

ULM

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1 2006

75th Anniversary
Non-Traditional Students
Learning about Hurricanes

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE



1931-2006: How Far We've Come!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



James & Deborah Cofer

There have been many events throughout the year where we focused on the university's history and celebrated the impact that the university has had on the entire northeast Louisiana region. Our 75th anniversary committee, campus community and alumni helped us celebrate by creating and implementing a year of activities to honor our milestone. Included were new and exciting events such as the 75th Birthday Celebration and Wine Over Water, with traditional ones such as Convocation, Homecoming, Envision ULM, Northern Exposure and others having special meaning in this anniversary year.

2006 will also be remembered as the year in which our goal of providing an enhanced living and learning environment for our students was set in motion with the completion of multiple state-of-the-art electronic classrooms, apartment-style residence halls and improvements to the overall aesthetic appearance of the campus.

Those of us who live and work at this university know its value. We see it daily in the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff. We see it in the smiling faces of enthusiastic students pursuing their education in our classrooms and participating in student life and athletic programs. We see it in your communications with us as you recount with fond memories the time you spent here at your university.

From its beginning in 1931, this institution has been a place for those seeking the truth of better knowledge and a better life. As we strive to sustain the traditions and educational experiences that will benefit our students for a lifetime, we look to our alumni to make this university a continuing force in meeting the challenges of the future.

James E. Cofer, Sr.
President

This issue of the ULM Magazine commemorates our 75th anniversary year—a year that marked another important milestone for ULM.

Celebrating milestones like this one gives us opportunities for reflecting on the many accomplishments of the past, and fuels our drive for still greater achievements in the future.

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Executive Editor

Don A. Skelton, Sr.

Contributors

Christi Bailey (BFA '81)

Bart Dornier (BBA '85)

Claudia Evans

Laura Harris

Sara Palazzo

Molly Pealer

Diana Pinckley

Kevin Stuart

Tommy Walpole

(BA '83, MA '89)

Lindsey Wilkerson

Judy Willson

Photography

Philip Gould

Richard Lupo (BA '87)

Bryan Johnson

Design

Zehno Cross Media

Communications

President

James E. Cofer, Sr.

Vice President for University Advancement

Don A. Skelton, Sr.

Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Keith Brown

President, ULM Alumni Association

Bart Dornier (BBA '85)

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

Letters and comments should be sent to:
ULM Magazine
700 University Avenue
Monroe, LA 71209-2500
Phone: (318) 342-5440
Fax: (318) 342-5446
E-mail: ulmmagazine@ulm.edu

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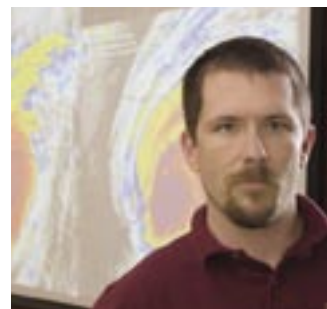
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ON THE COVER

Brown Hall, the first building on campus, is shown in a circa 1938 photo, with Brown Stadium in the background. It contrasts with the current ULM Library, which opened in 1999. Inside Back Cover: Scott Plaza, outside the ULM Library.

Pharmacy is Golden

The College of Pharmacy at the University of Louisiana Monroe celebrates its golden anniversary in 2006 with several developments that establish exciting future directions.

“WE HAVE A LOT OF IRONS IN THE FIRE THAT ARE GOING TO ALLOW US TO EXPAND OUR PROGRAMS.”

First, there's a new home. The Bienville Building, a three-story, 132,000-square-foot structure near the ULM campus built four years ago by State Farm Insurance and purchased at the end of 2005 for \$6.2 million, is now under renovation to house major functions of the college.

Phase One renovations, which total about \$1.8 million, include remodeling the first floor and part of the second floor for all College of Pharmacy administrative and faculty offices and professional pharmacy classes. Construction is slated to be finished before the end of 2006. Phase Two renovations, scheduled to begin early in 2007 at a

cost of \$2.7 million, will provide for the relocation of all laboratories to Bienville.

“This creative acquisition and renovation not only offered an expedited solution to ULM's College of Pharmacy facility

and program accreditation needs, but also will result in a savings of almost \$12 million to the state,” said Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, comparing renovation cost with the cost of new construction.

In August, the university officially dedicated the new pharmacy satellite campus at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. The permanent location will house 12 ULM faculty members, classroom and laboratory space, and 25 ULM clinical rotation students in its initial years, with more planned in subsequent years.

“We have a lot of irons in the fire that are going to allow us to expand our programs,” Dean Pritchard said, adding that all of those initiatives will help recruit more students to ULM and fight the pharmacist shortage in the state.

ULM's College of Pharmacy is also in negotiations to open a satellite campus at LSU in Baton Rouge.

Most of the students in the satellite campuses will be those who are involved in research and clinical rotations; they will continue to spend the first years of the program in Monroe.

The ULM School of Pharmacy was founded in 1956 as the only state-supported pharmacy program in Louisiana, and it continues to hold that distinction.

The first graduates, in 1959, received bachelor of science degrees. The master of science was introduced in 1966; in 1969, a Ph.D. program was added; and a bachelor of science program in toxicology began in 1982. In 1998, a doctor of pharmacy degree program was approved by the Louisiana Board of Regents to replace the original B.S. Pharmacy degree, in recognition of changing accreditation standards and the increasing complexity of the pharmacist's role in health care.

In June 2005, the School of Pharmacy, located within the College of Health Sciences, became its



ULM has the only state-supported pharmacy program in Louisiana.



ULM confers more than 75 Doctor of Pharmacy degrees annually.

own entity: the College of Pharmacy.

In addition to educating pharmacy students, the College provides services to the state's citizens, including the Louisiana Drug Information and Poison Control Center (handling over 85,000 calls a year), the Louisiana Institute of Toxicology, and the Drug Outcomes and Evaluation, Prior Authorization, and

Disease Management programs for the Louisiana State Department of Health and Hospitals' Medicaid program.

In a strategic plan called Vision 2010, the College has announced plans to maintain its national prominence and stay highly competitive in pharmacy education, research and service by raising \$10 million by 2010. "It's a lofty goal—make no mistake about it," says Dean Pritchard, "but it's no loftier than the ideals and hopes one pioneering pharmacy class had in 1956."

For information about Vision 2010, contact Dean Pritchard at (318) 342-1600 or pritchard@ulm.edu.

Campus construction update

ULM has spent more than \$70 million on construction completed, planned or under way. Among the highlights:

- University Commons I and II are finished, replacing Monroe and Slater Halls. The retail area of Commons II will include a Starbucks, the bank, SACS office, and a convenience store.
- Demolition on Lemert, Cosper, Harris, Breard, and the old infirmary is complete, with land being prepared for a new park and amphitheater.
- After cosmetic renovations and code upgrades, the natatorium re-opened in the fall.
- Student Union Building renovations should be completed early in 2007, with meeting space, a new food court, and a ballroom. The original SUB building will house Student Affairs staff.
- An "Intermodal Transit Facility" including a large parking garage is planned near Nursing.
- The basketball court in Fant-Ewing Coliseum has been repainted with the Warhawk logo, the

brand-new soccer complex has a state-of-the-art playing surface, the softball complex boasts two new buildings, Groseclose Track (at Brown Stadium) was resurfaced last year, and Malone Stadium will have a new scoreboard with hi-def video in time for the 2007 football season.



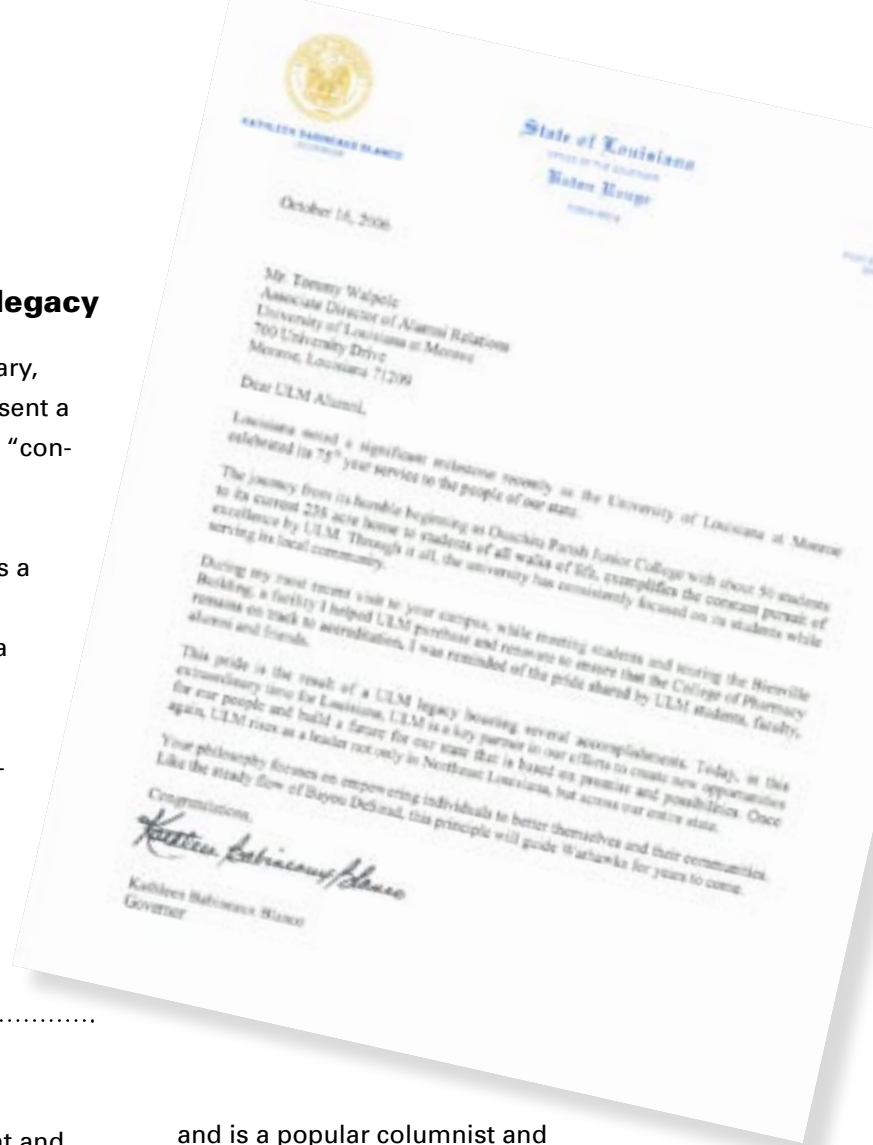
New residence halls feature retail areas and gorgeous bayou views.

Governor Blanco lauds ULM legacy

In recognition of ULM's 75th anniversary, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco sent a letter (right) that cites the university's "constant pursuit of excellence."

"Today, in this extraordinary time for Louisiana," Gov. Blanco writes, "ULM is a key partner in our efforts to create new opportunities for our people and build a future for our state that is based on promise and possibilities...."

"Your philosophy focuses on empowering individuals to better themselves and their communities. Like the steady flow of Bayou DeSiard, this principle will guide the Warhawks for years to come."



Bringing leaders to campus

Some of the nation's most prominent and interesting individuals speak at ULM. In April, social activist **Hunter "Patch" Adams** launched the College of Pharmacy's 50-year celebration. Adams, a physician, clown and inspiration for a major motion picture, spoke about "The Joy of Caring" in the inaugural William M. Bourn Lecture Series. To honor ULM student volunteers following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Adams donated his proceeds to ULM's Pharmacy Student Emergency Loan Fund and the Pharmacy Student Resource Center.

Ben Stein appeared as part of the Presidential Lyceum Series last December. Stein, whose work in finance and economics has been cited by Nobel Prize-winner George Akerlof, has written speeches for Presidents Nixon and Ford

and is a popular columnist and commentator.

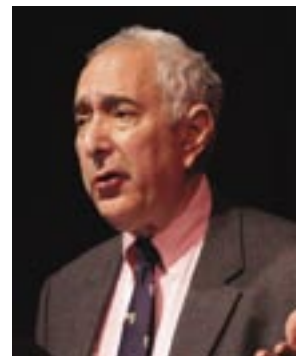
CEO, financial journalist and former Presidential candidate **Steve Forbes** will speak in Brown Auditorium March 20 as part of the Presidential Lyceum Series. "Few speakers blend success, passion, and notability in diverse arenas like Mr. Forbes," said Rob Carroll, SGA president and a member of the Lyceum Series Committee.



Steve Forbes



Patch Adams



Ben Stein

Warhawks Take Flight

ULM's campus is abuzz about its new mascot. Inspired by northeast Louisiana's long history of military service, by General Claire Chennault and the Curtiss P-40 airplane used by his unit, and by the red-shouldered hawks that make their home on Bayou DeSiard, the ULM Mascot Committee confirmed the public's choice of the Warhawks to represent the university.

The selection and subsequent logo design of the Warhawks concluded a six-month process that began with an NCAA ban from competition for teams with Indian-related mascots and imagery. President James E. Cofer, Sr. responded by convening a committee that represented all parts of the ULM family and tasking them with the decision of what to do next. The committee sought input from students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends, and community members. After a month of nominations, 600 suggestions were narrowed to 12 finalists and sent back out in the form of an open poll. After 11 days of polling, the runaway-favorite Warhawks was adopted as the new mascot.

**"EVERYWHERE WE GO,
FANS STOP US TO SAY
HOW MUCH THEY LIKE THE NEW
NAME AND LOGOS."**

Rickabaugh Graphics, a leader in athletic design firms, was selected by the committee to create the artwork that would represent the Warhawks. To understand the culture of ULM and northeast Louisiana, Eric Rickabaugh interviewed ULM constituents, took a guided tour of campus and the region, and sampled some of Louisiana's



The Warhawk image is that of the red-shouldered hawk, a fierce bird of prey, indigenous to this area and often seen on ULM's campus. The (War)hawk symbolizes courage, speed, power and vision.



The Warhawk mascot is Ace, a name chosen that won over four other finalists – Curtiss, General, Flash and Gunner.

unique cuisine. Final designs were test-marketed in five focus groups totaling about 80 adults and 20 children.

Once again, there was a runaway favorite, and the mascot committee adopted the designs as the new imagery for the ULM Warhawks.

Bobby Staub, ULM Athletic Director, said, "Our entire athletic department is excited about becoming the Warhawks. The response to our new mascot has been overwhelmingly positive. Everywhere we go, our fans stop us to say how much they like the new name and logos. Our new gear looks great and it is selling almost immediately after it hits the shelves," he said. "And I like the story behind the Warhawk—it's unique to ULM and to Monroe."

Espinal Makes Spring Break an International Affair

Most students travel during spring break. Senior Diana Espinal, ULM's top singles tennis player, went international.

Espinal represented the Dominican Republic in the Federation Cup, an International Tennis Federation event, winning all of her matches in Americas Zone Group II competition.

"It was a joy and an honor to play for my country," Espinal said. "The Federation Cup is the most important women's tournament in the world."

Espinal's play allowed her team to move up to the Americas Zone Group I, with the goal to play

at the World Group level, against the USA, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Germany.

"To win for your country is like nothing I've ever experienced before," said Espinal. "I have had a lot of accomplishments in my career, but this is the most important so far."

In 2007 Fed Cup competition, Espinal will go against Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Chile, Colombia, and Venezuela.



Top tennis player Diana Espinal represented the Dominican Republic in Fed Cup competition.

"TO WIN FOR YOUR COUNTRY IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE"

There Is Only One Word For It: Domination

With 19 wins in 27 years in the National Collegiate Water Ski Association championships, ULM's water ski team dominates.

The team brought home #19 in October from the championship tournament hosted by Sacramento State University. A highlight was ULM

skier Natallia Berdnikava's record-breaking jump of 153 feet in Women's Jump.

"They're all elite skiers," said coach Treina Landrum, noting that ULM has Regina Jaquess of Suwanee, Georgia, ranked #1 among women waterskiers in the world, and Aleksei Zharnasek of Belarus, who is #2 in the world for trick skiing.

"There's lots of prestige to being on the team."

Carly Clifton came to ULM solely for the water ski team. "Most of the skiers on the team have known each other for many years, if not for their whole lives, growing up in the water ski world."

When recruiting, Landrum looks at international standings, world rankings, and teamwork. ULM competes with international and professional skiers as the NCAA does not control the sport.

"People from all around the world are trying to get into the team, but it is not easy," said skier Thomas Degasperi, an native of Italy who holds the European slalom record. "To be in it makes all of us feel special."

Find more information about ULM's award-winning water ski team at www.ulmwaterskiteam.com. To see a photo gallery of the team and its achievements, visit www.ulm.edu/universityrelations/ and click on the "Photo Galleries" link.



ULM student Kate Adriaenson of Belgium shows her stuff as the ULM water ski team captured its 19th national championship in October.

ULM Wins NCAA Diversity Award

ULM recently earned the NCAA's Diversity in Athletics Award, which recognizes excellence in diversity, including:

- diversity strategy
- gender diversity of department employees
- African-American student-athlete graduation rates
- Title IX compliance
- overall excellence

Bobby Staub, ULM athletic director, summed up the award. "We are charged with positively shaping young men and women to be future leaders. We teach them our values, often times indirectly as they observe us as role models, and that makes our commitment to diversity even more important."

Orlando Early, men's basketball coach, noted, "This award speaks volumes about ULM's athletic department. We have set an example for other universities to follow."

ULM received high marks for gender diversity. Four women hold head coaching positions at ULM: Mona Martin (women's basketball), Rosemary Holloway-Hill (softball), Jill Breslin (women's tennis) and Stacy Lamb (women's soccer).

Winners are chosen annually by the Laboratory for Diversity in Sports, housed at Texas A&M University.



ULM Coaches Stacy Lamb (top, women's soccer), Orlando Early (bottom, men's basketball) and athletic director Bobby Staub (center) make sure their students are winners in academics as well as on their teams.

ULM's Diversity in Athletics Award plays out on the field and in the classroom, with African-American student-athlete graduation rates above the collegiate norm.

SHATTERING TRADITION

STUDENTS WHO ARE OLDER THAN 25 NOW MAKE UP ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF THE UNDERGRADS AT ULM. THEY'RE CHANGING THE WORLD ON CAMPUS, JUST AS THE COLLEGE WORLD IS CHANGING THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. IT'S A STORY OF ORGANIZATION, PASSION, TIME MANAGEMENT—AND SUCCESS.

By Diana Pinckley • Photography Philip Gould

Christel Sharpe, a 38-year-old single mom whose son Marcus was beginning high school, knew her life was about to change. So she decided to change it for herself. Sharpe enrolled in ULM, where she's majoring in Spanish in the College of Arts and Sciences and getting ready to graduate in May 2007.

"I didn't like where I saw my life headed in five years," said Sharpe, who has a degree in accounting but hasn't worked in the field in many years. "I have only one child, and I didn't want to be bored, lost and lonesome when Marcus went to college."

She's on top of a trend. Students who are 25 or older, who have children, who are married—groups classified as adult or non-traditional students—account for a growing share of the total number of undergraduates enrolled in higher education nationwide. According to 2005 statistics from the American Council on Education, undergraduates who are 25 or older make up 39% of the total student population. About 62% are women, 42% are students of color, 69% are married and/or have children, and about 29% attend public or private four-year colleges and universities.

They represent about 31% of ULM undergraduates—or more than 2,500 people.

And there's enormous diversity lumped into that group. Non-trads may be 25-year-old veterans returning from Afghanistan or 50-year-old office workers changing careers. Some have been laid off and see it as an opportunity to start fresh; others are homemakers who have sent the kids off to college and follow right behind them. Still others juggle work, family and school all at once.

"For 'non-trads', starting or returning to higher education can be an exciting, daunting and stressful experience—all at once," says Debbie Dameron, ULM coordinator of commuter and non-traditional student affairs. "Families and employers may not always be supportive. Relating to fellow students can be difficult. Confidence, as it relates to schoolwork, may be slow

in coming, and focusing on academics among family, work and financial constraints sometimes may seem impossible. There may never seem to be enough time to 'do it all.' Even so," she adds, "non-trads continue to be some of the highest achieving students in academia."

Time management is a key skill, and Sharpe's schedule is a dramatic illustration. She's taking six courses in the fall semester—math, geography, geology, and three Spanish classes. She teaches Spanish to 10th- and 11th-graders at

NEW OLDER FACES

Anyone who meets one of the following criteria is a "non-trad:"

- Age 25 years or older
- Married
- Has children who receive more than half of their support from the student
- Has legal dependents, other than child or spouse, that live with and receive more than half of their support from the student
- Is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces



Christel Sharpe, seen here with the class of four-year-olds to whom she teaches Spanish, is among the 31% of ULM students – almost 2,500 – who are classified as “non-traditional.”

Excelsior Christian Academy—and to four-year-olds. She goes to Marcus’s football games in the fall and track meets in the spring. “I’m the one in the stands with the book, notebook, and possibly a tape recorder (for Spanish classes),” she says. “Every minute counts.” She’s active in her church, she’s served as president of the ULM Non-Traditional Students Organization,



“IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL,...AND IF YOU’RE THINKING ABOUT IT THREE DAYS IN A ROW, IT’S PROBABLY SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO.”

and when she has time, she makes hand-crafted Christmas tree skirts. That’s not counting fixing breakfast and supper daily for a hungry teenager and running three miles most mornings on the ULM track.

And she wouldn’t trade a minute of it.

“I went through a divorce young and moved back here from Dallas,” Sharpe said. “The job opportunities weren’t great—I have this accounting degree that I hadn’t used in years—but I wanted to stay here to raise my son.” She knew it would be hard to return to accounting, where, she said, she would be competing for positions with people much younger than she.

“So I talked to God and said ‘You need to tell me what to do.’ Then in the middle of the night one night, I woke up and said to myself, ‘You’ve got to learn a foreign language.’”

When Sharpe enrolled in her first Spanish course at ULM, she noticed that the younger students seemed to be grasping the material more quickly than she was. “It was almost 20 years since I had been to college, or sat down to study,

or had a rigidly scheduled kind of lifestyle,” Sharpe said.

“I remember vividly when I was in Spanish 101 and the girl next to me kept spouting stuff, going on and on. I’m going ‘she’s brilliant.’ After the midterm, I finally got up the nerve to ask how she did it. She said ‘I’ve had three years of Spanish.’ And I felt better.”

ULM has many resources for non-traditional students, she says, but worries that many of her colleagues may not take advantage of them.

“The university does a great deal to support non-traditional students and their families,” says Sharpe, listing among the advantages scheduling classes at convenient times, particularly in the summer; tutoring; online e-mail access to instructors and key personnel; activities for non-trads and their family members; and flexibility of organizations to accept non-trads. “ULM also provides insurance benefits for college students as well as their family members,” she adds. “It was extremely helpful to me when I went to study abroad.”

But some non-traditional students seem to feel that they’re intruding on activities and resources reserved for traditional students. To the immediate past president of the non-traditional students organization on campus, that’s simply wrong.

“I’ve talked to non-trads who feel like school is for 18-, 19-, 20-year-olds—and that’s just not true,” Sharpe says. “In tutoring sessions, in job fairs, I look around and there just doesn’t seem to be that many non-trads. Non-trads here are entitled to everything—to eat in the cafeteria, take advantage of services in the library, to attend short-courses that are so informative.”

Sharpe points out that she studies with 19- and 20-year-olds, and the results are good grades all around.

It’s also been a benefit for her son. “Marcus has been indoctrinated to college before he gets there,” says his mom, who takes him to the library with her, invites him to sit in on the occasional class, sends him to eat in the cafete-

ria or makes sure that he and his friends go to a campus activity while she studies.

“A lot of people here are the first ones in their family to graduate from college,” Sharpe adds. “What better way to assure your kids go to college than to have them on campus with you? As a result of my going to school, my son is looking forward to his freshman year in college.” Marcus hasn’t decided on a school yet; seven colleges are currently on his short-list.

Eventually Sharpe would like to work for an international company in a job that will allow her to be in a Spanish-speaking country for short or long stints.

But for now, she has some advice for people over 25 who may be considering coming—or coming back—to college.

“Look at your life, and see where you are. Are you happy? Project, flash forward five years. Will you be in the same position, or better or worse? I believe if you’re not moving forward, you’re moving backward.

“If you’re thinking about going to school, go to the nearest university and talk to some professors, a counselor, an adviser. That’s what I did. They tell you the reality, and the decision is up to you.

“If you’re thinking about it three days in a row, it’s probably something you need to do.”

Resources for non-traditional students at ULM

- Commuter and non-trad student breakfasts and brown bag lunches
- Commuter coffee breaks
- Non-Trad Student of the Month Award
- Non-Traditional Student Organization, which currently has 55 members
- National Non-Trad Student Week
- Children’s Adventure Time, a free service that provides children of non-trads with a variety of educational activities while parents attend classes
- Introduction to personal computing for non-trads
- Non-trad student guide, an informative publication
- www.ulm.edu/studentlife/commuter.html



Christel Sharpe in Spanish class and with her son Marcus: “The university does a great deal to support non-traditional students.”



For more information on non-traditional students and student life at ULM, visit www.ulm.edu/studentlife or contact Debbie Dameron at 318-342-5232, ddameron@ulm.edu.

54,000 STORIES

“People discovered that I was the only one on campus that knew anything about ULM’s history. I didn’t know much, but I knew more than they did, so I got a lot of questions. And I’m still poking around,” says unofficial university historian Dr. John Knesel (*right*), on the occasion of ULM’s 75th anniversary. “There are at least 54,000 stories here—one for every grad.”

By Diana Pinckley • Photography Philip Gould

ON Monday, September 28, 1931, the doors of Ouachita Parish Junior College opened. Founders had expected 50 or so students to enroll. However, 416 showed up to meet seven faculty, two janitors and President C.C. Colvert. Because class schedules had to be redone and more chairs ordered, the students were sent home for a week.

With a burst of enthusiasm in the face of challenge, so began the college that has grown into the University of Louisiana Monroe, with an enrollment of more than 8,500 in 2006 and more than \$70 million in construction recently completed or underway.

In those earliest days, the campus was simply a large field. “There were no sidewalks, no paved circular driveway, no grass—only boards and dirt,” writes unofficial university historian Dr. John Knesel (pictured at right), a biology faculty member whose weekly 75th anniversary columns appear in the Monroe *News-Star*. “Cotton stalks were still standing on campus when classes began.”

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS AT ULM



1931



1956



1981



2006



Sept. 28, 1931
College opens



I RODE A BUS 100 MILES A DAY FOR TWO YEARS. I LIVED IN EPPS. IT COST \$8 A MONTH TO RIDE THE BUS. I JUST FILLED UP MY THUNDERBIRD FOR \$43.71—IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN MAN CRY...MY TIME AT NORTHEAST GAVE ME A RUNNING START. —John Blanchard '41

Oct. 10, 1931
First football win

1932
Marching Band begins

1933
First class graduates



1938
Brown Stadium erected

1956
School of Pharmacy begins



1961
Graduate School established

There was one building—the Main or Administration Building, now called T.O. Brown Hall in memory of the Ouachita Parish school superintendent who was instrumental in the college's founding. Built at a cost of \$263,115, it housed 16 classrooms, a cafeteria, a 1,200-seat theatre, and a gym whose bleachers could hold 700.

In June, 1933, when the two-year-old college held its first commencement ceremonies and sent 135 graduates into the world, it was the third-largest junior college in the South. The first graduates majored in teacher training, pre-medicine, engineering, pre-law and arts and sciences.

Those graduates owed gratitude to, among others, Dr. Francis Clayton Bennett, a Monroe physician who ran for the state legislature in 1928 on the platform of getting a junior college for the city. He was successful almost immediately. In 1928, the Louisiana Legislature passed Act 173—the Junior College Bill—that allowed parishes to tax their citizens in support of a junior college. “Monroe was the focal point of this bill and quickly took advantage of its passage, funding what was to become the only junior college in Louisiana at that time,” said Knesel.

That college faced amazing challenges in its early days. Some were natural. “The fall saw temperatures above 100 degrees,” said Knesel, “and in January came the Mississippi River flood in 1932. It flooded some of the streets and, though it didn't cover the whole area, every day in that spring, people in Monroe thought the levees were going to break.”

The biggest issue, however, was money. ULM's forerunner was founded on the cusp of the Depression. “When the the Junior College bill passed in 1928, Monroe was one of the richest cities anywhere because of its natural gas fields,”

Knesel said. “The tax base was cut in half by 1932. The college administrators found that they could pay the note on the building, and that was about it. There was no money for operations, estimated to be about \$30,000. We almost lost the college then.”

Options were limited; a tax increase had been defeated. President Colvert approached LSU president James Monroe Smith with a plan to become a two-year college within the LSU system. Smith agreed, Gov. O.K. Allen signed off on the plan, and the contract for “Northeast Center of Louisiana State University” was announced on Aug. 13, 1933.

But less than a month later, Colvert received a telegram from Smith stating that “the contract is canceled” because of “dissension created in the state's educational system over the plan.” A week after the dire telegram, however, the governor's contingency fund agreed to supply funds for one year.

What happened? Knesel says the history is unclear. Players include State Sen. James A. Noe, who lobbied on the young college's behalf, and U.S. Sen. Huey Long, who was at first reluctant to support Noe and Colvert's efforts but relented when he heard stories of families moving to Ouachita Parish to attend the college. Reportedly, Long was especially moved by the “weeping widow of Wisner” who wanted to educate her two sons and cried when she heard the college was closing. According to the story, Long made a call to ensure that Ouachita Parish Junior College's budget be run through the LSU budget.

But further action was required. In the 1934 legislative session, Noe, a Monroe native who was president pro-tem of the State Senate, managed to get a bill passed to reinstate the LSU contract—in the face of a firestorm of opposition—by choos-



ing his times carefully (when he knew opponents would be out of Baton Rouge) and telling his fellow senators “Huey wants this bill passed.”

Long had appeared to be in favor of the structure but didn’t openly take any sides. When he returned from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, according to news accounts, Long asked, “What the hell took place here last night, Jimmie?”

The bill now moved to the House of Representatives where, in spite of continued opposition, it passed by an overwhelming majority and was signed into law by Gov. O.K. Allen, according to Knesel. “In the ULM Special Collections stands the Noe desk and behind it a picture of Allen signing Noe’s bill, Act 231. Noe said it was his proudest political accomplishment.

“By the way,” Knesel added, “that meant from 1931 to 1939 we had three different names”—Ouachita Parish Junior College, Northeast Center

“In addition to being a tireless communicator, he was a builder (four buildings and a football stadium); a leader of the faculty (‘If they haven’t learned it, you haven’t taught it.’); a student (on leave in 1936-37, he completed his Ph.D. at George Peabody College); a nationally recognized leader (elected president of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges); and a friend to students (urging all students to eat in the school cafeteria, even those who could not afford lunch, ‘Come in even if you only want a glass of ice water; I’ll come in and eat with you.’).

Colvert was an enthusiastic letter writer, and his missives were printed in the *Pow Wow*, the student newspaper. In 2003, Knesel and Dr. Holly Casey, a professor in ULM’s department of instructional leadership and counseling (whose father was in Ouachita Parish Junior College’s first graduating class), put together a collection of Colvert’s writ-

I CAME TO THE UNIVERSITY ON A BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP IN '56-57. AND THEN IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR, I WAS ON THE TRACK AND CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM (UNDER COACH GROSECLOSE). WE HAD THREE WORLD CHAMPIONS ON OUR TEAM. WE WERE WINNERS, AND THAT CAUSED MOST OF US TO BE WINNERS IN LIFE. —*Chuck McCullen '62*

of Louisiana State University, and Northeast Junior College of Louisiana State University.

The survival of the young institution through the tumultuous first years of its life, Knesel says, was in large part due to the efforts of its president, C.C. Colvert, a man of great energy who was an early leader in the junior college universe.

“Colvert seemed to be everywhere—writing, speaking at high schools, broadcasting on KMLB radio, flying himself to Baton Rouge in one of the college’s airplanes, visiting drugstores where he knew high school students often hung out and asking those young people where they were going to college and getting the names and addresses of at least three prospective students from everyone that he saw,” said Knesel.

ings from 1932-43 called “I Think You Can and I Believe You Will.” The title comes from Colvert’s favorite closing phrase for his letters.

“C.C. Colvert was one of my two ‘holy grails’ that I looked for in ULM’s history,” said Knesel. “He left in 1944 and went to the University of Texas, where he basically founded community college education in this country.” Knesel’s “grail” moment came when he found tapes of Colvert, then in his 80s, talking about the founding of Ouachita Parish Junior College as part of a series of programs called “The Founders of Junior College Education” organized by the University of North Texas.

“It’s like watching your great-grandfather on a video,” says Knesel. “It almost gives you chills to listen to it. He talks about being in Arkansas,

1970
First doctoral
degrees awarded



1970
Baseball team
runnerup in
NAIA World Series

1976
first accredited
undergraduate
social work program
in Louisiana

1981
Nursing
building built



1985
Women's
basketball team
has 30-2 record,
goes to
Final Four

1987
Division 1-AA
national football
champions



1999
University of
Louisiana at
Monroe

coming here, and starting out with 'a half-finished building and a half-cracked president' whatever that means."

Knesel's own odyssey into ULM's history came, appropriately enough, in the university's library. The Ferriday native received undergraduate and master's degrees in biology from ULM (1971 and 1974, respectively) earned his Ph.D. at Purdue and returned to the ULM faculty in 1985. He teaches anatomy and physiology, neurology, and the biology of aging. He characterizes his forays into the university's history as "my other life."

Rolling Stones as he writes a column about Lottie Mae Colvert, the president's wife, and a photo taken when Huey Long came to a football game. "She really hated that photo," Knesel added. "She thought it showed too much of her neck."

That column will be something like his 40th of this 75th anniversary year. They appear each Sunday in the Monroe *News-Star* and are archived (www.ulm.edu/75th/story.html).

"The response has been astounding," says Knesel. "I've had calls from people who went to school here in the 1940s. I got a letter about World War

I KNEW SOME PEOPLE IN THE
AVIATION DEPARTMENT AND DECIDED TO
JOIN THE FLYING TOMAHAWKS... I, BEING COMPLETELY
UNQUALIFIED TO DO ANYTHING FLIGHT-RELATED,
COMPETED IN THE MESSAGE DROP... **I HUNG OUT THE
WINDOW OF AN AIRPLANE AT 200 FEET** IN THE AIR AND...
INSTEAD OF PREPARING FOR THIS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE,
I WAS SCANNING FOR POTENTIAL BOYFRIENDS.
I HAPPENED TO "ACCIDENTALLY" BUMP INTO A HANDSOME
YOUNG PILOT NAMED MICHAEL BABCOCK...
WE WERE MARRIED ON JULY 31, 2004. —*Jada Babcock '06*

One day, he remembers, he was poking around in the university's archive. "I was reading early newspapers, I guess because I didn't have much else to do that day, and I found out I didn't know much about my own university." He was intrigued by President Colvert's columns and eventually joined with Casey on the collection of Colvert writings, to benefit the Friends of the ULM Library.

Five years ago, Knesel was designing a convocation while his colleague in the College of Health Sciences, Dr. Paxton Oliver, was working on an alma mater. "He started referring to me as the university historian," Knesel said. "People discovered that I was the only one on campus that knew anything about ULM's history. I didn't know much, but I knew more than they did, so I got a lot of questions.

"And I'm still poking around," he said during an interview, taking a break from listening to the

II from a woman who describes being in a restaurant at the front of the campus called the College Friend when President Roosevelt did his Dec. 8, 1941 broadcast and how fates were sealed that day. It's a beautiful letter."

He particularly appreciates that the students can actually talk to people who were present at the creation of ULM. "If you are at a university that's 100 or 200 years old, you don't get to see the people who came here in those early years. Here you do," he says, adding that family members of the first graduates attended September's 75th anniversary celebration.

With his fondness for the history of the university in the 30s and 40s, Knesel says, he's having a bit of a hard time moving on to subsequent decades. The major story of the 1940s, he notes, is that the population of the campus was almost entirely female while the men were at war, with student enrollment dropping from 800 to about 200.

After the war, the university boomed with an influx of veterans. In 1950, Northeast Junior College became a four-year bachelor's degree-granting entity called Northeast Louisiana State College. The 1950s also saw a building boom, the only public pharmacy school in Louisiana was founded in 1956, and the campus expanded across the bayou in 1958.

Enrollment growth and construction continued in the 1960s, and the campus was integrated. In the '70s and '80s, Knesel notes, the university faced mid-year budget cuts. "It seems like we've

His "other life" is just another way of teaching, he believes. Knesel cites a story of a woman who attended in 1943. "Her mother gave her \$1 a week—she could buy five nickel bus tickets and go to the College Friend and have hotdogs for a nickel every day and still save enough to go to the movies on the weekend. We learn that the people who preceded us had some of the same kinds of struggles we have, and if we look to see how they dealt with them, they just might inspire us."

Knesel continues his enthusiastic explorations into ULM's past. "The university archivist got a

**DR. RICHARD CHARDKOFF'S TEACHING OF
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY
WAS AND STILL IS A TRUE INSPIRATION FOR ME ...
THE WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE COUPLED WITH HIS SINCERE
ATTITUDE OF ADDRESSING ISSUES IN SUCH A WAY THAT
RESPECT FOR THE MAN AND RESPECT FOR HIS ABILITY
TO ADD AN APPRECIATION FOR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES
WAS TRULY ENLIGHTENING. I AM A TEACHER AND I HAVE
TAKEN A GREAT DEAL FROM DR. CHARDKOFF'S CLASSROOM TO
MY CLASSROOM...** —*Jennett Johnson-Hunter '84*

always scrapped for what we got. But we held our own. Even though we didn't have a lot of dollars, we produced an excellent student because we had excellent faculty."

He sees parallels between the contemporary campus and its earliest days—in construction projects, in an emphasis on the latest technology (OPJC had one of the earliest radio stations in the area), and in pure drive. "Colvert really hustled at tapping into all kinds of funds and getting buildings done, just like President Cofer is doing today," Knesel said.

The biologist's office reflects his passion for history, including pieces of a seat from the original 1932 theatre, rescued from a catwalk "in the very hot and high loft of Brown Auditorium" with the assistance of Brealon Sisson, a member of the ULM Physical Plant staff. "There is something magic about imagining it being there where so many watched and spoke and listened and sang and performed and graduated."

call from the physical plant, 'We've got all these boxes here, we're going to throw them out, you want them?' They're uncatalogued presidential papers. There's all kinds of stuff in there. It's like Christmas!"

There's one other "holy grail" that he seeks—the sheet music to the first alma mater. "In the spring, 1932, Roger Frisbe and Bess Mary Crider wrote the alma mater. We know there's sheet music because it was performed at two graduations. The band had it. The orchestra had it. We have the words. But we know the music has to be out there somewhere," he says, calling on readers to search attics and old instrument cases.

Knesel says he's learned a lot about school spirit and the power of tradition to drive excellence. "It's amazing how everything is connected to everything else," he says. "There are at least 54,000 stories here—one for every grad. It's like doing genealogy on 54,000 families."

Hurricane

WHENEVER A HURRICANE COMES BARRELLING INTO THE COASTLINE, STUDENTS AND FACULTY WORKING WITH THE ULM HURRICANE EVALUATION AT LANDFALL PROJECT FOR SCIENCE (ULM HELPS) COLLECT DATA ABOUT GROUND-LEVEL HURRICANE WINDS THAT CAN LEAD TO SAFER BUILDINGS, BETTER PREDICTIONS OF STORM SURGES, AND AN IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF ONE OF NATURE'S MOST POWERFUL FORCES.

By Diana Pinckley • Photography by Philip Gould

When a hurricane threatens, ULM atmospheric sciences faculty member Dr. Rob Howard (pictured at right) loads up a team of five or six students, packs their equipment in trailers, and hooks the trailers to a Nissan Frontier and a Ford F-150. Then, like many in Louisiana, they flee.

But there's one big difference. Howard and his team drive *toward* the storm. They predict the site of landfall, then go there and set up towers that measure hurricane winds, second by second, at ground level. After their equipment is secured, they head out of harm's way and let the recording devices in the towers do their work.

Howard heads the ULM Hurricane Evaluation at Landfall Project for Science. With the apt acronym of HELPS, the project is one of only three in the nation. Data from the ULM team helps scientists understand how winds affect buildings, predict storm surges better,

and figure out how wind patterns correlate with rain bands, turbulence characteristics and other weather at the height of the storm.

In short, the work of Rob Howard and his students can keep us all safer.

Howard, an assistant professor of atmospheric sciences in ULM's department of geosciences, notes that HELPS provides information that is not otherwise available.

The measurements from the ULM HELPS team and its counterparts at Texas Tech University (where Howard earned his Ph.D.) and the Florida Coastal Monitoring Program (a consortium of universities) are the only land-based documentations of Hurricane Katrina's winds. Howard calls the results "ground-truth."

"It has been hard to tell the actual speed of winds in the storm because previously, everything was an estimate," Howard says. "The hurricane hunters fly aircraft into a storm. They

Trackers



fly about 10,000 feet up and measure by dropping instruments down into the storm when it's over the water. You can't fly into a storm when it's over land – turbulence makes it too dangerous.”

Before ULM HELPS and the other programs like it, there were virtually no reliable data about hurricanes after landfall.

“Most of the stations that are located along the coast are either shut off before the storm comes so that the station will survive, or, if they are left on, the power gets cut off to them so they don't take data during the storm,” Howard explains. “If the power is still on, they may not have instrumentation that's rugged enough to

survive. Hurricane Katrina destroyed many of them.”

The HELPS towers are survivors, however. Since 2004, they have been deployed for five hurricanes – Frances, Ivan, Dennis, Katrina and Rita. Each tower is set up to collect data about temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, wind direction, precipitation and vertical wind speed on a datalogger inside a computer tucked safely inside the tower.

The program's equipment includes

three towers that are two meters high (about seven feet) and one tower that is 10 meters. And their measurements are virtually constant, unlike those of the most well-known weather agency.

“With the National Weather service, you get one observation an hour,” says Howard. “So in a hurricane you get 10 data points at most. With our equipment, you get an observation every second.”

“We got permission to put the **TOWER** on the **LEVEE** – and we lucked out in that it was on a part of the levee that wasn't destroyed,” Howard recounts, pointing out that the towers cost between \$7,000 and \$15,000 each. **“THE SURGE** missed it by maybe **THREE FEET.**”

Howard has three teams, with a total of 20 students or so, to help him in his research. One team of six or eight juniors and seniors goes with him on the trips to set up the towers. “We want them to be academically grounded before they go on trips,” he explains. The forecast team (including freshmen) stays in the weather lab on the ULM campus, using information from the National Hurricane Center and from their own forecasts to provide the tower crew with the latest details on predicted landfall. The third team analyzes the data post-storm. “There's a lot of math involved,” Howard says. “Usually that team has the people who are most interested in research.”

In 2005, the teams were scrambled twice—once for Katrina and once for Rita. (And because each happened on or near a weekend, Howard points out, members of his tower crew didn't have to miss many classes.)

During hurricane season, Howard keeps an eagle eye on the tropics—and stays in close contact with his colleagues in the other two programs. When something looks like it might be coming toward land, he starts putting the equipment together and seeing which of his students is available to go on the trip.

“We leave at the latest no more than three days before landfall, drive down to make sure we get there in time, and contact places on the way down to find suitable places to put the equipment,” Howard says. “We look for open areas with no trees or buildings around. Sometimes they're tricky to find.” At the same time, the team is contacting hotels to find a safe place to stay. “We take the equipment to the site, set it up, get out of the way, and go back and pick it up after the storm's over.”

For Katrina, the team drove to Mandeville on Friday night. Originally they planned to take a tower to Ship Island, just off the Gulfport shoreline, but decided that Buras would be best. Howard grew up there, knew the area well, and had some ideas about locations that would keep the towers out of the storm surge.

“We got permission to put the tower on the levee—and we lucked out in that it was on a part of the levee that wasn’t destroyed,” Howard recounts, pointing out that the towers cost between \$7,000 and \$15,000 each. “The surge missed it by maybe three feet, and there was one levee breach about half a mile north of the tower’s location.” Some places in Buras got a 25-foot storm surge, he adds.

The team spent several hours setting up the tower and anchoring it with rebar and, as tradition dictates, a crowbar that originally came from Howard’s truck during Hurricane Frances. Deep-cycle marine batteries power the tower for up to three or four days, allowing it to collect more than 300,000 data-points.

The tower did its job, at least until just after the eye of the hurricane, Howard says, when something—possibly flying debris from a boat—knocked out its recorder. But the tower survived. The students rode out the storm in Pontchatoula, north of New Orleans and west of landfall. Another tower was erected on the Nicholls State campus in Thibodaux. The other two towers weren’t set up, in part because Howard was leery of risking all the HELPS equipment.

Thanks to Howard’s Buras contacts, an employee of the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff’s Office got the computer out of its box on the tower and brought it to the team shortly after the storm. In October, Howard retrieved the tower, which was delivered to Belle Chasse.

What did ULM HELPS learn? The Buras tower measured three-second wind gusts of over 130 miles an hour at 7 a.m. Monday, when Katrina crossed the coast. Barometric pressure fell to 920.1 millibars, the third-lowest pressure ever recorded on land during a hurricane.

“After we made adjustments (to correlate the two-meter measurements with the 10-meter industry standard), our data show that Katrina turned out to be a category three hurricane at landfall,” Howard said.

For Rita, the tower was set up in Johnson’s Bayou, just west of Cameron. “The last town before Texas,” says Howard. “For Rita, the barometric pressure was 939. One of the towers didn’t work, but the other worked the entire time. Its data showed that Rita was either a sustained category-1 or a category-2 storm.

“We want to get our instruments where the eyewall goes across the coastline,” Howard explains. “For Rita we were on the left, for Katrina we were on the right-hand side. Depending on size of eye, it can be very tricky to decide where to go two days in advance. For Katrina, we had a pretty good idea. For Rita, we went to Texas and backtracked. As the track shifted, we compensated.”

ULM HELPS is part of the atmospheric science program at the university. “We average about 50 majors in the program a year,” says Howard, who came to ULM two years ago. The National Weather Service is a popular choice for the program’s graduates, as is private weather forecasting, broadcast journalism, and military forecasting.

The ULM HELPS initiative may eventually be able to transmit data in real time – Howard is applying for funding – and its data will continue to inform storm surge models, construction codes, and the science of understanding hurricanes as we try to protect ourselves from them.

Find out more, and keep up with Howard and his tracking work at www.geos.ulm.edu/atmosphericsscience/



Alumni Association Welcomes Newest Life Members

David G. Baughman
Robert S. Bennett
Herman G. Blake
Mary E. Blake
Bruce A. Boulware
John E. Broussard
David S. Burch
David A. Carter
Bart Dornier
Kay D. Dornier
Cynthia J. Fairbanks
Rebecca E. Flynn
Henry Hamner
Jennifer J. Hansford
William D. Hoover
Michael J. Luczak
Curtis E. Martin
Sherryl A. Morgan
Joel W. Norris
Cynthia D. Radcliff
Anthony N. "Tag" Rome
Rodger W. Ross
Dhu C. Thompson
Jerry D. Wells

Who's on campus

■ FACT: ULM hosts 7,714 undergraduate and 857 graduate students from 44 states and 47 countries

1933

Evelyn Albright Holloway '33, a member of the first graduating class, is 93 and in good health.

1962

Guy Coates '62 retired as chief political writer for the Associated Press in Baton Rouge.

1964

Una Jones Englehart '64 has completed her 39th year of teaching algebra and pre-algebra to middle school gifted students in the Northeast Independent School District in San Antonio, Tex. She is trying for 40 before she retires.

1967

Carolyn Cole Hetherwick '67 teaches special education part-time and does student teacher coordination at Seattle Pacific University. She was widowed in late 2004 after 39 years of marriage and moved to be near her daughter in Seattle, Wash.

1968

Van Estes '68 has retired and, with his wife Thressa, plans to travel in their new motor home and keep his 1954 Ford Jubilee tractor running.

1969

Donald J. Charpio '69, director of the National Training Center for the Department of Interior's BLM division, lives in Phoenix, Ariz. with his wife *Patricia Shaw Charpio '69*.

Milford Fryer '69 was promoted in 2005 from metro editor to assistant managing editor of the *Baton Rouge Advocate*.

1971

Thomas Smith '71 earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of New Orleans in May 2005.

1972

Maxine Savell Auger-Wise BA '72, MEd '77 retired from Windham School District in

Alumni Association Officers

President:
J. B. (Bart) Dornier BBA '85

President-elect:
Paul H. Wilkening BA'83, MA '85

Vice President:
T.J. Shufflin BS '75

Secretary- Treasurer:
Ronald D. (Ron) Bush BS '89

Past President:
Donald (Don) K. Weems BBA '75, MBA '76

Regional Vice Presidents:

Area 1: **VACANT**

Area 2: **Ivan Landry BS '91**

Area 3: **Philip W. (Phil) Dixon BA '87, MA '89**

Area 3A: **Laurinda Jordan Crenshaw BA '85, MA '87**

Area 4: **Mary Hardee Barnard BS '90**
Lisa Boggs BA '85

Area 5: **Dan W. Robertson, Jr. BBA '89**
Bobbye Fletcher Earle BS '61

Area 6: **Traci James Canterbury BBA '89**
Thomas H. (Tom) Deal BA '74
W. P. (Paul) Ledford BBA '77
Missy Freebeck Adams BA '85
Toni Bacon BA '94

Area 7: **Michael Smith BS '89**
Todd Landrum BBA '74

Area 8: **Stephanie Pittman Hall BA '93**

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

August 2005 and is now an independent consultant for Arbonne International Skin Care Products. Her husband **Jimmie R. Wise BS '74** is a technical inspector on Army vehicle repairs at Red River Army Depot. They live in DeKalb, Tex.

Gloria Futrell Bingham '72 was recently selected as American Mothers Louisiana Mother of the Year.

Richard Cravatts BA '72, MA '73 teaches at Emerson College, Curry College, Tufts University and Boston University's College of Communications; previous posts include BU's School of Management and College of Arts and Sciences, Suffolk University's Sawyer School of Management and Emerson.

Michael A. Rauer '72 is among 20 teachers in the Washington metropolitan area to win the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award from the *Washington Post*. He has taught history at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va., for 10 years. He retired from the U.S. Army after serving on active duty from 1972-1993.

John S. Wells BBA '72 made a hole-in-one on the 18th hole at Links on the Bayou in Alexandria, a 165-yard par 3. Witnesses were **Robert G. Miller BBA '79**, **Patrick D. Ervine BA '78, BBA '83**, and Joshua S. Wells.

1974

Henry Hamner '74 is a senior clinical pharmacist with Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex. He, his wife Blanche and sons Travis C., a special needs young man, and Brian, an attorney, live in San Antonio, Tex.

Ron LeLeux BA '77, MA '84 was elected to a second term as mayor of Sulphur. Ron and his wife **Renee LeLeux BA '77, MA '89** have a daughter Abby, who is a sophomore at ULM, a member of the ULM Dance Team, and of Phi Mu sorority.

1975

James Carr BA '75, MA '78 completed certification in the National Security Agency's Information Assurance Assessment and Evaluation Methodologies. He is contracted by the Space and Naval Warfare Center in Charleston as the Working Integrated Product Team Lead for Information Assurance analysis for USMC Tactical Communications Systems and is also employed as a facility security officer for REMILNET LLC in Jacksonville, Fla., where he lives with his wife Maroulla Marangou Carr.

Dianna Dayton-Ganley BA '75, MEd '83 teaches art at West Monroe High School, where she is a "Distinguished Alumna." Previously, she headed the fine arts department at St. Frederick High School in Monroe for 27 years.

Lenard "Chuck" Halley AA '75, BA '90 was named executive director of The Arc of Morehouse in Bastrop, a non-profit human services agency for people with developmental disabilities in northeast Louisiana. He recently worked as a background actor in six theatrical films and made-for-television movies, including Disney's "Glory Road," CBS's "Locusts," "Vampire Bats," Lifetime's "For One Night," "The Last Time" and ESPN's/ABC's "Ruffian."

Gregory J. Smith '75, a pharmacist, and **Karen Prine Smith '73**, a retired teacher, are the proud parents of son Jason Smith, who graduated from Parker Chiropractic in Dallas; and daughter Kristi S. Miller, who graduated from McNeese State University with a degree in home design. She and her husband David have two children, Kyle and Emma.

1976

Scott Ellen '76 has been appointed to serve on the Ouachita River Commission for the state of Arkansas by Governor Mike Huckabee.

Deborah Remont Myers '76, after 20 years in Alexandria, moved to Lafayette as an independent contract physician with Women's and Children's Hospital.

1977

Kay Johnson Boyd '77 is a lease analyst for Winchester Production, an oil and gas exploration company in Shreveport.

Robert Broussard '77 retired from the Lake Charles Police Department after 25 years and now works at Calcasieu Parish E911.

Dorinda Brunson Gifford BA '77 was named Art Educator of the Year by the Louisiana Art Education Association. She teaches art at Phoenix Elementary School in Alexandria, is a founding member of the Central Louisiana Art Education Association and chair for LAEA's 2006 conference.



Increasing quality

■ **FACT:** The average ACT score for 2006 full-time beginning freshmen is 21.3—the highest ever recorded by ULM.

CLASS NOTES

1978

John McKenzie '78 has been a family practitioner in Gilmer, Tex., for 21 years. His wife Mary is a nurse-practitioner in his office. Son John graduated from Texas A&M in 2005, and daughter Elizabeth is a sophomore at NYU.

1980

Dr. L. Stephen Ortego MS '80 was installed as 2006-2007 President of the Louisiana Dental Association during its 126th House of Delegates in Baton Rouge on March 26, 2006. He received a B.S. in biology from Louisiana College and a D.D.S. from the LSU School of Dentistry. He has been in private practice in Ball since 1984.

1981

Michael Anthony-Terry Harrell '81, '83 was director of Louisiana's first and only Resource Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities and recently transferred to Ruston Developmental Center as associate administrator. He has been with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for 16 years.

Tamee Dark Kirkman '81, '82 was named marketplace compliance manager for State Farm's Florida zone. She has obtained the CLU, ChFC, FLMI and AIRC designations. She and husband Mark live in Winter Haven, Fla.

Bob Mann ('81), former communications director for Gov. Kathleen Blanco, has been named Manship Chair in Mass Communication and Senior Fellow in the Reilly Center for

Media and Public Affairs at LSU. He will teach political communication and edit the politics@media book series for the Reilly Center. Author of four books on political history, he was state director and press secretary to U.S. Sen. John Breaux from 1987-2004, and press secretary to U.S. Sen. Russell Long from 1985-1987. He also worked for the *Shreveport Journal*, *The News-Star* (Monroe) and KNOE-FM.

John Steven Roberts '81 was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves on November 28, 2005 and joined the 377th Theater Support Command in New Orleans. He was deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in April 2006. He received a master's degree in education leadership from Touro University International with a 4.0 GPA in 2005.

1982

Mathew Stevens '82 published *Managing a Construction Firm on Just 24 Hours a Day*, a book presenting 130 best practices and dozens of work-smart methods of successful construction contractors.

1983

Lt. Col. Jerry D. Kerby BS '83 retired from the U.S. Air Force on Oct. 28, 2005, after 22 years. He and his wife **LaWanna Gilreath Kerby BA '83** and their two children, Greg and Melanie, live in Niceville, Fla.

Morrie Smith McKinney '83 is district sales manager with AstraZeneca, L.P., where she leads a team of pharmaceutical sales specialists headquartered in Little Rock, Ark.

Kerri Rogers Phillips '83, '86 completed her doctorate in

speech-language pathology in 2003. An assistant professor at Louisiana Tech University, she is past president of the Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association and past chair of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Terri Westbrook Whiddon '83, '85 is a teacher at Hornbeck High School in Hornbeck.

Donese Worden '83 is a naturopathic physician licensed as a primary care doctor, specializing in unique medical therapies from Europe and around the world.

1984

David T. Frazier '84 works for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and is registered as a professional geologist through the Association of State Boards of Geologists. He and his wife Helen live in North Little Rock, Ark.

1985

Bridgette Croftwell Pullis '85 received a Ph.D. in health studies from Texas Woman's University in Denton in May and is an assistant professor of nursing at Houston Baptist University. Her husband **Robert Pullis BA '85, MEd '86** practices law in the Houston area. They live in Missouri City, a Houston suburb.

1986

Don A. Durr, Jr. '86 started an engineering firm two years ago. He and his wife, **Michelle Bihm Durr '86**, who helps in the business, have three daughters Emily, 15; Laura, 13; and Caroline, 6.

Popular majors

■ FACT: Among the most popular majors in ULM's 96 degree programs are aviation and management, biology, computer science/information systems, construction, criminal justice, education, kinesiology, nursing, and pharmacy.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



Bart Dornier (B.B.A. '85), pictured far right, with his family at their home in Metairie, Louisiana

Lessons from a Hurricane

by Bart Dornier

As an insurance agent, I have worked some of the biggest natural disasters in State Farm's history. I thought I knew what to expect from a hurricane, but I was mistaken.

I had been out of the country just before Hurricane Katrina, so I only had to cope with a cancelled flight instead of the evacuation ordeal that my wife and daughter endured. I rescheduled and forgot about the storm, thinking we would leave our home for three days and then return.

On Tuesday morning, I awoke to TV images of flooding and devastation. I sat in shock as the helicopter flew over Metairie, as I recognized landmarks near my flooded office.

My wife Kay (B.B.A. '84) and I made it back to Metairie on the first Saturday after the storm to find six-to-eight inches of water in my office—enough to ruin most of the furniture and many business records. A low-flying Army helicopter spotted us as we were loading stuff from the building into the car. Thinking we could be

looters, the helicopter made two passes at low altitude. To reassure them, I placed one of my State Farm Disaster Team Member signs on the hood of the car. Seeing the Army fly over made us feel much safer.

As soon as I saw our home, I knew we were in trouble. The hurricane had peeled off the entire roof. Most of the ceilings had fallen down and water had damaged everything. The more we looked, the less we realized we would be able to save. We took what we could and returned to Shreveport.

Much of the last year has been a blur. My office has been repaired and we moved back into our house on September 24, 2006, although a lot of work on the house remains.

I have talked to friends in other states, and they think we have either recovered from Katrina, or we are still under water. Neither is true. The TV images do not represent the real extent of the damage and devastation.

From Hurricane Katrina, we learned what is really important: we are healthy and safe. The property we lost can be rebuilt, or we can learn to live without it. The real gift is in giving. We try every day to help those around us. We will survive this – and so will New Orleans.

Bart Dornier (B.B.A. '85), Metairie, is the current President of the ULM Alumni Association.

1987

Patricia Beavers '87 is a controller with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Oregon. Previously she was director of finance and administration with the Technology Access Center in Nashville, Tenn. Her son Ensign Shane L. Beavers, a 2004 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, is due to complete nuclear power training school and will be stationed in San Diego, Cal.

Gene A. Memoli Jr., R.Ph., FASCP '87 attended the Health Care Reform Symposium hosted by President George W. Bush in Bridgeport, Conn. He is

a past president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists and practices in long-term care pharmacy in Connecticut. His wife **Peggy Memoli '86** is a clinical consultant pharmacist.

Darrell Newman '87 has a daughter, Kristin Nicole Newman, who is a freshman at ULM. Kristin is on the 2006 PREP staff, president of the freshman class and a member of the SGA. She also was on the 2006 Homecoming Court as a Freshman Maid.

1988

Becky Tatum BA '88 is regional database manager at the Isle of Capri corporate offices in Biloxi, Miss. Previously she was at the Isle of Capri in Bossier City. She began her casino career in 1998 with Harrah's. She and husband Jodie and daughters Marilou, 9, and Abigail, 4, live in Ocean Springs, Miss.

1989

Scott Finlay BBA '89, MM '94 has joined the University of Colorado Foundation as associate director of develop-

Continued on page 29

Engaged faculty

■ **FACT:** Our 390 faculty teach in an average class size of 24. The student-faculty ratio is 18:1.

CLASS NOTES

Marriages

Fallon Atkins '05 to high school sweetheart Myron B. Hawthorne, Feb. 18, 2006.

John Balance '73, in his second term as Bienville Parish sheriff, to Sherri Woodall, a registered nurse at Highland Hospital in Shreveport.

Christopher Barron '99 to **Christine Hazard '94**, July 6, 2005, in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Tara Jeanne Bouchie '05 to **Sean McConathy '05**, June 2005. They met their sophomore year at ULM. They work in Houston, Tex.

Rachael Schlottman Brignac '72, '92 to Frankie D. Brignac of New Orleans, Nov. 26, 2005. She has daughter, Jodie, 29, and a son, Dale, 28.

Dwayne Chatelain '96 to Aimee Adams, July 1, 2006, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Morgan City and honeymooned in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. They live in Zachary.

LaTanya Denise Clower BBA '04 to **Kristopher Scott Harper BBA '04**, Oct. 16, 2005, at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry chapel on the ULM campus.

Marketha Shantel Cole BBA '00, an assistant to the CFO at Omni American Bank, to Smith Washington III, October 2003. They live in Fort Worth, Tex.

Amy Cummins '04 to **Patrick Pyle '04**, March 4, 2006. They live in Kingwood, Tex.

Cheryl Coleman DeVille '96 to **Bill Meade '93**, December 2005.

Amy Michele Dietz '03 to **Bobby Carro '03**, July 2004. They have Kayden Robert, born in November 2003, and Emma Grace, born in May 2005.

Amy Katherine Dougherty BA '03, to **Brian Thomas Robinson MBA '03**, Nov. 26, 2005, at First Presbyterian Church in Monroe. Amy is employed in the Office of Recruitment and Admissions at ULM and Brian is employed with Marcus, Robinson, and Hassell, a CPA firm. They live in Monroe.

Carolyn Amanda Garrett BS '02 to Todd Jones, Dec. 18, 2004. They live in West Monroe.

Carla Lynn Hannah BS '86, a 13-year employee of Fort Bend County in Rosenberg, Tex., to Jimmy

Allen Beckendorff, Oct. 22, 2005, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Sealy, Tex.

Jenny Catherine Hopkins '97, a clinical assistant at Norris/Pulitzer Orthodontics, to B.J. Pankey, Oct. 29, 2005.

Lacy Nicole Lambert BME '05 to **Neal McKaskle Sanderson BA '02**, June 4, 2005, at the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home chapel. They live in Calhoun.

Lara Leigh Lewis BGS '02 to Roddie Darrell Meggs at First Baptist Church in West Monroe. They live in Monroe.

Vakendall Long BA '04, a case manager for a foster care agency in Jackson, Tenn., to Katrina Stewart, June 24, 2006.

Theresa Lane May BA '05 to Robert Nathan Cotton Jr., Feb. 18, 2006 at Grace Baptist Church in Grayson. The couple lives in Columbia.

Michael Wayne Mercer '96 to Jan Grable Holton, July 9, 2005.

Ashley Elizabeth Morgan '01, a nursing home occupational therapy assistant, to Corey J. Bertrand, April 2, 2005. They live in Crowley.

Samuel Max Newman BS '03 to Amanda Elise Waller, Oct. 22, 2005.

Misty Lynn Newton BS '05 to Preston Brock Croft, Dec. 10, 2005, at Dunn Baptist Church. They live in Delhi.

Jamie Frances Perry BS '02 to Capt. David Cleveland Joseph, Feb. 18, 2006, at Grace Episcopal Church in Monroe. They live in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Damon Christopher Pichoff BA '05 to Lacey Brooke Miller, Jan. 7, 2006, at Alpine First Baptist Church in Pineville. They live in Tallahassee, Fla.

David Pickett '05, a registered nurse at Riverside Medical Center in Franklinton, to Kayla Miller. They live in Amite.

Ricky Pratt '96 to Erin Trahan, May 6, 2006.

James David Reneau BGS '02 to Jill Eloise Vaughan, Jan. 28, 2006, at Lea Joyner Memorial United Methodist Church in Monroe. The couple lives in Shreveport.

Passing the test

■ **FACT:** Nearly every ULM student who takes a licensure exam passes it—in business, health sciences or education.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

Jennifer Bailey Telano '00 to **Danny Heath Mills '97**, Dec. 10, 2005, on Beech Mountain at the Kennedy Chalet in Banner Elk, N.C.

Chuck Thomas '92 to Christi Fitzgerald, May 27, 2006. They live in Pollock.

Rhonda Travis '98 to Robert Winslow, Feb. 22, 2006, in Hawaii on the island of Kauai.

Chad Whitehead '99 to Marti Jo Selby of Jonesboro, Ark., March 25, 2006.

Avery Grace Gallucci, June 5, 2006, to **Giuseppe "Joe" Gallucci '96** and wife Angela Burtchell. They married June 2, 2001.

Joseph Charles "Charlie" Giglio, May 3, 2005, to **Amy Petrus Giglio '91** and husband Joe. They married March 22, 2003.

Births

Ryan Adams, Oct. 20, 2005, to **Missy Freebeck Adams BA '85, MA '87** and husband Richard.

Mary Elizabeth Allen, Jan. 12, 2006, to **Ashley Rugg Allen '02** and **David W. Allen '94**.

Aden Sue Antley, Sept. 21, 2005, to **Keena Babb Antley '98** and husband Robert. They live in Monroe.

Malajah B. Hawthorne to **Fallon Atkins '05** and husband Myron.

Matthew J. Badeaux, Nov. 8, 2000, to **Curtis Badeaux '93** and wife Melissa.

Alexis Camille Baham, Feb. 24, 2005, to **Melvin J. Baham Jr. BS '90** and **Andrea Daniel Baham BS '89**. They live in Baton Rouge.

Loy Baird '61 and wife Betty have grandchildren: Maxwell, 6, Cari, 4, and Alison, 1. They are the children of their daughter Dana and husband Steven.

Shanda Boyles '03 has children Elle', 2, and Landon, 1.

Ella Lindsey Brunson, May 31, 2005, to **John Brunson BBA '90** and his wife Angie. Ella joins brother, Jack, 7.

1 Easton Alan Bruscato, Aug. 5, 2005, to **Lori Tande Bruscato '02** and **Scott Bruscato BS '92, MEd '94**.

Caleb Lee Cole, Nov. 26, 2002, and Micah Caden Cole, Nov. 15, 2005, to **Chassidy Morace Cole '96** and **Phillip Jason Cole '94**. They married January 1999.

Haylee Grace Cox, Oct. 3, 2005, to **Kristina Dove Cox '04** and husband Curtis.

2 Addison Lee Creekmore, July 27, 2005, to **Courtney Elizabeth Creekmore '06**. Grandparents, Skeet Creekmore, ULM faculty member, and Nancy Creekmore, and uncle **Bryan Joseph Creekmore**, who attends ULM, welcomed the youngest ULM Athletic Foundation member. All the Creekmores are members of the ULM Athletic Foundation.

Catherine Delaney Dupree, April 30, 2005, to **Jennifer Elliott Dupree '95** and **Chad Dupree '93**. She joins Caroline Elizabeth, 5.

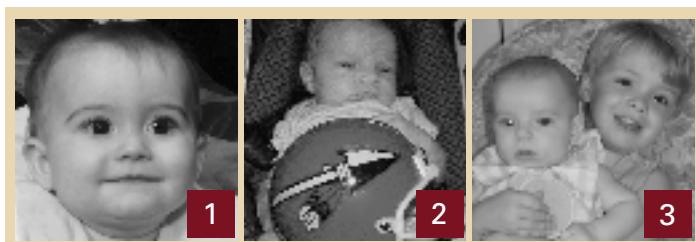
Max McLain Dykes, July 7, 2005, to **Jessica Buntyn Dykes '91** and husband Bill. He has brothers Jack Alexander, 3, and Sam McGuire, 2.

3 Maxwell Andrew Frederick, March 9, 2006, to **Megan Causey Frederick '96** and **Ethan Frederick '98**. Brother Miller Alan Frederick is 3.

Monica Lucas Frost '00 and husband Ken have two boys Trey, 2, and Tristan, 11 months.

Student-centered

■ **FACT:** In the Emerging Scholars program, over 100 undergraduate researchers and their faculty mentors conduct experiments, test theories, and contribute new knowledge.



CLASS NOTES

Births Continued

Emma Grace LaBorde, Nov. 17, 2005, to **Missy Clark LaBorde BA '89, MA '90** and **Robbie LaBorde BS '91**. She joins Matthew, 12, and Sarah Catherine, 8.

4 Katelyn Elizabeth Mardis, November 6, 2005, to **Charles Michael Mardis '03** and wife Elizabeth.

Mia Claire Tillman, Feb. 26, 2006, to **Jody Maynard '05** and husband Ty.

Karson Laine Perry McKoin, May 24, 2005, to **Kris McKoin '99** and wife Ginger.

Ainslee Elizabeth Newell, July 7, 2005, to **Kristi Vines Newell '95** and husband Chad.

Kate Isabelle Newman, June 17, 2005, to **Patty Orillac Newman BA '98** and **Jake Newman BS '98**. She joins brother Jack Thomas, born Aug. 16, 2002. They live in Austin, Tex.

Jacob Ossman, June 29, 2005, to **Jason Ossman '05** and wife Angela.

5 Maggie Maureen Quine, Feb. 1, 2006, to **Jennifer Feltman Quine BA '96, MEd '01** and husband John.

Tyler Cole Reppond, Sept. 14, 2005, to **Donna Cranford Reppond '94** and husband John.

Morgan Reese Rodriguez, Dec. 5, 2004, to **Jarett Rodriguez '97** and **Sherry Seamon Rodriguez '98**.

John-Thomas Roussell, July 16, 2004, to **Tim Roussell BS '96** and **Martha Vandersypen Roussell BS '97**.

Madden Sawrie, June 9, 2006, to **Lesley Walter Sawrie BS '01** and **Matt Sawrie BBA '98**.

Nolan Bryce Rhew, Nov. 3, 2004, to **Dara Schoen Rhew '03** and husband Randy. Grandparents are **Stan Schoen '71** and **Gloria 'Lynn' Clark Schoen '71**.

Mia Catherine Schramm, Sept. 3, 2005, to **Melissa Phillips Schramm '00** and Nick Schramm '01.

Zachary Cole Simpson, Oct. 17, 2005, to **Tania Schott Simpson BA '94** and **Charlie L. Simpson BGS '98**. He joins brother Chandler Kade, 4. They live in West Monroe.

Mara Eileen Singley, March 11, 2006, to **Patty Weber Singley '01** and **Michael "Mike" Singley '79**.

Owen Matthew Spitale, March 22, 2006, to **Rachel Fedele Spitale '04** and **Anthony Matthew Spitale '05**. They live in Denham Springs.

6 Ezra Lee Tarver, Oct. 14, 2004, to **Josh Tarver '03** and **Erin Helmer Tarver '03**.

Nathan Alexander, Jan. 5, 2006, to **Jennifer Mercon Travis '01** and **Brian Travis '99**. He joins brother Austin, born Dec. 26, 2002.

7 Karson Luke Trichel, Oct. 24, 2005, to **Susan Whitehead Trichel BS '91** and husband Toby. He joins brothers Cole, 7, and Kade, 4.

John Minor Wade Jr., July 10, 2003, and Aaron Anderson Wade, March 28, 2005, to **Traci Bonin Wade '97** and **Johnny Wade '96**.

Anna Marie Williams, Jan. 10, 2005, to **Bradley Williams '04** and **Bridget Boudreaux Williams '98**. She joins sister Kalee, born March 14, 2000.

Jamie Simone Harris, Jan. 26, 2004, to **Cassandra Johnson Williams '90**. She joins brother Kevin Charles Williams, 11.

Healthy numbers

■ FACT: ULM produces more than 350 health-sciences graduates annually.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

Continued from page 25

ment at the College of Music. He was previously executive director of the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra at the University of Denver.

Missy Clark LaBorde BA '89, MA '90 and Robbie LaBorde BS '91

live in Alexandria where Robbie works as general manager of business development at CLECO and Missy is an assistant professor of communication studies at LSU-Alexandria. They are active in the Cenla Chapter of the ULM Alumni Association.

Rob Nash '89, on active duty with the U.S. Army was deployed to the Philippines with the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; was on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during "Task Force Hope" in support of Hurricane Katrina clean-up operations, and has been deployed to Iraq with the 412th Engineer Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

1990
.....

John Brunson BBA '90 is a financial analyst with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi in Jackson. The family lives in Richland, Miss.

Matt Coleman '90 was recently promoted to managing editor at the *Daily Reader* in Brookhaven, Miss. He oversees the newsroom and the day-to-day editorial operations.

Larry McDonald '90 has been regional manager for the southeast United States at Jacobsen/A Textron Company

since leaving the ULM athletic department in 2002. His company specializes in sports turf and golf course grounds care equipment and provides over 70 percent of the PGA's tournament equipment.

1991
.....

Stokey Bourque '91 was promoted to victim witness coordinator for the District Attorney General for the 21st Judicial District. He and his wife **Stephanie Maxey Bourque '93** live in Franklin, Tenn.

Amy Petrus Giglio '91 has been on the development staff at Centenary College since 2001.

1993
.....

Kerry Pope Hicks '93 received the MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner, from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson in May 2005. Certified through the Academy of Nurse Practitioners, she works in a family medicine clinic in Vicksburg, Miss.

Charles Jaubert BGS '93 has been promoted to assistant principal at Vermilion Catholic High School in Abbeville.

Corey Perkins '93 is the wide receivers coach and head girls track coach at Beaumont Central High School in Texas.

Scott A. Stevens '93 represented Canada at the World Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Linz, Austria. He placed 7th in the half-marathon (men 35-39), a 13-mile race on a course along the Danube River, and won the silver in the 3,000-meter race (men 35-39). Scott is the staff kinesiologist at the Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital in Ontario.

Billy Williams '93 received an M.A. in Christian education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary on May 5, 2006, and is minister of music/education at Central Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark. He and wife **Leslie Smith Williams '93** live in Hall, Ark.

1994
.....

Susanne Gordon Arnett '94 joined The Cirlot Agency, a corporate communications firm in Jackson, Miss., as public relations manager. She previously was an award-winning managing editor, executive producer and news producer at TV stations in Jackson, Tyler, Texas, and Monroe. She, husband **Sam Arnett BBA '93** and son Sam Jr., 2, live in Madison, Miss.

Todd Enloe '94, a process technician at Chemtura Chemical Corporation in Taft, and wife **Leslie Ledet Enloe '94** a pharmacist for Wal-Mart, live in Raceland with children Julia Elizabeth and Jenna Elizabeth.

1996
.....

Candace DeLess Jeffress MEd '96 retired from teaching in May 2005 after 28 years. She and husband **Jimmy Jeffress MME '84** live in Crossett, Ark., where she serves on the Crossett City Council and enjoys oil painting and playing with her grandchildren.

Rickey Pratt '96 graduated from medical school May 20 and began a pediatrics residency at Children's Hospital in New Orleans July 1.

Mary Shockley '96 is special education teacher for the emotionally disturbed at Eastlake High School in

Brainy spaces

■ FACT: ULM has 58 "smart classrooms," equipped with computers, DVD and VCR players, sound systems, Internet connections, and document cameras.



Washington State and recently opened her equine-assisted therapy practice.

Amy McVoy Smith '96 is a graduate student at ULM in communicative disorders. She has a 3-year-old son, David.

1997

Alejandra Albritton Blanco '97 teaches a third-grade class, 100 percent of whom passed the Texas TAKS reading test. Five received commended status – a hard rating to attain, especially in a bilingual classroom.

Kevin Thomas Busch '97 became head football coach at Tulsa Hale High School on Aug. 5, 2005, after being coach (and discipline dean) at Palm Beach Central and Royal Palm Beach high schools. He and wife Tracy Lee, a sales consultant for an educational software company, married Dec. 31, 2003.

Connie Oubre '97 is evening program coordinator at Hamilton College in Lincoln, Neb., where she also teaches criminal justice classes and serves as advisor to the Student Senate.

Joseph Renaud '97, '00, a real estate investor with property throughout the South, is director of operations for a real estate firm in Westchester, NY. He was previously a lending officer at North Fork Bank in New York and managed a real estate investment trust for the Related Companies/CharterMac.

Jarett Rodriguez '97 is chief operating officer and co-owner of Technically Advanced, Inc. and **Sherry Seamon Rodriguez '98** is a nurse at Baylor's Heart and Vascular Hospital. They live in Plano, Tex.

1998

Rebecca Williams Baldwin BS '98, MS '00 received a Ph.D. in entomology in 2005 from the University of Florida. As assistant director of the school's IPM program, she won the NISUS scholarship for professional women in pest management at the National Pest Management Association meeting and placed first in a student paper competition of the Entomological Society of America.

Nancy Lee Garner '98 graduated from the Institute for Organization Management, a four-year professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, held at the University of Georgia.

Geoffrey Gaskin '98 and wife **Ginger Wilkinson Gaskin '98** moved from New Orleans in the wake of the hurricanes to Newnan, Georgia. Geoffrey is now at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Ginger continues to work with Cummins in its Atlanta branch.

Renee Hebert BA '98, MEd, '00 is the director of the professional leadership program within the College of Business Administration at the University of North Texas after previously serving as assistant director of Student Life.

1999

James Hatcher '99 is staff engineer at BidPay, Inc., a payment engine for online auctions and a wholly owned subsidiary of CyberSource.

Brian Travis '99 has started a new job with Texas Oncology in Denton, Tex.

Chad Whitehead '99 was promoted in 2005 to director of quality and risk management for HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Jonesboro, Ark.

2000

Gabe Crawford BS '00 is project manager for the Northwest Arkansas Division of May Construction; his wife **Katie Pritchett Crawford BBA '00** is VP of lending for ANB Financial, N.A., both in Bentonville, Ark.

Jeffrey Ratcliff '00 is project administrator at the Beck Group in Dallas, Tex.

Jada Bown Swanson '00 teaches voice and music at Colorado Christian University. She visited South Africa and England teaching and speaking at a Creative and Performance Arts Conference in November 2006.

2001

Tracy Andrus MA '01 earned a Ph.D. from Prairie View A&M University in May 2005. He is an assistant professor of criminal justice and director of the Lee P. Brown Criminal Justice Institute at Wiley College in Marshall, Tex. He is also working on developing an "enviroecogenetics theory," an explanation of why people commit crimes. He also presented research at Oxford University in England.

Jerry Chen '01 is the deputy president for the Medical Committee of Chinese Genetic Engineering and the deputy general manager/senior medical director for Shanghai Health Care Bio-Engineering Co., Ltd.

Building ULM

■ **FACT:** More than \$70 million has been budgeted or spent for construction and renovation on campus since 2002.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

2003

Andrew "Andy" Chance '03 joined the Mesquite Police Department and is attending the Police Academy in Arlington, Tex., with aspirations of becoming an investigator. His wife Becky is a construction loan officer with Countrywide Mortgage in Plano, Tex.

Louise Valdez Crabtree '03 has been transferred to Empire Bank as a loan assistant.

Timothy Eads '03 was promoted to the loss mitigation department at Centex Home Equity in Lewisville, Tex. He lives in Flower Mound, Tex.

Josh Tarver '03 has started his own construction company. His wife **Erin Helmer Tarver '03** is a licensed realtor and full-time mother to Ezra Lee Tarver. They live in Fayetteville, Ark.

2004

Sunny Brockner '04 is the business development coordinator/customer relations manager at Robinson Brothers Ford in Baton Rouge.

Tamiaka Simon '04, who has been with the Volunteers of America-Texas in Fort Worth for two years, was promoted to facility case manager.

Bradley Williams '04, a field engineer for Hensel Phelps Construction Company, and **Bridget Boudreaux Williams '98**, manager of Coldwell Banker Mortgage, live in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Sharonda Williams '04 is a laboratory technician with the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office in Houston, Tex.

2005

Christin Bailey '05 is a registered nurse at North Carolina's Baptist Medical Center-Brenner Children's Hospital.

Ritasha Kari Lewis '05 is in a dual masters program in social work and child development at Loyola University in Chicago, Ill.

Jody Maynard '05 is a human resources assistant at Faulk & Foster in Monroe.

Jason Ossman '05 is a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards in Monroe.

Jamie Whitley BA '05, a foster care worker with Beauregard Parish Office of Community Services, lives in Oakdale.

2006

Jennifer Thrower Gunter '06 has been accepted to the North Texas Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center Pharmacy Practice Residency Program in Dallas, Tex. She and husband **Gary Preston Gunter '04** live in Coppell, Tex.

Barton Harrison '06 is director of bands at Norphlet School System in El Dorado, Ark.

In Memoriam

Condolences to **Kay Denning DeVanie Wood BA '73**, whose son Glen Denning DeVanie died in the line of duty on April 2, 2003. He served as a deputy marshal for the city of Alexandria for six years. His daughter Caroline is 4, and son Ethan is 3.

Juanita Anthony Mears '35

Carter Barton Ackel '37

T.C. "Charles" Stewart '37

Eleanor McKenzie Thompson '37

Uriah W. "Pick" Pickens '39

Lucy Helen Reardon '41

Robert Keith Semmes, Jr. '41

Naomi Harris Cooksey '48

Robert P. McNabb BS '53

Raymond Sweet BS '53

Ida Gertrude Clark Rogers BA '54

Ruby Ford Shoemaker BA '54, MEd '63

Robbie Johnson Brown BA '56

Ralph Thomas Norman, Jr. BA '59

Inez Scott Littlefield BA '61

Curtis B. Bunn BS '64

Joseph Guyton Powers '67

Wanda Gail McGowen Akins BA '71

Helen May Nelson BA '71

Joseph Frank Stringer MS '75

Preston L. Anderson MEd '76

Deborah Glenn Lawrence Coats BS '76

Arvella Cornelia McCoy Duncan Brown MME '77

Teresa Walters Gentry '77

Emily Avery James BS '79

Carol Cosselman Mouk BS '80

Polivios "Polis" Potamitis '93

Dawn Upshaw Rose BS '04

Endowing excellence

■ **FACT:** ULM has nine \$1 million endowed chairs and 49 endowed professorships totaling \$21.8 million. Including this amount, the ULM Foundation manages more than \$44.7 million.



Deena Burnett (B.B.A. '85)

9/11 Widow; Author of "Fighting Back: Living Life Beyond Ourselves"

In the ULM classroom, Deena Burnett was a quiet student. Today she has found her voice, traveling the country to speak on behalf of Sept. 11 victims' families.

That voice kept a packed Brown Auditorium audience spellbound this fall as Deena recalled her last telephone conversations with her husband Tom Burnett, shortly before he helped storm the hijackers of United Airlines Flight 93, and ultimately kept the plane from striking its apparent target of either the White House or the Capitol. The plane crashed in a remote Pennsylvania field.

She recalled a particularly painful moment when she thought her husband was on the plane that crashed into the Pentagon.

"I just started wailing - not just crying, I was wailing. There were sounds coming out of me that I did not recognize and I couldn't stop. My children started dancing around me, thinking I was playing a game with them. They were laughing and then they saw the tears and they started crying. And they climbed on my lap and still I couldn't stop. The phone rang and it was Tom.

"I said, 'Tom you're OK. 'No, I'm not,' he said." She shared the rest of her husband's words, including his last to Deena, "We're going to do something."

It's been five years since that tragedy, and it's long past time to move on, she said. But it's just as important to remember the passengers' actions on that day because they serve as lessons for everyone.

In the spirit of her new book, *Fighting Back: Living Life Beyond Ourselves*, Deena talked about the importance of being a good citizen, an everyday hero, someone who does the right thing at the right time.

"You and I have that opportunity every day to affect those living around us.

If Tom was here, and you asked him about his actions on Flight 93, he would laugh. He didn't like the word 'hero.' He was just doing the right thing and being a good citizen."

Deena has her own record of good citizenship, having successfully spearheaded an effort to have the Flight 93 cockpit voice recording released in April 2002. She is currently the lead plaintiff in an unprecedented lawsuit to bankrupt terrorist organizations. Twice, she served as a witness in the criminal trials of Al Qaeda members in Europe.

**"TOM
DIDN'T LIKE THE WORD
'HERO.' HE WAS JUST
DOING THE
RIGHT THING."**

by Laura Harris



University of Louisiana Monroe

Office of Alumni Relations

700 University Avenue

Monroe, LA 71209-3210

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