference.

ULM had a men’s soccer program from 1979 to 1985. The program achieved considerable success (a 67-43-5 record) under coach Jim Kane, but was discontinued in 1985. Some stars of ULM men’s soccer include Wayne Williams, Marty Buckheimer, and Tom Cooper.

Swimming and Diving

ULM’s first swim team, consisting of 13 men and eight women, hit the water in 1980 under the direction of coach Peter Clark. John Pittington was named head coach in 1983 and served as head coach of the Indian swimming and diving programs for the next 21 years. Pittington, who passed away in 2004, was one of the most respected swimming coaches in the nation. A three-time national Independent Conference Coach of the Year, Pittington built the ULM swim program and also helped form the Indian Aquatic Club. He compiled a 166-114 men’s swimming record and a 99-131-1 women’s record at the helm of the ULM Swimming and Diving program. In 1994, Pittington guided the Indians to their best ever record of 13-2, including a second-place finish at the National Independent Championships. He led the Tribe to a 16-3 record and a third-place finish at the NIC meet in 1998. Zita Zalai became the first individual Sun Belt Conference champion under Pittington, winning the 100 and 200-Butterfly events in ULM’s second season as a SBC member.

Women’s Volleyball

Women’s volleyball began as a club sport in the 1960s and became a varsity sport in 19822 with the formation of the Southland Women’s Conference. The team was originally coached by Cherrie Walker, who also coached basketball and softball. Rosemary Holloway became head coach in 1984 until 2000 and gave ULM its first taste of success moving up to fourth place in the Southland at 3-3 with a winning record overall (24-17). In 2002, the team won two conference games, including the first ever win over Southwest Texas, one of the perennial powers in SLC volleyball.

Water Skiing

Started by Tom Murphy, former dean of students, the ULM water ski team is the undisputed king of the world in college water skiing. The team has won 18 national championships in water skiing in only 26 years. In addition to its 18 championships against eight for everybody else, ULM has also claimed second place five times. According to Coach Bill Bagley, the bayou that flows through the campus is a dream come true for a student water skier. Over the years, the team has included many national and world champions such as Regina Jacquess, Olivier Fortamps, and Ryan Fitts.

Powerlifting

The ULM Powerlifting team was founded in 2001 with only two members and has had great success since then. The team has now grown to twenty-two members and has twice ranked third in the nation against such schools as Navy, The University of Texas, Texas A&M, Air Force, Louisiana Tech, LSU, and other Division I-A programs. In three years the ULM Powerlifting team has produced six all-American lifters.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON ULM SPORTS

Conference: In July 2004, all 17 athletic teams were officially invited to join the Sun Belt Conference. Within the next two years all sports will be unified under one conference competing in Division I-A athletics.

Nicknames: Indians, Lady Indians

School Colors: Maroon & Gold

Major Facilities: Malone Stadium (30,427), Fant-Ewing Coliseum (8,000), Indian Field (3,000).

Sports: Baseball, Basketball (M, W), Football, Golf (M), PowerLifting (M,W), Soccer (W), Softball, Swimming/Diving (M,W), Tennis (W), Track and Field (M,W), Volleyball (W), and club sports Water Skiing (M,W) and Power Lifting (M,W).
The purpose of the ULM Hall of Fame is to strengthen and perpetuate athletic traditions at the university. Membership in the Athletic Hall of Fame consists only of those outstanding former athletes, coaches, and administrators whose dedication and performance merit the greatest athletic honors that the university can bestow.

- Margo Alvarez (Tennis)
- Bob Anderson (SID)
- Perry Beaver (Football)
- Vic Bender (Football)
- Henry W. “Woody” Boyles (Football)
- Bill Bradley (Basketball)
- Claude Brawner (Football)
- Bobby Brister (Football)
- Marvin Brosset (Baseball)
- Tom Brown (Baseball)
- Wayne Burney (Baseball)
- Joe Canal (Baseball)
- James “Chick” Childress (Football)
- Scott Claycomb (Swimming)
- Pat Collins (Coach, Football)
- Bob Cooper (Golf)
- Lloyd Crocker (Basketball)
- Bob DeMoss (Coach, Football)
- Joe Driskill (Football)
- Sherry Dunkin (W Tennis)
- Charley Dykes (Baseball)
- Don “Buddy” Eiland (Track)
- Tommy Enloe (Basketball)
- Andre Ester (Track)
- Lenny Fant (Coach, M Basketball)
- Doug Farr (Golf)
- Chuck Finley (Baseball)
- Ronnie Fountain (Track)
- Kenneth Frith (Football)
- Teddy Garcia (Football)
- Larry Giambelluca (Football)
- Melvin Gibson (Basketball)
- Bob Groseclose (Coach, Track)
- Linda Harper (Coach, W Basketball)
- Jackie Harris (Football)
- Jerry Harris (Track)
- John Hollingsworth (Track)
- Stuart Holman (Football)
- Brenda Hook (W Tennis)
- Stan Humphries (Football)
- Lisa Ingram (W Basketball)
- Jerry Jingles (Basketball)
- Larry Johnson (Basketball)
- Bobby Kellogg (Football)
- Arnold Kilpatrick (Coach, Men’s Basketball, AD)
- Eddie Kincaid (Baseball)
- Billy Laird (Football)
- Dalton LeBlanc (Track, Football)
- Eun Jung Lee (W Basketball)
- George Laffey (Coach, Baseball, Asst. Coach, Football)
- James L. Malone (Coach, Football)
- Charlie Martin (Trainer)
- Terry Mathews (Baseball)
- Al Miller (Football)
- Tom Miller (Football, Golf, Track)
- Terry Moor (Tennis)
- Roger Morgan (Track)
- Calvin Natt (Basketball)
- Van Pardue (Baseball)
- Wayne Peddy (Golf)
- John Pennel (Track)
- David Pickett (Basketball)
- Joe Profit (Football)
- Everett “Sleepy” Reynolds (Football)
- Tag Rome (Football)
- Mike Rose (Basketball)
- Kenny Roussel (Baseball)
- Lou St. Amant (Coach, Baseball)
- Glynn Searlers (Basketball)
- Warren Shanklin (Track)
- Robert Shelton (Golf)
- Hugh Smith (Football)
- Pam Smith (Track)
- Henry Steele (Basketball)
- Stewart Stover (Football)
- Dave Styron (Track)
- Don Styron (Track)
- Hugh Taylor (Football)
- Alton Thomas (Football, Baseball)
- Harold Thompson (Football)
- Mike Thompson (Basketball)
- Stuart Toms (Basketball)
- Phil Trahan (Tennis)
- Larry Turner (Baseball)
- Jimmy Upton (Track)
- Aubrey Wade (Football)
- Dixie White (Coach, Football)
- Lauri Young (Track)
The Alumni Association: Embrace a Lifetime of Benefits

First organized in 1952, the Alumni Association’s mission is to support the fulfillment of the university’s mission through the meaningful engagement of its alumni. The Alumni Association has 17 national chapters and 3 academic chapters, and draws its membership from over 55,000 graduates worldwide.

The association’s objective is to add value to the university’s efforts in fund raising, student recruitment and political support, and to develop additional capacity to add value in these and other areas of university endeavors. Individuals and couples can become annual or lifetime members of the association.

The Golden Society

As part of the university’s Golden Anniversary celebration, Billy Laird and Don Weems decided to create the Golden Society and organized a special event to honor graduates from 1931. The first group of 50-year graduates was recognized, celebrated and was given special mementos and diploma certificates in 1981. The tradition continues each year as previous honorees are invited back to enjoy a celebration with the new 50-year class.

The Quarter Century Club

Organized by Billy Laird, Pat Ray and others in 1981 as part of the university’s Golden Anniversary celebration, the Quarter Century Club recognizes long-time service — 25 years and more — for professional staff and faculty. The ULM Foundation provides funding for an elegant dinner and 25-year commemorative gifts, which are presented to each inductee.

The ULM Foundation: A tribute to the past – an investment in the future

The ULM Foundation, originally called the Northeast Louisiana University Foundation, was established in 1961 as a private non-profit organization dedicated to the growth, development and enhancement of the university. The purpose of the Foundation is to function as a service organization to the academic and student development communities by broadening the university’s base of financial support through the coordination and centralization of major fundraising and gift solicitation activities.

Of increasing importance is the Foundation’s responsibility for administrative oversight of contributions received on behalf of the university from private citizens, companies, corporations, and foundations. All monies and gifts-in-kind received into the Foundation are routed through the chief development officer for proper recording and acknowledgement. Funds are invested according to policies recommended by the Foundation Investment Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. The funds are disbursed according to donor specification, provided there is no conflict with existing tax law and Foundation policy.

The Foundation has grown steadily in assets and in the level and range of support provided to ULM’s academic and student development programs. To date, enrichment activities provided through the Foundation’s development program have touched many areas of university life, including faculty and staff development, student recruitment, student scholarships, and financial aid. Today a 27-member board of trustees, an elected group of business and professional leaders, provide policy and budgetary leadership for the Foundation.

The ULM Annual Fund is the core development program that generates private support for academic excellence at ULM. Other ways of giving to ULM include cash gifts, planned gifts, memorial and honoraria, major gifts, program gifts, real estate gifts, wills, gift annuities, and naming opportunities.

On September 9, 2004, at the first Envision ULM celebration, the ULM Foundation presented the first-ever Hall of Distinction Award to Monroe philanthropist Kitty DeGree for her exceptionally distinguished record of service and support of the university.

The Indian Athletic Foundation: “Do More... Expect More”

The Indian Athletic Foundation is ULM’s athletic pillar. Comprised of individuals and businesses that have a common interest in the overall athletic program, the IAF strives to secure the necessary means to improve a student athlete academically and to enhance the university’s image through athletic excellence.

The IAF originally started as the Quarterback Club of Northeast Louisiana State College in 1953 as a men-only club. During the early years, members of the club had the chance to win a new Thunderbird provided at no cost by Curtis Nichols and later by Slim Scogin. The Quarterback Club evolved into the Booster Club in 1956 with membership open to both men and women. Curtis Nichols was the first president of
both the Quarterback Club and the Booster Club. The Booster club then merged with the Athletic Scholarship Foundation in 1976 and the organization was renamed the Indian Athletic Foundation in 2004.

The Tomahawker Club, which is no longer in existence today, was instrumental in starting the athletic tradition of tailgating at the old Brown Stadium. Billy Laird, Bob Jackson, Richard Burgoine, and Joe David Cascio helped start the club, whose members met on Tuesday nights to hear the coach speak and later placed a repossessed trailer at the north end of Brown Stadium for booster receptions before and after the games. Membership was only $12 per year and the club’s membership drive motto was “A Buck A Month.”

The L-Club
The L-Club is the organization comprised of all former ULM athletes. Its primary purpose is to bond all of our former athletes together through communication and special events. It provides support for athletics, the Alumni Association, and the university, and encourages its membership to return to campus as often as possible. It reunites teammates and friends and generates and rekindles enthusiasm for all things involving the university.

The Golden Arrow Award
The Golden Arrow Award was established in 1981 by the Alumni Association to recognize outstanding alumni who have distinguished themselves through service to the Alumni Association and the university. Golden Arrow award recipients include:

1981 Theo Coenen, III (BA ’61) practices law in Rayville. He served as president of the Alumni Association in 1972 and 1973, and also served as president of the 5th District Bar Association.

1981 William Knight (’42) attended Northeast Junior College on a band scholarship. After leaving the military, he completed his degree at LSU and attended dental school at Baylor University. Knight was the leading force in establishing the Dallas Chapter of the Alumni Association.

1982 Lawson L. Swearingen, Jr. (BA ’66) served as president of ULM for over a decade. He also served in the Louisiana senate. Swearingen was honored with the David C. Silverstein Memorial Civic Award in 1996. He served as president of the Alumni Association from 1976 to 1978.

1983 James Moore, Jr. (BS ’71) served as president of the Alumni Association, president of the College of Business Alumni, was a member of the College of Business Advisory Board, and a member of the ULM Foundation. In 1980, he was recognized as the Outstanding Alumnus for the College of Business. He was selected as the Outstanding Young Man by the Jaycees in 1979. He is president of Kellogg-Moore Oil Company, Inc., Moore Oil of Florida, Inc., and Kellogg-Moore Transport Company, Inc.

1984 Jimmy Dimos (BA ’60) received his Juris Doctor’s degree from Tulane University Law School. He began practicing law in 1964. He represented district 16 in the Louisiana House of Representatives. He is a member of the 4th District Bar Association and Louisiana State Bar Association. Dimos is a past president of the Monroe Jaycees and the ULM Alumni Association. He serves as a Judge in the 4th Judicial District.

1984 John Ensminger, Sr. (BS ’56) opened a State Farm agency in Monroe. Ensminger served as State Representative for District 14 and was a member of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury. In 1984, he served as the chairman of the ULM Annual Fund Drive and Big Indian Club. He served two terms as president of the ULM Alumni Association.

1985 Talmadge Foster (BS ’54) was elected Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Business Administration for the 1978 spring semester. He attended the University of Texas Graduate School of Accounting in Austin. He served as president of the Dallas Chapter of the Alumni Association. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

1986 Joe Kalil (Deceased) (’40) served as Mayor and on the Board of Aldermen for the city of Rayville. In addition, he served as president of the Louisiana Municipal Association, as president of the Rayville Kiwanis Club, the Rayville Quarterback Club, the ULM Alumni Association, and the ULM Booster Club.

1987 Keith Babb (BA ’67) was a radio and television announcer and news director for KNOE-TV before entering private business. He is a past president of the ULM Alumni Association. He has served as director of Ouachita National Bank, trustee for the Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home, chairman of the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board, and as a member of the Louisiana Board of Trustees for state colleges and universities. He is the owner of Keith Babb and Associates.

1987 John Rea (BA ’68) is the owner of John Rea Realty in Monroe and West Monroe. In 1986, he was the Annual Fund chairman and Big Indian Club chairman for the ULM Alumni Association. He served as the Alumni Association president in 1983. Rea served on the board of directors for the Monroe Rotary Club, as president of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, and is a former commissioner of the Louisiana Real Estate Commission.

1988 Evelyn Blackmon (BS ’67) served as president of the ULM Alumni Association in 1978 and 1979. She also served as the chairperson for the Annual Fund Drive, the Big Indian Club, and as president of the Monroe-West Monroe Board of Realtors. In 1976, she was elected Realtor of the Year. In 1979, she served as the first woman president of the Louisiana Realtors Association. She served on the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry and in the Louisiana House as the representative for district 15. In 1979, she was recognized as the distinguished alumna for the ULM College of Business and is a recipient of the A. O. Evans Award.
1989  Blake Pitre (BS '62) has been a registered community pharmacist in Houma for 27 years. He was a member of the Big Indian Club and served as president of the Bayou Country Chapter of the Alumni Association. He received the Pharmacy Alumni Award in 1977. He served two terms as president of the Louisiana Pharmacist Association, was awarded the Bowl of Hygia Award in 1973, and selected as Pharmacist of the Year in 1979. Pitre served as president of the Southeast Louisiana Pharmaceutical Association and on the Utilization Committee of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital Pharmacy. He was elected to the Terrebonne Parish Police Jury in 1972 and 1976.

1990  Sam Rubin, Jr. (’48) went into the jewelry business with his father. He served on the Board of Directors of First American Bank, as president of the ULM Booster Club and as president of the Alumni Association. He was a member of the Big Indian Club and the ULM Foundation. He received the Service to Mankind Award in 1975 from the Sertoma Club and the Jaycee’s Man of the Year Award in 1955.

1991  Clarke M. Williams, Jr. (Deceased) (’74) served as vice chairman of the Board, president and chief executive officer of Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. During the Viet Nam War, he served as a medic specialist and received the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star. He served on the Board of Directors of the ULM Foundation, River Oaks School, Hibernia Bank of Monroe, and the Ouachita Valley Council Boy Scouts. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors of U.S. Telephone Association, as chairman of the USTA Investor Relations Committee, on the Louisiana Telephone Association, the Louisiana Council for Fiscal Reform, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Northeast Louisiana and the Twin City Art Foundation.

1992  Melvin Rambin (Deceased) (BS ’64) served as an Army personnel officer at Ft. Polk in 1966-67 and received the Army Commendation Medal. Rambin started his banking career in 1968 at Louisiana National Bank in Baton Rouge and served as president of Premier Bank, later Bank One, in Monroe. In 2000, he was elected Mayor of the city of Monroe. Rambin served on the Louisiana Board of Regents, as president of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, on the board of the Council for a Better Louisiana and United Way of Northeast Louisiana. He chaired the ULM Annual Fund drive in 1990 and set a record with an increase in giving of 24%.

1993  Vern Wilson (BS ’54) attended ULM on a football scholarship. He spent two years in the Army and coached at the secondary level until 1962 when he received his Master’s degree from West Virginia University. He started his own insurance practice in Houston in 1969. He is a past president of the Houston Chapter of CLUs and served on that board of directors for eight years. He is also a past president of the School of Insurance and Financial Services at the University of Houston. Wilson was active in organizing the Houston Chapter of the Alumni Association and served as president from 1972-1973.

1994  Van Pardue (BBA ’71) received the Outstanding Young Man award in 1967. He was inducted into the ULM Hall of Fame in 1989 and was named Outstanding ULM School of Business Alumni in 1990. Pardue is a banker and currently serves as president of Iberia Bank’s operations in Monroe. He served as vice president of the Monroe Youth Baseball Association, chairman of the Monroe Parks and Recreation Board, president of the ULM Alumni Association, chairman of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Ouachita Economic Development Corporation, president and campaign chairman for the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, and president of the Indian Athletic Foundation.

1995  B. J. Robison (BS ’58) spent three years in the Marine Corps based in Okinawa and North Carolina. This Monroe native progressed through the ranks of Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company as a sales representative, district manager, regional sales manager, and regional operations manager. In addition, he served as vice president of sales for Pfizer Labs, vice president of Pfizer’s Employee Resources Division, vice president of Pfizer, Inc. and president of their Consumer Health Care Group. For many years he contributed to the ULM School of Pharmacy culminating with the establishment of the Pfizer Inc.-B.J. Robinson Professorship in Pharmacy. He was active in the ULM Alumni Association and served on the board of the ULM Foundation.

1996  Stan Waldrop (BS ’72) is the founder and former managing partner of JPI Corporation of Irving, Texas. Waldrop was instrumental in JPI’s decision to provide the ULM School of Construction with computers and software for a new computer lab. In 2003, JPI was selected to design, build and manage the new ULM on-campus housing project.

1997  E. Edwards Barham (MS ’89) is a farmer from Oak Ridge, Louisiana. He is a former state senator and former member of the Louisiana Board of Regents. He is the founding chairman of the Louisiana Technical College Board of Supervisors, and the first chairman of the LSU Ag Development Council. He also served on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Ethics, and was the driving force behind LSU’s and ULM’s Ag-aviation programs.

1998  Thomas J. Nicholson (BBA ’74) finished first in his class with a perfect grade point average. Nicholson is the president and CEO of Strauss Interests in Monroe. He served as president of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, president of the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, twice as president of the ULM Alumni Association, and president of the Ouachita Economic Development Corporation. He is a recipient of the Rambin-Silverstein Award and the Entergy Community Service Award. In 2003 The News Star recognized him as one of the top ten most influential businessmen in northeast Louisiana.

1999  Henry A. Little (Deceased) (BS ’61) served as president of the ULM Alumni Association from 1974 to 1975. He played a critical role in arranging for the Anna Gray Noel Alumni Center and served on a number of Alumni Association Committees, including the scholarship foundation. He served on the board of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, the Dixie Youth Baseball Association, and the Ouachita Valley Council of the Boy Scouts. He was a member of many professional organizations including the American Institute of CPA’s and the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

2000  Susan Hoffman (BBA ’77, MBA ’80) served as president of the ULM Alumni Association and board member for the ULM Athletic Scholarship Foundation. She served as chairman of the West Monroe -West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce, on the board of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, and on the City of Monroe’s Mayor’s Commission. She is employed by Bank One in their Monroe office as first vice president.

2001  Lawrence White (BS ’70, MBA ’72) is a former ULM Alumni Association president who served as Alumni Association regional vice president and board member, as a member of the Booster Club, as a long time Associate with the ULM Foundation, and as a member of the Friends of the Library. He was instrumental in starting the Alumni Association’s Life Member program. He hosted numerous membership and
student recruitment meetings in his home area. He was involved in Habitat for Humanity and Rotary Club.

2002  **Don Weens** (BBA ’75, MBA ’76) was employed by ULM for many years. He served as associate director for university advancement, director of alumni affairs, and director of admissions. He also worked as a part-time instructor of economics in the College of Business Administration. Weens was responsible for creating the ULM 31 Ambassadors. He served on the board of directors of the American Red Cross, the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, and the Northeast Chapter of the Louisiana Restaurant Association. As co-owner of the Waterfront Grill restaurant in Monroe, he was named 2002 Restaurateur of the Year.

2003  **Charles R. McDonald** (BS ’61, MEd ’66, EdD ’73) served as director of program for the Placement Office at ULM before his election to the Louisiana House of Representatives. He serves as chairman of the Appropriations Committee and on the Education Committee. He was instrumental in establishing the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). In 1972 he was recognized as the Educator of the Year for Morehouse Parish. He was also recognized as the Outstanding Graduate of the ULM College of Education. He is a member of the Optimist Club, the Lions Club and the Bastrop-Morehouse Chamber of Commerce.

2004  **Bruce Hanks** (BBA ’76, MBA ’77) served as ULM athletic director for three years, as president of the Indian Athletic Foundation, and president of the Alumni Association. Hanks earned his bachelor’s with a perfect grade-point average becoming one of only 64 graduates ever to attain that honor. He was named Outstanding Student and Graduating Senior in the School of Business, and Outstanding Senior in Accounting. He serves on the CenturyTel Board of Directors.

**Sources**


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*The News Star*. 411 North 4th Street, Monroe, Louisiana, 71201.

*The Pow Wow*. University of Louisiana at Monroe Library, Special Collections, Monroe, Louisiana, 71209.

**Testimonials**

**FEEDBACK FORM**

If you know of a tradition that has been overlooked or would like to share more information about the traditions listed in the book, please send your information, documentation, corrections, or comments to The Bayou Editor, University Relations, 3601 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71209 or via e-mail to thebayou@ulm.edu

<p>| Name: __________________________ |
| Address: _________________________ |
| Home Phone/Business phone: _______ |
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