

ULM

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1 2007

Real-World Experience
Vitamin E and Breast Cancer
Coach Lou; Televised Turf

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE



Dramatic Accomplishments Highlight the Arts

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



James & Deborah Cofer

Committed to supporting a culture of excellence, we at the University of Louisiana at Monroe dedicate ourselves to the quality of student learning and student life. Our latest issue of the *ULM Magazine* amply demonstrates that commitment, as we take a look at a few of the individuals who make ULM the vigorous institution it is today.

We begin with a spotlight on our three new deans, fully prepared to direct their colleges to ever-increasing achievement. While they build upon the foundation established by their predecessors, the new deans augment these successes through their unwavering support for competitive standards and program accreditation. Dr. Sandra Lemoine, Dr. Denny Ryman, and Dr. Jeffrey Cass look to bring quality instruction and research to the campus.

You can find academic and professional success all over campus. Consider the following:

- Paul Sylvester, an innovative pharmacy professor, received a \$618,000 research grant funding the investigation of vitamins A and E in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer.
- With the assistance of our faculty, our students are traveling the world gaining real-world experience to build on the knowledge they are acquiring in their classrooms. They're interning at highly-competitive places such as Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Canada's Ernst & Young, the second largest CPA firm in the world.
- Catching the state of Louisiana's attention with the unveiling of the Visual and Performing Arts' Louisiana Lyric Opera, ULM contributes to both the cultural and economic capital of the state, earning inclusion in the World Cultural Economic Forum
- The Athletics Department continues to produce impressive contributions by alumni like Stan Humphries, faculty like triathlete and Team USA member Lisa Colvin, and university greats like Coach Lou St. Amant.
- Alumni have assumed leadership roles at Walt Disney World and The Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge, they have brought their legal expertise to bear upon social issues, and they have walked the halls of the Space Camp Hall of Fame. Alumni are distinguished in their careers, interested in social justice, and generous in their gifts back to the community. We are so proud of their accomplishments.

There is no stopping the enthusiasm and drive of ULM students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Our record-breaking Student Satisfaction Survey results showcase just that. We hope you enjoy the following look at what your support for ULM has wrought.

James E. Cofer, Sr.
President

ULM

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE

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ON THE COVER

Corey Trahan in the role of Seymour, negotiates with Audrey, the hungry plant (played by puppeteer Scott Flanagan and voice by Stephen Seals) in Little Shop of Horrors, the premiere offering of Louisiana Lyric Opera (see story, page 8)

INSIDE BACK COVER: *Shadows lengthen in front of Sandel Hall, current home to the bookstore and the Office of Recruitment and Admissions. Following a scheduled \$8.3 million renovation, Sandel will become a convenient "one-stop shop", consolidating all student-related administrative functions in one area.*

Students give ULM high marks

University of Louisiana at Monroe students have rated ULM higher than ever before on a national student satisfaction survey—which also found that ULM students are happier with their education than those at other institutions.

ACT, the organization known for its college entrance exams, conducts the annual Student Opinion Survey. Overall student satisfaction at ULM is 3.99, above the national average of 3.93 on a five-point scale.

Among the items the students praised most highly: the faculty's attitude toward students, value of advice from advisors, preparation for future occupations, availability of faculty outside the classroom, and ULM facilities and programs.

This is no surprise to ULM President James Cofer. He credits much of ULM's success over the

past five years to the diligence of faculty and staff. "The initiatives of our faculty and staff both inside and outside the classroom are working. The things our faculty are doing with our students are clearly what they want and what they need. These survey results reflect that," he said.

STUDENTS SAY ULM IS OUTSTANDING IN THESE AREAS:

- Concern for you as an individual
- Instruction in major field
- Course content in major field
- Student voice in college policies
- Classroom facilities
- Student Union

Source: ACT Student Opinion Survey (Four-Year Colleges) 2007



DeSiard Street Renaissance rises

The front of ULM along DeSiard Street has a fresh look with major renovations to the parking lots, including a new brick and decorative wrought iron fence.

Last summer the DeSiard lots were demolished and replaced with redesigned lots that feature additional entrances.

Using ULM's blonde brick motif, accented with wrought iron and monument entrance markers, the front of campus is now an impressive sight.

"ULM's campus is a true example of an exterior that reflects an inner confidence," said ULM President James Cofer. "The DeSiard Street Renaissance, which provides ULM with an attractive and formal entrance to our university, significantly adds to that confidence."

ULM Facilities, Inc., a non-profit university-affiliate organization, arranged for financing and construction of the \$5.5 million DeSiard Street Renaissance and the Intermodal Transportation Facility projects, with the assistance of Congressman Rodney Alexander, and the U.S. Department of Transportation and other federal funding.



Three of ULM's five colleges have new deans this fall. They are, from left, Jeffrey Cass in the College of Arts and Sciences, Sandra M. Lemoine in the College of Education and Human Development, and Denny G. Ryman in the College of Health Sciences.

Three new deans take helm

The fall semester at the University of Louisiana at Monroe welcomes three new deans— Sandra M. Lemoine in the College of Education and Human Development, Jeffrey Cass in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Denny G. Ryman in the College of Health Sciences.

Lemoine comes to ULM from Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., where she served as dean of the College of Education and professor of physical education and exercise science.

"When I interviewed for the position I was very impressed with the energy here at ULM,"

Lemoine said. "I felt that this was a university with a clear vision for the future. Now at the end of two months on the job, I am both humbled and exhilarated. It is certainly exciting to be in a position to make positive changes."

"We have begun work on several initiatives in the College of Education and Human Development, including reaccreditation, recruiting and retaining top faculty, staff and students, and strategic planning. I am truly proud to be working with a faculty and staff who demonstrate daily their professionalism, creativity, and dedication to students and to ULM."

The new dean of Arts and Sciences, Jeffrey Cass, was previously associate provost at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas.

"So far, my experience as dean of Arts and Sciences can only be described as exhilarating," Cass said. "The college has so many different kinds of personnel and programs that I never know what to expect when I come to work each morning. I like the challenges, the culture, the

faculty, the students, my fellow administrators. I'm delighted to be here."

Denny G. Ryman, the new head of Health Sciences,

was interim associate dean in the Division of Allied Health in the School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina.

"I feel privileged to be at an institution poised for growth in so many areas," Ryman said. "In particular, the College of Health Sciences has a stellar history of outstanding faculty and quality graduates, qualities that attracted me to ULM. I look forward to my tenure at ULM's College of Health Sciences as enrollment increases, undergraduate and graduate programs are developed, and unique teaching methodologies are implemented that enhances the educational experiences and meets the health care needs of the people of Louisiana."

**I FELT THAT THIS WAS A
UNIVERSITY WITH A CLEAR VISION
FOR THE FUTURE.**

— DEAN SANDRA M. LEMOINE



Amity Bass poses with an alligator snapping turtle.

ULM biology researchers to be featured on Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet"

ULM biology professor John Carr and graduate student Amity Bass recently guided a film crew from Bristol, England, on a tour of Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. For the cameras, Carr and Bass shed light on one of the lake's top predators, the Alligator Snapping Turtle, also considered a species of conservation concern.

The Icon Films crew documented Carr and his students' innovative research methods for a show on Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet." The one-hour segment is anticipated to appear on "Nick Baker's Weird Creatures 2," a television series that features unique and unusual animals overlooked by most nature documentaries. Host Nick Baker accompanied the crew, which also filmed the overall swamp environment.

The series is scheduled to air in the United Kingdom in January 2008 and at yet-to-be determined dates in the United States and internationally on Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet."

Two ULM programs make accreditation headlines

The long-term care concentration of the gerontology graduate program is now the first in the U.S. to be nationally accredited. The cutting-edge credential comes from The National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators.

"This designation recognizes the excellent work of faculty and students in the gerontology program," said James Bulot, head of the Department of Gerontology, Sociology and Political Science. "Students, wherever they are enrolled, can sit for licensure just about anywhere."

STUDENTS, WHEREVER THEY ARE ENROLLED, CAN SIT FOR LICENSURE JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE.



James Bulot

Charles Pryor

ULM's Marriage and Family Therapy program is also progressing. ULM is now one of only 13 U.S. universities to offer both an accredited M.A. and an accredited Ph.D. in MFT.

The Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education granted the M.A. an accreditation renewal for six years and the Ph.D. an initial accreditation for six years.

"The MFT program will prepare graduates to be therapists, leaders and faculty locally, nationally and internationally," said Charles Pryor, Educational Leadership and Counseling department head.

A leader then, a leader now

The lead-in to a story originally aired by TV-4 in San Diego, Calif., on Nov. 11, 2004 stated, “There are some names in sports that just conjure up a good feeling. Stan Humphries is one of those names, one of those guys.”

Known as a gutsy quarterback who played with great determination, Humphries’ competitive spirit and leadership skills have helped mold championship teams throughout his personal and professional life.

He was named a prep All-American at Southwood High School in Shreveport and a first-team All-American at ULM (then NLU) after leading his team to the 1987 NCAA Division I-AA National Championship.

Drafted in 1988 by Washington, Humphries spent four years with the Redskins before being traded to San Diego in 1992. During the next six years, he led the Chargers to the playoffs three times and remains the only Charger quarterback to post an AFC Championship and Super Bowl appearance. For these accomplishments, Humphries is an inductee into the ULM Sports Hall of Fame, San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame, and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.

Just six months after guiding the Chargers to the Super Bowl, Humphries and his wife Connie discovered their oldest daughter Brooke, 6 at the time, needed a major operation to correct a birth defect in her heart. Following a six-hour surgery, they learned that Brooke would be fine.

But that challenging experience would shape future decisions regarding his professional career.

The next year, after suffering a series of concussions, Humphries announced his retirement, saying, “There have been a lot of great times, but football is my past and my family is my future”

At his retirement ceremony, owner Alex Spanos announced the Chargers were making a \$100,000



The Humphries (l-r) Chelsea, Stan, Brooke, Connie

donation to create the Brooke Humphries Fund, with the initial goal of renovating the family waiting room in the orthopedic surgery unit of the San Diego Children’s Hospital. Today, the “Brooke Humphries Field of Champions,” a football-themed waiting area, hosts more than 33,000 children annually. Other contributions have been the

“OF EVERYTHING I’VE EVER DONE, I THINK I’VE ENJOYED MOST THE PAST FIVE YEARS OF BEING AROUND THEM (DAUGHTERS BROOKE AND CHELSEA) AND WATCHING THEM ACHIEVE SUCCESS.”

purchase of a van for the hospital’s home care program and support of the chaplain program.

Stan and Connie Humphries host the Stan Humphries Celebrity Golf Classic each spring in San Diego, a tournament stop on the National Celebrity Players Tour. Proceeds from the tournament ticket sales and auction items have raised approximately \$1 million for the Brooke Humphries Fund. “I can’t thank Alex Spanos enough for what he started,” Humphries says. “We’ve taken it and run with it, trying to make it bigger and better each year.”

Today, Humphries enjoys what he considers his #1 passion—spending time with his family. Clearly, Stan Humphries is leading another championship team, this time as an All-American Dad.

'Color' him Coach Lou

When describing ULM icon Coach Louis "Lou" J. St. Amant and his substantial legacy, the sentiment is enthusiastic.

"Coach St. Amant and his lovely wife, Marilyn, are interwoven into the history of ULM Athletics," said Doug Mosley, associate athletic director.

"Coach served primarily as our baseball head coach from 1976 to 1993 and was a football assistant coach during his career. He had an impact on the lives of literally hundreds of young men."

"Coach," a fixture on ULM radio broadcasts, teamed with Frank Hoffman to bring the details (know as "the color man" in broadcast lingo) of the football team's greatest glories, while also



Coach Lou St. Amant

covering basketball and baseball. He was instrumental in the design and construction of Warhawk Field, ULM's baseball stadium.

"Miss Marilyn has been a steadfast fan and behind-the-scenes supporter. Her contributions have been many and unheralded, but always appreciated," Mosley continued.

"I think the university is making tremendous strides academically," St. Amant said. "Everything for the students has improved. I think Dr. Cofer has done a remarkable job, providing so many new resources. I just had the opportunity to recruit a few students for campus this year, some for academics, some for athletics. I love that institution."



Malone Stadium sports new turf

When the Warhawks took the field August 30 against Tulsa, a new playing surface in Malone Stadium premiered on ESPN2's national television audience, kicking off the 2007 college football season.

Installed over the summer, the Warhawks' new ProPlay™ turf has ULM head football coach Charlie Weatherbie excited. "It's great! It's better than the rubber-filled fields we've played on. The player's cleats don't stick and the turf distributes the G-Max forces better."

G-Max is a measurement of a field's level of shock absorbency.

Installed by Arms Building and Maintenance of Longview, Tex., the ProPlay™ turf looks and feels like real grass. Each installation is customized for a team's particular sport.

"With the ProPlay™ turf, maintenance costs are much lower," said associate athletic director Doug Mosley. "Drainage is greatly improved, turf-related injuries reduced, and the Warhawks now play on an awesome-looking field. The players just love it."

To see aerial photos of ULM's new turf visit: www.ulm.edu/universityrelations/news/gallery/malone

Photo courtesy of asipphoto.com. Used with permission.



And you think your schedule is packed?

Team USA member Lisa Colvin works as interim director of Graduate Studies and Research, secures several grants for ULM, and competes in triathlons all over the world.

She recently finished 12th at the Hamburg BG Triathlon World Championships, held in Hamburg, Germany.

Here's her average week:

Monday: Swim 3,500 yards with LA Gold Aquatic Team at 6 a.m. and run 5-7 miles afterwards; bike 2 hours easy (35 miles) after work.

Tuesday: Hard group bike ride for 45-50 miles after work.

Wednesday: Swim 3,500 yards at 6 am; bike 35 miles and immediately run 45 minutes after work.

Thursday: Hard bike time trial intervals of 30-35 miles after work (for example, 10-mile warm-up, 4x15 minutes at race pace with 7 minutes recovery; 15 mile cool-down).

Friday: Swim 3,500 yards at 6 a.m.; bike 25 miles easy after work.

Saturday: Bike 60-90 miles in the hills of West Monroe and Ruston; run 6-8 miles.

Sunday: Off

Letters to the editor

I was surprised and honored to be featured in the recent issue of "The ULM Magazine" (Spring 2006 – Alumni Spotlights) I don't quite know what to say or how to adequately thank you. There are many more interesting and deserving alumni of this recognition.

It has been more than a pleasure to be affiliated with ULM, its staff, administration, and alumni association these past many years.

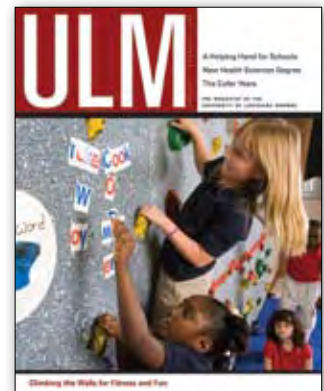
I thank you and everyone involved in this honor of distinction.

—J.P. Pierce BS '77 Dallas, Texas

Thanks for the copy (of the ULM Magazine). I enjoyed looking through it. Noted the degree in health studies and other achievements and the piece on Alexandrian Jim Vanderhoeven.

—Scott Brame
Alexandria, La.

University of Louisiana System /
Board of Regents



Editor's note: Several readers let us know that Doug Pederson wasn't listed in our story about ULM football alumni who have been to the Super Bowl ("ULM Super Stars"—Spring 2007). Our story was not intended to be an all-inclusive list. Doug Pederson indeed won a Super Bowl ring with the Green Bay Packers, as did Lionel Barnes with the St. Louis Rams. Both Doug and Lionel are always considered ULM Super Stars.

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FOR Art's

Her name is Audrey.

She's the insatiable plant centerpiece of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the musical production that launched the Louisiana Lyric Opera this summer at ULM.

And she just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

SAKE

In an odd way, that famous stage prop is something of a metaphor for the School of Visual and Performing Arts itself. Its horizons keep expanding, just like Audrey's size. And, like its productions, the school earns great reviews. *By Diana Pinckley*



From productions of Louisiana Lyric Opera—the only professional summer theatre company between Atlanta and Houston—to percussion concerts, from cabaret to works on paper, the arts at ULM are exciting audiences in northeast Louisiana as they educate students.



THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS, CALLED

VAPA

by almost everybody, was formed in 2002 as the brainchild of ULM President James Cofer, who, early on in his tenure, saw the potential for a school that combines art, music, theatre and dance. Its mission: to provide student-centered training for students in the arts, to offer opportunities for involvement to all students, and to be the cultural hub of the university community as well as for people all over northeast Louisiana.

“ULM AND VAPA...OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERY STUDENT INTERESTED IN THE **ARTS**, PERIOD. YOU CAN **PERFORM**, GET BETTER IN YOUR **CRAFT**, SEE WHAT YOU’VE **ACHIEVED**... AND **LOVE** EVERY MINUTE OF IT.”

—Adavion Jamaal Wayne, arts education, BA, Dec. ’07

“Through the efforts of our talented faculty, staff and students, the School of Visual and Performing Arts has quickly made reality our vision of ULM as the gateway to an impressive array of cultural opportunities,” Cofer said.

University officials soon recruited Keith White to spearhead the new school. A composer with a doctorate in arts administration, White came to ULM from Wichita, Kansas. “I took the job because of the vision

of President Cofer for VAPA,” White says. “He was looking for someone to put the arts under one umbrella. I was an arts consultant and composer. My wife and I were empty nesters—we could go anywhere. I found out about the program, and my wife said, ‘That sounds like an adventure, doesn’t it?’

“There’s a lot of support for the arts at this university, and that isn’t always the case, especially at the upper levels of administration,” White added. “There are a lot of collaborative things that can happen when the visual and performing arts work together—things that you can’t accomplish if you’re doing your own art thing.”

Applause, Applause!

The Louisiana Lyric Opera is perhaps the most high-profile VAPA initiative. The only professional summer theatre between Houston and Atlanta, LLO staged two shows during its premiere season this summer.

Little Shop of Horrors, which ran in the 170-seat Spyker Theatre for five performances, featured a cast of 14 professional actors (including three ULM students) and music by members of the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, some of whom are also ULM faculty members.

The Pirates of Penzance (“the Joe Papp version,” White notes) ran in 750-seat Brown Theatre for



four performances with a cast of 31, about half of whom were professional performers. It was also accompanied by Monroe Symphony musicians.

The non-professional members of the “Pirates” cast were ULM students, interns and members of the Monroe community. White recruits Broadway veterans and what he calls “emerging stars”—professionals from all over the country who are on their way up—to work with the summer theatre. It’s a learning experience for everyone.

As part of the opening night for *The Pirates of Penzance*, Louisiana's Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu marked LLO's induction into the World Cultural Economic Forum, developed by the office of the Lieutenant Governor and the state Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, to leverage Louisiana's unique heritage.

Little Shop of Horrors was preceded by a cabaret/dinner theatre, which may carry a tremendous return for one of its talented stars. Adavion Jamaal Wayne, a ULM senior from Shreveport who is a triple threat as pianist, tenor and composer, performed two songs from a musical he's writing based on the Biblical book of Esther. "The songs we did from Adavion's musical were the best things in the cabaret, and there were songs from three other shows on Broadway," White says.

In a scene that could have come directly from a musical theatre plot, a New York producer was in the audience. "The cabaret showcase featured Adavion, and the producer saw it twice. Now this gentleman is talking to Adavion about producing a workshop of his show," White said. "That's pretty amazing. People spend their whole lives to get something workshopped," a common step on the way to the bright lights of Broadway.

Wayne, currently completing his student teaching before graduating in December, may also be invited to New York to audition for a revue of Stephen Sondheim songs. "If those things even begin to come to pass, it will be an amazing summer for Adavion," White said.

The story was something of a surprise all around. "I had no idea that the producer was even going to be here, much less going to be interested in anything," White said. A professional actress in the cast was invited to New York for an audition for *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, now running on Broadway, also as a result of her Louisiana Lyric Opera performances.

Even as he evaluates the summer's productions, White is already considering the 2008 LLO offerings. Right now, he's got his eye on *Hairspray*, if the rights become available.

Students staged *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* in September, with a cast of 30 (including nine dancers), an eight-piece orchestra, and a 12-member tech crew.

Spring features include two one-act Puccini operas as well as a production of *Miss Firecracker Contest*. A guest artist series brings nationally and internationally-known performers to the ULM campus; there's also a faculty artists' concert series and a chamber music series mostly featuring faculty. A few season highlights are listed on the next page; for a complete schedule, visit www.ulm.edu/calendar.

A popular feature of fall pep rallies and football games is ULM's renowned 160-member marching band, the Sound of Today, which also comes under the broad VAPA umbrella.



Public Art on Campus

VAPA excels at synergism. Brian Fassett, who teaches graphic design, shapes the look of everything from the school's logo to event programs to stages for theatrical productions. Biedenharn Recital Hall features a mini-gallery to showcase faculty art work, and works by students and faculty hang in administrative offices. And audiences for Louisiana Lyric Opera and other theatre events, as well as about 1,000 students a day, walk through the new ULM Sculpture Garden.

The sculpture garden, now in its third year, is a joint venture of VAPA and the Campus Activities Board. It was made out of what White calls "an ugly triangle" — cracked concrete and bare earth in back of the band building. It's the inspiration of art faculty member and sculptor Cliff Tresner. To populate the exhibit, which changes annually, Tresner sends out an open call, he and other members of the department evaluate the responses, and seven sculptures are chosen from national submissions to inhabit the concrete pads in the area.

The Pirates of Penzance (left), the second show in Louisiana Lyric Opera's premiere season, featured a cast of 31, with Monroe community members and ULM students sharing the stage with professional actors. Spring days lend themselves to outdoor performances (right), which combine music and art.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

NOV. 15-17 THEATRE: PRELUDE TO A KISS

NOV. 20 ULM JAZZ ENSEMBLES

DEC. 2 CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

JAN 22 "KEYBOARD FACULTY"

FEB 18 STUDENT PERFORMANCE: "CONCERT OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC COMPOSERS"

MAR 3-5 GUEST ARTIST SERIES: STEPHEN PAULUS

MAR 13-15 THEATRE: "MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST"

APR. 7-MAY 1 EXHIBITION: ULM ART STUDENT JURIED COMPETITION

FOR MORE INFO... 318.342.1414 OR WWW.ULM.EDU/CALENDAR

"Piece for Paint, Pickup and Percussion," a spring highlight of VAPA, combines a vehicle, paint, music performance and the occasional pot of gumbo (left). Walking through the Sculpture Garden (center) or enjoying a dance concert (right) are other popular options.

There's an adjacent student sculpture space which works pretty much the same way. Students submit ideas in the fall, five or six are chosen to get implementation money provided by the Arts Council of Northeast Louisiana, they build out their sculptures throughout the semester, and the works are installed in the spring.

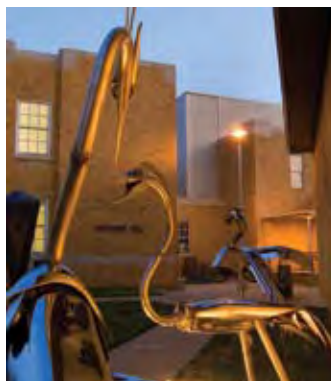
"Not only is the area not ugly any more, there's nice landscaping, nice grass, repaired sidewalks, and a sculptural bench made from pine trees cut down from the front of campus that Cliff made and donated to school," White said. "It's a confined space and it's not noticeable from the street, but it gets a lot of visibility."

Educational Synergy

Visibility also stems from strength of programs and curriculum, and that strength, in turn, is the result of dedicated, talented faculty members working together. The combination of music, art, theatre and dance involves three dozen faculty, and "offers the opportunity for folks to take their own expertise and share with their colleagues for the benefit of everybody," White says.

"The faculty has bought into the synergism idea, and they know we're stronger standing together than standing alone. So they do things together, try new things and help each other out. That's why everybody in this region knows about VAPA."

On the drawing board, perhaps, is a bachelor of fine arts degree in performing arts. "The BFA is a professional degree—acting, directing, technical theatre, musical theatre, dance," said White. "We would be the only school in Louisiana with that degree, and it would help us to serve better the people who are interested in performance."



Performance already attracts a lot of ULM students—both majors and non-majors. “At first, when they’re thinking about going onstage, students sometimes say ‘I can’t—I have to work.’” White adds. “But when they put the makeup on, they’re hooked.”

And there’s a lot to choose from, both to participate on (or behind) the stage and to appreciate from the audience. There are two mainstage shows in the academic year as well as orchestra, two choirs, chamber ensemble, chorale, madrigal feasts, theatre with non-musical plays, dance recitals, two concert bands, marching band, a gospel group.

“In the last six weeks of the semester, there’s a performance almost every night,” White says. Audiences range from 50 to 500, made up of students and community members.

this summer. “We hope the series will grow into a regular summer season performance, bringing in larger crowds and more visitors to enjoy the arts in northeast Louisiana,” said Alana Cooper, executive director of the CVB.

“I knew that LLO would have a long-term effect on the cultural face of our state and provide area residents with the finest quality theatre productions in north Louisiana,” said Tommy Usrey, NLAC president and CEO. “Musical theatre is the most popular genre of the theatre discipline with area residents, and to be able to bring Broadway headliners and up-and-coming-stars of tomorrow to a local stage is an opportunity of a lifetime... What an exciting prospect for theater-goers from Atlanta to Houston.”

Multimedia performance and collaboration

“THERE ARE A LOT OF COLLABORATIVE THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS WORK TOGETHER – THINGS THAT YOU CAN’T ACCOMPLISH IF YOU’RE DOING YOUR OWN ART THING.”

—Keith White, head of the School of Visual and Performing Arts



As part of some music courses, students are assigned to go to four concerts during the semester. “The first response is sometimes, ‘Heaven forbid—we’ve never gone to anything like this before.’” White says. “They go, and then they go again because they want to. It’s fun for me as an educator to see people learn to love this stuff.”

Adavion Wayne, the senior triple threat from Shreveport, has that passion. “When a performance or a show’s run is over, you really miss the stage. I’m like ‘can I sing somewhere?’”... Wayne does sing regularly at his church in Shreveport in the intervals between ULM performances.

“ULM and VAPA are diverse,” Wayne says. “They offer something for every student interested in the arts, period. You can perform, get better in your craft, see what you’ve achieved—and love every minute of it.”

Reaching Out

The community is hooked as well. Both the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council (NLAC) and Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) helped fund Louisiana Lyric Opera’s successful launch

characterize Keith White’s composition style as well as his leadership approach. He staged a series of his “Vital Signs” pieces annually during his first three years at ULM. The 90-minute composition incorporated faculty from every discipline and was semi-improvisational. “We made art in real time on stage. Someone would throw a pot while musicians played a chamber music piece, a dancer danced, players acted a scene, a painter painted and a sculptor worked. We’d auction off the art at the end.”

White’s composition “Piece for Paint, Pickup and Percussion” is one of the most visible—and visual—events of the spring. It involves a vehicle, a real-time paint job, a percussion performance using truck and car parts as instruments, and, in recent performances, a dean serving gumbo. White calls the event an illustration the creative ways in which music and art can work together.

“For the moment, however, I look at the School of Visual and Performing Arts as my composition,” White says. “I spend most of my creative energy here, and it’s great fun.”



Environmental Policy

FRANCESCA CLARK (BA '07) learned last spring that environmental policy-making starts with picking up the garbage. The ULM senior from Eunice went out at 6 a.m. every Thursday with political science faculty member John Sutherlin to determine what people throw away in order to draft effective litter regulations for West Monroe. Pictured are some of the sights they saw.

Experience DESIRED

By Diana Pinckley

ULM accounting interns live in Toronto or Calgary for a semester, working and learning at one of the biggest consulting firms in the world. Biology majors travel to Chile to study the habitats and behavior of small mammals. From picking up trash as part of developing environmental policy to trying out cardiology research, from helping a candidate run for governor in North Carolina to working in aviation management at the Atlanta airport, ULM students spend their summer vacations—and other times in the year—in thriving internship programs that lay a foundation for future professional success.



Internships—those opportunities to work and learn in the real world for a summer or a semester—have long been a part of the university. Some are formal, many are informal. Some earn credit for participants, some don't. Some are paid, others operate on a volunteer basis. Some summer placements are full-time and range far afield; others occupy only a few hours a week and are usually fairly close to campus so they can be effectively combined with classes.

But all of them carry advantages, according to Ann B. Smith, a longtime business communications faculty member who was named the first director of ULM's new Office of Academic Internships this summer.

That office is designed to organize and coordinate all kinds of “experiential learning” by recruiting faculty, students, alumni and employers and matching the right opportunities with the right people. It will encourage participation in externships—shorter programs where students shadow people in the professions that interest them—as well as more formal internships, the “on-the-job learning experiences that connect academic preparation with the world of work,” as Smith defines them.

Among the potential advantages Smith cites for student interns:

- Seeing how what they learn in classes applies to real-world employment which, in turn, often



Biology

TODD SPEARS, a senior biology major from West Monroe, has participated in five research projects. Among them—studying how catfish respond to toxins from insecticides, which led to presenting a paper on Capitol Hill and exploring possible treatments for breast cancer at the cellular level with researchers from Tulane this summer. “I’m doing what I love,” Todd says.

- leads to better academic performance.
- Exploring interests and options while still in school, either confirming career choices or leading to new horizons.
- Getting a job post-graduation. Many interns report job offers, and the experience from the internship clearly establishes a professional approach to work, builds contacts and strengthens resumes.

“I would love to see most students doing an internship before they graduate,” says Smith, a longtime activist in the Monroe volunteer community who plans to draw on her extensive contacts there.

“We also want to expand the areas in which internships are offered,” she adds.

“Right now we have internships in certain areas—political science, business, construction management, for example—that are very successful. But we have lots of other areas we can expand into. Just about everything can be worked into an internship program.”

Brian Varner, a risk management major from Farmerville, spent the summer in an internship at Pacific Wholesale Brokers, an insurance company in Dallas. “I was part of the team,” says Varner, a senior with a 4.0 average. “From the beginning, the surplus lines brokers had long-term relationship thinking with me. They were trying to teach me the tricks of the trade and what I needed to do to produce business well.”

Varner, who counts the two brokers with whom he worked as among his closest friends, is planning a trip to Australia with them. But the experience has made his career path a bit less clear. The Iraq veteran had planned to go to law school; now he’s considering going to work in surplus lines insurance first. “I have a job waiting there for me if I choose.”

Varner was one of three students who had internships in the Dallas insurance industry

arranged by Christine Berry, State Farm Professor in Insurance at ULM. “How do I get internships? I just ask,” says Berry, a member of the state’s insurance rating commission who has wide contacts in the field. “I could have placed more interns this year.”

The reviews from Berry’s interns are unanimous. “Every one of them says it’s the highlight of their college careers,” Berry says. “They learn

**“INTERNSHIPS BUILD CONFIDENCE,
ENHANCE CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE,
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—Ann B. Smith, Director, Office of Academic Internships



about the insurance industry and get to see corporate America firsthand.

“They can learn a lot in the classroom, but when you step into a real-world environment, you take those things and apply them. The combination is really cool for them. It’s like ‘Oh wow, what Dr. Berry says really happens. I know what they’re talking about when they discuss ratios because we talk about it in classroom.’”

And it makes students more confident and more mature, Berry says. “The thing about internships, especially ones we’re designing, is that they provide an experience that students will never be able to repeat. It’s an opportunity to be schooled on the job.”

Five ULM accounting students spent the spring in Canada this year, putting their financial and analytical skills to work in Calgary and Toronto for Ernst & Young, the second-largest CPA firm in the world. The ULM accounting program partnered with Ernst & Young 12 years ago; so far, 49 students have participated.

One of them is L.B. Jeter, Jr., a four-year ULM football player who graduated with honors in computer information systems and accounting in

December 2006. He prepared tax returns for U.S. citizens during his Ernst & Young internship.

“My experience in Toronto was very eye-opening because it allowed me to experience different cultures and an atmosphere that Monroe or Shreveport, my hometown, cannot offer,” Jeter said. “I really wish my fellow students would understand the importance of experiencing other parts of the world and gaining work experience.”

Jeter is now working for Ernst and Young in Florida.

Some ULM interns head even further afield—and literally into the field, conducting research in behavioral and physical ecology with small mammals in Chile, under the direction of biology



**“INTERNS GET EXPERIENCE.
IF THEY THINK THEY ARE INTERESTED
IN AN AREA, IT WILL EITHER MAKE
THEM MORE INTERESTED OR
IT WILL FORCE THEM TO THINK
ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.”**

—John Sutherlin, Assistant Professor of Political Science

faculty member Loren Hays and supported by part of a three-year \$130,846 National Science Foundation grant.

Several students were involved in other research programs as interns this summer. ULM biology senior Katron Broomfield of Monroe and sophomore Sharita Flowers of Winnfield were part of the Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth. Biology senior Christopher Boyd of Dallas participated in the 2007 Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences Summer Research Program for Minorities at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C.

And one ULM junior was in a high-flying environment, literally. Nikhil Joshi, an aviation major from Mysore, India, was one of those selected for the highly competitive Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport 2007 Summer Internship Program.

Some of the most active and diverse internship programs stem from the political science department, where faculty member John Sutherlin urges his students into the arena. “Politics, it’s said, is not a spectator sport,” Sutherlin notes. “You have to get your hands dirty.”

“I guarantee internships to my majors. I match them with a place and a time when it will work out best, around state and around country. It’s campaign season—I can place interns with Democratic or Republican candidates, if they’re interested in politics. There are government positions in Monroe and West Monroe in legal affairs, community development and planning. There have been interns in the state attorney general’s

office and the national headquarters of the American Cancer Society. So far almost half of the political science majors have been granted paid internships or received academic credit for their work.”

Eunice native Francesca Clark interned with Sutherlin last spring. On the streets every Thursday at 6

a.m., she and Sutherlin inventoried the kind of trash—beer cans, old food, fast-food wrappers—that people threw on the highway as a part of developing litter abatement recommendations for West Monroe. “We picked up litter in the ditches and storm drains to measure its volume and type,” said Clark, who previously interned with the American Cancer Society in Washington, D.C.

“It was a pretty gross job, but we did a 100-plus page report on it. I never had the chance to do something real-world in my field before,” Clark said of the litter study. “That experience pushed me, and confirmed that this is what I want to do.” Clark is now a graduate student in environmental policy at Colorado State University.

“Interns are real people from day one,” Sutherlin says. “They know how to write, how to be a professional. One student is in the community development office in West Monroe.”

An internship program with the city of Monroe, now in its third semester, gets good reviews



Aviation

NIKHIL JOSHI, a senior from Mysore, India, spent the summer at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, the world's largest and busiest airport. He worked with land operations, including emergency response and quality control. "In 10 weeks, I walked every inch of the airport's 10.5 million square feet," he said.

from Mayor Jamie Mayo. "We see this as a great opportunity for students to gain real world experience and enhance their job skills," Mayo said. Sutherlin projects the internship program will incorporate Monroe law firms, political campaigns and other governmental agencies.

Expanding internships at ULM is a shared goal. Ann Smith would like to establish internship exchanges with other universities around the country; sending ULM students to far-flung destinations while receiving students from other areas for internships in Monroe. She also hopes to expand the availability of internships in nonprofit organizations, perhaps growing from existing ULM service-learning programs.

There are a few obstacles to overcome, however. One is finding housing support for summer interns in big cities. While the internships pay a salary, it usually isn't enough to cover living expenses. In response, the College of Business has

established the Internship Support Fund. College Advisory Board member Bruce Boulware and friend and supporter Michelle Egan each pledged \$25,000 as matching funds if the college can raise an additional \$25,000.

Another is getting enough of the right kind of internships, and Smith is diligently searching. "Part of my job is to make sure that these are truly experiential learning opportunities and not just cheap labor," she says. Smith seeks alumni participation in the internship program. Alums who are interested can contact her at asmith@ulm.edu or (318) 342-1144.

"I'm impatient to get a lot accomplished," Smith says. "ULM is going to become known as a school that provides experiential learning opportunities—and that will become a recruiting tool for us."

The Vitamin E Solution



Can a one-a-day pill filled with a type of vitamin E someday protect women against breast cancer? The potential is promising. The foundations for that breakthrough are being laid today by exciting research at ULM's College of Pharmacy.

By Diana Pinckley

\$618,000 grant supports ULM research

Professor of pharmacology Paul Sylvester Ph.D, has explored connections between nutrition and cancer for more than two decades. Now, a two-year \$618,000 grant from First Tech International, Ltd., will allow Sylvester and other ULM faculty to determine whether a rare form of vitamin E, called tocotrienol and found in palm oil, can become a powerful weapon in the fight against breast cancer.

The substance works against cancer cells in a petri dish. “You can put animals on palm-oil diets and see the effects,” Sylvester says. And there’s epidemiological evidence from Asia, where palm oil is common in cooking and breast cancer rates are much lower in the U.S.

But the oil itself does not fit American tastes—or health concerns. It’s very high in saturated fat and not commonly available in the grocery store. In addition, Sylvester suspects that the levels at which tocotrienols are most effective are greater than those that could possibly come from palm oil’s inclusion in a regular diet.

That’s why Sylvester and his colleagues are taking the first steps to test the beneficial form of vitamin E isolated from palm oil—without the harmful side effects—to determine whether tocotrienol is an effective cancer prevention tool in mice.

The Pfizer Endowed Professor of Pharmacology, who is an endocrinologist by training, started looking at the correlation between a high-fat diet and breast cancer some 20 years ago. “We knew that if we put a mouse on a high-fat diet, we got more mammary tumors that showed up sooner and grew faster,” he explains. “We wanted to study whether the culprit was fat in general or the specific kind of

fat.” Experiments pitted saturated against unsaturated fat, plant sources against animal sources. “The two exceptions we found to the ‘high-fat-stimulates-tumors’ rule were fish oil—there has been a lot of work done on that—and palm oil, which was surprising,” Sylvester said.

“So the next question is ‘What’s so special about palm oil?’”

Palm oil is a rich source of vitamin E, he points out. More importantly, it’s filled with a particular kind of vitamin E—tocotrienol. Vitamin E is an umbrella for eight different substances. The most common vitamin E, the kind found in daily supplements, is alpha-tocopherol. All liquid oils also contain vitamin E, but neither the supplements nor the most common oils have the tocotrienol that shows excellent prospects of preventing breast cancer.

Tocotrienols work against breast cancer by shutting off the pathways between cells that allow the



cancer to grow and function. That, in turn, induces the cells to die. “A lot of anti-cancer drugs follow the same mechanism, but they beat up a lot of perfectly normal cells in the process. Tocotrienol does it with no effect on normal cells,” Sylvester says. “That’s the advantage of natural products like vitamins. They tend to have a lower toxicity level than synthetics.”

Sylvester’s research is an embodiment of global synergism. First Tech International, the Australian company that is the source of the grant, has a factory that extracts purified tocotrienols from palm

“RATHER THAN ASKING PATIENTS TO BREW A TEA, DRINK IT AND FEEL BETTER, WE’RE TRYING TO FIGURE WHAT’S IN THAT TEA AND HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER, THIS IS WHAT THE PHARMACOLOGY INDUSTRY DOES.” —Paul Sylvester

oil. That oil, in turn, comes from a particular kind of Central American fruit palm tree, and it boasts 10 to 20 times the amount of tocotrienols as oil from Malaysian palms generally used in cooking throughout Asia. First Tech is also donating the tocotrienols for the project, the first time Sylvester has been able to get the substance in an adequate volume to support his research.

“If these tumor experiments work like I think they’re going to work, it will demonstrate quite convincingly that dietary supplements of

tocotrienols have potent anti-carcinogenic activity. We think that a daily supplement of this particular kind of vitamin E can reduce the occurrence of breast cancer in women.”

Those experiments will use mice treated to develop cancers naturally. One group will get the special vitamin E added to their food or given in a pill form, another control group will not. Then tumor development and spread in each group will be measured and monitored by state-of-the-art technology that combines high-sensitivity optical molecular imaging and high resolution digital X-ray to deliver precise anatomical localization of tumor molecular and cellular biomarkers.

“In the old days, we had to take an animal and palpate its tumors. We didn’t really know what was going on inside,” Sylvester said. “Now, there may be 100 mice in any given experiment. We can put four or five of them in the machine at one time and scan them maybe once a week. We can see if tocotrienols inhibit development and spread of tumors.”

With four labs involved in the project, Sylvester has a high-powered team of pharmacy faculty and grad students to help carry out the studies.

“In my pharmacology lab, we study the mechanism of drug action,” Sylvester says. “If a drug kills tumors, how does it do it? Sami Nazzai is the guy who’s going to work on optimizing the formulation of the compound. How do you package the drug so as to get maximum effect?”

“Amal Kaddoumi is our kinetics person. Once the drug is given, where is it absorbed? How fast? Where does it go? How is it broken down? How is it transported into the blood? Knowledge from Amal’s lab will help Sami formulate the drug better.

“Kahlid El-Said is our chemist. He will change the vitamin E structure just a little bit to help increase absorption

PAUL SYLVESTER IS A BUSY MAN. In addition to his work on the role of vitamin E in preventing and treating breast cancer, Sylvester is director of graduate studies at the College of Pharmacy and has won several teaching awards. He is also part of a team that is building links between ULM and China, hoping to develop Western applications based on aspects of traditional Chinese medicine.



and transport and make it more resistant to breakdown so that we optimize the compound for delivery and therapeutic effectiveness.”

Like all vitamin supplements, tocotrienols will be most effective at preventing disease rather than treating it, Sylvester says. “Daily supplementation works best as prevention or control. Once you have a full-blown solid tumor, vitamins really don’t show that much effect on their own. The damage is done, the tumor is much more aggressive, and it can fend off any effects of vitamins.”

But results of a recent study from Sylvester’s lab show that tocotrienols enhance the activity of traditional cancer-fighting drugs. “When you give low doses of tocotrienols with low doses of anti-cancer drugs, there is a synergistic effect, and it avoids the toxicity of higher levels of anti-cancer drugs that are required to get the same effect in the absence of vitamin E,” Sylvester says.

The cancer-treatment application of the substance could move into human treatment relatively quickly, Sylvester predicts, but bringing vitamin E to bear in prevention could take somewhat longer. “Ultimately, of course, tocotrienol must be tested on humans, but the process is incredibly complex,” says Sylvester. “It takes physicians, nurses, food scientists. We would be part of the team, but we only do the preclinical studies.”

The research also pays off in the classroom, where Sylvester has earned seven teaching awards, including the university-wide Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006. “Research really enhances your teaching,” says the endocrinologist, who is beginning his tenth year at ULM. “If you’re using a textbook, it might be five years behind the cutting edge of the current scientific literature. You can add insight to a much greater degree if you’re active in the field.”

The pharmacology faculty member, who is also director of graduate studies in the College of Pharmacy, is building links between ULM and China, hoping to develop Chinese medicine approaches for Western applications.

“About five years ago, Monroe became a sister city with Jengzhou in China’s Hubei Province,” Sylvester

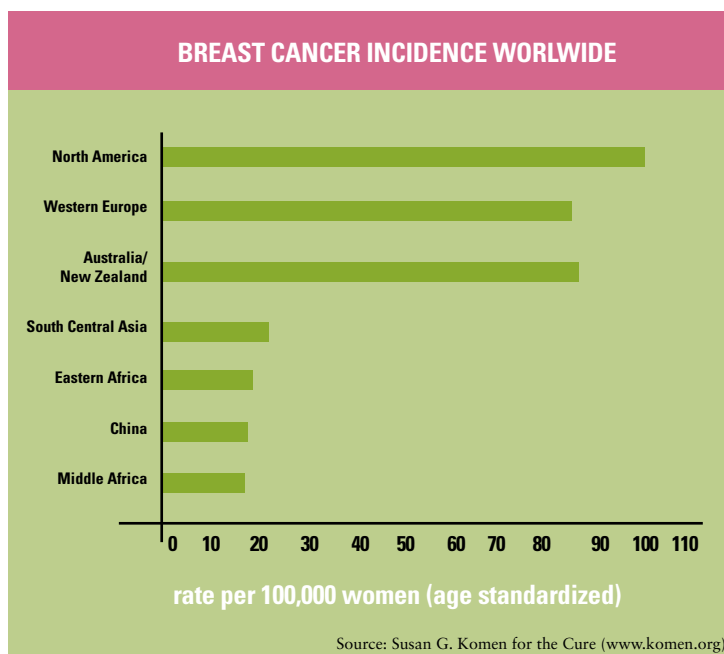
says. “We made connections with them. They came here, we went there, and I was part of the group, representing the university.

“Discovering drugs in natural products is a hot area, and the Chinese have done a good job of it. Traditional Chinese medicine is a very important part of the health system there. Most hospitals have two pharmacies—a western one plus a traditional one where there are a lot of twigs and roots and branches and leaves. There’s a lot of potential

in natural products—most drugs are based in some way on them. And the Chinese have taken it through thousands of years of trial and error and experience and have devised ways of treating diseases.

“We have a good natural products group at ULM, so I talked with Chinese universities about collaborations between their medical schools and our pharmacy school. If they have a combination of roots and twigs that’s good for, say, treating arthritis, our people can take the compound made from those natural substances and discover what’s in there. Then maybe we can use that to produce a new pharmaceutical for treating disease.

“Rather than asking patients to brew a tea, drink it and feel better, we’re trying to figure what’s in that tea and how to make it better. This is what the pharmacology industry does.”



CLASS NOTES

1961

Fay "T-Model" Thurman '61 and **Frances Smith Thurman '61** are returning to Monroe after 40 years in New Iberia. "T-Model," a catcher for the ULM baseball team under Coach George Luffey, and Frances, a cheerleader, homcoming maid, and SGA officer, have two children, son **Jerry Thurman '84**, who played football at ULM and is married to **Liz Miller '85**, and daughter Kelli Denise Thurman, who attended ULM.

1962

Brenda Gambrell Vicknair '62 and **Noe Timothy Vicknair '63**, of French Settlement, expect their 7th grandchild in January.

1963

Terrell Verrett '63 lost his wife Diane in April 2006.

1964

Carrie Humphries Frye '64, a counselor at Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School in Seminole County, Fla., was elected to the Delta Kappa Gamma Society Florida Hall of Fame, an international education society for women. She has been Teacher of the Year at two different schools, the Top Ten Teacher of the Year in the District, the Phi Delta Kappa Chapter Educator of the Year and District Elementary Counselor of the Year. She and husband **Bill Frye '63** live in DeBary, Fla.

1965

William Ragan '65, '80 coaches freshman football at West Monroe High School and teaches math at West Monroe Alternative Center.

Patricia Alford Standish '65 has retired after teaching in Connecticut and Louisiana and now works as a librarian. She and husband James enjoy spending time with their family in Connecticut and visiting Louisiana each year.

1967

Gwendolyn McCollough Genius '67, '71 has a new grandson, Braden Christopher Genius, born Nov. 21, 2006.

1968

Maxey Wilcoxon Resweber '68 is living in Pearl River. She has two married daughters and five grandchildren living in Cypress, Texas, whom she visits often.

1969

Royce D. Matheny '69 has returned to Monroe as Capital One Bank's senior vice president and trade area manager for northeast Louisiana. He and his wife Evelyn spent the last 10 years in New Orleans.

Millie Tolbird Normand '69 is working part-time for the administrator at St. John Interparochial School in Plaquemine doing computer financial analysis, accounting forecasting and record keeping.

Peggy Zoro '69 has joined Wells Fargo Wealth Management Group as the North Puget Sound regional manager, overseeing investment, trust and private banking professionals serving Wells Fargo customers in Anacortes, Bellingham, Everett and Mount Vernon, Wash. Previously she held senior management positions at Rainier Bank, Key Bank and Whidbey Island Bank.

1971

Marvin Dearman '71 is a retired major from the Monroe Police Department. He and wife Cheryl have a son, David, a pre-pharmacy major at ULM.

Randall Normand '71 looks forward to retirement in the next year. He and his wife **Millie Tolbird Normand '69** have three daughters who are all college graduates—two RNs and a graphic designer. Their son is studying electronics technology in Baton Rouge. The family enjoys saltwater fishing.

Robert (Lonny) Spilberger '71, a pharmacy manager for K-mart in Baton Rouge, is a Certified Diabetes Educator, Certified Disease Manager-Diabetes and a Certified Pump Trainer-Animas Corp. He maintains an office at a local drug store and sees diabetics by appointment. He and his wife **Claudia T. Spilberger '70** have five grandchildren.

1972

Sharman Sachs Burgess '72 was named Educator of Distinction for Louisiana by the state PTA at an awards banquet in May in Lafayette. She works for Caddo Parish Schools.

Ronnie Johns BS '72, Louisiana State Representative (Sulphur), has been awarded the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association's Legislator of the Year award.

Rita Gail Nunn Sullivan '72 has worked for the Jackson Parish Office of Public Health for over 28 years and is planning to retire soon. She and husband **Deryl Sullivan '07** have two daughters and are expecting their first grandchild.

**Jesse Paul**

is the winner of the McKneely Scholarship in English and was an honoree at the ULM/Tech Conference of Graduate Students in English.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



When families decide “I’m going to Disney World!” it is individuals like University of Louisiana at Monroe alumnus **Jack Blitch**, vice president of Attractions Development at Walt Disney Imagineering, who make this dream come

true by creating all of the wonders set in store for them.

Blitch, who manages 300 Imagineers at Walt Disney World, Fla., received his bachelor’s of science degree in construction (’71). He credits his ULM experience with helping him achieve incredible success.

“My education at ULM uniquely qualified me as a new breed of Constructors in the early ’70’s,” Blitch said. “Until ULM pioneered the Construction program, there was no other education opportunity other than the school of hard knocks. Thurman Potts, along with several other North Louisiana contractors and architects, had the foresight to help fill this niche in the industry by creating this program...the very first to receive accreditation from the Associated Schools of Construction.”

Blitch serves on the School of Construction

Management’s Industry Advisory Board and tries to get back to ULM on an annual basis, as his Disney responsibilities allow.

Walt Disney Imagineering is the unique innovative organization that creates - from concept through construction - all Disney theme parks, resorts, attractions, cruise ships, real estate developments, and regional entertainment venues worldwide. Imagineering’s unique strength comes from the teamwork and syntheses of creative and technical professionals representing more than 140 diverse disciplines

Blitch has worked on such projects as The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, Disney’s Blizzard Beach Water Park, Soarin’ at Epcot, and Disney’s Animal Kingdom.

“I also love my job because of all the great talent I’ve been able to mentor, and to see their explosive growth in the design and construction field.” This past season, Blitch hired ULM student Dale Langford as a summer intern to help with an exciting new attraction at Disney MGM Studios.

“It’s hard to believe that its been 36 years since I graduated....with a career that started in the construction industry and ended at Disney. An incredible and exciting ride!”

1973

James Harris ’73 is a retired state agent with the South Carolina Department of Probation and Parole. He was appointed director of Veterans Affairs for Aiken County in 2004.

Terri Pratt ’73, ’93 has retired from radio and is working with non-profits—Humane Society, Arts Council—and spending lots of time sewing. She lives in Marion.

1975

Lynn Campbell ’75 has worked for Southwest Airlines for 23 years and intends to fly “until they make him leave.” He and wife Benita celebrated their 25th anniversary with a trip to Italy.

They look forward to a reunion of ULM Alpha Eta Rho members in Las Vegas in September.

Harlan Goodwin ’75 just became a grandpa for the first time. He is living in Taylor, Ark.

Sulynn Ganey Sexton ’75, a retired teacher with four children and three granddaughters, lives in Ascension Parish with her husband Bob and their two dogs.

1976

Robert Cloud ’76 was nominated by *D Magazine* as one of Dallas’ Best Doctors for 2001-2004 and again for 2005-2006.

James Martin ’76 has retired from Wal-Mart to enjoy time with his six children and eight grandchildren. His youngest

daughter has just started college. He and wife Connie live in Bentonville, Ark.

Karl Vogt BA ’76 retired after 22 years at Peace River Supply Authority, a water plant that serves Port Charlotte, Fla., and four surrounding counties. He worked in the water processing industry for 28 years.

1977

Anthony Broussard ’77 is a recent graduate of the United States Postal Service Management Intern Program. He and wife Margie live in Columbia, S.C.

Becky B. Clark ’77, a higher education administrator who specializes in teacher education, has joined Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga., as dean of the

School of Education. She has served as dean of the College of Education at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix and for the past three years consulted with higher education clients in development of technology systems for academic programs, student assessment and strategic planning.

1978

Debbie Nielsen Dunham '78, who received her MA in early childhood education from Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga., was named to Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for education, and has served as president of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for women educators of distinction. She teaches second grade and serves as a state certified mentor for new teachers. She and husband **Mike Dunham '79** have two daughters, one a graduate of the University of Georgia who is an accountant in Atlanta, and another who is a senior at Florida State.

Cathy Hickingbottom Parker '78, '03, '07, a three-time ULM grad, received a Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy in May and is seeing clients in Mer Rouge.

1979

Steve Carney '79 has completed his first book *The Great Fruit Inspector*. The book, designed for Bible schools and ministers, will be released this fall through Pleasant Word, a division of WinePress publishers.

Drew Fluke '79 has three children and two grandchildren, Hunter Adams, 5, and Kelsey Adams, 1.

1980

Ellen Blue '80, '89 received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of history of

Christianity and United Methodist studies at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Okla. She earned a Ph.D. at Tulane and is ordained in the United Methodist Church. She has co-authored a book with Charles Wood, *Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry*, to be published by Abingdon Press next spring.

Diane Hirson '80, '82 has been promoted to director of marketing for Hastings & Chivetta Architects, a St. Louis firm specializing in collegiate academic and recreational buildings. Diane and her daughter Chelsea, who graduates from high school next year, will be checking out colleges—including ULM.

Timothy Justus '80 has been named music department chair at Dickinson State University. He earned his master of music and his doctor of musical arts from LSU. His extensive performance experience includes playing with symphony orchestras around the world and with popular performers, including Tina Turner, The Four Tops, Luciano Pavarotti and The Moody Blues. He taught at the University of South Alabama from 1999-2005.

1981

David Gilmore '81 and wife Michelle Rambin have their first grandson, Noah Thomas Black, born May 18, 2007. Noah is also the great-grandson of Dr. Bill Rambin, who is retired from ULM.

LaDonna Lee '81 recently married Carl Calloway. She was nominated as Teacher of the Year for the Cedar Hill Independent School District.

1984

Clotee Cowans Richardson '84 and husband Eugene have two children, Ericca, 4, and Elexa, 2.

John L. Scott '84 is a professor of economics and director of the Center for Business Education at North Georgia College and State University. He and wife **Julia Davis Scott '83** have three sons, Joseph, 17, Jared, 15, and Jonah, 9.

1985

John Newsome '85 retired from the U.S. Army after 21 years as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Military Police Corps. He is a leadership-training instructor for the Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Dallas.

1986

Cecil Lee Clark '86 has been reassigned as 101st ABN DIV (Air Assault) ACoS, G2 ACE Chief. He spent two years as the 187th Infantry Regiment (3rd Brigade Combat Team) Regimental Intelligence officer.

James "JD" Distefano '86 left Oklahoma State University in July to take a sports medicine position with the Central Texas Sports Medicine and Orthopedics practice in Bryan, Texas. He will also work as one of the team physicians for the Texas A&M athletic department.

Penny Manning Memoli '86 received a Doctor of Pharmacy from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., in May. She and husband **Gene Memoli '87** live in Stratford, Conn.

1987

James David Harper '87 was one of 84 invited runners worldwide in the Badwater Ultramarathon, a 135-mile trek from Death Valley

Biology majors **Katron Broomfield** and **Sharita Flowers** participated in the Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



When **Teri Fontenot (MBA '88)**, CEO and president of Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge, has a particularly tough work day, she visits the nursery.

"The opportunity to be involved in creating and strengthening families is very fulfilling; we participate in the most intimate and tender moments of patients' lives ... In the nursery I see the families so full of excitement and hope, and I watch the newborns sleep peacefully. It is humbling and helps me remember the value of our work."

Nearly 9,000 babies are born at the not-for-profit facility, where Teri oversees 2,000 employees, \$300 million in revenue and several patient and community education programs.

Her duties don't end at the Woman's Hospital.

Four years ago, Teri was elected to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's board of directors. One of her primary duties is to educate the bank's research staff on the economy and trends of her district.

"I have learned so much about the national and southeast economy, and the interdependence of industry sectors ... The role of the Atlanta Bank after hurricanes Katrina and Rita was critical in reducing panic among victims of those storms and ensuring that their bank accounts were safe and accessible."

Teri, who grew up in Clinton, Miss., attributes much of her professional success to the education she received at then-NLU. A full-time, working mother of young children, she enrolled in one course per semester. Her perseverance was "definitely worth it," she said.

"My ULM MBA has been instrumental in opening doors in the healthcare industry."

to Mt. Whitney, Calif., in temperatures up to 130 degrees in the world's most demanding and extreme race. He finished in 46 hours, 13 minutes, to earn an elite buckle given to those who finish in under 48 hours. This was his third time to compete in the Badwater race. He and wife Tamara live in Clermont, Fla.

1988

Steve Austin '88 finished the Phoenix Ironman competition in April with a time of 16:38:38. All those days of clandestinely swimming Bayou DeSiard to sneak over to the KD dorm after hours has finally paid off!

Kelly Harper Griffith '88, now Kumari Kelly, completed yoga teacher training at Yogi Hari's Ashram in Miramar, Fla. She leads yoga classes and meditation and is a full-time journalist at the *Orlando Sentinel*.

1989

Barry Ricks '89 and **Beth Jones Ricks '92, '95** have two children,

Perry, 3, and MaryLu, 2. Barry is a pediatrician and Beth is an assistant professor at ULM.

1991

Christi Douglas Ford '91 and husband Curtis have two daughters, Haylee, 8, and Keelee, 6.

Linda Michele Helms Messa '91 is a stay-at-home mom to daughters Olivia Michelle, 3, and Elizabeth Ann, 11 months. She and husband Frank are in Shekou, Shenzhen, in mainland China about an hour from Hong Kong. She would love to contact ULM alumni over there.

1992

Ray Cooper '92 married Katherine Stubblefield in 2003; their son, Jared, was born Feb. 18, 2005. He was deployed overseas for a year with the Texas Army National Guard.

Regina Givens Grimes '92 and husband Greigory have daughter Annastanzia who graduated from Freedom High School in

Woodbridge, Va., and attends Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.

1993

Christy Willis Cox '93, a dental hygienist, lives in Alexandria with daughter Mackenzie, 5.

Donna Odom LaCaze '93 is an adjunct instructor at Southeastern Louisiana University. Her husband **Todd LaCaze '92** is a vice president for Tulane Hospital in New Orleans. They live in Covington.

Elizabeth Roberts Mason '93, '97 and **Stacy Fritch Turner '97** have opened Family First Pharmacy in Tyler, Texas. Elizabeth and husband Lee are parents to McKenna, 4, Aiden, 3, and Ainslee, 2.

1994

Lisa A. Brown '94 has been promoted to executive director for the Louisville metro area of the American Cancer Society. She was executive director for the Northwest and Central Louisiana regions for five years.



Pharmacy majors **Catherine Oliver** and **Morgan Jones** led a team of six student researchers in the submission of a project to the American Pharmaceutical Association (APHA).



Vicki Gilliam (B.A. '87, M.A. '90) grew up listening to her mother hum the words of "Anything You Can Do" from the musical, "Annie Get Your Gun." Her mother often sang that song under her breath as she sweated

alongside Vicki's Daddy and Papaw on their farm.

It turns out Vicki and her mother share similar traits.

Vicki, the only female managing partner of a regional office in The Cochran Firm, works in Jackson, Miss., a state where less than 25 percent of attorneys are female and even fewer hold management positions. In 2006 Lawdragon named her one of 500 Leading Litigators in America, and in 2007, she was named one of Mississippi Business Journal's 50 Leading Businesswomen in Mississippi.

In her mind, one of her greatest accomplishments is leading The Cochran Firm, founded by Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., and four other firms from New York and D.C. in a \$2 billion lawsuit representing over 600 American Indian tribe members whose land was allegedly contaminated by a Fortune 500 company.

Vicki said that her pending case, which began in 2005, represents a new frontier called "environmental injustice." A documentary about the case is currently in the works.

Adopted from an orphanage in New Orleans at

six weeks old, Vicki grew up on a farm between Bastrop and Mer Rouge. She married at 17, graduated as high school valedictorian, gave birth at 19, and soon divorced.

She commuted from Bastrop to ULM (then-NLU) as an undergrad, and continued to work while attending college, ultimately completing her master's degree and graduating with honors each time.

While at ULM, faculty inspired her.

"Perry Jones was such an incredible story teller. I still find myself telling stories to juries just like Dr. Jones told the stories of history in the classroom," she remembered. "Through Dr. Richard Chardkoff's Civil Rights courses and Latin American History courses, I understood and was inspired by the efforts of those who fought for the poor, minority and underprivileged."

She also drew much of her strength from her family.

"My grandmother, who was in her 80s, moved with me to law school at Ole Miss and helped take care of my daughter so that I could stay in the top 10 of my class. I prayed daily for strength and courage to make it through to the next day, and have enough money to eat," she said. "I felt so blessed just to get an education and I committed that I would always give back to help the poor and voiceless who needed my education."

Pharmacy major

Bethany Thomas

published a research article and presented her research at the American Pharmaceutical Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta.



Robert E. Luttrell III '94 has joined the Dallas commercial law firm Munsch Hardt Kopf and Harr as an associate in the litigation practice group. He previously served as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Air Force. He received his Juris Doctorate from Tulane and is a member of the Dallas Bar Association, Court of Appeals for the Armed Services, State Bar of Texas and is licensed to practice law in Colorado. He also received the Achievement Medal, Commendation Medal, Kuwaiti Liberation Medal (issued by both the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti governments), Meritorious Service Medal and the Southwest Asia Medal.

Meredith Zachary Tinney '94 and husband Keith have two sons, Dakota, 11, and Hayden, 6. They live in Krugerville, Texas, where she is senior project manager for Allegiance Development.

1995

Limeul L. Eubanks '95 received a master of fine arts from Mississippi College in August 2006, with a focus on two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. His thesis was "Art as Visual Metaphor: A Personal Search for Meaning."

Alison Bradford Strojny '95 was named "Foster Care Worker of the Year" by the Lafayette

Regional Foster Parent Association. An employee of the Louisiana Department of Social Services for nine years, she is an adoption specialist.

1997

Jamie Derr Gonzales '97 received the 2007 Heart of Nursing award for recognition of nursing excellence from Lafayette General Hospital where she is manager of the third floor post-op unit.

Tafta Perry Miller '97 opened her business, Angels in Training, in Start, 10 years ago in July after graduating with a degree in daycare and nursery management.

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CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

Marriages

James "Jim" Elby Allbritton Jr. '72 to Sarah Ann Calhoun, Sept. 15, 2006.

Amanda Kay Cromwell '01 to Kenneth Mark Vicknair Jr., Nov. 4, 2006. They live in West Monroe.

Angela Rae Embanato '00 to Christian Lee Brown, Nov. 18, 2006. They live in Sterlington.

Sunni Goodwin '05 to John Robertson, April 21, 2007. They live in Winnsboro.

Brittney Carol Hale '06 to Casey Michael Baker, Nov. 4, 2006. They live in West Monroe.

Abigail Kennedy '01, '03 to John Hilderbrand, Jan. 3, 2007 in St. Thomas.

Jennifer Lea LaFoe '99 to Steven "Ryan" Giddens, Aug. 26, 2006. They live in Texarkana, Ark.

RaFaye Kathleen Lewis '83 to Kevin L. Nesmith, March 11, 2006. They live in Lancaster, Texas.

Jennifer Nannette Moore '04 to Joseph L. Penney, Nov. 18, 2006. They live in West Monroe.

Lisa Padilla '89 to Allen J. Venable, May 18, 2007. They honeymooned in the Caribbean Islands.

Christie Berkley Peacock '03 to Charles Anderson, Nov. 13, 2006, in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Joella Paige Ross '96 to Richard Calvin Nale, Nov. 18 2006. They live in Sterlington.

Shelley Annette Stewart '01 to Benjamin Crowder, May 29, 2007, in Playa de Carmen, Mexico. They live in Dallas.

David V. Tolliver III '06 to Ashley Crockham, July 10, 2007. He will be pursuing an MBA in brand and product management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Courtney DeLaine Walker '02 to **Justin Francis Ebersole '04**, Nov. 11, 2006. They live in Carrollton, Texas.



Biology major **Christopher Boyd** participated in the Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences Summer Research Program for Minorities at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC.

Births

1 Matthew Grennan Andino, Jan. 16, 2007, to **Megan Grennan Andino '02** and husband Moises.

Matthew Louis Bennett, May 17, 2007, to **Robert Bennett '92** and wife Kimberly. He joins sister Carolyn, 3, and brother John Robert, 1.

Cameron Lynn Bond, May 25, 2007, to **Brian David Bond '00** and wife Amanda. He joins brother Riley David, 4.

2 Caleb Theodore Boykin, March 13, 2007, to **Jeffrey Boykin '97** and **Sandi Burley Boykin '98**.

John Hudson Brown, Feb. 20, 2007, to **Mindy Shepherd Brown '99** and **Michael Brown '98**.

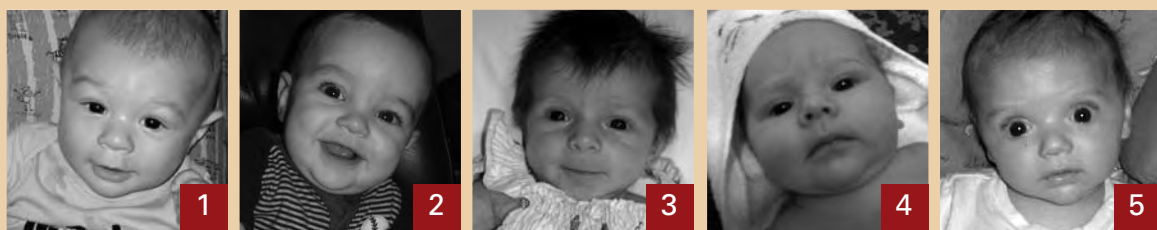
3 Sophia Marie DellaCroce, June 20, 2007, to **Katie Rockhold DellaCroce '97** and husband John. She joins sister Sarah, 2.

Aron Dawson Ferguson, Dec. 6, 2006, to **Scott Ferguson '92** and **Erin Frazier Ferguson '06**. He joins sister Jillian Rebecca, 3.

4 Emily Jen Florsheim, June 12, 2007, to **Henry Florsheim '95** and wife Kimberly.

5 William Andrew Goudeau, April 17, 2007, to **Jeffrey Todd Goudeau '99** and **Jennifer Guillot Goudeau '00**.

Continued on page 30



CLASS NOTES

Births Continued

Robin Elizabeth Griffin, June 2, 2005, to **Lori Graves Griffin '92** and husband Vince.

Mary Claire Guilbeaux, March 22, 2007, to **Genee Viator Guilbeaux '05** and **Troy Renard Guilbeaux '05**.

6 Peyton Lynn Herring, May 13, 2006, to **Jennifer Boydston Herring '98** and **Kelly Herring '97**.

Luke Stephen Jones, March 9, 2007, to **Carolyn Amanda Garrett Jones '02** and husband Todd.

7 Jackson Brady Jordan, July 13, 2007, to **Kelly Hart Jordan '01** and husband Chad.

Lathon Michael Latiolais, Feb. 22, 2007, to **Candace Kelley Latiolais '03** and **Lance Latiolais '02**.

8 Jack Parker Myers, Jan. 29, 2007, to **Eddy Myers '06** and wife Kristi. He is welcomed by brother Luke, 3.

Kenyon Elias Nunnery, Dec. 1, 2006, to **Kenia Guidry Nunnery '01** and husband Desmond.

Caroline Camden Phillips, June 2, 2006, to **Amy Cupit Phillips '92** and husband Keith. She joins brother Carter, 5.

Emily Grace Pierce, Nov. 9, 2006, to **Kerri Bozman Pierce '97** and husband Jason. She joins sister Natalie, 3.

Charles Claude Pippin Jr., May 31, 2007, to **Charlie Pippin '96** and wife Elizabeth. He joins sisters Alexis and Rebecca.

9 Joseph Christian Rider, Oct. 11, 2006, to **Shannon Scott Rider '99** and **James Clint Rider '00**. He joins brother James, 11.

Isabella Emaleigh Shaw, June 16, 2007, to **Jeremy Shaw '99** and wife Janet. She joins sister Madison, 3.

10 Collier Douglas Smith, April 17, 2007, to **Gary Smith '97** and **Casey Denmon Smith '98**. He joins sister Ainsley.

Clarissa Staehle, March 1, 2007, to **Malaphone Marsden Staehle '00** and husband James.

Zoe Meredith Waddell, Dec. 19, 2006, to **Kristie Sontag Waddell '98** and husband Rob.

Elementary Education major **Marissa Boyd** is an expert on instructional technology in the fields of electronic portfolios and electronic assessment, presenting at conferences in Atlanta and Baton Rouge.



Continued from page 28

1998

Kristie Sontag Waddell '98 finished graduate school in 2006 and is now a family nurse practitioner in New Braunfels, Texas.

1999

Michael "Matt" Taylor '99 and **Chasta Otwell Taylor '99** have two children, Macy, 4, and Ryan, 2.

Vicky Landry Vilcan '99 received a master of science in nurse anesthesia from Texas Wesleyan University in 2004 and works at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center. Husband **Brady J. Vilcan '02** is head pharmacist at a CVS store in Houma. They have son Chance, 6, and daughter Lucy, 3.

2000

Valerie McCaskill '00 has been named chief marketing officer and vice president for marketing

and training for Fleishman-Hillard's Global Digital Operations. She recently relocated from the company's Washington, D.C. office to the Dallas office.

Tiffany Mock '00 received the designation of Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor. She is in her fourth year as a Wealth Management Advisor at Merrill Lynch in San Antonio.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



James Rice (M.S. '94) finalized his last will and testament before embarking on a journey he calls "the most exciting time in my life."

NASA invited James on a six-month expedition to Antarctica, an area that closely resembles the hostile environment on Mars. He savored what could have killed him: scuba diving in the harsh Antarctica waters.

"If something goes wrong, it's up to you to fix it, or you spend the rest of your life down there. I came close to being killed several times, and when you encounter that, it changes your perspective on life," he said. "The exploration of the unknown, to go somewhere no one has gone before, there's not many places left like that, and it's a thrill."

His interest in the uncharted territory of Mars was cemented while earning an M.S. in geosciences at then-NLU, where he created detailed geologic mapping of a region that contained evidence of enormous floods and possibly lakes on Mars. James worked under geosciences professor Rene DeHon.

"Without his help and guidance I wouldn't be where I am today," James said.

James, who was recently inducted into the Space Camp Hall of Fame, works at Arizona State University's Mars Space Flight Facility where he takes pictures of Mars and analyzes the images for future landing sites and geologic studies. His efforts ensure scientists better understand the planet.

The oldest of five children, James grew up in Tuscaloosa, Ala. He has always felt a passion for space discovery. "I knew from a very early age that I wanted to commit my life to the great adventure of exploring space. I have dreamed about it ever since I was seven years old. I have never really wanted to do anything else with my life."

His siblings always out-performed him academically, and his grade school teachers discouraged him from his dream, but James, who eventually earned a Ph.D from ASU, wasn't going to be discouraged.

"I didn't listen to them. My parents told me that in this country, if you're willing to work, you'll achieve. They were right."

2001

Lauren Pickett Davis '01, a 2007 graduate of Loyola University School of Law, is a law clerk with the Ouachita Parish 4th Judicial District Court.

2002

Jason Chisolm '02 graduated from the Academy of Military Science/Officer Candidate School at Magee Tyson ANG base in Knoxville, Tenn., in June and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He is assigned to the 159th Fighter Wing on the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans.

Jason Simien '02, a KC-130 pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps, is stationed in Okinawa. He is scheduled to transition to the Marine Corps' new aircraft, the KC-130J, in the fall at Little Rock Air Force Base. He was promoted to Captain in May.

2003

Antoinette Curry '03 is working on a doctorate in developmental education at Grambling State University.

Crystal Middleton '03 received a master's degree from Louisiana Tech in 2006 and moved to Columbus, Ohio, to work in hospital rehab. She completed her clinical fellowship in May and is an American Speech-Language and Hearing Association-certified speech pathologist.

2005

Robert Bird '05 received a master's degree in history from Florida State University this summer. He is continuing in FSU's history doctoral program and will teach as an instructor.

Jody Maynard Tillman '05 is a human resources manager at Vantage Health Plan in Monroe.

She and husband Ty have a 1-year-old daughter.

2006

Lauren Dozier '06 received a certificate from Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute in Little Rock, Ark., and works in Shreveport.

Jonathan Kaufman '06, a building inspector for the city of West Monroe, is one of 23 Louisiana inspectors to be accredited as a Certified Building Official.

2007

Matthew William Witherow '07 was winner of a \$2,000 military scholarship from the National Federation of Music Club and performed a partial recital at their Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is in the U.S. Marine Corps.

John Whetstone,

a clinical laboratory science major, received the National Student of the Year Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.





BECAUSE OF ULM . . .
Aleecia Hibbets (B.B.A. '99) is an assistant accounting professor at ULM.

When I think about the impact ULM has had on my life, a few words come to mind: unique, amazing and unforgettable. ULM has given me opportunities that I don't think I would have had anywhere else.

Because of ULM, a 19-year-old accounting student from Monroe spent an entire spring semester in Paris, France, as an intern for one of the world's largest accounting firms, Ernst & Young. That spring of 1997 was an amazing experience both personally and professionally. I was able to gain experience preparing expatriate tax returns in a professional firm.

Any internship prepares and challenges a person in ways only an experience like that can, but an international flair and being time zones away from family and friends for several months made it a defining time in my life. It was my first trip overseas. I made new friends, and I faced challenges alone, growing stronger in my faith more than at any other time in my life.

I returned to Paris the following year to assist the firm at the end of tax season. Other ULM accounting students interned in Paris in later semesters. Now the ULM International Accounting Internship Program works with Ernst & Young in Canada.

Drawing upon my own experience, I encourage my students to find an internship that will help them succeed in the real world after graduation.

I serve on the College of Business Administration internship committee, which helps promote internships to students and

develops internship opportunities with firms. ULM is my home, and I'm glad to give back to the university that has given so much to me.

Sometimes it's tempting to take something familiar for granted, like the first-rate education represented by a ULM degree.

When completing my BBA in accounting, I began applying to graduate schools. I was focused on earning a Ph.D. and becoming a profes-

sor. Not only was I immediately accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Alabama, but I discovered that, as a ULM undergraduate, I had already completed two or three courses not required of UA students until their graduate program.

More recently, another amazing opportunity came to me directly through ULM.

In December, I taught a business communications course at Shue Yan University as part of the ULM Hong Kong MBA program. My husband and our small children accompanied me and shared in this experience. My children will always know they lived in Hong Kong for a month because of ULM.

ULM had a direct role in my family, too. My husband David and I met as members of the Sound of Today marching band. His parents and my parents attended and earned degrees from ULM.

ULM students can find their own unique opportunities. There may be an element of luck or divine providence, but primarily it's a matter of looking for open doors and being willing to venture through them, creating their own "Because of ULM" story.

**"ULM HAS GIVEN ME OPPORTUNITIES
THAT I DON'T THINK I WOULD
HAVE HAD ANYWHERE ELSE"**



SANDELL

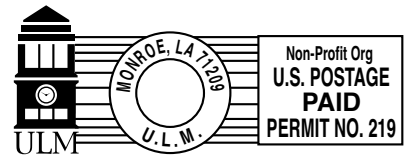
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