

ULM

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2 2007

A Helping Hand for Schools
New Health Sciences Degree
The Cofer Years

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE



Climbing the Walls for Fitness and Fun

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



James & Deborah Cofer

As I look back over our five years at ULM, I am inspired by the tremendous accomplishments we have achieved together. In our first few weeks on campus, Deborah and I, along with so many of you, reclaimed our campus, banishing litter and peeling paint and other signs of neglect. An ambitious \$70+ million visionary plan, focusing on students first, has become our campus renaissance.

This issue of the ULM Magazine shares that campus renaissance with you. The renovated Student Union Building was rededicated to its “owners”—ULM students. Our new Office of Enrollment Management will offer a “one-stop shopping” admissions/enrollment experience.

Today ULM undergraduate students are presenting their research at regional, national and international conferences, an experience often reserved for doctoral students.

Who would have dreamed of such innovations for our students? The answer to that question is ULM’s faculty and staff, such as kinesiology faculty Dr. Wilson Campbell and Dr. Lisa Colvin who have published cutting-edge research examining how to reduce childhood obesity.

Students can now earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Studies degree, providing professional education in the health fields which will help them serve the citizens of Louisiana for a lifetime.

Our alumni continue to play the vital role of supporting their alma mater. We’ve featured several who are making a difference in today’s world, in part because of the education, values and life-changing experiences they received at ULM.

The 1984-88 women’s basketball teams held a reunion, spotlighting standout player Eun Jung (Lee) Ok, as she and her teammates pioneered the way to enable women’s basketball, not only at ULM but across the country, to become the mammoth sport it is today.

ULM is at a crossroads. While change is constant, we are positioned financially, physically, academically and organizationally for the future. We must build on the strong foundation that we—together—put in place with the dedicated work of students, faculty, staff, administrators and friends.

As progress and excellence continue at ULM, please know your support allows this university to bring to life an inspiring vision of the future.

James E. Cofer, Sr.
President

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ON THE COVER

Megan Ramsey and Kristina Holmes, second graders at Sallie Humble Elementary School in Monroe, tackle words and a wall in an innovative physical education program that combines academic challenges with fitness. (see story, page 8)

INSIDE BACK COVER: *As dusk descends, a lighted path leads the way past the ULM Library to University Commons II.*

Pharmacy moves in; Student Success Center and additional parking on the way

College of Pharmacy students began attending classes in the new 132,000-square-foot Bienville Building, located at 1800 Bienville Dr., after Phase I renovations were completed December 2006.

The Bienville Building features four large SMART classrooms. Two of these classrooms offer interactive distance learning capabilities to connect the main campus classrooms with the College's satellite campuses.

THE RENOVATED PHARMACY BUILDING FEATURES A 48-STATION PHARMACY CARE LABORATORY, A SIMULATED PHARMACY AND HOSPITAL ROOM.



ULM Pharmacy students now learn in the state-of-the-art Bienville Building.

The building also includes a large 48-station Pharmacy Care laboratory, a simulated pharmacy and hospital room, a patient education facility, and a sterile products compounding area.

Phase II renovations will include building the ULM Medicaid Office of Drug Evaluation and Outcomes Research, the Prior Authorization unit, the Disease Management program, and the College's research laboratories. They are scheduled to begin in June 2007.

The majority of the College's graduate and research programs will remain in Sugar Hall until the completion of Phase II in March 2008. The College's growing undergraduate toxicology program will continue in its Sugar Hall location.

Construction on the new Intermodal Transit Facility began in early April. The new parking garage, located at 407 University Ave., will provide an additional 285 parking spaces for ULM students.

This project, which will be completed in the fall, is combined with the DeSiard Street parking project, which will include new parking lots in front of all campus buildings along DeSiard Street, a new iron fence, signage and landscaping. The new parking lots, which will also be completed prior to the fall 2007 semester, will be reconfigured to provide a safer entry and exit to DeSiard Street.

Conversion of the former Wigwam into the Clarke M. Williams Student Success Center will also start this summer, with a fall 2008 completion date. Once complete, the state-of-the-art Student Success Center will offer tutoring, workshop areas, a 24/7 computer lab and counseling offices.

Miller heads enrollment management



As the University of Louisiana at Monroe continues to attract more academically prepared students, the administration is streamlining the way enrollment is managed at ULM.

A new position, Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, was recently created to coordinate all university activities relevant to the recruitment, admission and retention of ULM students.

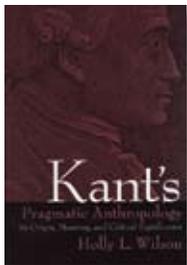
Lisa Miller, formerly the director of recruitment and admissions, assumed the newly-created

position in January. Miller, who has worked at ULM for over four years, will excel in her new position, said ULM Provost Stephen Richters.

“Lisa has continuously demonstrated her exceptional abilities in improving our recruiting and admissions efforts and has really developed a comprehensive enrollment management philosophy,” Richters said.

Miller will oversee the Offices of Recruitment and Admissions, Scholarship, Financial Aid and Registrar along with the Clarke M. Williams Student Success Center. She will collaborate with the Enrollment Management Committee, the administration, and the Faculty Senate to determine enrollment goals and initiatives.

New books by ULM faculty



Holly L. Wilson, associate professor of philosophy, published *Kant's Pragmatic Anthropology: Its Origin, Meaning, and Critical Significance*.

Mark Clark, associate professor of music, published a research book entitled *Guide to the Aria Repertoire*.



Terry L. Jones, professor of history, has had his eighth-grade Louisiana history textbook, *The Louisiana Journey*, approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for adoption by the state's school systems.

What was once old is new again

After \$7 million and almost two years of down-to-the-steel renovations, the Student Union Building re-opened on Jan. 16, reclaiming its role as the focal point for student-oriented activities.

The state-of-the-art facility features several student lounges, study rooms, a food court with enough cuisine choices to satisfy any appetite, wireless Internet access, a stage and ballroom.

It's a building designed to meet the needs of the 21st-century ULM student. Thus it was appropriate that a 20th-century student returned to cut the ribbon on Jan. 23, officially reopening the SUB and rededicating it to current students.

In 1946, Yvonne (Lusk) Anderson was elected the first female Student Council president of what was then Northeast Junior College, after serving as Student Council vice-president the year before. The busy Epps native also wrote for *The Pow Wow*, served as president of the Wig and Mask theatre club, and was a member of Delta Psi Omega, a speech organization.

"It was the middle of World War II. I was with a group of young people graduating from high school and waiting to be sent off. We liked to be involved and do everything we could," Anderson said.

"There wasn't an organization I didn't belong to, an office I didn't hold. I was that active. It was a wonderful time to be in school."

"The old SUB survived. It was small, and they had some rooms above it that housed the football boys who were not from this area."

Anderson joined ULM President James E. Cofer, Sr., to officially open the SUB and its companion building, the Student Center, housing the offices of Student Life and Leadership. When Anderson was a student, the current Student Center was the



The state-of-the-art Student Union Building is the hub of campus.

original SUB. The current SUB opened in 1962.

During the ceremonies, Cofer presented Anderson a framed photo of the Student Council from the 1946 Chacahoula.

"I have three priorities at this institution," said

Cofer. "They are the current students, the former students, and the future students. This building represents all of those wrapped into one.

"This is another in a long series of grand openings here at ULM in the last few years," continued Cofer. "We are pleased that we can offer our students, faculty and staff top-notch facilities."

Of the SUB now, Anderson said, "It's just awesome! I'm so delighted that we have it. It is the most wonderful thing that's happened in this area, and only good can come of it. We need this school, and we need it badly. It's going somewhere with this good leadership. We have the best faculty and the best head man and his wife that we could have."

Included in the SUB renovation was a sealed time capsule containing ULM items, to be reopened during ULM's centennial celebration in 2031.



Yvonne (Lusk) and Kent Anderson with ULM President James E. Cofer, Sr. at the opening of the SUB

ULM announces new professional theatre

After just four years at ULM, the School of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) is quickly becoming the area's cultural magnet. Internationally-renowned actors will contribute to that success as they vie for the lead roles in VAPA's new Louisiana Lyric Opera.

This summer, the new theatre will open its preview season with Nicholas F. Saverine, who will play Mushnick in "Little Shop of Horrors" (Aug. 2-5) and the Major General in "Pirates of Penzance" (Aug. 16-19). Saverine has performed in Austria, Germany and on Broadway in both "Les Miserables" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

To find additional Broadway talent for the lead roles, VAPA director Keith White traveled to United Professional Theatre auditions, where he reviewed more than 900 professional actors in just a few days.

White has been researching and planning the new professional theatre—the only one of its kind in Louisiana—for almost three years. He has specific plans to make it a huge success.

"Not only will our new professional theatre expose our community to top-notch performers, but it will also have a considerable economic impact on our region," White said. "And for the emerging talent we attract from all over the nation, this theatre will serve as a stepping stone. It will give them national exposure."

The professional theatre will produce three shows between July 5 and Aug. 20 each summer; hire principal actors with Broadway experience; hire a resident ensemble of college and early professional performers through competitive auditions; hire production and technical staff to design, mount and work backstage for each show; and most importantly, expose the regional community to professional theatre.

In preparation for the new theatre, White hired two new directors. Dr. Mark Ross Clark, the new director of opera/music theatre, comes to ULM from Indiana

University where he was the director of opera. He has a doctor of musical art in opera production from the University of Washington and has directed his own opera company in northern California.

Robin Stephens, the new director of dance, comes from Coastal Carolina University where she served as a dance instructor and a choreographer.



"NOT ONLY WILL OUR NEW PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPOSE OUR COMMUNITY TO TOP-NOTCH PERFORMERS, BUT IT WILL ALSO HAVE A CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON OUR REGION."

Stephens has a bachelor of fine art in music theatre from Oklahoma City University, and a master's degree from LSU. She has performed on Broadway and was in the original cast of "42nd Street."

VAPA has flourished under the direction of White, who was hired at ULM in 2003, said ULM President James E. Cofer.

Shortly after Cofer arrived at ULM, he saw the potential for a school that would combine art, music, theatre and dance, and VAPA was officially formed in 2002.

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

For more about VAPA, the new Louisiana Lyric Opera and audition information, please visit www.ulm.edu/lyricopera

Something Special

On Feb. 11, 1985 a record crowd of 8,155 filled Fant-Ewing Coliseum to witness a women's basketball game between nationally-ranked Northeast Louisiana University and Louisiana Tech University. Coach Linda Harper's NLU team, led by Lisa Ingram and Eun Jung (Lee) Ok, would not disappoint their fans as the Lady Indians earned an 80-67 win. The victory not only solidified the university's reputation as one of the nation's elite programs but also propelled them into the NCAA Final Four.

"I LOVE THIS UNIVERSITY," OK SAYS. "THIS IS MY HOME AND I OWE A LOT TO THIS INSTITUTION. I HAVE GREAT MEMORIES ABOUT MY TEAMMATES THAT I WILL TREASURE THE REST OF MY LIFE."

When people talk about women's basketball today, one of the first names mentioned is Eun Jung (Lee) Ok. Not only is she regarded as one of the greatest players in ULM history, but she is also acknowledged nationally as one of the best

EUN JUNG (LEE) OK HIGHLIGHTS

- 10 All-American awards from various athletic/media organizations
- Southland Conference Player of the Year, 1983-84-85-86
- Named to All Southland Conference Team, 1983-84-85-86
- Named to All Louisiana Team, 1984-85-86
- Highest Career Assists average (8.4), 1983-84-85-86
- Highest Season Assists average (10.3), 1983-84 season
- Most Assists per game (17) vs LSU, 1983-1984 season
- Most Steals in career (297), 1983-84-85-86
- Assists (978), 1983-84-85-86
- Free Throws Attempted (702), 1983-84-85-86
- Free Throws Made (528), 1983-84-85-86
- Started every career game (117)

Stats from Bob Anderson's book "Indian Territory, A History of ULM Athletics"



point guards to ever play the game.

Growing up in Seoul, Korea, Eun Jung (Lee) Ok was in fifth grade when she first picked up a basketball. Her ball-handling skills and talent were immediately recognized by

her coaches and she was quickly on her way to a promising future in the game she loved.

Harper first observed Ok during an AAU tournament in Florida, where the Soong Eui High School team was playing. "I knew she was a player the moment I saw her—she was something special," Harper said. Harper immediately offered her a scholarship.

Over the next four years Ok, a three-year All-American, led the Lady Indians to a 102-15 record, becoming a legend on the hardwood with her flashy passes and flamboyant play. For her efforts, she was named Southland Conference Player of the Year four straight years—the only basketball player, male or female, to be so honored. In 1986 she earned the Jim Corbett Award as Louisiana's Athlete of the Year. In addition, Ok is featured in the Distinguished Women of Louisiana Exhibit, is a member of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and in 2004 became the first female inducted into the Southland Conference Hall of Honor.

For the past 18 years, Ok has served the university as a member of the women's basketball coaching staff. Today, as associate head coach, she continues to play an integral role in the development of young players. "I love this university," Ok says. "This is my home and I owe a lot to this institution. I have great memories about my teammates that I will treasure the rest of my life."

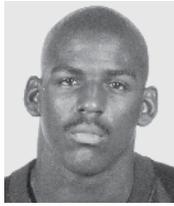
ULM "Super" stars

When Chicago Bears safety **Chris Harris**

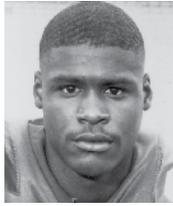
intercepted Indianapolis Colts QB Peyton Manning in the first quarter of Super Bowl XLI,

another ULM football alum made a key play in front of 93 million television viewers.

Harris is the latest in an elite group of former ULM football players to make his way to the ultimate game in professional football. A second-year player for the Bears, Harris joins **Bobby Brister, Stan Humphries, Larry Whigham, Vincent Brisby** and **Smokey Stover** on the list of alums who have been members of Super Bowl teams during their NFL careers.



Chris Harris



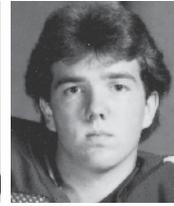
Vincent Brisby



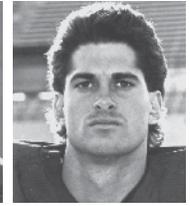
Larry Whigham



Smokey Stover



Stan Humphries



Bobby Brister

Stover (1958-59) started the list in the mid 60s. He played linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl I (1967) versus the Green Bay Packers.

Stan Humphries (1986-87) quarterbacked the San Diego Chargers to Super Bowl XXIX, and Larry Whigham (1992-93) and Vincent Brisby (1990-92) played for the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI.

Bobby Brister (1984-85) earned two Super Bowl championship rings with Denver when the Broncos won back-to-back titles in Super Bowl XXXII and XXXIII.

Accolades come early for ULM basketball coach

ULM men's basketball coach Orlando Early is "Coach of the Year"—times five! Following the 2006-2007 season, he earned that title from:

- the Sun Belt Conference
- the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 8
- Collegeinsider.com, an online magazine and forum for collegiate basketball coaches
- the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, as "All-Louisiana Coach of the Year"
- the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches, as "College Coach of the Year"

In the school's first season of Sun Belt play, Early guided his Warhawks, picked to finish last



Orlando Early

in the West Division, to an 11-7 divisional record and co-West Division title. The Warhawks posted its fourth undefeated record at Fant-Ewing Coliseum with a 14-0 mark in only Early's second season at the helm.

Early was also named one of the 15 finalists for the 2007 Hugh Durham Mid-Major Coach of the Year Award. The NABC names a Coach of the Year for each of 15 districts across the

United States and winners are included in the NABC National Coach of the Year ballot.

The Hugh Durham Award is given annually to the nation's top mid-major coach, as voted on by a 20-member panel representing Collegeinsider.com.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KENNY HARRISON, COURTESY OF THE TIMES-PICAYUNE





Big Kids

Like their adult counterparts, Louisiana's kids are too much of a good thing. The state is fourth-heaviest in the nation with 30% of its adults tipping the scales as obese and another 35% as overweight. Nationally, one in every three children is either obese or at risk of obesity, and the proportion is even higher close to home. ULM's Wilson Campbell and Lisa Colvin hope to change this alarming trend.

by **Diana Pinckley**

Drs. Campbell and Colvin, faculty members in the ULM kinesiology department, specialize in the science of movement. Each is exploring ways to help schools make our kids smart about their bodies as well as their minds.

Campbell is working to reinsert physical education into Monroe schools, with cutting-edge techniques that kids love. Colvin's research, a potential national model, will help determine what classroom approaches are effective to fight the fat in rural elementary school students.

It's an important venture—because the problem is getting worse. A national goal is to reduce childhood obesity to 5% by 2010, but current trends, if they continue, predict that 20% of our children will be obese by that date. Those kids have medical costs that are, on average, about three times higher than their slimmer friends. And overweight children tend to grow up to be overweight adults, contributing to an epidemic of diabetes (Louisiana ranks sixth in the nation at 8.6%) and hypertension (the state is ninth in the nation, with 28.6%)

Clearly, it's time to break the cycle of chubbiness.

Wilson Campbell has Monroe kids on the move.

From working with words as they make their way up colorful walls to dancing through video games with their feet, students at every level in Monroe City Schools are engaging their bodies and their minds simultaneously. This ULM kinesiologist knows it's a good way to learn.

photography by Philip Gould

Dr. Wilson Campbell, professor and chair of the kinesiology department at the University of Louisiana Monroe, has received a \$1 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund a partnership with Monroe City Schools to increase student activity levels with a focus on fitness.

Last year the program began in 12 elementary schools; this year it was launched in three junior highs; and next year it will move to the high school level. By the end of the grant, Campbell says, there will be a physical education specialist-teacher at every Monroe City school. Before the program was implemented, there were no PE teachers in any Monroe public elementary school.

"It's a huge commitment for the school district and a win/win situation for students and for physical education," Campbell says. "The focus is to keep kids more physically active, improve fitness levels, reinforce basic locomotive specialty skills, and integrate academic content in education."

And he's come up with lots of fun ways to accomplish his aims. There are magnetic climbing walls at elementary schools that present a physical challenge at the same time they offer math problems or other academic content. "For example," Campbell illustrates, "we have vocabulary words they are studying in the classroom, and the kids

might have to identify the verb and adverb in a sentence while they're climbing.

"When you have the body and the mind working at the same time, that's a good way to educate kids."

Campbell's schools give the children pedometers, measure the number of steps they take,

and use those numbers in addition, subtraction and charts, among other assignments. "Math comes alive when you use numbers from fellow classmates rather than a book," he says. "Kids are excited because the numbers have meaning."

The programs teach nutrition through the food pyramid, so children know the number and type of calories in the food they eat.

Campbell starts health and fitness programs in kindergarten. "Somewhere between third and fourth grade, we see children change nega-

tively, and that pattern can progress all the way through grade 12. If we can get kids excited about exercise and understand health concepts in fourth, fifth and sixth grades, we will get the short-term and long-term benefits."

The response from elementary school children has been extraordinary. "The kids love it. They always ask, 'Is today a PE day? Are we getting PE today?' They're so excited – when they have to leave, they always ask if they can stay longer. It's refreshing to see how much fun they have. And





their teachers notice that the children are more mentally alert, and that the program complements things they're teaching in class."

At the junior high level, among planned features of the program is a "low ropes course," designed to promote the social and emotional development of participants. "The kids have to work together to solve a physical challenge," Campbell says. "One person can't do it alone. You have to have confidence in your teammates."

Video games for feet, which light up when you step on them, are specially designed for dance-fevered adolescents. "When I was at different elementary schools, I noticed that kids are always dancing, always moving. I wanted to see if I can challenge them to channel that energy into something else—and use technology back against them in a positive way," Campbell says.

In the three high school fitness centers, students will have choices to make. "Traditionally, it's been that everyone has played one sport regardless," Campbell says. "If I'm playing basketball and I'm 6'4", I'm having a lot of fun. If I'm 5'6", I'm not too excited."

"We want to change the traditional concept. Our programs allow students to concentrate on what they feel is important and what they'd like to do, instead of following the curriculum of what's good for one is good for everyone."

Of course, along with new curricula come new forms of measurement. Every year at all levels, participants are measured at the beginning and end of the school year. "Last year, we put all information in a health report card that went to 4,133 parents, giving them health-related information on their child," Campbell says. He reports that the results were good, though many parents were not happy with their child's body composition.

Then his teams came back in May and measured again. "We believe, based on statistics, that we created some small change," he says, adding that any measurable change is hard to bring about in a year's time period.

"We're hoping to track in the next three to five to seven years some changes in fitness. That will be an indicator of how successful the program is and help us answer the question of whether we can improve fitness through a 21st century curriculum."

In junior high, the fitness programs can also be a door to counseling, particularly for children with a distorted idea of what an attractive body looks like. “It’s especially helpful for girls who are just becoming aware of the ‘magazine image’ of beauty,” he says. “We ask them ‘Where would you like to be at the end of the year?’ and we know that if someone says ‘I’m 5’1” and weigh 120 now and I’d like to be 5’5” and weigh 105,’ we can address the issue.”

The curriculum is based on the Five for Life concept, stemming from the five components of fitness as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control – cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular



“I’M AN INNOVATOR, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A SCHOOL SYSTEM, TO DO SOMETHING NEW, AND TO TOUCH 9,000 LIVES IN SUCH A POSITIVE WAY IS VERY RARE.”

–Wilson Campbell

strength, muscular endurance, body composition and flexibility. The curriculum, which is also used by school districts in New York, Kentucky, Georgia, Washington and Idaho, among others, contains academic content that leads to an understanding of the importance and role of fitness.

Campbell divides his time between his research programs in Monroe City Schools and his duties in teaching and departmental administration. He has had notable success in each of those arenas.

For example, the masters program in clinical exercise physiology is the first program of its kind in the nation to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation on Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The average of 15 students who complete it each year move on to a variety of jobs, including work in cardiac rehab in a hospital, employee wellness director of a company, director of a fitness club, or other areas where they specialize in designing a program with

exercise recommendations in a health-care setting, encouraging people to abandon bad habits or be rehabilitated from the damage those habits might have caused.

The undergraduate exercise science program is only the second among such programs nationally to be accredited by CAAHEP.

The fastest-growing program in the kinesiology department is the exercise science/physical therapy track, which meets all the requirements to apply to physical therapy graduate programs. “Over the last two or three years, we’ve had a 93% success rate of students who apply to physical therapy schools,” Campbell said, adding

that three majors were admitted to medical school last year. Many grads also go on to programs to train as chiropractors, medical perfusionists and other specialties, while others go to work as certified teachers and community health education promoters, among other areas.

“It’s an exciting time for our profession, as we have expanded career opportunities and expanded salaries,” says Campbell, noting the dramatic levels of change in the last two decades. “We have about 330 students enrolled, and they’re outstanding. Teaching is fun, but teaching good academic students makes it even better. GPAs of 3.5 or 3.6 happen on a more regular basis than before.”

He is also energized by the public reaction to the programs in Monroe City Schools. “It’s nice when you’re in the grocery store and a principal stops you and says ‘We just love that Five-for-Life program,’” says Campbell, who is in his 28th year of teaching.

“I’m an innovator, and the opportunity to work with a school system, to do something new, and to touch 9,000 lives in such a positive way is very rare.”

Lessons for a Lifetime

ULM professor Lisa Colvin is visiting classrooms in rural settings throughout the state, figuring out what works in the real world to make kids and their families more aware of the healthy habits that will fight obesity and disease.

“With children’s health, we can’t assume anything any more,” says Colvin. “We have to know.”

Lisa Colvin grew up in a family of teachers. “I’ve played school my whole life. I don’t know any other way,” says the kinesiologist and triathlete. She’s taught in public school; her kinesiology classes are offered within ULM’s College of Education and Human Development.

Now Dr. Colvin is teaming with teachers in rural Louisiana to figure out the best ways schools can help in the fight against obesity in children.

And if you don’t believe that Louisiana kids are more overweight than ever, Colvin recommends taking a field trip to the nearest mall. “Go sit in a food court and look at people,” advises Colvin. “Kids

have changed a lot in the 20 years I’ve worked in this arena. You can see it. All you have to do is look.”

Her research is part of a \$2.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Pennington Biomedical Research Center. The projects with children in grades four through six—and their teachers—are designed to help create a national model that is effective in the real world.



“This randomized study looks at long-term intervention in public schools, and that’s where the real world is,” says Colvin. “In a perfect world, we’d like to have the Cleaver family (from the TV series *Leave it to Beaver*). The kids would go to school, want to learn, have breaks, the mom and dad are there, the mom kicks them out of the house to play outside, or mom and dad take them to the park. But that’s not reality.

“Reality is kids who deal with very different situations. People caring for a child may not get home until very late and be tired from working two jobs. They may not be able to do anything with the child

other than homework.

“We want to find out how you intervene starting in school and then take those lessons home.”

Colvin notes that, right now, there are no consistently effective methods to get kids away from the TV and the computer and focus them instead on physical activity and smart eating.

“This may be one of those landmark studies. There are assumptions about what works, but we’re at the point

now with children's health that we can't assume anything any more. We have to know. We have to start somewhere, and rural Louisiana schools are a great place to start."

The project, called Teachers Education Across Content Areas, or LaTEACH, includes some 4,500 students in grades four through six at 32 schools in parishes in both the north and south parts of the state, including Avoyelles, East Feliciana, East Carroll, Madison, Pointe Coupee, St. John and St. James.

The grade level was chosen because "how kids think about health is not imprinted until sixth grade," says Colvin. The project is focused on rural areas, which may have to overcome isolation, a resulting lack of access to health care, and generally lower levels of family income.

The schools are divided into three groups to determine the effectiveness of three approaches. The first group is the control group, in which teachers get professional development, including instruction on classroom management, cooperative learning, and technology use. There's no specific health promotion involved.

The second group of schools have campaigns that focus on talking to students about physical activity and nutrition; posters for the classroom; physical activity promotion; sessions for parents; and cafeteria modifications—including menu boards and placecards that indicate healthier choices, posted health tips of the day, and digital photography of the food children are actually eating, so that they can monitor their nutrition over time. Vending machines hold healthier food, and teachers also get professional development sessions.

The third group adds a health-education curriculum with planned lessons and a physical activity center in the classroom. "We know that kids lose focus after 30 or 45 minutes, but recess has been taken away," says Colvin. "With activity centers, the kids can have a five-minute fun brain break... juggling scarves, competing in eraser races. A little physical activity lets students rest and re-engage.

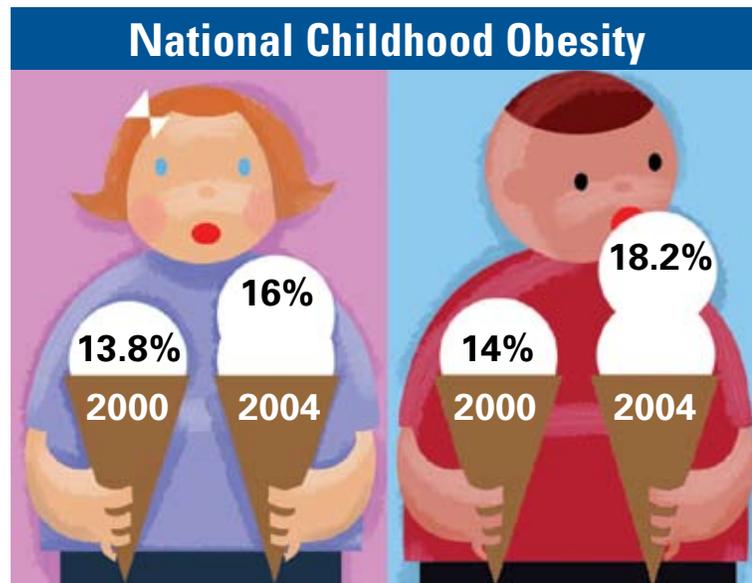
"In a high-stakes testing environment, the first things to go away are health and wellness breaks," she adds. "We sometimes forget that a healthy body equals a healthy mind. And when these students become freshmen in college, healthy habits are ingrained and difficult to change."

The third

group will also have access to an Internet counselor, based at the Pennington Center, for individual counseling during private, live chats. "The live chat/instant messaging tool is the cutting edge piece of the study," Colvin says. "The kids love it, they know how to chat, and they may teach their teachers something about the technology." The technology is funded by LaGEARUP, the state arm of a national program that puts technology into middle schools.

The program actually began in the summer of 2005, when the classroom teachers involved came to the ULM campus for a two-day session that briefed them on how to become health researchers. LaTEACH was slated to go into classrooms that fall, but after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, students and teachers were scattered. It entered schools in fall 2006.

It's important to Colvin to work with public education in high-need, underserved areas. "This is getting back to my roots, back to the public schools where I started," she says. "You always have to remember where you came from and



what life is like in the day of a teacher. To help with that is rewarding beyond words.”

Colvin knows that day well. Her mom taught elementary school in Zachary for 42 years; her dad was a high school chemistry teacher and principal for 22 years. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physical education from what was then Northeast Louisiana University, Colvin herself taught at Neville High School in Monroe for two years before getting a Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her academic career took her to Georgia, Arkansas and Colorado and then brought her home to ULM in 2003, as a professor of kinesiology.

“If I can impress on teachers, especially in rural areas, the magnitude of their worth—especially PE teachers or elementary teachers who also provide PE—that’s where I belong,” Colvin says. “The public should have undying gratitude toward them.”

Colvin is proud of teaching her ULM students. In addition to a full course load, she works with students in the Emerging Scholars program, guiding them through the fine points of research design and implementation. “They want to be an integral part of what we’re doing. Undergraduate students want to make a difference—not just go to class and take a test. They want to be engaged. Our students want to serve something bigger than themselves.

“When I can give the students a little of my knowledge, it sparks their interest. And, who knows? They may be the person that someday finds the greatest cure or intervention of all times!”

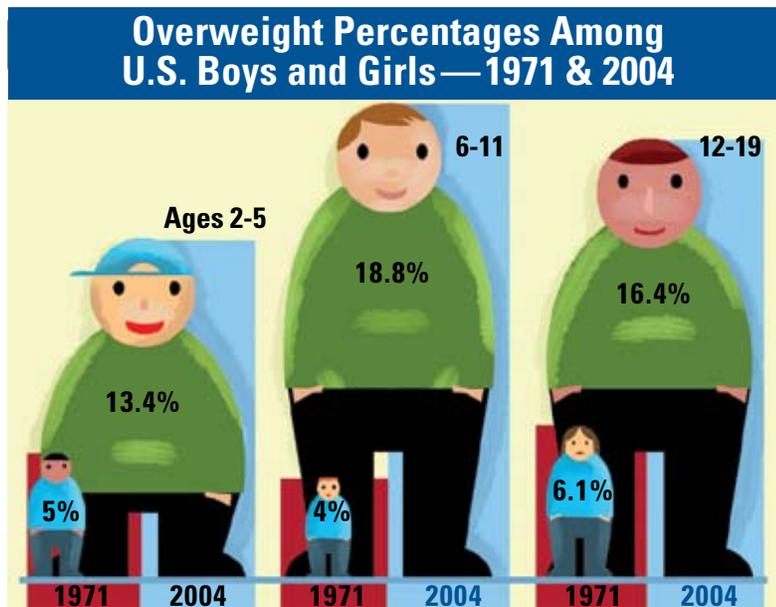
She points out that doing research at ULM can be particularly satisfying. “In the kinesiology department, we have our Ph.D.’s, but most of us taught and coached in public schools before we went back to get advanced degrees. We’re certified teachers. We’re committed to fighting obesity in the pediatric population, and it’s a real testament to the university that it allows us to do that.

“[President] Cofer and [Provost] Richters are our advocates, in Monroe and throughout the state. I’ve been to a lot of universities, but I’ve never been to another one where the president asks you in the cafeteria how your grant is going and is there anything he can do to help. Many faculty, including

myself, will work our brains out for someone who remembers what we do. And they do.”

Obesity in Louisiana is pretty much on a par with that of other Southern states, she notes, with Mississippi as the heaviest state of all. “Obesity is at epidemic proportions in Louisiana. If I gave the state a report card, it would be an F-minus as far as health is concerned. One-third of us are obese and another 40% are overweight. It affects quality of life, with higher rates of orthopedic issues, hospital stays, visits to a physician, cardiovascular disease and strokes. And our overweight children are moving that way.

“We’re starting to see diabetes in third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. If we don’t do something now, this may be the first generation not to outlive their parents.”



FOCUS FIVE

Reclaimed campus. Renewed communication. New residence halls. A facelift for the university's "front door." Students who are more academically qualified than ever—and more numerous. Innovative new programs. Enhanced alumni involvement. It's the story of ULM for the last five years. It's the story of President James Cofer.





Teamwork is the foundation for success, and every good team requires a good leader. Enter James E. Cofer, Sr., who came to ULM with his wife Deborah in April 2002, from the University of Missouri System where he had spent four years as vice president of finance and administration. And they got right to work, initially focusing on cleaning up the campus. Approximately 300,000 square feet was painted by over 2,000 volunteers—students, faculty, staff, community leaders and area citizens. Then came a \$70+ million building campaign. The demolition of outdated residence halls and the construction of state-of-the-art replacements—along with parks, outdoor amphitheatres and other student-oriented facilities—have completely changed ULM’s look and feel. A new School of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), a new degree program in health studies, and a new building for the College of Pharmacy are a few of the university’s recent innovations. Faculty research funding has grown by 16%, and students are more academically prepared than ever. The average ACT score of full-time beginning freshmen and of the entire student body both hit an all-time high in 2006. “It is our unanimous feeling that Dr. Cofer during his tenure has brought a new image and direction to ULM, often having to do so by facing obstacles not of his making, such as state budget cuts,” said Betty Cummins, president of the ULM Foundation, at a May 2006 meeting. “We endorse the job he is doing, not only for our university but for our community and state.”



BUILDING CAMPUS HOUSING

■ A \$68 million bond issue makes ULM's residence hall initiative one of the largest student housing projects in the southeastern United States

2004

- Hudson Hall and Sherrouse Hall demolished
- Olin Hall demolished
- Significant renovations, including modern amenities and new landscaping, begin on Madison Hall and Ouachita Hall
- Masur Hall remodeled

2005

- Bayou Suites opens with 408 beds
- Ouachita Hall and Madison Hall receive additional amenities
- Monroe Hall and Slater Hall are demolished
- Construction begins on University Commons I and II

2006

- Bayou Suites (formerly Olin Hall) opens, equipped with 159 beds and modern amenities
- University Commons I and II open with 100% occupancy
- First Living/Learning Community opens in University Commons

\$70+
MILLION
 MONEY INVESTED IN STUDENT
 HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ADDING CAMPUS FACILITIES

2002

■ ULM receives a lead gift of \$300,000 for the establishment of the Clarke M. Williams Student Success Center

2002 to present:

■ ULM secures \$500,000 additional private funding to assist in the completion of the student success center

2005

- Student Health and Counseling Center opens
- Renovation of Student Union Building begins

2006

- The university administration purchases (and begins renovating) the three-story, 132,000 square foot Bienville Building from State Farm Insurance to house the College of Pharmacy
- In addition to acquiring and renovating the building, ULM administration secured \$5.5 million for the College of Pharmacy (between 2002 to 2006)
- Starbucks Coffee Company, a convenience store and LA Capitol Federal Credit Union, all located on the first floor of University Commons II, open
- Lake C. Oxford Natatorium is renovated
- Funding is secured for construction of an Intermodal Transit Facility and parking improvements along DeSiard Street
- Phase I renovations of the Bienville Building are complete

2007

■ Newly-renovated Student Union Building, which boasts a food court, faculty lounge, a commuter/non-traditional student lounge and the Student Center, which houses the Office of Student Life and Leadership, opens

CREATING NEW KNOWLEDGE

■ Faculty secured a record \$21.8 million in external grants and contracts in 2006, with funds coming to ULM from agencies including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the U. S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Small Business Administration. That's a 16% increase in the last 4 years.



RESTRUCTURING THE ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE

- School of Visual and Performing Arts created when President Cofer saw the potential for a school that would combine art, music, theatre and dance. The school now employs renowned talent, including Broadway performers.
- College of Arts and Sciences born from merger of College of Liberal Arts and College of Pure & Applied Sciences

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING GREAT STUDENTS

The average ACT score of full-time beginning freshmen and the average ACT score of the entire student body both are at an all-time high in the fall semester of 2006. Comparing fall 2002 to fall 2006, other highlights include:

- 5% increase in total enrollment since 2002
- 33% increase in first-time, full-time freshmen
- 44% increase in first-time freshmen applicants
- 55% of first-time, full-time freshmen receive TOPS

ENRICHING CAMPUS LIFE

Events and programs draw the ULM community together—and let potential students know what an exciting place the campus can be.

New programs begin:

2002

- “Evening at ULM” recruitment events begin

2003

- Emerging Scholars program starts
- Mardi Gras ball, an enormously popular student event, starts
- Presidential Lyceum Series begins, attracting national speakers such as Bill Cosby, Doris Kearns Goodwin,

Ben Stein, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Steve Forbes to ULM and the community

- First Convocation is held

2004

- Envision ULM, an annual program celebrating the progressive relationship between the community and ULM, begins

2006

- “Wine over Water,” a well-received alumni/community event, begins

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2004

- Eliminate \$4 million deficit in Auxiliary Services

2005

- May “Intersession” and winter break “Wintersession,” which offer students needed course flexibility, begin

2006

- Sun Belt Conference play begins in all sports

SUPPORTING ULM

Alumni have been generous with both time and dollars, as we build a stronger network for support for university progress.

Alumni Chapters and Events:

- 2002 – 13 chapters and 11 events
- 2007 – 25 chapters and 27 events

GIVING TO ULM INCREASES

Total gifts:

- 2002: \$1,776,814
- 2006: \$2,800,184

Total Donors:

- 2002: 2,629
- 2006: 3,703



Like

A NEW ULM

THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND

the rest of the nation,

Louisiana has an urgent and growing need for talented, trained professionals and managers in a wide variety of health care arenas.

PROGRAM

IN THE STATE — WILL HELP MEET THAT DEMAND.

by **Diana Pinckley**

The bachelor of science in health studies, approved in April 2006, “has a lot of students really, really excited,” says Dr. Jessica Dolecheck, department head of the Health Studies program. “These programs are a hot new trend on many campuses.”

Students who major in health studies can choose a healthcare management and marketing option, which leads to jobs such as:

- mid-level managers in hospitals, nursing homes, physicians’ practices, outpatient centers and rehabilitation centers
- health information managers
- marketing and sales for health care organizations, pharmaceutical companies and medical supply companies
- human resources for medical businesses.

Health studies students can also select a pre-professional option that will get them ready for graduate programs in occupational or physical therapy.

Early indicators show a high level of interest. “Back in the summer when word got around this was going to be developed and approved, I got lots of phone calls,” said Dolecheck. “After it was approved, 60 students wanted to change their majors almost immediately.”

The bachelor of science in health studies (BSHS) program, a part of the university's College of Health Sciences, builds on the college's existing strengths in clinical lab sciences, communicative disorders, dental hygiene, nursing, occupational therapy and radiologic technology.

The university is recognized historically as a major provider of allied health sciences graduates, with many alumni of the College of Health Sciences and the College of Pharmacy delivering health care in settings in north Louisiana and all over the state.

About 30% of the students admitted to ULM between fall 1999 and spring 2004 declared majors in allied health fields. And more and more students are choosing those career paths. "We have 600 to 700 first-time freshmen wanting to major either in the allied health sciences, pharmacy, nursing, pre-med, pre-vet or pre-dental," said ULM President James E. Cofer, Sr. "With its diverse curriculum, the BSHS program serves as the ideal department to house these students as well as positively affect retention by providing alternate career paths."

Cofer noted that almost 40 percent of health sciences majors leave ULM by their junior year, when they must transfer into professional health sciences programs at the university, because slots in those programs are very limited and very competitive. "The new BSHS programs give these students a viable career path in the health sciences," he said.

There's no other curriculum like it in the state, according to Dolecheck. "Louisiana Tech has health information, but it's strictly dealing with data. South-eastern Louisiana University has a degree in health studies that is focused on wellness, community health and sports medicine." A third program, at Nicholls State University, offers advanced courses to practicing healthcare professionals.

"The BSHS program is an excellent fit for ULM," said Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "There is a built-in market for a health studies baccalaureate in the region. I'm confident that the program will attract a wide range of students with diverse health care career goals.

"This is an excellent example of a university providing for the needs of the community in which it operates."

Those needs will only grow in coming years. In an era of an aging population and longer life expect-

tancies, health care is a national concern. The U.S. Department of Labor projects that health services will be the fastest-growing industry in the country between 2004 and 2014, accounting for three of every 10 new jobs – 4.3 million positions.

The Louisiana Department of Labor estimates that nearly 30,000 health services positions will need to be filled in the state between 2000 and 2010. And a good health care system is essential for economic growth. In its third annual report, the Louisiana Health Works Commission points out that "health care, like education, is a quality-of-life issue. Without an adequate healthcare workforce, our economic and physical well-being is in jeopardy."

With burgeoning needs and excellent job prospects for graduates, it's no wonder that Dolecheck calls health studies degrees "a current hot trend" on many campuses. In shaping the new ULM program, she visited some of those campuses, including the University of Alabama at Birmingham, SUNY Stonybrook, and sites in Texas and California.

"Most health programs that lead to a licensed professional degree are moving to the graduate level," Dolecheck said. "Those programs need bachelor's programs to feed them. In addition, we wanted to give another option to students who don't want to go to graduate school

immediately."

ULM's bachelor of health studies program will eventually be able to enroll 190 majors and approximately 600 students pursuing other health sciences degrees, Dolecheck said. It's projected to have a total enrollment of 40 majors in the fall—its first year—growing to 190 within five years.

The program is flexible, with faculty in biology, business, chemistry, psychology, gerontology, sociology, nursing and pharmacy teaching some of its courses.

In the summer, the health studies program will offer classes in health care issues, social epidemiology, leadership in health care and "practicum one," where students will learn about professional behavior, outline career goals, prepare an online portfolio and identify an organization or agency for whom they would like to do an internship.

The second part of the program's practical experience is the actual internship.

"Students will spend eight hours twice a week with an organization or agency—a nursing home, hospital,



Dr. Jessica Dolecheck



About 30% of the students admitted to ULM between fall 1999 and spring 2004 declared majors in allied health fields. More and more students are choosing those career paths.

physician's office, sales rep or public health group—and be mentored by one or two people in the organization,” Dolecheck explained.

“They’ll see first-hand what an administrator of a nursing home, for example, does on a day-to-day basis and what problems they face.”

But it’s more than just observation. Students will be asked to put their own problem-solving skills to work. “We will ask a student to identify a situation or challenge in the internship agency and present a solution,” Dolecheck said. The approach will be presented on-campus as part of the health studies program and to the agency itself.

Dolecheck, who has taught in the occupational therapy program at ULM for 11 years, expresses her excitement about a new challenge. “I had just completed my Ph.D, and this was something new and fresh that I needed. There are a lot of parallels—health studies is very similar to occupational therapy. I began designing a mission and a philosophy and researching other health studies programs. ULM presented me with the option. I took it and ran with it.”

Dolecheck’s background includes volunteer stints in hospitals and clinics where she watched physical therapists and occupational therapists work with patients. Then she studied at LSU Medical School in New Orleans. “I loved it. I became fascinated with the fact that you can teach someone how to use one arm to get dressed or to work with a baby to make sure the baby develops appropriately.”

During a job in an acute-care hospital in Baton Rouge, she discovered her passion—working with infants with disabilities. “Most of my caseload was single moms from low-income families. I loved teaching them to work with their babies.”

Now she’s turned that enthusiasm to the new health studies program. “I’ve had a lot of contact with many faculty members over the summer. There’s strong interest inside and outside the College of Health Sciences. It’s definitely going to be attractive for students in every part of the university.”

**Alumni Association
Welcomes Newest
Life Members**

Charles Adams

Terry Aucoin

Gary Dante

Debrah Davis

Deidra Farr

James Folston

Carolyn Garrett

Dwight Grubbs

Matt Hardie

Bill Herod

William Kaliebe

Dean Macheras

Linda Macheras

Evelyn Matheny

Royce Matheny

Frank Maxwell, III

Paul Meaux

Rodney Messina

Mark Mitchell

David Tolliver

David Turrentine

Sidney Wilhite

Michael Wong



**Michael
Camille,**

associate professor of geosciences, is creating a pipeline GIS for north Louisiana that companies will be able to use to reduce the risk of pipeline-related disasters.

1949

Kathryn Norwood Koehler '49 resides in Roanoke, Vir., where she is on the Board of Directors of Opera Roanoke and president of the Roanoke Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women. She served as editor of the student newspaper, *The Pow Wow*, from 1948-49.

1959

David Edward Tschabold Jr. '59 is a retired special education teacher with the East Carroll Parish School System. He lives in Lake Providence.

1962

Donnavae Hughes '62 is now retired and living in a retirement residence with great travel benefits which she is using to travel and visit all over the USA and Canada.

1964

John M. Stovall Jr. '64, DDS, has been awarded the prestigious Texas Dentist of the Year at the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's annual Lone Star Dental Conference in Austin. He has been in private practice in Crockett, Tex., for 38 years.

1967

Virginia Brown Kalinowski '67 has been promoted to vice president of administrative services for the Builder Services and Major Accounts Divisions of Fidelity National Title Insurance Company. She and husband Jerry live in Placentia, Calif.

ULM Alumni Association

**2007-08 Executive Committee
and Board of Directors**

Past-president:

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

President:

Paul H. Wilkening (BA'83, MA '85)

President-elect:

T.J. Shufflin (BS '75)

Vice-president:

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

Secretary-treasurer:

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

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: **Lisa Cox (BA '83, Med '85)
Bobbie Fletcher Earle (BS '61)**

Area 6 : **Traci James Canterbury (BBA '89)
W. Paul Ledford, Jr. (BBA '77, MBA '80)
Jeremy Moore (BBA '00, MBA '02)
Missy Adams (BA '85, MA '87)
Toni Bacon (BA '94)**

Area 7 : **Lisa Haile (BS '86)
Todd Landrum (BBA '74)**

Area 8 : **Ronald "Scott" Higginbotham
(BS '85, MS '89)**



For Jerry Chen (MS '01 Toxicology), one of the biggest challenges in his career is keeping ahead of the competition, which is big in China—the second largest pharmaceutical market in the

world. To stay on top, Chen hopes to one day collaborate with ULM and its “excellent pharmacy school.”

“We always need to develop new pharmaceutical products to meet highly competitive markets. Due to Chinese pharmaceutical researching limitations, we hope to find several advanced researching partners to reach our goals ... I wish to have a chance to collaborate with ULM on these projects.”

Chen, who grew up in Shanghai, China, is the deputy president for the Medical Committee of Chinese Genetic Engineering and is the deputy general medical director for Shanghai Health Bio-Engineering Co., Ltd.

In 2005, the Chinese Ministry of Health asked Chen to implement Chinese Genetic Engineering into clinical practical uses in hospitals. Chen agreed and in one year, he worked with more than 200 national institutes, top hospitals, large universities and high-tech biomedical companies.

In 2006, Chen led a professional team in establishing clinical bases in more than 100 top hospitals in China. Many of Chen’s clinical projects were accepted as national keystone initiatives.

Chen oversees more than \$800 million in pharmaceutical and medical device sales per year.

“Certainly, ULM offered me professional, extensive, practical and the most advanced pharmaceutical education,” Chen said. “I especially appreciate my advisor, Dr. Benny Blaylock, who educated me not only in pharmaceuticals, but also highly professional attitudes.”

1968

Lawrence “Larry” Robinson ‘68, ‘73 and **Elizabeth “Ann” Green ‘72** celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary on July 13, 2006, and the birth of their second grandson Jacob Laurent Garrison, born July 25, 2006. Their first grandson is 4-year-old James Lawrence Garrison. They live in Cordova, Tenn.

1970

William Edward “Ed” Davis BA ‘70, BBA ‘77 and wife **Betty Davis BA ‘78** recently moved to the Austin area from the Houston area. They live in Cedar Park, Texas.

1971

Patsy Cicala ‘71 has retired from the New York School System to take a position with the Indian River School District in Delaware. He and wife Diane live in Milton, Del.

Lindberg Hebert ‘71 is a pharmacist with CVS. He and wife Beverly have two grandchildren, Hunter and Haddox. They have three children, Heath, Adam and Sarah, and live in Denham Springs.

1972

Richard Cravatts BA ‘72, MA ‘73 was recently named the founding director of Boston University’s Book and Magazine Publishing Certificate Program, offered by the university’s Center for Professional Education.

He served as the first director of publications at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University from 1976-78 and was the founding editor of the school’s magazine; he later served as director of public relations at Harvard’s School of Public Health.

Phyllis Gilmore ‘72 graduated from medical school at LSU New Orleans after leaving NLU. She then practiced medicine for five years in the Southwest with the Indian Health Service before moving to Oregon where she is the only doctor in a small logging town in the mountains of northwest Oregon. She is married to James Baraiber and has a son Phillip. She has fond memories of NLU and can still taste the Johnnie’s Pizza across the street. Back then women could only wear slacks on special days!

Daniel F. Jennings MBA '72, a professor in the Industrial Distribution Program at Texas A&M University, has been appointed to the I. Andrew Rader Professorship in Industrial Distribution. He is director of the Department of Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution's Executive Master of Industrial Distribution Program. He joined the Dwight Look College of Engineering faculty in 1997. He was previously the Mays Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management at Baylor University. He is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

1973

Aline Gossein BA '73 completed her executive MBA at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, in May 2003.

Dianne Hollis Lundy MEd '73 was recently named to Who's Who Among American Teachers for the fourth time. She is retired after 33 years of teaching family and consumer science in Rapides Parish and is currently working on a book based on memoirs of her teaching experiences. She and husband Richard live in Pineville and have one son, Jonathan.

1974

Linda Diane Jean '74 and Robert Louis Phillips were married on July 24, 2006, at the home of her sister **Julie Jean Bricknell '78** in Jackson, Mo. Linda is a retired Winn Parish fourth-grade teacher and Bob is retired from the freight business. They enjoy traveling and decorating their new home in Jackson, Mo.

1976

Clark Colvin '76 has been hired as the accounting manager for a new facility being built by Craftmasters Manufacturing Inc. in Garland, Tex.

Jeanie Shadoin Colvin '77 is a fourth-grade teacher for Rockwell Independent School District.

Delores Deloach Rabalais '76 has been appointed principal of Riverside Elementary in Simmesport, a PreK-6 school with a student population of 580.

1977

John P. Pierce, BS '77 is executive vice president of Mobile Enterprises, Inc. of Fort Worth. In a recent issue of Concrete Repair Bulletin, his company was spotlighted for receiving an "Award of Excellence" in the transportation category.

1979

Dorris Annette Brewer Beard '79 moved to Bentonville, Ark., after graduation to work as a reporter for the *Benton County Democrat* (now the *Benton County Daily Record*). She married in 1982 and had nine children, whom she educated at home. Two are in college, two are married, and the youngest are at home with her in Pea Ridge, Ark. She is now managing editor of the *Times of Northeast Benton County*, a weekly newspaper in Pea Ridge.

1981

Steven Breed '81 was promoted to adult protection supervisor in 2005 with the Department of Family and Protective Services after working 15 years for the state of Tex. He also remarried on Dec. 30, 2005. He and wife Jessica live in Angleton, Texas.

Connie Hill Hogrefe '81 was promoted from pharmacy clinical specialist to pharmacy clinical manager for Lee Memorial Health System in Fort Myers, Fla. Her new job involves managing the clinical programs for Lee Memorial Health System's five campuses.

Vincent Marella '81 received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in May 2005. He was promoted to director of pharmacy for Omnicare in New Jersey and is in charge of all state-run facilities. He has been with Omnicare for 15 years. He and his wife Barbara were married two years ago and he has stepchildren Brianne and T.J. They live in Wyckoff, N.J.

Charles Meador BS '81, MEd '83 has retired as principal of Caldwell Parish High School. He published a book of poetry titled *Reflections of a Country Boy*.

Charlene Morrison '81 has been promoted to assistant principal of instruction at Linear Middle School in Shreveport, after teaching grades 4-8 for 25 years.

Loren Hayes

assistant professor of biology, recently secured a \$130,846 National Science Foundation grant that will allow students to gain international medical research through internships in Chile and Macronesia.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



Sunil Kumar, who was born and raised in India, earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. After graduating from ITT, Sunil wanted to earn his MBA at then-Northeast Louisiana University.

His father, a distinguished but poor scientist, borrowed money to fly his son to Monroe. "I couldn't bear to add to his debt to pay for MBA tuition and living expenses," Sunil said.

It turns out Sunil didn't have to.

NLU offered Sunil a graduate assistantship in the computer center and waived his tuition. Sunil graduated in 1973.

Sunil credits his success today—he's president and CEO of International Specialty Products in Wayne, N.J.—to "luck, faith, diligence and relevant intelligence."

He describes "relevant intelligence" as reaching the right conclusions without all of the necessary information. "Also, I've often been helped by my wife's intuition about ideas, people and risk levels in business approaches," he said.

Sunil's company, which produces specialty chemicals, mineral products and filter products, generates over \$1.6 billion in annual revenue. Many of his competitors are 20 to 40 times larger than his company, and that competition pushes Sunil to succeed.

Looking back at his experiences in Monroe, Sunil said, "ULM gave me an opportunity to mature as a person, and become more well-rounded than who I was as an engineering undergraduate. Also, it enabled me to learn the American way in a friendly environment."

Sunil continues to give back to ULM. In 2005 he returned to the university to speak at ULM's College of Business Symposium where he shared his experiences with ULM students.

1982

Pearlie "Pearl" Coleman Wise BA '82, MA '90 received the Special Olympics, Louisiana, Above and Beyond Award in 2006 for her efforts in serving as the area director of the Louisiana Law Enforcement Torch Run. She and husband Willie live in Monroe.

1983

Robert Gregory Gibson '83 and his wife Ursula have three boys, a 16-year old and twins, 14. He plays lots of golf and drives his ZO6 Vette. He is finishing his Ph.D. in business administration. They live in Heidesheim, Germany, where he is a sales executive for for Lufthansa Systems.

Willie Hey '83, former ULM basketball player, has written a book titled *The Hawks' Last Flight: Our Quest for a Championship*. The book is a true story that chronicles the last basketball team that made the state playoffs from Marthaville (La.) High School. Hey graduated from Marthaville High in 1978.

Wanda Robinson Miller '83 is the proud grandmother of Tierah Simone, 3, Jaden Amare, 19 months, and Jordyn Dijour, 17 months. She is a RN case manager for Catholic Charities in Fort Worth.

George Roberts '83 retired from ULM as department head of Clinical Laboratory Science in 2006 after 28 years of service to ULM. He is now the Dean of Health and Natural Sciences at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado. He and wife Josie live in West Monroe and have five grandchildren.

Carolyn Tucker Van Sas '83 is a special education teacher for the Round Rock (Tex.) Independent School District. She teaches PPCD (early childhood handicapped children) along with typically developing children who are children of teachers. The students work and play together in the same classroom. She and husband Barry live in Austin.

CLASS NOTES



When Judy Zaunbrecher ('69) and her husband Tim first started their own oil-related business, they worked out of a spare bedroom in their home. Now, they travel and conduct business all over the world.

Their newest adventure?

Opening a winery in Tennessee.

Judy, who grew up in Michigan, moved to Morgan City at the age of 13.

After graduation, then-Northeast Louisiana University offered her an academic scholarship, and an opportunity she otherwise could not have afforded, she said.

"From my first year until my graduation, I changed from a person who wasn't willing to step out of the box into someone who is eager to take on new challenges, knowing I will succeed. I have that confidence thanks to my experiences at ULM."

Judy helped grow her family's small oil-related business from a tiny operation into several larger companies that serve customers all around the globe. "Success in these businesses allowed us to broaden our vision and diversify," she said. "I think that Tim and I were ready for a new career challenge. We were looking for something our children would enjoy participating in. We've always been impressed that most small wineries are family-owned and operated."

After researching the industry, the feasibility of the wine business, and the suitability of their land, the Zaunbrechers planted their first grapevines three years ago. This summer, they plan to open Amber Falls Winery & Cellars, which will include a bed and breakfast, tea room, gift shop and tasting room, in Lewis County, Tenn.

1984

Kathy Loe Elam '84 graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University in May 2005 with a nursing degree and is now an RN at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. She and husband **Kirk Elam '82** live in Prairieville with their three children, Jason, 21, a senior at LSU, Chad, 18, a freshman at Baton Rouge Community College, and Ashley, 17, a senior at Dutchtown High School.

Alice Rachal Regan '84 is now retired from her private practice as a licensed professional counselor in marriage and family counseling in Baton Rouge and is living in Monroe. Her husband Patrick is retired from BellSouth.

1985

Cathy Martin '85 has given up her career as an instructor in the marketing department at the University of Akron to accompany husband Mark to Perth, Australia, for a 3-to-5 year assignment as business development director for Koch Knight LLC. Their son Joshua, 18, will attend the University of Western Australia. She looks forward to exploring her new environment and doing a lot of traveling before she goes back to teaching.

Randall Stevenson BS '85

accepted a position as an associate life and health actuary with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in Kansas City, Mo., in August 2005, and was promoted to chief life and health actuary in March 2006. He now manages the life and health actuarial section of the NAIC. He previously spent 7 years as an actuarial analyst with the Louisiana Department of Insurance. He lives in Leawood, Kan.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

1986

Kurt Oestriecher BBA '86, CPA, has received the Society of Louisiana CPA's 2006 Outstanding Continuing Professional Education Discussion Leader Award. He also received this award in 1998 and 2005. He is a partner with Oestriecher & Company, a CPA firm in Alexandria.

1987

Charlette Stephens Seng '87 has been promoted to branch infusion manager at Apria Healthcare Inc. She and husband **John E. Seng '82, '86** live in Little Rock.

1988

Teri Fontenot MBA '88, president and CEO of Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge, has been re-elected to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's board of directors. She is a CPA and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Carolyn Robertson Lacks '88 and husband Jim Lacks, who retired with 20 years of service in the U.S. Army in 2004, have opened two successful furniture stores in South Boston, Va. They live in Halifax, Va., and have two sons, Kyle, 11, and Grant, 6.

1989

Ronald Camp BBA '89, MBA '91 is a staff attorney at the Family Justice Center of Ouachita Parish.

Michael Smith '89 is founding partner and owner of his new company, Marathon Commercial Construction, LLC, in Fort Worth. He and wife Amy live in Trophy Club, Tex.

Alan "Jay" White BBA '89, MBA '91 was named director of graduate business programs on Jan. 1, 2006, at the Indiana University SE School of Business.

1990

Mike Neal BBA '90 has been selected president and CEO of the Tulsa, Okla., Metro Chamber of Commerce. Neal most recently served as president and CEO of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

1991

Michelle Carter Hays '91 was recently on the cover of *Sophisticated Woman*, a Northshore magazine. She is chief financial officer at Louisiana Heart Hospital in Lacombe. She and husband **John Hays '91** live in Covington.

Laura McGraw '91 is now living in Panama City Beach, Fla., with her 13-year-old son.

Jennifer Hillman Smith '91 was recently promoted to Patrol Sgt. with the West Monroe Police Department. Her husband Todd is an assistant chief with the West Monroe Fire Department. They have children Aynsley Clair 8, and Brantley Kade 4.

1992

Robert Bradley Carroll '92 has opened his own practice, Bradley Carroll, CPA, PC, in Duluth, Ga.

Anna Guerra BA '92, MEd '95 has moved back to New Orleans after living and working in Seattle. She is an account manager for Westlaw and teaches legal research at the four law schools in Louisiana.

Stacy Doyal Hunt BA '92, MEd '95 is a counselor at St. Frederick High School and husband **William Christopher "Chris" Hunt BS '93** is a RiteAid Pharmacy manager in Monroe. They have children Aaron, 10, Ethan, 7, Catherine and Elizabeth, both 4.

Christopher Jeselink '92 is serving on active duty with the U.S. Army and was promoted to Brigade Assistant Operations Officer and Safety Officer in a training support brigade, Fort Sill, Okla. He and wife **Karen Colvin Jeselink '92** have a baby boy, Carter, born April 2005.

Continued on page 33



Wendel Ray

professor of marriage and family therapy, and recent Ph.D. graduate Molly Govener presented at an international conference in Paris with some of the most influential family therapists in Europe.

CLASS NOTES

Marriages

Sharon Kay Oglesby Armfield BA '02 to Gerald Alex Greer, May 27, 2006, Calhoun.

Jeri Brining BA '01 to Jason Carroll, June 15, 2006, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. They live in West Monroe.

April Nicole Brown BA '05 to Andrew Kyle Martindale, June 3, 2006, West Monroe.

LeAnne Elizabeth Burford BA '01 to Kendall Haley BS '02. They will make their home in Monroe.

Amanda Rae Caldwell BA '05 to Justin Bradley LaBorde, June 24, 2006 in West Monroe.

Capt. Christian Todd Cannon, U.S. Marine Corps, BGS '97 to Gabriela Giron Portillo, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They make their home in New Orleans.

Shawn Christene Clark BA '79 to Roger John Dorn. She is employed with Aegis Mortgage Corp. and he is self-employed.

Gigi Craighead BS '03 to Brian Roberts. She is employed as a registered nurse at Glenwood Regional Medical Center in West Monroe.

Heath Alan Denison BS '04 to Danielle Dawn Roark, June 10, 2006, Enterprise.

Mary Eddleman '89 to Chris Docherty, July 3, 2006. He has six-year-old son, Alex, and she has seventeen-year-old son, Deven Eddleman. They live in Monroe.

Amy Ford '01 to Timothy Miller. She is employed with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and he is attending ULM.

Eugenia Foster '75 to Royce Lord, July 3, 2006. She has a grandson Christian Tate Foster, born Dec. 30, 2005.

Trisha Denae Gardner BGS '04 to Randall Wayne Loveless, June 10, 2006. The couple make their home in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Ashley Colette Gwin BS '06 to Justin Ross O'Neal BS '06, July 1, 2006. They make their home in Little Rock.

Kayla Haltom '04 to W. Matthew Hebert '05, August 12, 2006, Monroe. Matthew is pursuing a master's degree at ULM.

Ashley Elizabeth Hattaway BGS '04 to Sean Morgan Kilpatrick. They make their home in Monroe.

Meredith LeAnn Herring BA '04 to Calvin Leroy Hall, June 3, 2006, Monroe.

Joni Michelle Hunter '01 to Charles Matthew McDonald '04 in August 2006.

Martha Yvonne Irvin BS '87 to Robert Scott Hankins, June 12, 2006, Las Vegas.

Kelly Michelle Langreck BBA '02 to David Brandon Moore BGS '05, Monroe.

Kasey Lindow BS '04, MS '06 to Allen Fisher BGS '05, June 3, 2006. They live in West Monroe.

Brian Marx BBA '98 to Victoria Newton. They make their home in Hollywood, Fla., where he is employed with Radiology Associates.

Stefanie McWhorter BS '05 to Jeremy Rawls BS '05. She is employed with High Hopes Pediatric Therapy in Monroe and he with Premier Rehab Hospital in Monroe.

Jennifer Menhennett '00 to Mitch Green, July 7, 2006, Seattle, Wash.

Christina Pippins Montgomery '01 and John Montgomery Jr. will renew their marriage vows on May 5, 2007. They were married the first time by a Justice of the Peace in Hamburg, Ark., and will re-marry with a ceremony for all their family and friends.

Jennifer Ann Placke PharmD '04 to James Paul Prentice PharmD '04, June 15, 2006. The couple make their home in Birmingham. Both are employed as pharmacists; she is at Walgreens and he is at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital.

C. Turner Steckline

associate professor of communication, traveled to Turkey on a Fulbright-Hayes Curriculum Development Grant.



CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI



In his father's drug store in Alexandria, James "Jim" Vanderhoeven was allowed to make ice cream cones for customers only when he was tall enough to reach the soda machine. When that day finally came, instead of

handing the cone to the customer, he took a big bite out of the ice cream.

"It was a reflex reaction," Vanderhoeven remembered with a chuckle. His customer service skills eventually improved. After graduating from then-Northeast Louisiana University with a B.S. in Pharmacy in 1964, he worked at various pharmacies around Louisiana, filling in for pharmacists who were vacationing.

What was supposed to be a three-week stint at a pharmacy in Tioga resulted in a definitive career move. Within one month, the pharmacy he was managing turned a profit. The drug store owners offered Vanderhoeven a 10 percent cut of the store's profit. Vanderhoeven, 31 at the time, wanted more—he wanted to buy the store, which had been on the market for 5 years.

"The owners asked me, 'Who's going to co-sign your loan?' I told them, 'You are, and if you don't, I'll be gone and you'll start losing money again.'"

His pharmacy was located next to a grocery store, and those customers soon also became Vanderhoeven's. "I put my white tunic on and introduced myself telling them, 'I'll treat you and your family right and I'll take care of you.'"

The store was a huge success, but he realized that times were going to change with the advent of discount stores.

More than a decade later, Vanderhoeven decided to open a high-end drug store. That was a bad idea; however, it turned out to be one of the better things that happened to him.

To salvage his unsuccessful idea, he started to service the pharmaceutical needs of nursing homes, and after servicing a few, he realized a computer would solve many of the problems in pharmacy service of nursing homes.

To his knowledge he was the first in the country to incorporate a computer in a drug store. At one time, Vanderhoeven serviced more than 25 pharmacies in nursing homes throughout Louisiana.

While he left the drug store business 12 years ago, he still owns and manages different health care facilities throughout Louisiana today. And when time permits, he manages his apartment complex in the French Quarter of New Orleans and enjoys the occasional bike ride around the Quarter.

Reflecting on his success, he credits the pharmacy school at ULM. "ULM provided me with a living, which was probably the most important thing that happened to me. It provided me with a way to hire and manage people who were very good at what they did," he said. "A degree in pharmacy provides you with the tools to succeed in life, no matter what you decide to do, and that's because of the outstanding professors. My professors did everything to help me learn. I never, ever forgot what this school did for me, and no one should."

Robert Hanser

assistant professor of criminal justice, traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, to chair the first session for the Asian Association of Policing, representing ULM to police and national security administrators from 19 nations.



Kaci Rhodes BGS '05 to Kaleb Wayne McMillan. The couple make their home in Swartz.

Pamela Spikes '85 to Steven Johnson, May 20, 2006, League City, Tex. They live in Dickinson, Tex.

Karen Thomas '05 to Joshua Keen, a former ULM music student, July 24, 2006. They live in Nebraska where Joshua is stationed in the U.S. Air Force.

Steve Randolph Traxler, Jr. BS '05 to Emily Kylin Granen, May 27, 2006. He is employed with Traxler Construction. She attends ULM.

Jessica Luticia Tyler BS '06 to **Davey Paul Legendre PharmD '06**. She is employed as an interior designer with J.C. Penney. He is employed as a pharmacist with Rite Aid.

CLASS NOTES

Births

1 Tristan Jacques Ackroyd, March 8, 2006, to **Caroline Durand Ackroyd '98** and husband Gregory.

Chandler Bryant, Aug. 20, 2002, to **Matt Bryant '98** and **Hilary Seyfarth Bryant '97**.

2 Robert Harris Carroll, Oct. 30, 2006, to **Robert Bradley Carroll '92** and **Dawn Harris Carroll '93**.

Claire Eileen Cassidy, Sept. 22, 2006, to **Shannon Murphy Cassidy '90** and husband Jack.

Joycelyn Courtney, April 3, 2005, to **Melisa Courtney '00**.

Logan Michael Denning, Oct. 5, 2006, to **April Benoit Denning '98** and husband Clay.

Nathan Jai Eschete, Sept. 14, 2005, to **Lori Victoriano Eschete '02** and **Jai W. Eschete '00**.

Colton "Colt" Reese Evans, June 3, 2006, to **Dillon Evans '99** and wife Brittney.

Lana Alise Evans, Feb. 22, 2006, to **Stacy Barnes Evans '01** and husband Alexander.

Morgan Lindsay Fraser, March 11, 2006, to **Cassidy Zackheim Fraser '02** and husband Alan.

Madelyne Ruchelle Gannon, July 20, 2006, to **Kelley Roberts Gannon BS '94** and husband Kevin, who is currently serving in Iraq.

3 Henry Herbert High, Sept. 29, 2006, to **Katherine Rogers High '00** and husband Brian. They are now living in Monroe.

Baylee Elizabeth Mabou, Sept. 1, 2006, to **Laurie Bell Mabou '03** and **Shane Mabou '02**.

Kaylyn Alese McLendon, March 30, 2006 to **Traci Alford McLendon '00** and husband Mike.

Lily Kyle Mills, Dec. 4, 2006, to **Megan Kyle Mills '01** and husband Ray. Lily has older brother James.

Astoria "Storye" Trinity Molinar, Sept. 3, 2006, to **Shanna Walpole Molinar '94** and husband Manny. Storye is welcomed by big sister MacShayne, and **"Uncle Tommy" Walpole, BA '83, MA '89**

Reese McKensey Ratcliff, Oct. 17, 2006, to **Julie Davis Ratcliff '00** and **Jeffrey Lloyd Ratcliff '00**.

Cayla Marie Rhodes, Dec. 11, 2006 to **Donna Klaiber Rhodes '01** and husband Colby.

Adelene "Addie" Aylse Rodgers, Jan. 1, 2007, to **Adams Rodgers BBA '98** and **April Barnhill Rodgers BBA '98**.

Nicholas Shelton, July 12, 2006, to **Jennifer LaValle Shelton '95** and **Brian Shelton '96**. Nicholas has a 4-year-old older brother, Ian. The Sheltons live in Flower Mound, Tex.

Conner Owen Smith, April 19, 2006 to **Katie Melerine Smith BGS '93, MA '01** and **Bernard Smith BA '91**. Conner's older brother is Chandler, who is 5.

Landry Marie Suire, Nov. 20, 2006, to **Russell Suire '00, '02** and wife Ashley. Landry has older brother, Jackson, 3.

Parker Amie Tumminello, Dec. 8, 2006, to **Monica Walker Tumminello '98** and **Chris Tumminello '98**. They live in Keller, Tex.

Piper Michelle West, Dec. 24, 2005, to **Charles Scott West '96** and **Michelle Brasher West '94**. Piper joins sister Elisa Rayne who is 3.

Cannon Campbell Young, April 20, 2006, to **Cheri Guillot Young '88** and husband Nathan.

Ronda L. Akins

■ Assistant professor of pharmacy, contributed to a study that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and resulted in a new antibiotic approved by the FDA.



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1994

Tim Ardillo BA '94 has been named the new director of institutional advancement for the Indianapolis Zoo. He will head up the zoo's fundraising efforts, continued building and development. Previously he served as director of development for The Arc of Indiana. He holds the CFRE (Certified Fund Raising Executive) designation.

Kimberli Waller Charlet '94, '95 and husband **Brent Charlet '94** are co-owners of The Corbel Distinctive Gifts and Interiors and Charlet Brothers Southern Design and Construction in Jackson, La. They have children Cara Lane, 8, Anna Beth, 6, and Charles, 4. They live in Zachary.

William M. Stallings BBA '94 has been promoted to senior vice president at BB&T Corp. He joined the bank in 1992.

1995

Matthew Lee BBA '95 has been in the pharmaceutical business for 11 years. He and wife Brenna Lee, M.D., have four children, Austin, 13, Hunter, 11, Emilie, 4, and Gracie, 1. They live in Austin.

Robin Desormeaux Moulriere '95 is a pharmacist in Alexandria. She and husband **James Keith Moulriere '93** have a 11-year old daughter, Brooke Suzanne. James is a canine officer with the Alexandria Police Department.

1996

Charles Scott West 'BS 96 is working the Monroe territory for PriCara, a unit of Ortho-McNeil. He and his wife **Michelle Brasher West BS '94** live in West Monroe.

1997

Janet Chaney Brady '97 is working at Deloitte and Touche in Houston as manager of human resources. She married Kelly Brady in 1999 and they have two daughters, McKinley, almost 3, and Evelyn, 1 year old.

Sherryl Rhoades Morgan '97 is teaching at Union Christian Academy in Farmerville. She and husband David have two daughters, Ashton, 6, and Cassidy, 3.

Johnny Nguyen '97 is a travel nurse currently on assignment in Orange County, Calif. He is a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve based in Oakland.

1999

James Landers '99 played Arena Football for 7 years and received an award in 2004 for "Lineman of the Year." He is now an account executive with Plan-It Interactive in Los Angeles.

DeQuetta Olissa Sanders BGS '99, MEd '05 is working on her Ph.D. in counselor education at Texas A&M-Commerce and is employed with the university as an undergraduate counseling instructor and academic advisor.

CLASS NOTES



J.P. Pierce (B.S. '77) majored in pre-law for over a year when NLU accomplished something that changed his course.

"NLU became the first university in the nation to have its School of Construction accredited. I had worked every summer in construction since I was 13 years old, and I was very excited about changing my major to building construction."

J.P. has been in the waterproofing and building restoration business for more than 30 years. Some of his more significant restoration work includes the Jax Brewery in New Orleans, The Adolphus Hotel, The Majestic Theater, The School Book Depository, The Academic Building at Texas A&M and the football stadium at the University of Oklahoma.

When he turned 40, J.P. reconnected with an earlier passion. He attended Texas Wesleyan

University School of Law and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1998.

Two years ago, J.P. and his wife of almost 30 years, Lynette, purchased a 33-year-old specialty commercial construction company in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pierce, who was born in Bismarck, N.D., grew up in Houston, Texas, and Shreveport. He was drawn to the natural beauty of the campus at then—Northeast Louisiana University.

J.P., who has always remained connected to ULM—he served as president of the ULM Alumni Association and he participated in ULM Envision 2004—credits the university with giving him a solid foundation.

"Earning a degree in building construction was a big boost. I also credit my other associations on campus and in the city, along with the lifelong friends that I met there, to any successes I have enjoyed."

2000

Gwen Giroir '00 has purchased a home in Baton Rouge where she is a human resource analyst 3 with LSU Health Care Services Division.

Stacey Tiffie Green '00 has two sons, Auden Gile Green, 3, and Braden Terry Green, 1.

Justin Lewis '00 and his wife Amy have a son Jack, 1. They live in Tucson, Ariz.

Jeffrey Ratcliff '00 has been promoted to project manager with The Beck Group of Dallas. He and his wife Julie will relocate temporarily to San Antonio, Tex. for approximately 18 months. He will be responsible for a hospital construction project in Boerne, a suburb of San Antonio.

Russell Suire '00, '02 obtained his nursing facility administrator's license after he received his master's in gerontology in 2002. He is employed by Management Seven, LLC. He was recently promoted to a regional administrator position. He and his wife live in DeRidder.

2001

Joni Hunter McDonald '01 received a master's degree from LSU in May 2002 and passed the licensing exam in April 2006 to become a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW).

2002

Larry Wayne Cook BA '02 was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Army on October 12, 2006 and is stationed at Ft. Lewis, Wash. (near Tacoma).

2003

Celeste Holley '03 has accepted the catering sales manager position with Elite Caterers in Monroe, where she will be booking events for two local restaurants.

CLASS NOTES

ALUMNI

2004

Jason Philip Deal BS '04 is working as an estimator with Performance Contractors, Inc. of Baton Rouge. He and wife Anna Lisa Greer and children Jake, almost 2, and infant Sarah, live in Geismar.

2005

Crystal Acree Huff BA '05 is currently completing her master's degree in social work at LSU.

Jason Andrew Ossman BBA '05 is now working as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Monroe.

Jared Adrian Prudhomme AA '05 is attending the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Department Training Academy.

2006

Lashanda Ellis BBA '06 is a programmer in ISD at the Wal-Mart home office in Bentonville, Ark.

Andreas Lefconikiatis BBA '06 is currently studying at Bowling Green State University for a master of accountancy with a concentration in information systems audit and control.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Frances Henry Dean '36
Majorie Brown '37
Roy V. Norman '41
Martin L. Coleman Jr. '43
Hugh D. Smith BS '48
Mary Roberson BA '57
C.B. Roberts BA '57
John D. Salter BS '57
Glenda Williams Zametto MEd '57
Austin "Bernard" Love '61
Sue Ellen Dorris Carlson '62
Carolyn Jo Smith Richardson '65
Kathleen "Kat" D. Shackelford MEd '65
Diane Rose Bannister BA '69
Peggy Marie DeBlieux Cayer BA '69
Donnie Inzina Johnston BA '69, MEd '96
Wayne Burney '70
William S. Gannaway, BBA '71, MEd '81
Ida Lee Davis White BA '72
Pamela Odom Rushing BS '73
Henry Atkins Glover MBA '75
Sharon Faye Parsons Graves MEd '76
Edmon Ray Youngblood Jr. BBA '78
Ann Bailey Havard BS '81

Timothy Lee Ernst BA '82
Patricia Joan McBroom BS '82
Robert Hubbard EdS '84
Dennis James Ezell BS '87
Shana Danielle Faylor BS '91
Frank C. Webb BBA '92
Charles J. Cody BS '93
Warren Allen Strickland Jr. BS '01, MS '04
Brigitte Armruster Rainwater BS '03
Ann Lindsey Avery BS '04
Ann Elizabeth Lindsay BS '04

FACULTY/STAFF/FRIENDS

Dr. George C. Brian
Linda Christmas
Thomas "Sonny" D. Day
Phillip S. Fishman
Dr. John Goorley
Dr. Roy H. Ledbetter Jr.
Lee Anna Sens
Dorothy Ward

Ralph Brown

assistant professor of history, received one of only 20 prestigious fellowships to the 2006 West Point Summer Seminar in Military History.





SUMMER IN MOROCCO

James McKeithen

Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages

Last summer I returned to North Africa and the city of Fez, Morocco, in preparation for the development of Arabic language courses at ULM. A secondary goal of visiting this ancient city was to explore Fez as a potential site for ULM's summer study abroad program.

Morocco, also known as "the Meghreb," is situated where Europe, Africa and the Middle East all come together. Despite being at these cultural crossroads, Morocco remains somewhat isolated while holding dear its Arabic language and Islamic traditions. It is also a country with relative stability and reputation and is on the State Department's list of safe countries for American travel.

The Arabic Language Institute in Fez – ALIF (which is also the name of the first letter in the Arabic alphabet), is one of the oldest and most reputable of the many Arabic language schools there. Locally, it enjoys a long-standing association with the U.S., known locally as the "Centre Americain."

ALIF offers intensive Arabic courses for U.S. college students and individualized advanced instruction for business people, diplomats, graduate students and itinerant senior academicians such as myself. Instructors are native speakers of local origin, with advanced courses taught at Qayrawiyin University, which lays claim to being the world's oldest university, founded in the 10th century.

Classes were held in the mornings and afternoons, with a three hour mid-day break. My course was taught in the traditional

manner by two professors from al-Qarawiyyin. A typical class consisted of classroom discussion in Arabic of a prepared classical text jointly selected for the course by students and teachers. My small class included a Lutheran missionary from Tanzania, a London lawyer

and a woman from Kansas who had studied Arabic at Harvard.

On the weekends, I wandered, visiting the various markets and watching the traditional

artisans at work. Fez is one of the last cities in the world with an active artisan tradition. A trip to one of the mountain villages around Fez is like a journey back in time, perhaps to the Middle Ages or even biblical times.

However, the big event offered by the school is, without doubt, the trip to the desert. It consists of a van journey to the edge of the Sahara, and from there by camel (an experience in itself) out into the desert for a night in a nomadic Berber encampment where one can breathe the pure desert air and watch the night sky. Time spent in the desert is sufficient unto itself, and this I think best expresses the value of Morocco as a learning experience.

Living in a foreign country on the ground level of local language and culture makes it easier for the average person to appreciate the remarkable degree to which people everywhere share the same fundamental human qualities. Learning to know and understand another culture, particularly one as initially different as that of Morocco, is, I think, an effective contribution toward better understanding and appreciating one's own world.

**"PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
SHARE THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL
HUMAN QUALITIES."**



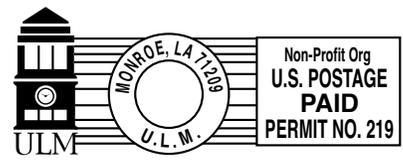
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