

# ULM

ULM's \$350 Million Impact  
A Tradition in Appreciation  
22 National Championships

FALL 2009

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE



Miss Louisiana 2009 Katherine Putnam  
*Faith, Family, University*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*James and Deborah Cofer*

captivate the Miss America judges the same way it has captivated many of us. The University of Louisiana at Monroe family is thrilled to see one of its own head to Las Vegas in January to compete and we've highlighted Katherine in our cover story, "*Faith, Family, University*," for this issue of *The ULM Magazine*.

Speaking of family and university, this edition also embraces our tradition of saying thanks to the many contributors and supporters who make possible the dream of a vibrant, growing university in our little corner of the world.

The feature, "*A Tradition in Appreciation: ULM Alumni Association Awards*," shines a spotlight on those generous individuals who empower students such as Katherine and many others to enjoy a first-class education without ever leaving northeast Louisiana.

In this issue of the magazine, you will also find that ULM doesn't just cultivate the gifts of its many beneficiaries, it repays in great dividends the very region it serves. The headline of our story says it all: "*\$350 MILLION - ULM's economic impact on region runs deep.*"

A Baton Rouge research company conducted the University of Louisiana System Economic and Community Impact Study, relying on data provided by the eight system universities for its report. The study showed what many of us already knew: ULM impacts not only its student population, but also residents of the state and region.

The interactive *E-ULM Magazine* is now available, using technology that significantly reduces ULM's carbon footprint and saves dollars as we see a corresponding decrease in the number of hard copies printed. Visit [ulm.edu/ulmmagazine](http://ulm.edu/ulmmagazine) to use this exciting new enhancement.

Sincerely,

James E. Cofer  
*President*

I remember meeting Katherine Putnam when she was a freshman student working in our University Advancement office, and was instantly struck by her singular grace, composure and welcoming smile.

First Lady Deborah and I continued watching Katherine's progress as she grew intellectually, socially, and artistically before our very eyes. We weren't a bit surprised when she captured the title of Miss ULM in 2007 or the Miss Louisiana 2009 title earlier this year.

Although she is certainly a beautiful young lady, Katherine exemplifies what poet Khalil Gibran must have meant when he said, "Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart."

Katherine's inner and outer beauty will surely

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1, FALL 2009

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The ULM Magazine is published for members of the ULM Alumni Association and friends by the University of Louisiana Monroe and the ULM Alumni Association.

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Any letters or comments may be published and edited for length.

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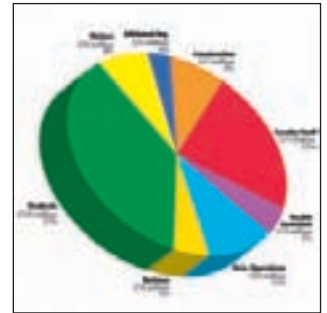
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ULM senior Katherine Putnam, Miss Louisiana 2009

**INSIDE BACK COVER:** The Warhawk statue, located near the ULM Library, symbolizes the ferocity, tenacity and confidence of its namesake — the ULM Warhawk.

# NEWS CAMPUS

## ULM dedicates new Kitty DeGree Speech and Hearing Center

The University of Louisiana at Monroe celebrated the grand opening of the Kitty DeGree Speech and Hearing Center in September.

The state-of-the-art facility, located on the first floor of Sugar Hall, is a tribute to a philanthropist who has not only been one of the greatest supporters of the university, but who herself was diagnosed with hearing loss as a young adult.

The grand opening was more than another occasion to gather dignitaries to thank Mrs. DeGree for her significant contribution — it represented the realization of a 40-year-old dream.

“To paraphrase astronaut Neil Armstrong . . . we have arrived,” said College of Health Sciences Associate Dean Paxton Oliver, in his opening remarks.

From just 900-square feet of clinical space in Brown Hall to more than 5,000-square feet, the new center is a milestone for the campus.

It offers individual treatment rooms, each with a dedicated observation room equipped with a two-way intercom system, providing a much-needed expansion for ULM students to receive a top-notch clinical education, in a top-notch facility, under the guidance of excellent faculty and staff.

“I know the value of the facility,” said DeGree. “You have to be hearing impaired to know how frustrating it is, and so this facility can be very helpful to those individuals.”

Other services the facility provides include voice rehabilitation, where people who have lost the



*Philanthropist Kitty DeGree*

ability to speak are taught how to vocalize using a mechanical larynx, and accent modification, an elective service where people are taught to speak without a dialect. Hearing tests are also available to the public.

Graduate student clinicians supervised by nationally certified and state licensed speech-language pathology faculty provide services in the speech-language pathology portion of the Center, and hearing evaluations are provided by the audiologist in the audiology area of the Center.

“It’s always great to open a student facility that provides hands-on experiences,” said ULM President James Cofer. “In addition to gaining professional experience, our students are contributing to the heart of our community.”

## School of Construction Management receives reaccreditation

The University of Louisiana at Monroe’s School of Construction Management recently received reaccreditation from the American Council for Construction Education. The ACCE provides accreditation standards for schools around the country.

Reaccreditation was awarded following a site visit from the ACCE and industry practitioners. Dr.

Keith Parker, associate professor and director of the School of Construction Management, headed the reaccreditation effort.

“We are very excited about the results of our accreditation visit,” Parker said. “As the first program to receive accreditation in the country over 30 years ago, it is very meaningful for us to receive the positive results of this most recent



## “Hall of Traditions” honors distinguished former students

A variety of extraordinary students and teams have passed through ULM since 1931. To honor these students, ULM established its “Hall of Traditions” to showcase their excellence and achievements.

A commemorative plaque states, “You are surrounded by excellence, by students, teams, and alumni who were striving to be the best, who represented our university and themselves with dignity, dedication, and class.”

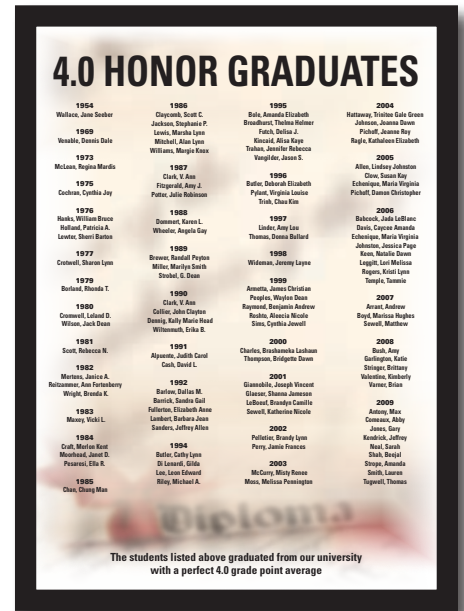
Displayed in the Student Union Building, the Hall of Traditions is a visible reminder to current students they attend a university rich in tradition.

The plaque also implores students to continue the university’s heritage: “Whatever your goals here may be, carry on their legacy. Strive for excellence in all that you do.”

The Hall of Traditions was completed in August 2009, prior to the arrival of the fall semester students. Some of the honorees of the first “class” include: country music singer Tim McGraw, Olympic athlete and Major League Baseball player Ben Sheets, eight time world record holder in pole vaulting John Pennel, NFL player Joe Profit, as well as the 1985 Final Four women’s basketball team, the 2008 national champion water ski team, and the debate team. In addition, the hall honors all 4.0 GPA graduates in the university’s history.

**“WHATEVER YOUR GOALS HERE  
MAY BE, CARRY ON THEIR LEGACY.  
STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN ALL THAT YOU DO.”**

Candidates for the Hall of Tradition must exhibit an exceptional degree of accomplishment in their field or have made significant contributions to the university. These contributions include academic, artistic or athletic achievement, as well as sustained success or national recognition. Tradition candidates are rotated annually at the start of every fall semester.



The Hall of Tradition candidates are selected by a committee appointed by President James Cofer to include representatives from a variety of campus areas.

Two student organizations, CAB and SGA, partnered to make resources available to the committee, including frames for the photographs.

To view a photo gallery of the Hall of Traditions, visit [www.ulm.edu/news](http://www.ulm.edu/news) and click on the “Photo Galleries” link.

accreditation review.”

The school is housed in the College of Business Administration and is tasked with preparing students for careers in the construction industry.

“The School of Construction Management has a long history of success, producing over 1,500 alumni who have become leaders in the construction industry,” said Dr. Ronald Berry, dean

of the CBA. “Our faculty continues the tradition of providing an outstanding education that meets the highest expectations of quality, as evidenced by the success of the program reaccreditation efforts.”

“Dr. Parker and the construction faculty are to be commended for their focus on excellence and continuous improvement,” he added.

## From Peru, to NYC, to ULM

**C**hristian A. Rubio, assistant professor of Spanish, is also the Honors Program Director. He earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University and began working at ULM in the fall of 2004.

**"I grew up in Lima, Peru. I moved to NYC in 1988, two months before my 16th birthday.**

**Once upon a time, I wanted to represent Peru in the United Nations, but life brought me to the U.S. and after high school I joined the U.S. Navy.**

**As a student I learned that there is no right or wrong answer in interpreting literature. My college professors gave me an opportunity to say what I thought while interpreting a**

verse of a poem or a line of a novel. I knew then I wanted to be a college literature professor.

**What first appealed to me** about working at ULM was the Foreign Languages Department. Its small size and camaraderie appealed to me immediately. I remember meeting Dr. Cofer and how he was interested in where I was from. I have always felt that my department is a small version of this university.

**Teaching is, without a doubt, the best part of my job.** Being from a whole different culture, not only the Hispanic culture but also coming from NYC, gives me a different view than what my students usually possess. The main goal of my teaching: to teach and make it fun. When I teach my classes, I always try to give my students a historical and cultural aspect of everything, even words. I think many of my students are surprised how much they can learn when they take foreign languages.

**While at ULM, I was able to publish my book. I have represented ULM in a conference in Cambridge University in the U.K. where I presented a paper. I also attended the Hispanic Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. Leading**

## Two homes, a pond apart

**J**ana Sutton is an assistant professor of Marriage and Family Therapy and director of Clinical Services for MFT programs. She earned her Ph.D. in MFT from ULM and began teaching full-time in the fall of 2005.

**I grew up in the small town of Bishop Auckland, England. I came to America in January 1994 to pursue my college education with the expectation that I would return home immediately thereafter. Now, I have two homes: one in the**

U.K. and one in the U.S. It is strange, yet fascinating,

to feel at home and out-of-place in two places simultaneously. However, I feel blessed to have two such wonderful communities of people and two nations to call my own.

**ULM was the right place for me** to follow my academic dreams, and it is also the perfect setting for me to pursue my professional dreams. ULM provides an ideal stage for me to be a teacher, a mentor, a clinical supervisor, and a researcher.

**The ULM faculty and staff** are like any family of cypress trees adorning the bayou. The bayou simply would not be the same without them and are ultimately what attracted me to ULM. To me, the family is small enough for each faculty member to be nurtured and for each faculty member to nurture each student. At the same time, the mission, dreams and expectations of ULM are large enough to promote academic and personal excellence.

our strength, their university

## ULM's Mobile Health Screening Unit hits the road; serves NE Louisiana

University of Louisiana at Monroe Katie Bunn, a senior clinical laboratory science student, joined other students drawing blood samples from patients inside ULM's new Mobile Health Screening Unit on a recent chilly morn.

The reconfigured recreational vehicle is equipped with an examination room and a screening center. It primarily serves Ouachita Parish but is also scheduled for health fairs in East Carroll and Franklin parishes, some of the most impoverished areas of the state. Free screenings, including eye and hearing exams, oral cancer screenings and cholesterol tests, encourage patient health and student learning.

"Some samples aren't usable because of the way they are drawn," explained Bunn. "This experience gives us practice in collecting samples correctly."

ULM's College of Health Sciences operates the unit with the support of financial institutions including IberiaBank, BancorpSouth and the Living Well Foundation. Clay's RV in West Monroe donated the vehicle, in which ULM has a two-year agreement to use for teaching and community outreach.

Five departments staff the unit: Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Speech Language Pathology, Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy.

The exceptional learning opportunities and off-campus health care services continue a long-standing tradition, said College of Health Sciences Dean Dr. Denny Ryman.



*Clinical Science Laboratory faculty and students with ULM's Mobile Health Screening Unit.*

the reorganization of the Honors Program has given me great satisfaction.

**I have two favorite spots** on campus. The first is my new office, which faces the Language Learning Center and gives me a great opportunity to watch students helping other students. My other favorite place is the new Honors Lounge in Stubbs 239B because some honors students and I renovated the entire place during our free time. You wouldn't have a clue how the room looked like before if you go there right now!

**One of my favorite ULM memories** is traveling with students abroad. I have taken students to Costa Rica, Peru and Spain. They are always eager to learn, and some are very open to trying new things.

**The Hispanic population** is growing not only in the U.S., but also in our local area. Our students can communicate with people and also understand some of their beliefs and culture. Also, our students learn how much Spain influenced Louisiana.

**As Ralph Emerson said,** "Language is the archive of history." My students are often fascinated how language reflects society and its moment.

**The accomplishment I am most proud of** is being appointed president of our state's division of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. To have the confidence of the membership, which includes many senior clinicians and academicians, is something I don't take lightly.

**One of my joys is being** clinical supervisor of the Juvenile Drug Court Program. The ULM MFT Program Interns provide the clinical services to the local 4th Judicial District Court's Juvenile Drug Court Program. This involves providing all treatment services to not only the adolescents themselves, but to the parents and/or family members.

**If I can influence students** in such a way that they question everything and are never certain what the right or wrong answer is, or even if there is one, then I have done my job.



# NEWSSPORTS



Dan O'Dowd

## ULM Athletic Foundation offers new membership programs

**D**an O'Dowd, executive director of the ULM Athletic Foundation, announces several new exciting membership programs: the "Young Grads" program and the "Jr. Warhawk" program.

The "Young Grads" program is for any ULM alum who has graduated in the last five years and is an excellent way for younger alumni to support ULM athletics at an entry level. Membership is \$50 per year and includes:

- Warhawk Frequent Flyer Pass (all sport plan — general admission seating)
- Invitation to Annual Kick-Off Party
- Preferred football parking permit
- Athletic Foundation Car Decal

The "Jr. Warhawk" program is a special membership for Warhawk fans age 12 and younger. Membership is \$20 and all Jr. Warhawk Club members receive:

- Season ticket to all home Warhawk athletic events
- Jr. Warhawk Club T-shirt and membership card
- Invitation to exclusive Jr. Warhawk Club events
- Name on Jr. Warhawk Club Web site
- Autographed picture of Ace
- E-Birthday card (sent to parent's email)

The ULM Athletic Foundation is the pillar of support for ULM Athletics. It is composed of individuals and businesses with a common mission, which is as follows:

*The mission of the ULM Athletic Foundation is to raise awareness and financial support for the Warhawk athletic programs, positively promote all athletic events, grow the Warhawk fan and donor base, and enhance the lives of over 300 student-athletes.*

For more information about any of the membership programs available, contact O'Dowd at **(318) 342-5284** or **odowd@ulm.edu** or visit **www.gowarhawks.net**.

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## Warhawks' tennis team lands on All-Academic Team; achieves another perfect APR score with the NCAA

**I**n recognition of their hard work inside the classroom, the ULM women's tennis team was recently named to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's list of All-Academic Teams.

Leading the way for the Warhawks were Juniors Ana Burjaili and Claire Clark, who were named ITA Scholar Athletes. Burjaili, from Bebedouro, Brazil, holds a 4.0 grade point average in finance. Clark, from Bossier City, holds a 4.0 grade point average in kinesiology.

"Being good in the classroom as well as on the tennis courts is something that we pride ourselves on as a program," ULM tennis head coach Terrence De Jongh said. "We have always placed a particular emphasis on the 'student' aspect of being a student-athlete and

recognition like this from one of our governing organizations is a great honor. I'm proud of the work and effort that our entire team has put forward in helping us to obtain this award."

To garner scholar athlete recognition, a student must have a 3.50 or better grade point average, have lettered for their intuition for at least one season, and have completed at least two full-time semesters at their current school.

In addition, this past spring the NCAA released its annual Academic Progress Rate report and for the second year in a row, the ULM women's tennis team received a perfect single-year score of 1,000.



Ana Burjaili



Claire Clark



## Water Ski Team wins 22nd National Championship

The University of Louisiana at Monroe Water Ski Team triumphed again, winning its 22nd national championship title at the National Collegiate Water Ski Association's 31st National Championship Tournament, held in Bakersfield, Calif., in October.

Twelve of the nation's top teams competed in Division I; this is the fourth consecutive year ULM won the Division I Team Overall title. Four of the ULM skiers traveled to the Under 21 Water Ski World Championships in Chapala, Mexico. ULM's Zach Worden won gold medals in men's jumping and overall.

ULM President James Cofer expressed his pride in the skiers, who won the tournament by more than 1,000 points.

"The ULM Ski Team, along with their coach, Treina Landrum, should be commended for achieving such consistently high levels of performance in a very competitive sport," Cofer said.

"Once again, this region and this university received national recognition due to the outstanding contributions of our staff and students."

The team traveled to the national championship with a new team member: a customized trailer.

When businessman Dean Blackett and his wife relocated to Louisiana, he founded PAC Environmental Services, but he never forgot his days near the open water where he lifeguarded along the Pacific Ocean.

Almost instantly he was drawn to the accomplishments



*ULM's Water Ski team and Dean Blackett with their new equipment trailer.*

of the ULM Water Ski Team. He contacted Landrum, who recalled the team's frequent trailer rentals for hauling equipment to national competitions and realized exactly what the team needed.

Blackett purchased the trailer and customized it with team pictures and the Warhawks logo. The skiers thanked him for the donation, unveiled at a ceremony in Warhawk Circle on campus in October.

"I looked at all the awards you had won," Blackett said. "And I thought, these are the people that need something special. You need the recognition, that's why I did it. Keep up the good work!"

For more about ULM's Water Ski Team, visit [www.ulmwaterski.com](http://www.ulmwaterski.com).

## Cofer appointed to NCAA Division I Board of Directors

**ULM** President James Cofer has been named to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors for Division I.

"I'm honored to have been asked to serve our conference in this manner," Cofer said. "I look forward to focusing on the continuing development of all student-athletes, especially in the Sun Belt Conference, as well as increasing the participation of students in athletic programs."

The board is comprised of 18 chancellors and presidents of Division I members. All 11 Football Bowl Subdivision conferences have a permanent seat, while seven seats rotate among the 20 Football Championship Subdivision and Division I conferences.

Because of its status as a member of the FBS coalition, the Sun Belt Conference has a permanent seat on the NCAA's 18-member Board of Directors. As a result, the conference has a crucial voice on some of the

most pressing issues in college athletics and will always have a role in the implementation of any future NCAA legislation and guidelines.

"We are delighted to have Dr. Cofer serve on this prestigious panel," Sun Belt Commissioner Wright Waters said. "He has been an outstanding leader for ULM and the Sun Belt Conference and the timing is right for him to join this group of national leaders. We are confident that he will be a valuable voice for the league."

The NCAA is a voluntary organization through which the nation's colleges and universities govern their athletics programs.



*James Cofer*

# FAITH, FAMILY,





# UNIVERSITY

## MISS LOUISIANA 2009 IS WELL-GROUNDED IN ALL THREE

By Keli Jacobi, ULM Staff Writer

*"I have had big dreams since I was a little girl, and, for the first time I feel free to go after them with all my heart."*

— ULM SENIOR KATHERINE PUTNAM, Miss Louisiana 2009



It's early autumn, and the temperature is nearly perfect as the University of Louisiana at Monroe Warhawks enter Malone Stadium to take on Florida International University for their 2009 Homecoming game.

Katherine Putnam, a 22-year-old senior piano performance major at ULM, sports her own uniform for the occasion, a simple black top, pants and black flats.

Judging by the hundreds who line up for autographs throughout the first half of the game, the ensemble is a crowd pleaser. The dark outfit stands in strong contrast to the sparkling tiara perched atop Putnam's head and her ever-present smile, which reveals the generous and sincere spirit behind it.

"I love that pink bow, girl! What's your name?" Putnam inquires, as she uses a silver marker to scribble her signature for an eager fan.

"Olivia," the young girl says.

Olivia briefly studies Putnam's face and then glances down at the stack of 5x7 portraits Putnam will be using for autographs throughout the afternoon. By the end of the first half of the football game, the Warhawks will have scored their first touchdown and Putnam will have signed her name and personalized message more than 150 times.

Olivia's message reads, "Katherine Putnam, Miss Louisiana 2009. You are beautiful!"



**"MUSIC TAUGHT US TO COMMUNICATE AND RELATE WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS."**

— KATHERINE PUTNAM





Putnam is at ease with the scores of mostly young girls who line up, with names like Kristen and Mia and yes, even Arizona. Nearby, several young boys also “double-dog dare” each other to steal a few moments alone with the olive-skinned beauty queen, after she jokes that she won’t give up her crown, but she will allow a kiss.

Putnam looks up and squints at the mid-afternoon sun. “Yep, I’m going to have a Farmer Brown tan by the end of the day,” she says, with a chuckle.

It occurs to even the most casual observer that everyone, *everyone*, who comes into contact with Katherine Putnam develops an instant crush on her. Perhaps it’s because she isn’t someone people just enjoy looking at, she’s someone worth listening to.

Certainly, Putnam’s three families — her biological family, her academic family and her church family — have been blessed by Putnam’s musical and spiritual gifts. She has seamlessly blended those worlds and integrated them into one complete package, beautiful inside and out.

And who knows? Maybe “complete package” Putnam will be the first to bring the Miss America crown home to Louisiana.

## A MINISTER'S DAUGHTER

The journey from her birthplace of Sweetwater, Texas, to nearby Oak Grove, La. — “home of taters, maters and tigers” — to her current home at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, has presented Putnam with plenty of opportunities to showcase her extraordinary gifts.

Her talent is undergirded by a strong spiritual foundation laid out by her minister father, Byron, and his wife, Heather, who raised their six children to continually worship through lifting their voices to heaven.

“It was where our faith began,” said Putnam, who would occasionally sneak to listen in on her mother’s piano lessons.

The entire family sang through the daily routines of life, right through the most mundane tasks, from eating dinner, completing chores, to finishing homework. Putnam’s soothing voice filled her childhood home, where she often rocked five younger brothers and sisters to sleep.

Putnam recently joked about the stares the family received when singing their blessing over food at restaurants.

“Six kids, in three-part harmony ... it was something else,” she laughed. The musical distinction earned the clan their affectionate nickname, the “Von Putnam’s.”

“I was very fortunate to have had an incredible childhood,” said Putnam.

“Music has also been a family ministry for us. From a young age I was exposed to the healing power of music. Our family spent time in hospitals and nursing homes singing to the sick... music taught us to communicate and relate with people from all kinds of backgrounds.”

Putnam, the oldest of six born to an American father and Indian mother, traveled to India four times and resided in India for eight months. As the first Indian-American Miss Louisiana, she made international headlines when a Calcutta newspaper published news of her new title.

Perhaps it is not an accident that Putnam learned how quickly music — the language of the heart — bridges any cultural and ethnic gaps.

The music that most spoke to Putnam’s young heart was George Frederic Handel’s beloved “Hallelujah Chorus.” When grand pianist Dino Kartsonakis performed it, Putnam was emboldened

to take the composition about the life of Christ and make it her own.

“I was determined that I was going to be a famous pianist just like him, and one day I would play the ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ in front of thousands!” she recalled. “It took me years to finally track down the music, but once I found it, I knew it was a match made in heaven.”

Eventually, Putnam even had the opportunity to study with the famed piano virtuoso, and Kartsonakis even assisted Putnam in perfecting the piece for her portion of the talent competition in the Miss Louisiana pageant. Putnam spent countless hours learning the music, then incorporating her own style and interpretation into the piece.



**“I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE PRESENT AND EXCELLENT IN EVERY MOMENT.”**

“It was the perfect combination of a well-known classic with a new and exciting twist,” she said. “I had so much fun learning and performing it and making it my own.”

Putnam’s inspiration, but more importantly, her preparation, paved the path to her crown. The preparation also paid off in another way — Putnam was able to perform as a special guest of Kartsonakis at his concert following her win.

The focused discipline required to perform well musically is a trait Putnam enjoys sharing with young people hoping to follow in her footsteps. But it is also a philosophy she especially hopes to impart to her younger siblings.

“I think it’s important to be present and excellent in every moment, but it’s just as important to look at your life and make decisions based on what you want to become one day,” she said. “I live my life by seeing my ultimate goals and dreams in front of me and I work backwards, so I can make wise decisions now to steer my life in the direction I want it to go.”



## MAROON AND GOLD PROUD

Putnam sheepishly admits her initial plans for higher education included a certain flagship university in Louisiana's capital city. A full music scholarship to the University of Louisiana at Monroe changed all that, and now, Putnam wears her Maroon and Gold colors proudly.

"It was honestly the best decision I ever made. I can't imagine being anywhere else now," she said.

ULM Professors Richard Seiler and Sandra Lunte are a large part of the reason Putnam is so content with her decision to remain in northeast Louisiana. Seiler, a professor in the ULM Division of Music in the School of Visual and Performing Arts, indicated mutual admiration for Putnam. The professor first heard Putnam perform when she auditioned at ULM.

"You might say she was our star recruit," said Seiler. "I thought for a high school student, she performed very well, and her skills were quite advanced."

Lunte, a professor of music and current Hammond Endowed Professor in Liberal Arts, has been equally impressed with Putnam's ability. But even more impressive, according to Lunte, is Putnam's personality.

"What strikes me most about Katherine is that she's always just so kind to everybody. She's remained humble throughout this whole process," said Lunte.

Putnam, a member of the ULM Concert Choir for four years and the ULM Chamber Singers for two years, considers herself fortunate to perform with the elite group of musicians. In addition to Seiler and Lunte, Putnam praises the accomplishments of Dr. Deborah Chandler as a musical conductor who challenges the groups "to be excellent in every area of our lives."

"They say leadership isn't learned from a book. It is only learned through experience. Being a member of these two groups has provided me the leadership skills necessary to be a successful musician," said Putnam.

Putnam credits ULM for setting the bar for excellence and shaping her into a true musician.

"The professors, the other students — they inspire me to keep my love for

music alive, and have taught me the meaning of persistence, discipline, and the importance of self-expression through performance," she said.

Putnam also enjoys a special relationship with both ULM President James Cofer and First Lady Deborah, who have taken her in as their own.

Both were there when Putnam earned the title of Miss ULM 2007, in which she also won the evening gown, swimsuit and interview portions of the pageant. The event portended great things for Putnam and demonstrated the ability of judges to recognize and reward exceptional talent and beauty.

"They have made such a positive impact on my life and the lives of so many others," said Putnam.

"They have inspired me to strive for the best in everything that I do, and their legacy of excellence will continue to make a lasting impression on our

students, our university, and our community."

Putnam's scholastic honors include the Clara Freiburg Piano Scholarship; the Florence Allbritton Piano Award; Louisiana TOPS Performance Award; ULM Outstanding Scholar; Concert

Choir and Chamber Singers Scholarship and the ULM Dean's List.

Putnam is taking a break from school to fulfill the requirements of Miss Louisiana 2009, but will return to finish a bachelor's degree and then pursue a master's degree in piano performance.

**"THEY SAY LEADERSHIP ISN'T  
LEARNED FROM A BOOK. IT IS  
ONLY LEARNED THROUGH  
EXPERIENCE."**

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP LEADER

Putnam's deep faith shines through in her role as music director and pianist for Contemporary Worship at First United Methodist Church in Monroe.

Nowhere was that faith more evident than during Putnam's recent Children's Miracle Network benefit concert, the non-profit organization that raises funds for Children's Hospitals, medical research and community awareness of childhood diseases.

Putnam's church played host to the event and the pews were packed with people, in spite of a late September downpour that had drenched the region.

Drs. Seiler and Lunte braved the rain to perform for the concert, despite





it being Seiler's birthday. Seiler even joked about his "sacrifice" with the audience and apologized in advance for missing the last portion of the show.

"One of my joys has been having Katherine as a student," Seiler said. "I hope you can read my heart and know how special she has been as a student. She is destined for wonderful things."

Soundfaith, the contemporary worship music group that Putnam leads, followed a piano and flute duo performed by her professors. Putnam said the group developed, not as a showy display of talents or gifts, but to "praise Him."

Treina Landrum, ULM's director of recreational services and facilities, is fortunate to know Putnam both through school and church activities. Landrum is one of the featured singers in Soundfaith, and has watched Putnam evolve spiritually and musically in the last several years.

"Katherine is a consummate performer," said Landrum. "She's very driven; she figures out what she needs to do and she just goes for it. She's not nervous when she performs, she's an expert at doing things on the fly... she just does not lose her composure."

Landrum remarked that even though Putnam obviously sets extremely high standards for herself, unlike many other perfectionists, Putnam isn't hard to work with. Soundfaith is an extremely close group, with the older adults mentoring the younger ones as the musicians work hard to improve their skills together and inspire the congregation to deeper worship through the power of music.

"Katherine is genuinely one of the sweetest and most beautiful women I know on the inside," said Landrum. "She didn't start out as an OK spiritual person; she's always been deeply committed to her personal faith. Her spirituality has deepened, it grows with her as time goes by."

The Sept. 24 Children's Miracle Network Benefit Concert honored the life of a very young family friend of the Putnam's, Jabin Lawrence, who recently died of pediatric cancer.

Jabin's mother, Somer Lawrence, shared heart-wrenching stories of her son's courageous battle. Lawrence also told audience members how Jabin latched onto the power of music by singing, "I will praise you in this storm," when his health began deteriorating.

"We were able to walk with them through his illness, and we saw miracles come to pass in his life and the lives of his family," said Putnam.

"I saw how music had the power to heal, how something as simple as singing a song could bring



*Byron and Heather Putnam at Katherine's fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network.*

relief and hope to someone who was hurting," she said. "It spoke to my heart in a tremendous way and I knew I wanted to share that gift with others."

By the concert's end, Putnam, who set her fundraising goal at \$10,000 for the Children's Miracle Network, was half way there, bringing in \$5,000.

The event concluded, appropriately, with Putnam surrounded by family, doing what has come naturally for so many years — singing and worshipping.

"I'm Katherine's father, and I guess you can see how proud I am," said Byron Putnam.

For that moment, it seemed as if everyone in attendance shared in the father's pride.

"I think it's important that she knows she has all these people that truly love her," said Landrum. "It's not just a casual relationship. People have deep emotional attachments to her. She's able to do that with so many types of people, people who are very committed to her."

Landrum continued, "We wanted to do that concert because we love her. She is a fine example of a lovely woman that epitomizes what we all hope our daughters would be. She is able to blend social and academic success and she has a good work ethic. Those are things that every parent wants for their child."

Shortly after winning the Miss Louisiana title, Putnam characteristically downplayed her abilities.

"It's in my nature to enjoy a busy schedule. I've always been happiest when I've had a lot to do. I love being productive with my time ... making a difference where I am is preparing me for my next goal," she said.

"The destination is a celebration and accumulation of past efforts, endurance, and perseverance needed to reach your ultimate goal, whatever that may be in life." ■

# A TRADITION IN



2009 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENTS  
*Tex and Carole Kilpatrick*

# APPRECIATION: ULM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS



By Keli Jacobi, ULM Staff Writer

It has been noted that appreciation carries a certain vibration, one that is as strong as love, hate, anger or joy. When we express appreciation, we show how important it is not to take the contribution of others for granted. More importantly, we show our grasp of this simple fact: our acknowledgements do have a positive effect on those who most deserve it.

That's why officials at the University of Louisiana at Monroe have busily prepared each fall for ULM's Alumni Association Awards since its inception in 1981, the year that campus leaders celebrated the 50th anniversary of the institution. That year, ULM established its highest alumni honor, the Golden Arrow Award, to recognize alumni who served the Alumni Association and the university well.

Quickly recognizing the need to extend that appreciation a little further, the association organized the Service Award shortly afterward to acknowledge the contributions of ULM's outstanding employees. Since 1997, the Association has annually selected a ULM staff member for outstanding service to the university. Service award recipients must have completed at least three consecutive years at ULM and have contributed to the betterment of the campus community.





George T. Walker

The ULM Alumni Chapter of the Year Award criteria includes the number of alumni in the chapter area who are current on their dues to the ULM Alumni Association, one whose president attends one of ULM's Alumni Association quarterly board meetings, and one which hosts at least one event in support of ULM in the chapter's area.

More recently, the George T. Walker Lifetime Achievement Award was established to honor community leaders and benefactors who have contributed to ULM's growth, regardless of whether they are university alumni or not. This award was aptly named for beloved ULM President Emeritus Walker.



Don Weems

"There are so many of them, you can look at the list and see it's just a really impressive group of people," said local businessman Don Weems, who assisted with the implementation of many of the awards as ULM's former alumni director.

It's a tradition of appreciation that has been going on for almost 30 years, and one that is sure to last well into the future. To date, more than 60 individuals have been honored through the years to show ULM's appreciation of their value to the university.

"That's what it's all about, to say we recognize you and that you have given greatly of yourself to this university," said Weems. "Even when people say they don't want to be thanked, I think we all know it goes a long way."

Weems continued, "There are so many 'behind-the-scenes' types of people who give back in ways unseen. We'll never run low on a list of worthy recipients. It's all about telling people 'thank you' — what they did was noticed."

The 2009 honorees received their awards in front of a packed house at the Annual Alumni Association Homecoming Brunch on Oct. 3.

## 2009 GOLDEN ARROW RECIPIENT MRS. BETTY CUMMINS

When ULM President James E. Cofer presented the Golden Arrow Award to Betty Cummins of Richland Parish, he remarked that she "is one of

those alumni who doesn't just talk about her belief in education — she acts upon it."

Cummins graduated from ULM in 1960 with a bachelor's of arts in elementary education. Her husband, Jay Cummins, also graduated that year with a degree in animal husbandry. In 1970, Mr. Cummins began his farming career, raising cotton, corn and cattle on their farm near Mangham. Both have contributed significantly to the agricultural community of northeast Louisiana through the years.

"Betty is the best combination of talent, intellect and experience you could ever find," said Tommy Barham, former president of the ULM Foundation Board of Trustees. "And her work through the Scott Foundation is exemplary."

Cummins' parents established the Thomas H. and Mayme P. Scott Foundation, to which Barham referred, in 1961. The Foundation provides a perpetual fund enabling the family to give back to the communities that played a vital part in their lives.

"Mr. Scott was a prince of a guy. He spent a lot of years, not only running his business, but also helping people. He would go to great lengths to show his support. Of course, that's the heritage Betty comes from," said Barham.

It is a legacy that Cummins is proud to continue. "It's just something you do. It's the way

you live," she said. "My father taught me an awful lot. He never taught me to be just like him, but it turned out I was, at least in what I value."

Cummins serves as president of the Scott Foundation and

is pleased at the number of ULM scholarships and professorships that it funds to attract the area's best and brightest students and educators. The Foundation has provided for an Endowed Chair in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; an Endowed Professorship in Teaching Excellence and an Endowed Professorship in Agriculture. In addition, the Foundation funds a scholarship for the Northeast Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and the Mayme and Tom Scott Endowed Scholarship, established to honor the Scotts' 50th wedding anniversary in 1985.

"My mother taught me the value of pursuing

**"BETTY IS ONE OF THOSE ALUMNI WHO DOESN'T JUST TALK ABOUT HER BELIEF IN EDUCATION — SHE ACTS UPON IT."**

— ULM PRESIDENT JAMES COFER



Betty Cummins

higher education,” said Cummins. “It’s the best thing she could’ve done for me.”

Cummins also served on the ULM Foundation Board of Trustees for 11 years, leading as its president in 2006 and 2007. Her term as past president ended Dec. 31, 2009. During her tenure, she helmed a university residential project now known as Bon Aire, the home for the ULM President and family. The home overlooks Bayou DeSiard and provides a gracious setting for the university to extend its hospitality to students, faculty and campus guests.

“I was the ULM Foundation president when the initial groundwork for the residence was being completed and my successor Joe Farr saw the project through in its developmental stages,” explained Barham. “But Betty came along at the time to manage the completion of the project. It is largely through her efforts that the president’s home is what it is today. The elements you see now were completed under her management.”

“When I looked at the property and realized what it could add to the campus, I became excited about the possibilities,” said Cummins, during a recent interview. “It’s something that only enhances our image.”

Perhaps Cummins was most enthusiastic about the central reception/entertainment area in Bon Aire, a gift of her parents’ foundation, named in honor of ULM President Emeritus Dr. George T. Walker.

If Bon Aire is the warm embrace of ULM, then Scott Plaza — the university’s “quad” area central to all campus activities — might be considered

ULM’s heart. It also exists through a capital gift provided by the Scott Foundation. The Foundation is the recipient of the 2005 Hall of Distinction Award, the university’s most prestigious award and is a Tower Society member of the Kitty DeGree Bell Tower Society, the highest recognition category for cumulative, lifetime giving to the university.

Cummins has two children, Scott Cummins and Mary Ellen Thompson, and five grandchildren. She is a member of First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro, is affiliated with the Winnsboro Bank Board and served two terms on the Board of the St. Francis Medical Center.

On or off the ULM campus, rarely do people work with Cummins for very long without

developing an appreciation for her business acumen and warm personality.

“She possesses all the qualities of a practical person combined with the skills of a visionary,” noted Barham. “She’s a leader and

her judgment is respected in all segments of the community.”

## “MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION.”

— BETTY CUMMINS

## 2009 GEORGE T. WALKER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENTS TEX AND CAROLE KILPATRICK

Tex Kilpatrick and his wife, Carole, have spent nearly half of their 51-year marriage actively supporting higher education, and they have especially nurtured the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

The Kilpatricks joined Cummins in seeing the capital project, Bon Aire, through to completion, serving as co-chairs for the fundraising. Mrs. Kilpatrick also served on the decorating committee for the beautiful bayou home and was instrumental in helping procure its historical name.

For their extraordinary history of support to ULM, the Kilpatricks’ names are permanently inscribed as Ouachita Society members of the lifetime giving society, the Kitty DeGree Bell Tower Society. The Kilpatricks’ support of the university stems from a deeply held belief in the benefits of higher education combined with the acknowledgment that ULM is a major economic engine driving northeast Louisiana.



*Tex and Carole Kilpatrick with President and Mrs. Cofer.*

“For us to have the kind of educational opportunities we have right in our own backyard is wonderful,” said Mrs. Kilpatrick. “ULM is such a great resource for future generations who deserve an excellent education.”

From 1998 to 2004, Mr. Kilpatrick served on the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, as well as on the ULM Foundation Board of Trustees. In the spring, the ULM College of Business Administration awarded Mr. Kilpatrick honorary membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society that honors the academic achievement of students who study business.

Mrs. Kilpatrick has also had a long and devoted tenure on the Presidential Lyceum Committee, a series that brings national speakers to campus to promote intellectual exchange among ULM students, faculty, staff and the community.

Not only did Mrs. Kilpatrick graduate from ULM, so did her brother, Ross Eady, and the couple’s youngest daughter, Laura Kilpatrick Marchelos, president of Kilpatrick Funeral Homes.

Marchelos, who also serves on the ULM Foundation Board, said her parents’ legacy reaches far beyond the ULM campus.

“There is much more that they have done that their names aren’t attached to,” she explained. “They taught us to do things because you want to, not because you feel you have to ... anything they’ve ever gotten involved with, they’ve done it to the best of their ability.”

**“THE KIND OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD IS WONDERFUL.”**

One of the biggest ventures she and her father have been involved with is bringing back to life an old cemetery, now known as Kilpatrick Serenity Gardens.

“To see first-hand my father’s full knowledge of environmentalism and his efforts to maintain the area’s natural setting was such a gift,” she said. “He loves to be outside and be one with nature. That really gave me a whole new wealth of appreciation of my father’s knowledge.”

“I have just found them to be the most caring and thoughtful people,” agreed Sheryl Dearman, who has worked for the Kilpatricks for 14 years. “They just want to make sure the community is taken care of. Unless you are here and can see how much they care about people, you just don’t know how special they are. Laura is also very easy to work with ... they are all really good people.”

The Kilpatricks are active members of First Baptist Church of West Monroe.

They have three daughters, Kerry Layne Kilpatrick, Robin Kilpatrick Fincher and Laura Kilpatrick Marchelos, and four grandchildren.

“Our first allegiance is to the church, then family,

then education,” said Mr. Kilpatrick, of his family philosophy.

— CAROLE KILPATRICK

**2009 ULM SERVICE AWARD**

ULM’s Chief of Police Larry Ellerman entered the law enforcement field with one goal in mind — finishing his college degree.



*Larry Ellerman*

The Monroe Police Department was hiring patrol officers and had offered to help pay for courses at then Northeast Louisiana State University, just as Ellerman was finishing active duty service with the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, Texas. Ellerman went on to earn both his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in criminal justice at the university. He eventually left the Monroe PD and established roots working for his alma mater in 1979.

The ULM Alumni Association recently recognized Ellerman for his steady contributions to the campus





Larry Ellerman and Keith Brown

over the course of more than 30 years with the university.

"It is inconceivable what this university would have been without the 30-years of public service and leadership that Chief Ellerman has devoted to it," said ULM President James E. Cofer at the 2009 Homecoming Brunch, held for all the alumni

honorees.

"Much has changed in campus law enforcement during that time, but Chief Ellerman has ensured the safety and security of all of our students, staff and faculty."

Ellerman was hired as ULM's Assistant Director of Police at a time when the university was significantly smaller and quieter. Since that time, he has led the way in instituting community-oriented policing, the practice of assigning the same officer to a specific area on a permanent basis. Results of this policing style have brought ULMPD recognition statewide by other police chiefs and officers.

Ellerman also provided oversight and sought grant funding for a department-wide communications system upgrade, with improved technology that enables officers to communicate effectively with one another and with other area and state officers in promoting campus safety.

His other accomplishments include the development and maintenance of emergency preparedness plans for the campus, as well as the coordination of on-campus crime prevention programs.

"One thing I would say is that he is the ultimate professional," said former dean of student affairs, Charlie McDonald. "His main concerns are the safety and security of the campus. He is very student-oriented."

McDonald also noted that Ellerman always empathized with those with whom he was dealing.

"And that can be demanding in a stressful situation," he said. "To be able to do that for the number of years he was asked to do it ... Larry, his staff, and his officers have always carried out their mission in an

outstanding manner."

McDonald added that to Chief Ellerman, family is everything, and that includes his campus family.

"He has been tremendously involved," said McDonald. "There are very few events that happen at ULM that Chief Larry Ellerman isn't there, not only as a professional but also as a supporter of ULM. He is a vital, integral part of this campus community."

"Life is built around people. I guess that is why I'm a public servant," said Ellerman.

He and his wife, Claudine, have been married for 47 years; they have three sons, all of whom are ULM graduates, and are successful in their fields of work.

He is a long-time member of First Baptist Church in West Monroe, where he serves as deacon and is on the Community Restoration Committee. A fact not as widely known about Chief Ellerman is that he sings with a southern gospel quartet, and has five recordings under his belt. The group is "Brothers in Christ," though they were once also referred to as "The Singing Cops."

## ULM CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ULM Alumni Association also honored its Greater Baton Rouge Alumni Chapter as the Chapter of the Year at the Awards Brunch.

The Baton Rouge chapter hosts two alumni events each year, one in conjunction with Northern Exposure and then a family event each summer. There are over 30 alumni chapters across the country full of volunteers who support their alma mater, said Tommy Walpole, associate director of ULM's Alumni Relations.

"This chapter has risen to the top and really has done a good job for a very long time," said Walpole.

"Under the Cofer administration, ULM has excelled in many ways," said Vikki Day, accepting the award on behalf of her chapter. "Again, thank you for this honor."

To view a photo gallery of the ULM Alumni Awards Brunch and a reception at Bon Aire for the 2009 ULM Alumni Award recipients, visit [www.ulm.edu/news](http://www.ulm.edu/news) and click on the "Photo Galleries" link. ■



Tommy Walpole and Vikki Day

**"IT'S ALL ABOUT TELLING PEOPLE 'THANK YOU'."**

— DON WEEMS

# \$350 MIL





# LION

## ULM'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REGION RUNS DEEP

By Keli Jacobi, ULM Staff Writer



### HIGHER LEARNING EQUALS HIGHER EARNING.

That's the word from the U.S. Census Bureau, which says that those with a bachelor's degree earn roughly \$17,000 more than those with just a high school diploma. That number increases to \$27,850 for master's degree earners and, as if one's financial health was not enough incentive, census figures indicate that higher education learners also report being in good to very good physical health compared to high school graduates.

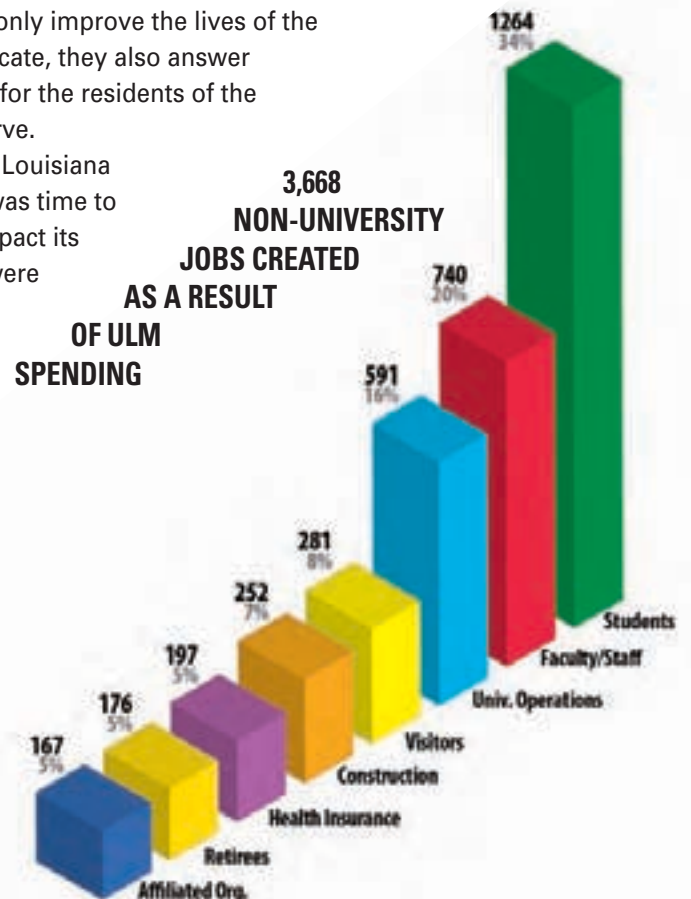
But there is something less often recognized when factoring the benefits of a college education: empirical evidence suggests state and local taxpayers also reap numerous rewards, financial and otherwise, from their investment in public colleges.

In short — higher education pays.

That's because the University of Louisiana at Monroe and other universities not only improve the lives of the students they strive to educate, they also answer many quality of life issues for the residents of the regions and states they serve.

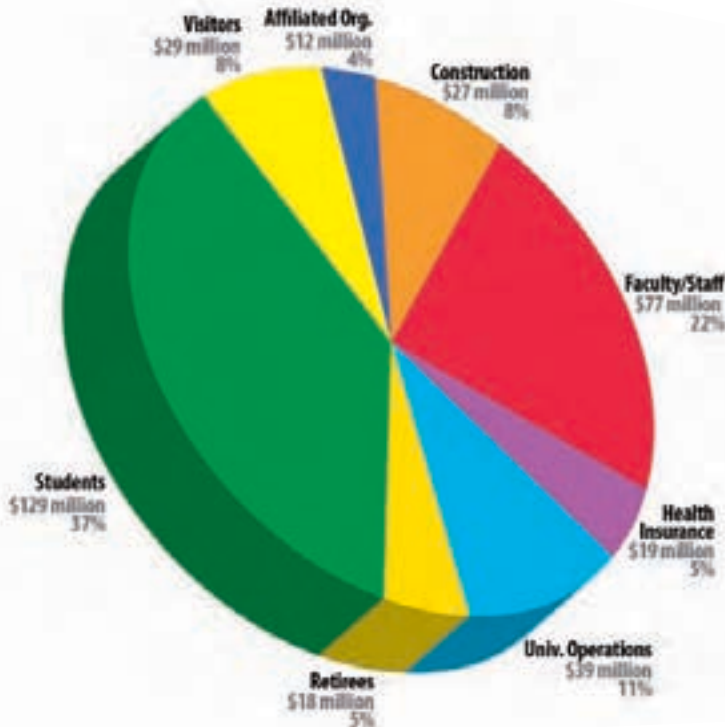
Last year, University of Louisiana System leaders agreed it was time to determine exactly what impact its colleges and universities were having throughout the state.

The Applied Technology Research Corp. of Baton Rouge conducted the University of Louisiana System Economic and Community Impact Study, which relied on the data provided by eight UL System universities for its report.





## IMPACT BY SOURCE



The final report was released last spring and showed that investments in higher education have a ripple effect on the economic vitality of the entire state and the quality of life of its citizens. It confirmed what many local business leaders already knew — there exists a direct correlation between a community's access to a four-year college and the economic health of that community.

The UL System, the state's largest higher education system, boasts some 80,000 students.

### ULM CREATES INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

ULM faces additional budget cuts as state legislators wrangle over how to handle continued budgetary constraints. ULM President James Cofer said major cuts to the university would have a similar effect as that of a major industrial plant closing, as the study's results indicate.

"What we do here is create intellectual capital. It is that kind of capital that becomes the primary driver of the local and regional economy," he said.

Cofer, faculty and community leaders, presented details of the impact study during an April news conference, which showed ULM had a total impact

of \$350 million for the region. That, combined with similar numbers from Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University, adds up to about \$1 billion in annual regional impact from all three schools.

The UL System Economic and Community Impact Study showed an overall annual impact of \$3.4 billion from all eight universities in the system. The study concluded that for every one dollar provided by the state to the universities returns about \$8.

Cofer said that the dollar amounts ULM provides to the economy do not compare to the value it adds to the students and the community.

"The breadth of our reach is considerable and much of what we contribute to the state and region is unique to our institution," he said. "Investing in ULM is crucial to our economic future because it means we envision a potential for growth and new possibilities for northeast Louisiana, and indeed, the entire state."

ULM has awarded 63,288 degrees over the last 50 years. Over the last 10 years, ULM produced nearly 11,000 graduates with bachelor's degrees, and awarded more than 2,500 master's degrees to its graduates. Add to those figures the hundreds of associates, professional and doctoral degrees awarded by the university, and the economic implications become obvious.

**"INVESTING IN ULM IS CRUCIAL TO OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE BECAUSE IT MEANS WE ENVISION A POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH."**

— ULM PRESIDENT JAMES COFER

In particular, the health professions and related clinical sciences generated over 2,650 graduates over the last decade — the state's largest share of graduates from this particular field in a single

institution. Additionally, ULM produces nearly half of the doctoral graduates in the state in the health professions and related clinical sciences.

These graduates have boosted Louisiana's economy to the tune of about \$784 million over the last decade.

But spending is just one facet of a campus' contribution to local and state economics. Dr. Richard Hood, executive assistant to the president, spearheaded ULM's contributions to the study. He said there is another investment almost as important — the investment of time provided by ULM's many faculty, staff and students.

"The number of volunteer hours that our campus family donates is just one of the outstanding numbers found in the study," said Hood. ULM faculty, staff



Richard Hood

and students volunteered approximately 255,000 hours last year alone.

ULM's commitment to northeastern Louisiana isn't limited to those particular statistics. Its commitment is exemplified in the ongoing efforts at campus revitalization, according to Cofer.

By 2010, the university will have spent more than \$80 million in classroom upgrades and campus improvement projects, stemming from revitalization efforts launched in 2002.

"That is a direct and concerted investment in our students and in northeastern Louisiana," said Cofer. "In addition, our professors continue to expand their methodologies, and many now incorporate emerging technologies into their curriculums."

Speaking of technology, the university provides courses to hundreds of adult learners who have earned college credits, but have not completed their degrees, through ULM's Gateway to Online Degrees program.

"That kind of educational outreach is the cornerstone of economic development," Cofer remarked. "By making higher education available to all Louisianans, we are ensuring a brighter economic future and quality of life for our entire state and region."



Linda Holyfield

Linda Holyfield, chief executive of P&S Surgical Hospital in Monroe, said her business couldn't operate without the quality of graduates produced at

the university. The hospital hires ULM graduates for everything from health care to accounting, she said.

"Workforce development is a huge issue in our state and particularly important to northeast Louisiana," said Holyfield. "ULM provides high quality healthcare professionals, and it is critical for my operation to have them."

"I can't imagine what the community would be like without it," said retired State Farm Insurance

Co. executive Guy Barr, calling ULM "the jewel of our community."

Barr added, "Every one of our problems can be solved through education. ULM is so vital."

## REALITY BEHIND THE STATISTICS

The university's impact reaches beyond raw economic numbers.

Most leading economists agree that as college graduates enter the workforce, they also become

productive members of society. Most typical college graduates contribute by paying taxes, volunteering, voting and raising families with similar goals of attaining college degrees.

The taxes paid by college

graduates are greater and are used for the public good, including repaying the cost of a college education several times over.

Dr. Robert Eisenstadt, Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research in ULM's College of Business Administration, revealed some of the university's figures during the April press conference.

"ULM produces about \$140 million in annual household income, and accounts for 1,200 direct jobs and another 3,669 indirect jobs," Eisenstadt said. "It's obviously a good return on investment."

Just one interesting fact about the contributions of those who obtain a professional degree from the university: nearly 70 percent of ULM's pharmacy graduates remain in Louisiana, filling high-paying jobs and meeting demand in high-need areas.

"It's all about the added value of the people coming out of ULM, going out and doing creative things," said Eisenstadt. "(ULM's) \$350 million is a number — education is the impact."



Bob Eisenstadt

At the campus level, ULM students spend in areas such as housing, food, entertainment, telecommunications and transportation, generating an annual \$129 million impact on the state economy. Student spending at ULM also supports nearly 1,300 non-university jobs in Louisiana's restaurant, entertainment and retail industries, according to the study.

Between 2001 and 2008, seven construction projects on ULM's campus yielded a \$216 million impact on the

## "IT'S ABOUT THE ADDED VALUE OF THE PEOPLE COMING OUT OF ULM, GOING OUT AND DOING CREATIVE THINGS."

— BOB EISENSTADT

## BY THE NUMBERS

\$1 BILLION

Economic impact of ULM, Louisiana Tech and Grambling on the northeast Louisiana region

\$784 MILLION

Boost to Louisiana's economy from ULM graduates in the last ten years.

\$216 MILLION

Economic impact of ULM construction projects between 2002 and 2008

\$140 MILLION

Annual household income generated by ULM

\$129 MILLION

Amount spent by ULM students on housing, food, entertainment, telecommunications and transportation

\$29 MILLION

Amount spent by ULM visitors attending events in the region

\$18 MILLION

Spending by ULM retirees

\$9 MILLION

Direct spending by visitors on ULM events

255,000

Volunteer and community service hours by ULM students, faculty and staff in 2008

\$27,820

Increase in annual income for persons earning a masters degree over one earning a high school diploma

\$17,000

Increase in annual income for persons earning a bachelor degree over one earning a high school diploma

3,668

Indirect jobs generated by ULM

1,200

Direct jobs generated by ULM

\$8

Amount of return from ULM to the state for every \$1 spent by the state on higher education (based on ULS average)

state and created more than 2,000 jobs. The eight-year average for construction jobs at ULM revealed an annual average of \$27 million.

But students aren't the only benefactors and spenders in northeast Louisiana's economy. The study showed ULM retirees add \$18 million to the economy after their employment ends, and their spending supports almost 200 jobs.

"It is important to note the principal reason for the existence of ULM, and that is to produce one singularly important and valuable product — higher education," wrote Cofer in a *The (Monroe, La.) News-Star* editorial. "At the iceberg's tip, the production of higher education at ULM encourages potential students to move to Monroe and local students to remain in Monroe."

Bottom line? Those students arrive with tuition dollars and living expenses eventually disbursed through the local economy, according to Cofer.

## THE PROVERBIAL HIGHER EDUCATION ICEBERG

As important as it is to notice the obvious tip of the higher education iceberg, there are scores of services provided by the university that dominate below the surface, according to President Cofer. And it's that unseen part of the higher education iceberg that is actually more compelling, he said.

For starters, ULM's visitor spending had a \$29 million impact on the state; \$9 million of that came directly from spending for events and activities.

Some of the major events at ULM that attracted visitors to the region in the recent past include:

- Bayou Jamboree, which had an attendance of 25,000
- ULM Choir Tour, which attracted a total of more than 19,200
- Military Day, which drew 10,000 people
- Spanish in elementary schools, which had nearly 3,000 people in attendance
- Spring Commencement, which had an attendance of 7,200

Combined, the eight UL System universities had almost 36,000 event days and 3.9 million visitor days last year.

One of the cultural events growing in popularity is the Presidential Lyceum Series, where nationally prominent figures, such as Pulitzer Prize winning author Thomas L. Friedman, came to the ULM campus.



Guy Barr

The series began in 2003 to promote intellectual exchange among ULM students, faculty, staff and the community and has featured such noted speakers as historian and Pulitzer Prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin, comedian and author Bill Cosby, author Ben Stein, political consultants James Carville and Mary Matalin and journalist Lisa Ling.

KEDM-FM 90.3, the region's public radio station with its excellent local programming, is housed on the ULM campus.

"ULM provides so much diversity both academically and in the sports arena," added local businessman, Guy Barr. "We enjoy speeches and plays that otherwise wouldn't be here, and

those are things that make a community come alive."

Then there are the practical services ULM provides to the community, either at reduced fees or for free. These include the dental hygiene clinic, the Kitty DeGree Speech and Hearing Center, summer camps, tutorial services, counseling clinics, adult continuing education, small business development, and museums, just to name a few.

"Think of all these things and it's easy to recognize that ULM's value to the community is much larger than the tip of the iceberg," concluded Cofer.

More information about ULM's Economic Impact Study can be found at [www.ulm.edu/impactstudy](http://www.ulm.edu/impactstudy). ■





### ULM alum Tim Brando wins prestigious media award; helps tee up new scholarship

ULM alum, veteran TV sports announcer, and nationally recognized radio personality Tim Brando was selected as the 2009

winner of the Jake Wade Award by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Named for acclaimed sports journalist Jake Wade who was the sports information director at the University of North Carolina for 16 years and a national magazine contributor for the Charlotte Observer, the honor is awarded annually to the individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the media to the field of intercollegiate athletics.

Previous recipients of the award include Keith Jackson, Furman Bisher, Dick Enberg, Jim Simpson, Dan Jenkins, Dick Vitale, Robin Roberts, Christine Brennan, and Billy Packer.

"CoSIDA has honored me beyond comprehension with this award," Brando said. "To be mentioned alongside the past recipients is truly humbling. It was just over 20 years ago when (Dick) Vitale and I came to Fant-Ewing Coliseum to call an NCAA play in game that brought national attention to the campus. It was so much fun to call that game."

In a career that began as a 14-year old play-by-play personality for the Neville High School Tigers, Brando has worked as a television personality for ESPN and CBS and covered 25 sports. He has served as the voice of NCAA Men's Basketball Championships, called play-by-play for 'The NFL on CBS,' as well as play-by-play for SEC football and basketball, ACC basketball, the NBA's Atlanta Hawks, MLB's Atlanta Braves, and TNT's NBA playoffs in 1994.

"I'll never forget in 1974 as a high school senior and winning first place in the NLU Speech Festival," Brando said. "It led to an association with Dr. James W. Parkerson that I will never forget. Thirty five years later my appreciation remains the same."

Brando also helped tee up a new scholarship at the first ever Alumni Golf Scramble on June 13 at Northwood Hills Country Club. The Caddo-Bossier chapter of the ULM Alumni Association hosted the event. Proceeds went to help establish a scholarship for Caddo-Bossier area students who want to attend ULM.



(left to right) — Dennis Bamburg, Jason Reid, Tim Brando, Gary Patton, Chris Hearron and Caddo-Bossier Alumni Chapter President Will Mulhearn at the Caddo-Bossier Golf Scramble.

Brando is one of many ULM alumni who are taking an active role in helping students get their education at ULM.

Several other alumni chapters are endowing scholarships, including the CenLa, Morehouse Parish, Lincoln/Union Parish, Ouachita Parish and the Franklin Parish Alumni Chapters.

If you or your alumni chapter is interested in starting a scholarship, endowment, or just helping students attend ULM, contact Tommy Walpole at **1-866-WARHAWK (866-927-4295)** or **walpole@ulm.edu**.

### An Australian-based pharmaceutical company

awarded additional funds for a College of Pharmacy research project that seeks to prevent breast cancer in at-risk women, bringing the total amount to \$1,017,000 since the project's inception.

## CLASS NOTES



In giving, a life will be changed. ULM alum **Ron Bush ('89, B.S.)** reflects on this philosophy each morning as he prepares for his duties as a State Farm agent in Bastrop

and the president of the ULM Alumni Association.

His views on giving sprouted during his time at ULM, where he graduated from the School of Construction Management.

Bush met two men who shaped him as a student—Glynn Tubbs, ULM's farm manager and Charles McDonald, the director of financial aid. "These two men gave so much of their time and support to me. I feel like I should help in every way possible when asked to give back to the university. In giving, I do believe a life will be changed."

Indeed, Bush changes many lives as president of the ULM Alumni Association. "Until serving in a leadership role with the Alumni Association, I did not realize how much the university needs its alumni. We

are ambassadors, lobbyists, boosters, and advisors who help shape the direction of the university."

His passion, combined with his philanthropic spirit, continue to benefit his alma mater. When ULM Athletic Director Bobby Staub expressed his need for summer scholarships benefiting student-athletes, Bush quickly responded.

"These types of monies helped change my future. I also thought about the company I represent. State Farm is a major contributor to academics through the State Farm Foundation. We talked with the company, and they agreed to join our endeavor. Our team contacted many current State Farm employees and retirees and in following a great Mid-South Regional Office tradition, they gave!"

Bush's degree prepared him for 20 years of professional success at State Farm.

"My construction knowledge gave me the confidence to be successful at the company, and now, as an independent contractor. My degree from ULM opened so many doors for me."

### Enrollment hit 9,004 students in fall 2009,

representing a 3 percent increase from the previous year. ULM's enrollment has increased by 10 percent since 2002.

### 1962

**Vassiliki Koula Economos Fuller '62** received his Juris Doctor from Chapman University, Orange, Calif., in 1999 and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in 1963.

### 1967

**Carolyn Cole Hetherwick-Goza '67** resides in Seattle and is an appointed member of the Snohomish County Mental Health Advisory Board and the North Sound Regional Board, speaking and advocating for the needs of the mentally ill.

### 1969

**Bob Molcany '69** was recently named Marketing Director for the Gulf South Precast/Prestressed Concrete Association after being with The McGraw-Hill Companies and South Central Construction Magazine more than 17 years.

### 1970

**Hilary P. Dugas '70** retired after 32 years as a pharmacist.

### 1971

**Betty Estes Wells '71** is the author of a children's book titled "How the Goldfish Became Gold."

### 1972

**Pollye Tillman '72, '90** retired from the Ouachita Parish School system after 36 years and is now teaching at River Oaks School in Monroe.

# CLASS NOTES

# ALUMNI

## 1973

**Charles Haddox '73** is the 2008 National Singles Racquetball Champion. He and wife Renay have three sons in college.

**Pinkie Humphries Osborne '73** spent 20 years as a litigation paralegal. She is now an international and domestic flight attendant with Continental Airlines.

**Thomas Gorman '73** retired as a Major with the U.S. Air Force, and is now performing on the trombone with the Jazz Pioneers Band from Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

## 1974

**John Kuqali '74** is doing various construction projects with the federal government across the United States.

## 1975

**Eva Dyann Wilson '75** is the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana for 2009-2010.

## 1976

**Clark Colvin '76, Jeanie Shadoin Colvin '77**, are celebrating their first grandchild, James Clark Colvin, born March 14, 2009.

**Mike Inzina '76** was recognized at the Annual Beta Alpha Psi meeting in Brooklyn, N.Y. and was named the overall Business Information Professional of the Year for 2008-2009.

## 1977

**Kay Johnson Boyd '77** and husband Jackie are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, Noah Thomas Boyd, born May 8, 2009.

## 1979

**Carolyn Thomason Wojtera '79, '86**, a first grade teacher at McHarg Elementary School in Radford, Va., was recently selected to receive a Virginia Super Teacher award.

## 1980

**Jennifer Sparks Green '80** is an Assistant Professor at Southern University at Shreveport and teaches at the University of Phoenix Shreveport/Bossier. She is also a consultant/reviewer for McHill Publishing Company in New York.

## 1982

**Darrell Cartwright '82**, a tax attorney in solo practice, was recently named one of Birmingham's "Top Attorneys" by *Birmingham Magazine*.

## 1984

**Bill Stallings '84**, a commercial real estate loan administrator for BB&T in Winston-Salem, N.C., was awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation by the CCIM Institute, one of the leading commercial real estate associations worldwide. The designation came in August 2009 following examinations held in Chicago.

## 1985

**Cynthia Ransburg-Brown '85**, an attorney with the law firm of Sirote & Permutt in Birmingham, Ala., was selected for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Health Care Law.

## 1989

**Brett Powell '89** serves as Vice President of Administrative Services at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

**Seyedfarid Lamea '89** is a pharmacist with Shahidi Pharmacy in Iran.

## 1990

**Lynn Patterson Bowers '90** is the Director of Pharmacy for a longterm acute care hospital in Mesquite, Texas.

## 1991

**Clarence Strahan '91** has been promoted to the Chief-Field Training Branch of the U.S. Marshals Academy in Glynco, Ga.

## 1993

**Carla Guice Swayzer '93, Kenneth Swayzer '99** have a son Kenneth Ray Jr. and a daughter Sydni. Carla is a teacher employed by the Madison Parish School Board. Kenneth is a Medical Technologist with River Region Medical Center in Vicksburg, Miss.

## May 2009 graduates of the nursing program earned a perfect score

on the National Council Licensure Examination, a test considered the final hurdle in a nursing student's career.





**Virginia P. Fouse Miller ('89)** spent her early career years in education and experimented with a variety of jobs from real estate sales to government worker to a position in non-profit management. She began to examine her career options

in a more goal-directed manner and entered the Marriage and Family Therapy program at ULM. Upon completing the program, she became certified in school counseling, working at all grade levels.

She's worked as a therapist, serving both in-patient and out-patient clients, as well as in private practice. She currently maintains her own private practice in Hot Springs, Ark., and is the school counselor at Jessieville Middle School in Hot Springs.

Miller fondly remembers her time at ULM, in particular the times she spent stacked on top of fellow students in the crowded MFT clinic in Strauss Hall. She came to know and appreciate each of her professors; Dr. Gaushell was their guru of parenting and technical support, Dr. Pryor helped them with communication and self-esteem, and Dr. Locke lovingly kept them on the right path.

Her supervisor was Dr. David Lawson and he encouraged her to "find the difference that makes a difference." Miller believes he was

fundamental to her finding her own comfortable way as a therapist.

Her most memorable and perhaps valuable experience at ULM was the unfortunate incident of Dr. Lawson's near fatal accident following the AAMFT national conference in the fall of 1988. Betty Fox, the program's "mom" and all the professors guided them through the months of uncertainty and loss. Virginia counts one of her truly happiest memories as the day Dr. Lawson rolled into the MFT clinic in the spring of 1989 just in time to help prepare them for final exams.

With all the knowledge and insight gained from life experience and in the MFT program, Miller advises "folks to choose their careers with the same care and deliberation they would choose a marriage partner. It is, of course, easier (at times) to change careers than to change our spouse, but one can waste a lot of time, money, and energy in moving from job to job without a true career plan."

Miller is active in local and national professional organizations in her chosen fields. She is the president of the Southwest Region of the Arkansas School Counselor Association and in 2007 was selected as the National Middle School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association. She is also a Clinical Member of AAMFT.

### The Council on Social Work Education reaffirmed

ULM's social work department's accreditation through 2015. The CSWE sets standards for social work programs around the country.

#### 1994

**Julie Cruse Wilkinson '94, '00** graduated Summa Cum Laude in August 2009 with her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is current president of the Louisiana Pharmacists Association and Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Montessori Educational Center in Alexandria. Dr. Wilkinson was

presented the "National Community Pharmacists Association Outstanding Leadership Award" from LPA. Gov. Bobby Jindal recently appointed her to serve on Louisiana's Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee. She is a pharmacist for central Louisiana's Wal-Mart stores and a part-time consultant/ pharmacist for Byrd Regional Hospital in Leesville.

#### 1995

**Pamela Walker Williams '95** has worked for the past 8 years in the HIV Care Clinic at Earl K. Long Medical Center in Baton Rouge. She currently serves as Intake RN/Case Manager, HIV Outpatient Prison Clinic RN/Case Manager and Consumer Advisory Board Liaison.

# CLASS NOTES

# ALUMNI

## 1996

**Paul Brasher '96** is employed by Exxon Mobile Refining & Supply in Beaumont, Texas. He has received numerous certifications in safety and leadership at Texas A&M University.

## 1998

**Shannon Davis Peters '98** has received her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and is currently employed by the Ouachita Parish School Board. She and husband Randy have three children.

**Darrell Dean '98, Renee Dean '99** both received a Masters Degree in Christian Counseling. Darrell is employed as an Associate Pastor of Administration and Education at Levy Baptist Church in North Little Rock. Renee is Case Manager for Freewill Baptist Family Ministry in Little Rock.

## 1999

**Lisa Whittington Lodgen '99** is employed at St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe. She and husband Jeff have two children, Carter and Madelyn.

## 2000

**Shane Howell Rolan '00** graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy from the Department of Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University. He is employed with The University of Colorado Medical and Science Center in Aurora, Colo.

**Alecia Chriceol Crockett '00** has received a Masters of Science in Nursing from Grambling State University. She and husband Scott have two daughters, Marissa and Jordyn.

## 2002

**Larry Cook '02** recently finished his deployment to Iraq and is working on an MS in Integrated Logistics Management. Larry married in July and is stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.

## 2003

**Ashley Dougherty Howland '03, Matthew Howland '04** have a son, Ethan. Ashley works as Senior Marketing & Public Relations Consultant at Baylor Health Care System in Dallas.

**Chad Holloway '03** is Project Manager/Owner of Peck Construction Co. in Marion. He and wife Jennifer have a son, Ashton.

## 2004

**Wesley Knight '04** works as Systems Engineer for Exxon Mobile in Baton Rouge. He and wife Cindy reside in Zachary.

## 2005

**Tonnessa Gibson '05** resides in Houston and is currently in a doctoral program at Texas Southern University. She has been inducted into the Monroe Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**Stephen Paul Smith '05** resides in Monroe and works as an Environmental Inspector. He is engaged to Ashley Victoria Jones who is an Elementary Education student at ULM.

**Laney Triche Lyle '05** is a staff pharmacist at Walgreens in West Monroe. She and husband Jason have two children, Mia Claire and Deacon.

## 2006

**Pankaj Bhandari '06** has returned to his home in India where he is employed as a Business Analyst. He says he misses the U.S. and is glad to be part of the ULM Alumni Association. He and wife Madhavi live in Magarpatta City.

## 2007

**Nicole Walker '07** associate controller at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, will serve as 2009-2010 president of the Northeast Chapter of the Society of Louisiana CPAs.

## 2008

**Landon Ledford '08** resides in Ft. Worth and is employed as a sales representative for Kraft Energy Systems, Inc.

## 2009

**Kayla Coburn '09** resides in Baton Rouge where she is employed by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

**Meghan McNease '09** is enrolled at the University of Houston's College of Optometry.

## The College of Education and Human Development unveiled the new Literacy Lab,

which serves as a hands-on teaching tool for students majoring in education.

## CLASS NOTES

### Marriages

**Deborah Suzanne Aron '95** to Kevin Joseph Kennedy, Sept. 12, 2009.

**Mallory Annette Aulds '09** to David Bryn Meredith, Sept. 5, 2009.

**Jordan Leigh Bivins '09** to Ryan Edward Warner, July 25, 2009.

**Kelli Brian '00** to Scott Keith, July 4, 2009.

**Gerald Bradford Brown '02** to Kylie Michele Morris, July 19, 2009.

**Dean L. Hart Jr. '96** to Leah Wilson Roark, April 18, 2009.

**Alana Camille Laseter '99** to William Scott Higginbotham, Jan. 24, 2009.

**Jenifer Rae Lawson '08** to **William Seth McDuffie '07**, June 13, 2009.

**Allison Loftin '03, '05** to Greg Thompson, March 20, 2009.

**Hannah Nicole Menard '08** to **Brandon Scott Smith '00, '03**, May 8, 2009.

**Kathleen Nicole Robinson '09** to **Brandon Mark Wilder '08**, July 25, 2009.

**Mallory Denise Rowdon '07** to **Charles "Chuck" Johnson '06**, March 2, 2009.

**Tamieka Simon '04** to Reginald McLaurin, Jan. 31, 2009.

### Births

**1** Turner James Estes, Sept. 27, 2008, to **Dave Estes '00** and wife Emily.

**2** Twin girls, Olivia Faith and Rachel Elizabeth, Feb. 9, 2009, to **Greg Green '83** and wife Denise.

Stella Rose Green, April 30, 2009, to **Jennifer Menhennett Green '00** and husband Mitch.

**3** Scott Michael Herod Jr., Feb. 28, 2009, to **Elizabeth Cabello Herod '02** and husband Scott.

Avery Caitlin Liles, Sept. 18, 2009, to **Carol Hawking Liles '92** and husband **A.C. Liles III '88**. She is welcomed by sister Ainsley.

**4** Dylan McLaurin, Feb. 19, 2009 to Tamieka **Simon McLaurin '04** and husband Reginald.

**5** Sydney Leigh Menard, March 16, 2009, to **Tricia Feucht Menard '99** and husband **Neil Menard '99**.

Bailey Claire Mills, Dec. 8, 2008, to **Jennifer Bailey Mills '00** and husband **Danny Heath '97**.

Jackson Tyler Parker, May 11, 2009, to **Elizabeth Riser Parker '98, '00** and husband Robert.

Molly Louise Smith, Dec. 29, 2008, to **Casey Denmon Smith '98** and husband **Gary Smith '97**. Sister Ainsley and brother Collier welcome her.

**6** Robert Benjamin Stewart, Feb. 18, 2009, to **Maranda Bryan Stewart '97** and husband **Robert Todd '95**.

Thomas Wayne Veatch, Feb. 13, 2009, to **Angela Gormanous Veatch '97** and husband **Clifton Veatch '00**.

**7** Ella Claire Weems, Oct. 19, 2008, to **Amy Linder Weems '97** and husband **Clay Weems '08**.





# CLASS NOTES

# ALUMNI

## ULM Alumni Association 2009-2010 Executive Committee and Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT:

Ronald D. (Ron) Bush (BS'89)

### PRESIDENT ELECT:

Thomas H. (Tom) Deal (BA '74)

### PAST PRESIDENT:

T.J. Shufflin (BS '75)

### VICE-PRESIDENT:

Bobbye Fletcher Earle (BS '61)

### SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Ronald "Scott" Higginbotham (BS '85, MS '89)

### REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS:

AREA 1 : Bart Dornier (BBA '85)

AREA 2 : Brenda B. Dudley (BBA '84, MBA '86)

AREA 3 : Vikki Day (BS '93)

AREA 3A: Fritz Winke (MA '99)

AREA 4 : Mary Jones Dukes (BS '97, MS '00)

AREA 4 : Jeremy K. Moore (BBA '00, MBA '02)

AREA 5: Robert Earle (BS '60)

AREA 5: Janet R. Fortenberry (BGS '93)

AREA 5: Lisa Cox Reardon (BA '83, MEd '85)

AREA 6 : Traci James Canterbury (BBA '89)

AREA 6 : Debbie Cummins (BA '83)

AREA 6 : W. Paul Ledford, Jr. (BBA '77, MBA '80)

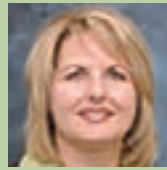
AREA 6 : Sam L. Moore III (BS '90, MEd '93)

AREA 6 : Tania Schott Simpson (BA '94)

AREA 7 : Missy Adams (BA '85, MA '87)

AREA 7 : Sara Benecke Misuraca (BA '90)

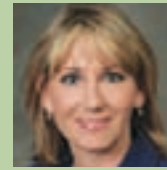
AREA 8 : Sharon Green (BA '87)



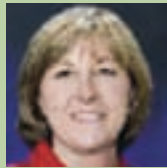
Missy Adams



Ron Bush



Traci Canterbury



Debbie Cummins



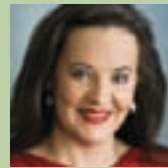
Vikki Day



Tom Deal



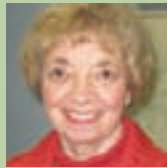
Bart Dornier



Brenda B. Dudley



Mary Dukes



Bobbye Earle



Robert Earle



Janet Fortenberry



Sharon Green



Scott Higginbotham



Paul Ledford



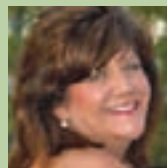
Sara Misuraca



Jeremy Moore



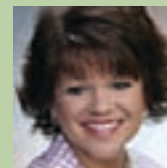
Sam Moore



Lisa Cox Reardon



T.J. Shufflin



Tania Simpson



Fritz Winke

Complete bios are available at  
[www.ulm.edu/alumni/board.html](http://www.ulm.edu/alumni/board.html)

**Marriage and Family Therapy program secured nearly \$100,000 in federal grant funding**

for a project titled, "ULM Helping Educators and Learners Prevent Suicide."



## ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS: HELPING EDUCATE THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

by **A. Keith Brown**  
**ULM Executive Director of  
Alumni and Community Relations**

**W**hen I accepted the position of executive director of Alumni and Community Relations at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, I understood some of the challenges we faced and was prepared to help President Cofer meet those challenges head on.

As our office seeks to strengthen vital relationships in the community during these tough economic times, I am struck by the generosity of those who have fostered lifelong partnerships with the University to keep it growing during good times and bad.

What I never imagined was that in spite of the challenges, fostering these wonderful, lifelong partnerships would be such a high point of my day-to-day duties. My job continually places me in the fortunate position of being able to express appreciation to the many ULM supporters who enable us today to carry on our mission of educating the leaders of tomorrow.

Peter Sinclair once said, "Great lives are the culmination of great thoughts followed by great actions." Those who tirelessly demonstrate their support of higher education in general, and ULM in particular, could never be thanked enough for their commitment, which is backed by real action. It is just one of many reasons I look forward to the annual Alumni Association Awards Homecoming Brunch each fall.

**"ULM SUPPORTERS ENABLE  
US TO CARRY ON OUR  
MISSION OF EDUCATING  
THE LEADERS OF  
TOMORROW."**

This year, I had the unique privilege of notifying Mrs. Betty Cummins that she would be honored with the university's Golden Arrow Award, the Alumni Association's highest honor. The Alumni Association established the award in 1981 to recognize alumni who serve the Association and University well, and this incredible northeast Louisiana woman certainly fits the bill.

The Thomas H. and Mayme P. Scott Foundation continues fantastic work under her direction; work that could never be fully measured in terms of direct benefit to our students and the community at large. And since I had known Ms. Betty my entire life, going back to my days growing up near the cotton fields north of Winnsboro, notifying her of the award made the occasion even more memorable.

Betty was joined at the Alumni Brunch by Lifetime Achievers Tex and Carole Kilpatrick; Lifetime Service Award Winner Police Chief Larry Ellerman and representatives from Baton Rouge who were honored with the Chapter of the Year award.

Recognizing these benefactors seems such a minor thing compared to the support they have provided us. Regardless, it is our annual tradition to express words of appreciation to such folks because it is impossible to imagine our university — or this region — without them.

On behalf of everyone at ULM, thank you for your continued support. We truly do appreciate everything you do!







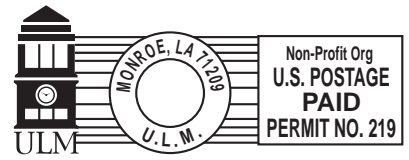
# University of Louisiana at Monroe

Office of Alumni Relations

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Monroe, LA 71209-2500

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