

The Peabody Bulletin

Spring 2006 Commencement Issue



LSU

COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION



The Peabody Bulletin

A Communiqué from the Dean

Volume 2, Issue 3



This Commencement Issue is particularly significant as an ending and as a beginning. The faculty and staff started the year together at our Fall Retreat in August of 2005. There we reviewed the State of the College, began discussions of the College restructuring, and introduced several new faculty and staff additions. The goals for the year included increasing external funding; extending community engagement and partnerships; continuing a tradition of excellence in research and scholarship; increasing graduate student enrollments; and strategically increasing college promotions, publications, and communications outreach. The school year then began, and began...and began yet again. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita changed all of our lives and, for a time, our mission as we addressed the immediate needs of a huge proportion of our state.

I am proud of how we have come together this year, not only in times of crisis but as we have continued to advance the Flagship Agenda. Articulating, exploring, and enacting what it means to be a flagship college of education at a research extensive university in the South, we have significantly increased our outreach to the communities of Louisiana that we serve. Through grants, research, teaching, and service, we have

demonstrated commitment to the basic tenets of a land-grant and sea-grant research institution.

And, of course, the reason we are here – the students. This issue highlights their accomplishments. On May 19, 292 students graduated from the College of Education, earning 226 bachelors and 49 master's degrees. In addition, four completed requirements for the Certificate of Education Specialist, and 13 completed their Ph.D.'s. At the heart of any great college is a dedicated faculty and excellent students. We have both.

Looking to the future, we see next year as one of many changes. As announced at the February 8, 2006, and May 12, 2006, faculty meetings, we are moving forward with a re-structuring of the College that will provide more flexibility in programs and offerings, facilitate interdisciplinary work, reflect and develop areas of excellence, help identify hiring needs, and project our values and strengths. The Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Leadership, Research and Counseling will merge to become the Department of Educational Theory, Policy and Practice (ETPP). The department will have five divisions as presented in the graphic on the following page. Within these divisions will be flexible faculty assignments to reflect programmatic as well as research commitment. Dr. Earl Cheek, Interim Chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, has agreed to be the Chair of the newly formed ETPP Department for a three-year appointment retroactively starting this past year.

Moving forward, we can be proud of the progress we have made this year – the growth, connections, and visions we have created together. Have a great summer, everyone! Thanks for a wonderful year. I look forward to our Fall Retreat.

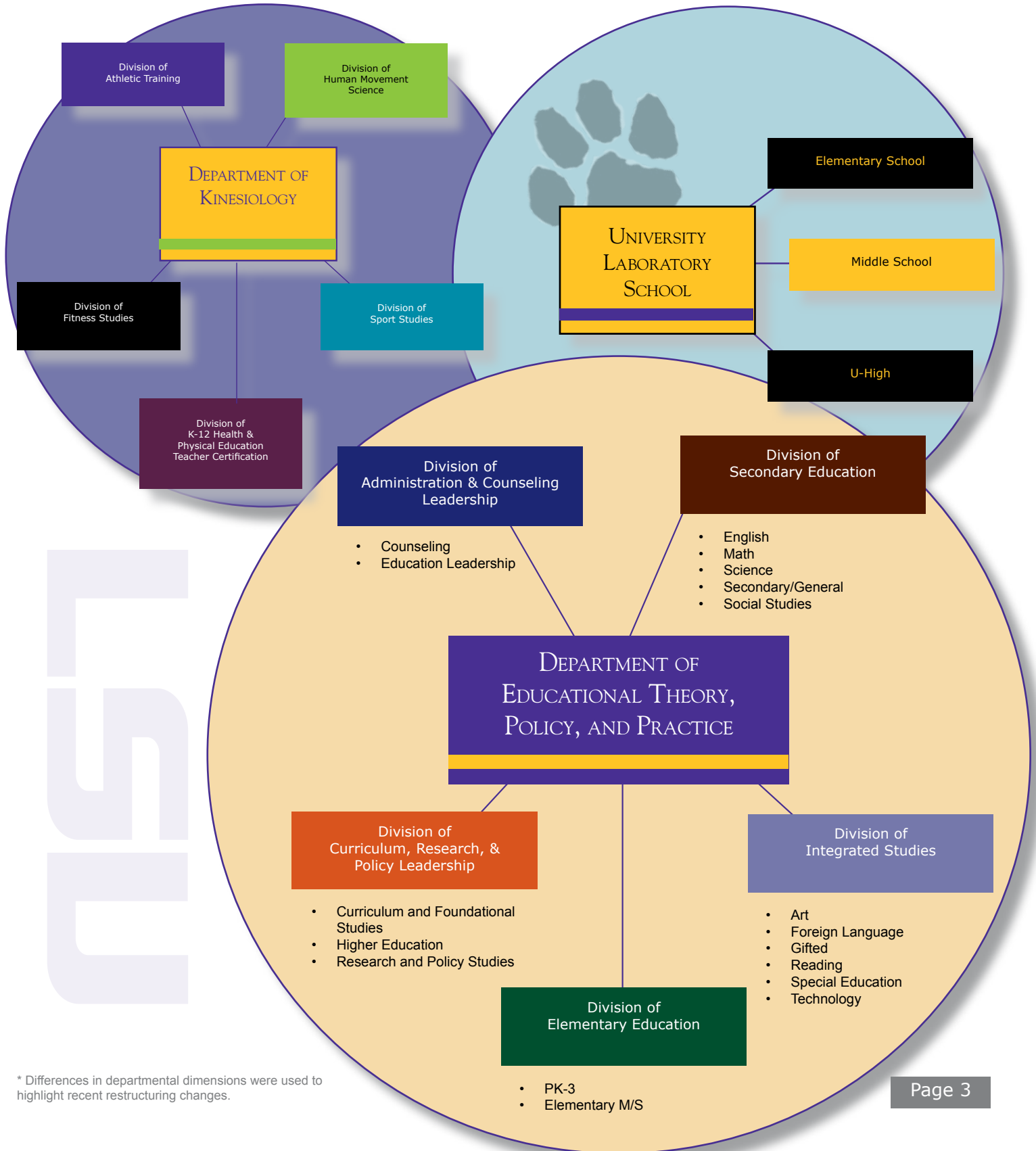
W. Jayne Fleener

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LSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



* Differences in departmental dimensions were used to highlight recent restructuring changes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPRING 2006 GRADUATING CLASS



On Thursday, May 18, 2006, the College of Education was pleased to announce the spring 2006 graduating class. The graduates served as representatives for 36 of the 64 parishes in Louisiana as well as 17 other states and three foreign countries.



"I really enjoy these ceremonies—passages to the future, portals of promise, endings and beginnings, certainties forgotten as uncertainty prevails. The tension of these extremes, the hope and anticipation for a future uncertain, are the stuff of life and living. This is but one important transition in what we hope will be a long life of new beginnings and renewal."

—Remarks at Ceremony
Dean M. Jayne Fleener

Top L to R: University Medalists Breland Louise Deano, Dana Lynn Harrison, and Kayli Brooks Malzahn.

Remainder of Segment: 2006 Graduates during the commencement ceremony.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
MAY 18, 2006





College of Education Making an Impact on Urban Youth

*Spotlight on LSYOU &
GEAR UP Baton Rouge*

Top Left: Students from area schools involved in both LSYOU and GEAR UP participated in the National March to College Day.



Above L to R: Roslyn Matthews and her daughter/LSYOU participant Nia Williams.

Keeping students in school and making sure they graduate is a problem facing educators across the country. While researchers disagree on the number of high school dropouts what they do agree on is that this problem is not going away on its own.

Instead of focusing only on reversing high school dropout rates, the College of Education is focusing on increasing high school graduation rates and enrollment in colleges, universities, and trade/technical schools. The College has been doing this since the 1980s with two programs known as LSYOU and GEAR UP Baton Rouge. Both connect with students as early as middle school.

While LSYOU and GEAR UP Baton Rouge are two different programs, they



Above L to R: LSYOU Director Suzan Gaston and Program Advisor Luereaner Mack.

work in tandem, “These two programs really compliment each other,” said Suzan Gaston, 11-year director of the LSYOU program. “LSYOU makes sure they graduate high school so they can get to a university, community college, or trade school.”

By addressing the unique cultural and socio-economic barriers facing urban youth, the College’s LSYOU and GEAR UP Baton Rouge programs have kept the College in touch with its community while leading the nation in success as compared to similar federal/state programs.

LSYOU

The name “LSYOU” stands for Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a program defined by providing high school students with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in high school and beyond. LSYOU is also a community outreach program, used as a service-learning site where LSU faculty, staff, and students can learn effective teaching techniques while making an impact on the lives of urban youth.

The LSYOU program consists of two major segments, the summer component and the school-year component. The summer component is a 24 hours per day, seven days per week, six-week summer residential program for middle school/junior high students at high risk for dropping out of school. Criteria for

acceptance includes: income level, school grades, previous failures, poor test scores, family, and personal problems.

This summer residential component is conducted on the LSU campus and consists of academics, campus job placement, counseling, and recreational activities offered in an environment that emphasizes family, security, and a sense of belonging. The program encourages parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends to get involved in the program.

Roslyn Matthews is the mother of three-year LSYOU student Nia Williams. Matthews said that she thought it was a good idea to surround her daughter with people who cared about their futures, “I thought that if Nia saw these people doing things with their lives that when

the time came, she might not sneak out that window. She might not break rules and be rebellious. She might want to be different and focus on her future.”

Matthews wanted her daughter Nia in a structured environment but also one that would be fun and encourage her to go to college, “They get rewarded for doing well. They take them on fun field trips and they get to live in dorms like college students. This program has exposed her to life situations that she may not have been able to do so young.”

Williams is a senior at Woodlawn High School where she has worked in sports medicine, doing things like wrapping ankles, giving first aid, and helping athletes during practices. She plans on enrolling at Southeastern University to major in physical therapy with a minor in business. Williams added that she hopes to one day open her own clinic after college.

Matthews added, “We are so blessed to be part of this program, of what it has grown to today. Everything is so well-thought out all the way to the end.” Matthews was inspired by her daughter and is determined to re-enroll in college.

In addition to experiences like these obtained in the summer component of LSYOU, the second segment is known as the school-year component, an intense intervention into all aspects of the student’s life. This intervention is followed by an individualized support system that follows the student until graduation. This support system involves exit test preparation, mentoring, personal and family counseling, weekend retreats on the LSU campus, and tutoring.

Amy Scales tutors LSYOU students in math twice a week. She first started tutoring as part of a service-learning class lead by College of Education Assistant Professor Terrie Poehl. “I immediately fell in love with the program,” Scales said. “I wish I had found out about it sooner.”

Like Scales, many students at LSU are exposed to service work through tutoring, classes, or degree requirements such as observation hours. LSYOU students benefit from the service component, getting dedicated LSU students to help them with homework, test preparation, or specific subjects related to ACT or SAT



Above L to R: College of Education student Amy Scales tutors LSYOU student Princess Huey.

tests. Scales said she became attached to the atmosphere and students and asked if she could work there as a tutor.

“Of course we hired Amy...she is a perfect example of how this program affects you,” said Gaston. “Amy’s brief encounter with these kids in one college class changed her; she became involved and is still tutoring today just because she enjoys helping them learn.”

Scales talked about two students she works with regularly, Starkeisha and Princess. “They are my dynamic duo,” said Scales. “I pick out Starkeisha’s strengths and then I find out what Princess is good at, and I let them explain to each other how to work the problems, in their own words.”

Scales said that she and other math tutors collaborate on these types of teaching methods, adding that veteran teachers from schools in the community also tutor there and give newcomers great ideas to use when they are in front of the classroom.

“I learn a lot from the kids. But, I learn from other tutors and from the teachers there, too,” added Scales. “This is good for me, for when I’m a teacher next year.”

Scales is set to graduate December 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics. “I love seeing them so motivated—watching them set their goals on going to college,” said Scales while grinning.

Gaston added that “LSYOU stays with the students even after they get to college.”

For example, Southern University freshman Chris Johnson still comes to Hatcher Hall sometimes twice a week. Amy Scales has tutored him in college-level math courses.

Johnson now wants to return the favor and is applying for a position as a peer counselor for the LSYOU summer program, “I am trying to do all I can to help this program stay alive.” Johnson first started LSYOU in 2002. He credits advisors Luereaner Mack and Maurice Craddock (known as “Mrs. Mack” and “Mr. Reese”) for helping him get into college.

And, while LSYOU wants to get students interested in going college, the program stresses that there are a variety of post-secondary options. “A university may not be for everyone,” said Gaston. “We want them to



Above: LSYOU alumnus Chris Johnson

go to college. And, yes, I am always trying to recruit them to LSU...but, we also want them to know that there are other options. They can get a skill and get a good job even if college is not in their sights."

These other options include community colleges, trade schools, or other post-secondary education such as the military or law enforcement academies. Jeremy Granier graduated from the LSYOU Class of 1987. After spending 10 years in the Navy as a combat medic, Sergeant Granier is now a supervisor with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Division.

"I came full circle. I think I would have been on the other side of the law had it not been for that intervention" said Granier.

"If we had problems, they took us on the side and helped us through it. They really cared about us," Granier said recalling the impact counselors had on his life, such as Todd Cowen, M.D. "Dr. Cowen took care of an injury for me once. He definitely had something to do with the fact that I became a combat medic in the Navy."

Granier said that the skills he learned in LSYOU such as discipline and drive along with his medical experience from the military came in handy during search and rescue and missing persons missions he conducted with fellow law enforcement officers in Louisiana's coastal waterways, especially during the 2005 hurricane season.

GEAR UP Baton Rouge

GEAR UP accelerates the academic achievement of urban middle and secondary school students so that increasing numbers of these young people will graduate from high school to matriculate and succeed in postsecondary education and careers. The program is also geared towards lessening the need for remediation. Recognizing the unacceptable relationships between under-prepared urban middle and high school students and their low college-going rates, former President Clinton and the Congress, through the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, created GEAR UP.

Since 2000, the College of Education has been GEAR UP Baton Rouge's lead partner. LSU and GEAR UP Baton Rouge work in broad partnership with the U.S. Department of Education to ensure program participants successfully matriculate to postsecondary institutions and careers. GEAR UP Baton Rouge also partners with the East Baton Rouge School System, ExxonMobil, and The Young Leaders' Academy to provide mentors, tutors, social work interns, college orientations, campus visit seminars, summer field experiences, incentive awards, leadership classes, and professional faculty and staff development services.

Illustrating the positive impact of GEAR UP's staff, Eryka Jackson, a graduating senior, recalled how one counselor, Mrs. Carter, impacted her life in seventh grade.

"Mrs. Carter helped me and would talk with me. She was more than a counselor; she was like a friend; she made us want to be in school." Jackson loves poetry and art and hopes to pursue a degree in graphic design at either LSU or Southeastern University.

Julius Greenhouse, another graduating senior, said. "Mrs. Pat Smith [GEAR UP coordinator] showed how she cared about my future – she took time with me and she showed me that college was the way to go." Greenhouse, competing for a national GEAR UP scholarship, plans to attend either Southern University or LSU and hopes to pursue a degree in secondary education because of the impact teachers have made on him. "I know how I get along with my teachers and how they make it fun to come to school, and I want to do that."



Above L to R: GEAR UP students Eryka Jackson and Julius Greenhouse

LSYOU is funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of East Baton Rouge Parish and the Tangipahoa Consortium. LSYOU has received support from East Baton Rouge Mayor-President Melvin L. "Kip" Holden since the program began in the late 1980s. LSYOU also receives private donations collected through the Claude B. and Irene W. Pennington Foundation.

The LSYOU program garners national attention and is used as a model and a benchmark for similar programs around the country. LSYOU has been awarded numerous awards annually. The Harvard Family Research Project identified LSYOU as an Outstanding Drop-out Prevention Project (2003). The U.S. Department of Labor ranked the LSYOU program number three, out of the top 20 programs in the nation for dropout prevention (1993). And, the Louisiana Department of Education labeled LSYOU as an "Exemplary At-Risk/ Alternative School and Community Program" in 1993.

Pat Smith, coordinator for GEAR UP Baton Rouge, said the program catches students like Jackson and Greenhouse at a critical time in their lives and instills confidence in the things they like to do, while reinforcing the importance of achievement. Smith said she believes GEAR UP transforms student potential into reality and active upward mobility.

GEAR UP Baton Rouge approaches its strategy through a series of academic and support services. Parent workshops are held throughout the year to link family with academics and to promote teamwork



Above L to R: GEAR UP Baton Rouge Coordinator Pat Smith with LSU Basketball great Glen "Big Baby" Davis. **Right:** Davis shakes hands with student marchers as a surprise speaker for the day-long March to College Day program.

GEAR UP Baton Rouge and LSYOU Participate in National March to College Day

LSU welcomed more than 70 students from schools in East Baton Rouge Parish and neighboring parishes to its campus on April 25, as part of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars' March to College Day program.

The march was geared towards getting high school students to focus on graduating and going to college. LSU's very own basketball great and University Laboratory School alumnus, Glen "Big Baby" Davis talked to the kids about how education has helped him and what college can do for them.

The March to College Day program is organized through the LSU Chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Cherita Lee, one of the event organizers, said that, "The March gets students thinking about college; it gets them excited about their futures, and helps them focus on things that will help them graduate and go to college." An accounting major at LSU, Lee helped establish themes of this year's march.

Themes of the march included: goal-setting, the importance of education, and how decisions of today will affect their

between parents and students. Nearly 60 percent of GEAR UP parents have participated in these workshops that focus on high school graduation requirements, national and state tests, college entrance requirements, and financial planning.

These activities promote a lasting impact on students participating in GEAR UP Baton Rouge. Of the first cohort, 70 percent remain enrolled in high school, with more than 50 percent graduating from high school in May 2006. Approximately 80 percent of GEAR UP students have conveyed aspirations to pursue a four-year college degree or postsecondary careers.

The GEAR UP Baton Rouge staff continually expands its data collection base on all program services pertaining to student achievement and overall assessment outcomes. GEAR UP Baton Rouge actively participates in a wide-range of professional activities, actively links with other GEAR UP sites, and presents at national and regional conferences.



tomorrows. The day was filled with LSU faculty and staff speaking to the marchers on how to set reasonable goals and work successfully towards reaching these goals. Speakers also spoke with the marchers about how making good grades, helping others, taking responsibility for actions and how being a person of integrity will improve their lives and their future careers.

TIME Magazine recently dedicated eight pages in the April 17th issue to the topic of high school dropout rates. While researchers disagree about the national average of high school dropout rates, they agree that it is a national problem and one that has long-term negative consequences, not only for the economy but for the lives and well-being of individuals.

LSU has been addressing the dropout problem since the 1980s with LSYOU (Louisiana State Youth Opportunities Unlimited) and GEAR UP Baton Rouge (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs). Both programs have established excellent records of success.

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

AWARDED GRANTS

- [Camburn, Albert](#). (2006, March). *LEAP-21 Remediation*. Louisiana Department of Education: \$2,229.
- [Gardner, Susan](#). (2006, April). *Graduate Student Retention & Success: Exploring Disciplinary and Institutional Contexts*. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: \$33,269.
- [Gaston, Suzan](#). (2006, March). *2006-07 LSYOU School Year Program*. East Baton Rouge Workforce Investment Board: \$200,000.
- [Gaston, Suzan](#). (2006, March). *2006-07 LSYOU Summer Program*. East Baton Rouge Workforce Investment Board: \$182,000.
- [Willis, Elizabeth](#) (with Neubrander, F., Madden, McAnnelly). (2005, November). *EBRPSS/LSU/SU Partnership: Glen Oaks Middle School*. Louisiana Board of Regents: \$1,000,000.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- [Asher, Nina](#). (2006, April). *Curriculum Studies in a Postcolonial World: Implications for Education in a Globalized Context*. LSU/Faculty Research Grant: \$10,000.
- [Blanchard, Pam](#). (2006, April). *Geo-Systems Site Inquiry for Teacher Education - Geo-SITE*. National Science Foundation: \$2,451,001.
- [Lamonte, Donna](#). (2006, April). *Louisiana Literacy Plan*. Louisiana Department of Education: \$100,000.
- [Lou, Yiping](#). (2006, May). *Synthesizing the Evidence of What Works in Web-based Science Learning*. National Science Foundation: \$200,000.

LSU 2006 Faculty Award Winners

- LSU DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD
[Becky Ropers-Huilman](#)
- TIAA-CREF SERVICE-LEARNING FELLOW AWARD
[Susan Kim MacGregor](#)
- TIGER ATHLETIC FOUNDATION
UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS
[Karen S. Donnelly](#)
[Wanda G. Hargroder](#)



College of Education Students Honored at Chancellor's Honors Convocation

The University College, the Honors College, and the senior colleges select the University's best undergraduates each year. Students that are selected for this honor have demonstrated excellence in a variety of fields such as outstanding scholarship, leadership, service to the University and/or the community, versatility of attainments, and breadth of experience.

The College of Education congratulates the following undergraduates for these exceptional awards (pictured top to bottom with Chancellor Sean O'Keefe and Provost Risa Palm):

- MOST OUTSTANDING SOPHOMORE
[Amanda Leigh Villarrubia](#)
Elementary Grades Education
- MOST OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
[Sarah Elizabeth Davenport](#)
Elementary Grades Education
- MOST OUTSTANDING SENIOR
[Camila Valeria Fuentes](#)
Kinesiology

Congratulations to College of Education Members Serving on the Tiger Twelve Class of 2006

According to the University Web site, the Tiger Twelve are a dozen LSU seniors who adhere to the tenets of LSU's Commitment to Community, which was adopted as an official Statement of University Position in 1995. According to the Office of Dean of Students, the Commitment to Community is "... a pledge taken by members of the LSU family to hold themselves to

the highest standards of integrity, accept responsibility for their actions, practice justice and equality, and respect others."

The College congratulates the following students for election to serve on this meaningful post:

- [Sarah Davenport](#)
- [Breland Deano](#)
- [Natalie Tzerefos](#)

Notable Visits



Left: William “Bill” Doll, College of Education professor and co-director of The Curriculum Theory Project, hosted Robert “Bob” Phillips with the University of Tasmania. Phillips is the assistant director of the Institute for Inclusive Learning Communities, a joint initiative of the University of Tasmania and the Department of Education. In his talk entitled “Pink Flamingos and Educational Orthodoxy: A Conversation on Complex Systems, Chaos and Leadership in Schools and School Districts,” Phillips initiated conversations about how he has drawn upon complex systems understandings to provide a helpful perspective in his work in developing enabling systems and in planning within complex systems.

Center Right: Sister Judith Brun and Dean M. Jayne Fleener face off in intense conversation during a lecture organized by William “Bill” Doll and Petra Munro Hendry, College of Education professors and co-directors of The Curriculum Theory Project. Kristy Hebert joined Sister Judith to discuss their work with education and social service-related hurricane relief efforts benefitting children displaced by the storms.



Left: Sponsored by the University Laboratory School Foundation, Derrick Ashong spoke to Lab School students, faculty, parents, and grandparents in a talk entitled “Killing Cool: Igniting the Soul of Society.” Born in Ghana, Ashong is known for his feature role in Steven Spielberg’s film Amistad. Ashong received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, he started a successful record label, and he is finishing his first major work of non-fiction.

Ashong’s lecture was about self-determination and accountability with a strong message to students about holding fast to their own individuality, refusing to be swayed by pressures to conform, and finding greater creative potential and opportunities to be an agent of social change.



Right: College of Education Professor Jerry Willis and Coordinator of Sponsored Programs Mark Goodson hosted members from the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and Ministry of Social Development. The group toured after-school and tutoring programs at Renaissance Village organized by The Delta Express Program. The group was visiting Louisiana to plan in advance for welfare provision following potential disasters in New Zealand.



Announcements

College of Education Professor Elected President of National Association

College of Education Associate Professor **Gary G. Gintner** was elected president of the American Mental Health Counselors Association, the largest national professional association for mental health counselors. Gintner will begin planning for the 2007 national conference to be held in New Orleans.

Preservation Group Honors College of Education Faculty Member

On June 4, 2006, College of Education Professor **Petra Munro Hendry** was honored at a ceremony in New Orleans for her work preserving the oral histories of Old South Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Preservation Trust (formerly the Louisiana Preservation Alliance) selected Hendry for the 2006 award based on her outstanding contributions to historic preservation in the state of Louisiana.

Group Establishing National Benchmarks

College of Education Assistant Professor **Terrie Poehl** was selected to serve on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Praxis Standard Setting Study. Poehl will travel to Maryland to serve on a mathematics panel that will establish a national benchmark on Praxis Series teacher licensure tests. NCATE expects to incorporate the use of these tests and passing scores to inform program accreditation and to help make accreditation decisions more consistent across states.

Right: **Nilufar Begibayeva**, Ph.D., hosted the Spring International Day, providing food samples, crafts, and a presentation on her native country of Uzbekistan. Begibayeva visited the College as a fellow in the U.S. Department of State's Junior Faculty Development Program.

French Education Project Travels to France

College of Education Professor **Denise Egéa-Kuehne** (Curriculum & Instruction) attended the 8th International Biennial on Education and Formation (April 11-14), organized by the Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique (INRP, the International Institute of Pedagogical Research) and the Association pour la Promotion des Recherches et des Innovations en Éducation et en Formation (APRIEF, Association for the Promotion of Research and Innovations in Education and Formation). The Biennial on Education and Formation is one of the major events worldwide in the field of teaching and teacher education; high level scholars attend from all over the world.

Arnaud Sgambato, attaché pédagogique for the College of Education's French Education Project, has been recruiting the new batch of French teachers to teach French in Louisiana's immersion schools through the CODOFIL program and through support from the General Consulate of France in New Orleans. Joined by Terri Hammatt from the Louisiana Department of Education and David Cheramie from CODOFIL, Sgambato traveled to France to conduct an extensive interview process from pre-selected applicants.



Lab School Instructor Voice in National Radio Broadcasts

Lab School Physical Education Instructor **Joanna Faerber** served as the expert voice for a series of radio broadcasts highlighting the importance of quality school physical education programs and parental involvement.

The radio spots aired across all 50 states during May, which is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, and were produced through a grant from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) and the National Association for Sport & Physical Education (NASPE).

To hear Faerber's Radio Spot, visit <http://www.soundtargeting.com/NASPERADIO2006.htm>

Kinesiology Students Host 90 High School Students

Alpha Tau Sigma, an athletic training student organization in the Department of Kinesiology, hosted a high school athletic training symposium at the Broussard Center for Athletic Training. The group welcomed 60 area high school students interested in athletic training and sports medicine.



Above: The College of Education hosted a PRAXIS workshop attended by representatives from teacher preparation units across campus.

Tent Tutoring

LSU Students at Renaissance Village



Nine months after two devastating hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast, things are still not back to normal. But life is especially different in Baker's FEMA relocation trailer community, known as Renaissance Village.

More than 520 fluorescent white trailers polka dot the 62-acre backdrop. Wood shavings replace the floors of the two tents assembled for children and adults to meet, play, or talk. A chain link fence stands for the wall. Picnic tables substitute for desks. And, a tent serves as the classroom.

The tents are only temporary, standing in for several mobile trailer classrooms. But, it is early May in southeast Louisiana and temperatures can reach the upper 80s. That doesn't stop LSU students from investing their evenings to tutor the children who now reside in Renaissance Village.

The students are part of a hurricane relief outreach effort known as The Delta Express Program, a joint venture between the LSU College

of Education, the University of California Berkeley's UC Links project, Tulane University, and several other groups that are signing on to participate.



Above: LSU doctoral student Jolanta Smolen working with Tyler on his first visit to the tent.

The Delta Express Program addresses both educational and social needs of underserved children displaced by the hurricanes by offering formal and informal learning activities that the children themselves consider "fun."

"Basically, we make it fun and let the kids be creative," said [Jolanta "Jola" Smolen](#), a graduate student from Poland in the LSU College of Education who is interested in international education. As Smolen handed out arts and crafts supplies for the children's project, she said "The kids are making Mother's Day cards today, using digital cameras, editing their photos and making them look cool with Photoshop."

The Delta Express Program has been active since April after a series of meetings with parents to discover what they thought their children needed and didn't need. Currently working with 12 to 15 students nightly, the program is growing in popularity. But, it's a hard crowd. Various "good do-ers" have been



Above L to R: Juliana Cicovic, a visiting scholar with the U.S. Department of State's Junior Faculty Development Program, speaking with Michelle.

in and out of Renaissance Village, making some residents, and especially the children, skeptical of the shelf life of new programs.

"Every day we get new kids and new parents that stop by and want to know what we are doing and how they can sign-up. I think they are starting to



Above: Former New Orleans teacher Victor Stewart is also a Renaissance Village community member who volunteers with The Delta Express Program.

realize that we are here to stay," added Smolen.

After its opening in October, Renaissance Village became a temporary home for about 2,000 hurricane evacuees. And, while no one is completely sure about the ever-changing number, most agree that a third of the residents are younger than 18.

With so many young residents with so many needs, the village caught the eye of philanthropist-comedienne Rosie O'Donnell. Through funds raised by the For All Kids Foundation, O'Donnell donated three mobile classrooms to Renaissance Village for the estimated 500 school-age kids that live there.

They arrived in early December, but FEMA is still in the process of setting up the classrooms. Computer banks were also donated by a local physician and the Virtue Foundation, but as yet there are no electrical hookups for the computers. Once everything is assembled and connected, many learning programs like Head Start and Early Head Start along with after-school programs like The Delta Express Program will benefit from the less temporary, air conditioned space.

"The school trailers should be open soon—once we get a room and out of the tent we can do more organized learning; we can do lessons; we will have computers and can do projects the kids can come back to the next day," said Sherri Taylor, the on-site coordinator for the project with 19 years of experience in special education and English as a Second Language. Taylor will graduate from the College of Education in the summer of 2006 with a M.Ed. focused on educational technology.



Above L to R: Michelle and College of Education graduate student (and on-site coordinator for The Delta Express Program) Sherri Taylor.

Taylor added how she is anxious to do activities with the students that focus on literacy building, "We want to work with them on writing stories and using computers to do it. They can read each other's stories and help each other. It would be really important for these kids to have a place where they can save their files every day and come back to it."

But, the LSU and UC Berkeley groups didn't want to wait until the trailers were assembled and ready to start working. College of Education Professor Jerry Willis said, "We started having meetings about this project last October. We must have had twenty different meetings talking about what we were going to do while waiting for the trailers to be set-up. Finally, we just decided we didn't need any more meetings or a trailer, we just needed to start helping these children."

"Basically, Jerry and I felt like we needed to get this off the ground. We can't talk about serving larger numbers of kids in Louisiana if we can't break through the bureaucracy and help the ones right here," said Charles Underwood, executive director of the UC Links program.

In operation since 1986, UC Links is a network of educational programs throughout the University



Above: Participants in The Delta Express Program working on their Mother's Day Cards.

of California System that connect community and university partners to provide computer-based and other learning activities for school children in low-income communities throughout California. Underwood and Willis collaborated to adapt educational activities and resources from the UC Links models to the situation in Louisiana.

But, the situation in Louisiana was unlike anything Underwood had ever seen in North America, he said after touring the area, "I have been in very low income communities all over California and the nation and I have never seen a camp like this in the United States before."

Underwood added that it was not easy to set-up the Delta Express Program in Renaissance Village. "The difficulty in putting this work together is greater than I have seen before because we usually have something

to build on, even in very low-income communities ...But in this community, we have not had any type of infrastructure to build on."

Renaissance Village had no computers, no electrical outlets, no electricity, no air conditioning, and, no building or rooms available for use on a regular basis for educational activities. Weary from waiting and hoping, the group came together. "We pooled our resources, got a handful of people together, did some training sessions, and got the program off the

ground," said Underwood.

The students that come to the tent are devoted said Taylor, "One little girl has a two-hour bus ride from school. The minute she jumps off the steps of the bus, she heads straight to the tent."

And, while some children are in the tent doing a project, getting help with homework, or reading, others are riding their bikes or playing games outside. At best, this only accounts for about 50 children, bringing up the question, where are the rest of the estimated 500 residents under the age of 18?

Many of the children in the park have been through tremendous social and emotional stress—losing relatives,

struggling to survive in the aftermath of Katrina, and then moving several times from one temporary shelter to another. "We don't push the kids to participate; we're here, we're consistent, and we accept and encourage the children," said Willis. "Kids may be afraid, depressed, angry, upset, and more. We help them work through that and involve them in learning without lots of pressure."

"Computers are a real magnet for kids these days," Underwood said. "These kids know that other kids have computers and that other communities have these kinds of resources....it can be a source of real engagement for the kids, especially kids that are struggling in school."

Taylor said they are trying to reach out to as many school age children as they can, "It is exciting to see that we are affecting lives. I can only imagine the impact we would have if a technology rich environment were available for us to engage more with the students."

Smolen added that while the tent is hot and not the ideal situation that it is in a great location to recruit, as she pointed to the basketball court nearby.



Above L to R: LSU Libraries Assistant Librarian Carol Bell reading to Taylor.

The sound of thumping basketballs echoed throughout the tent like a heartbeat. A few families passed by on an evening stroll, leading dogs on leashes. And, for a moment it looked like any neighborhood.

But, there is no need for a neighborhood watch group here. Instead, FEMA employs a private security firm with guards to monitor this community. Some even pop in and out of the tent, sitting down and talking with the children about their Mother's Day cards or helping the teachers move heavy ice chests.

Smolen added that the ice chests were a necessity in the heat and were a first attraction for some of the kids, "But, mind you, we had some parents that were very adamant about us not handing out sugary sodas and candy... very adamant." Instead, they offer iced down water, juices, and healthy snacks. "A hot commodity in this heat," said Jola as a guard kindly hauled off an empty cooler.

Like a camp or picnic, the tutoring center has an air of fun to it because it is so different from a classroom. It also gives new meaning to the term "field work," proving to be a truly unique learning experience for the soon-to-be teachers.

Emily Johnson, a tutor originally from New Orleans, works at the tent two days a week. She is majoring in elementary education with a concentration in astronomy and oceanography. While cutting shapes out of construction paper and handing them to a student, she said she enjoys working with the children because they are "so sweet" and "just good kids."

"It is a lot different out here from what people assume," said Johnson recalling friends' worries about her safety while at the village. "It is just so different than what you hear. And, the kids love having us here."

After hearing Johnson's comments, Carol Bell, a librarian at LSU who has worked with The Delta Express Program since the beginning, joined the conversation, saying "People need to know how sweet these kids are" and mentioned that fear may be what prevents more from going to the village to help in similar relief efforts.

Like Bell and Johnson, the tutors are dedicated to this project and have built an incredible bond with the students. As a New Orleans native, Johnson views her efforts with The Delta Express Program as her way of "helping get the city back, to rebuild in some way."

As a little girl hovers above her shoulders peeking at her project, Amanda Maddox said her reasoning was a little different, "I am helping but I am also getting experience on better ways of teaching, too. I want to give back to the community that I live in now, even if I am not from here." Originally from Atlanta, Maddox is a math major with a concentration in secondary education.

There are also tutors who are not in the College of Education. For instance, Kyra Brown is getting a general studies degree with minors in sociology, psychology, and corrections.

"The difficulty in putting this work together is greater than I have seen before because we usually have something to build on..."

*—Charles Underwood,
Director University-Community Links
University of California-Berkeley*

LSU Libraries is also active in the village and The Delta Express Project. The students participating in the program all receive specialized training from LSU and its partner, the University of California at Berkeley, which has operated a similar program in the Oakland schools for more than ten years. There is also a great deal of parental and community involvement in the group as well.



Above: New Orleans native and elementary education major Emily Johnson.



College of Education Faculty Travel to Finland

Current LSU College of Education faculty and students along with former professors and students were a force on the international curriculum scene, representing the University well at the Second World Curriculum Studies Conference held May 21-24, 2006, at the University of Tampere, Finland. More than 35 countries were represented with the goal of meeting the international and global challenges in curriculum studies.

Victor Stewart, a community member, who is also a displaced teacher, said he comes by the tent because he likes to see all the children learning and talking with the teachers. After working for the city of New Orleans for 32 years, Stewart retired and then a friend recruited him into teaching. He taught horticulture classes as a volunteer while getting certified through G.W. Carver High School, located two blocks from the industrial canal in New Orleans.

Stewart received his teaching certification three days before Katrina hit. "He is here every night and helps us any way he can," added Smolen. "Even if people are there temporarily they need some sense of community," said Underwood, "Anything we can do together to help build a sense of community will encourage the kids to have hope for a better future."

The College of Education is dedicated to fostering this hope to bring about a true renaissance for the children of the village, helping them rise above catastrophe and achieve the better futures of which they dream.

Above L to R: Roy enjoying a juice break with his tutor Amanda Maddox, an LSU student from Atlanta majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in secondary education.



Above Left: Bill Doll and Denise Egéa-Kuehne.

Above Right: Bill Pinar, Nicholas Ng-a-Fook, and Petra Munro Hendry.

Group Photo Above Center: (Front Row) Sarah Smitherman, Nicholas Ng-a-Fook, Hongyu Wang, Dean M. Jayne Fleener, Bill Doll; (Center Row) Petra Munro Hendry, Denise Egéa-Kuehne, and Nina Asher; (Back Row) Sean Buckreis, Nancy Nelson, Bill Pinar, Jeff Turner, Donna Trueit, and Ugena Whitlock.

Delta Express Program

<http://www.uclinks.org/deltaexpress/index.html>

UC Links Homepage

<http://www.uclinks.org/>

College of Education Honors More than 150 Students



On April 30, 2006, Dean M. Jayne Fleener on behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Education honored outstanding undergraduate and graduate students at 2:00

PM in the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the LSU Campus.

Students that were honored included honor societies and executive members of student organizations

within the College. Students who placed on the Chancellor's List were recognized along with the College's outstanding sophomore, junior, senior, and individuals receiving honors distinction for their class placement, nomination to societies such as Leadership LSU, and status as a National Merit Finalist.

The College of Education also acknowledged scholarship and fellowship holders and thanked the donors for those awards.



Left: Peabody Society member Verge Ausberry; **Bottom Right Center:** Director of Development Georgia B. Scobee, Dean M. Jayne Fleener, and Peabody Society member Dr. Helen "Tillie" Cookston; **Top Left:** Master's student Misti Segura; **Top Right:** Doctoral student Dorian McCoy

University Laboratory School Awards

- Lab School students [Jeremy Johnson](#) and [Molly Kennedy](#) traveled to New York to compete in the International Youth Poetry Slam Festival known as Brave New Voices 2006. Teams from over forty cities participated, performing at famous nightspots in Greenwich Village and at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Big Buddy sponsored the Baton Rouge team; [Connie McDonald](#), tenth grade English and creative writing teacher, devoted much time and effort to the young writers.
- The Louisiana Middle and High School Band committee announced that the Lab School placed four middle school band members and two high school band members on three All Star bands. The All Stars are selected by recommendation from Louisiana Band Masters membership to participate in groups composed of students from all over the state. They meet in July and give a concert or marching performance in conjunction with the LBA conference. Congratulations to Band Director for Instrumental Music [Annette West](#), Associate Band Director [J.R. Miller](#), and the Louisiana All Star Band members: (Middle School Band) [Jessica Anderson](#), [Dean Patton](#), and [Paxton Turner](#); (Jazz Band) [Jessica Anderson](#); and (High School Marching Band) [Rami Khoury](#) and [James Major](#).
- The Lab School's High School Science Olympiad team placed fourth overall in local competition. Congratulations to all team members who worked together to advance into state competition, making the Lab School team one of the top 15 high schools in Louisiana: [Kylie Adamek](#), [Angelle Alcock](#), [William Bruce](#), [John Craig](#), [Camille Creed](#), [Sydney Davis](#), [Matt Guillot](#), [Katie Johnson](#), [Brighton Keller](#), [Jason Krumholt](#), [Matt Mick](#), [Vishwajeet Potnis](#), [Anne-Victoria Traylor](#), [Emily Turner](#), and [Chris Williams](#).
- [Kari Holton](#), sixth grade Lab School student, was honored at the Young Authors' Celebration hosted by the Capital Area Reading Council for her fiction titled, "Flies With Eagles."
- Lab School chess team members [Chris Akers](#), [Zach Bayam](#), and [Ian Crowe](#) garnered third place in their division at the State Chess Tournament in Lake Charles, LA. For individual scores, Akers won first, Bayam won fifth, and Crowe won seventh place.
- Lab School senior [Melissa Broussard](#) (2006) graduated on the 70th anniversary year as a University High alumna of her grandmother [Lillian Champagne Broussard](#) (1936).

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Sue Antoinette Abshire

"Exploring Implicit Versus Explicit Methods of Teaching Phonemic Awareness Instruction to Kindergarten Students"
Advisor: Earl Cheek, Patrick & Edwidge Olinde Endowed Professor

Laura Marshall Jewett

"A Delicate Dance: Autoethnography, Curriculum, and the Semblance of Intimacy"
Advisors: William E. Doll, Vira Franklin and J.R. Eagles Endowed Professor, and William F. Pinar, Professor Emeritus

Nicholas Anthony Ng-A-Fook

"Understanding an Indigenous Curriculum in Louisiana Through Listening to Houma Oral Histories"
Advisor: William F. Pinar, Professor Emeritus

Donna Marie Porche-Frilot

"Propelled by Faith: Henriette Delille and the Literacy Practices of Black Women Religious in Antebellum New Orleans"
Advisor: Petra Munro Hendry, Professor

Sarah Elizabeth Smitherman

"Reflections on Teaching a Mathematics Education Course"
Advisor: William E. Doll, Vira Franklin and J.R. Eagles Endowed Professor

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY

Charity Leigh Bryan

"Self-Determination in Physical Education: Designing Class Environments to Promote Active Lifestyles"
Advisor: Melinda A. Solmon, Roy Paul Daniels Endowed Professor

Lisa Gaye Johnson

"Physical Activity Behavior of University Students: An Ecological Approach"
Advisor: Melinda A. Solmon, Roy Paul Daniels Endowed Professor

Michael William Olson

"Biomechanical Characteristics of Low Back Tissues during Trunk Flexion-Extension"
Advisor: Li Li, Associate Professor

Tracie Rena Parish

"Examination of the Constructs of the Transtheoretical Model in Patients with Heart Failure: A Focus on Physical Activity Readiness"
Advisor: Michael Welsch, Robert H. & Patricia A. Hines Professor, Associate Professor

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH, AND COUNSELING

Menthia Patrice Clark

"Say It Loud! I'm Black and I'm Proud! A Study of Successful Black Female Students Educated in an Urban Middle School"
Advisor: Dianne L. Taylor, Associate Professor

Dorian L. McCoy

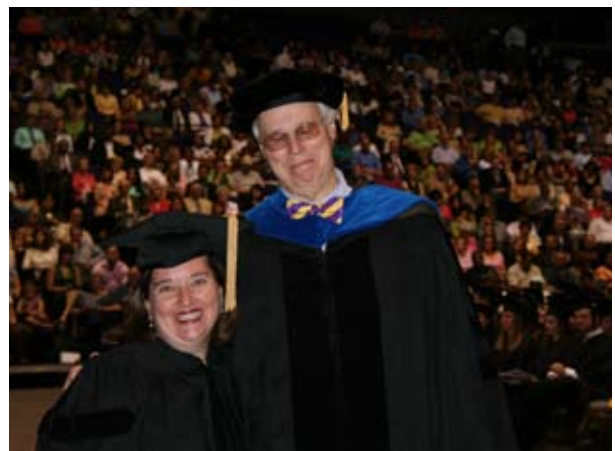
"Entering the Academy: Exploring the Socialization Experiences of African American Male Faculty"
Advisor: Becky Ropers-Huilman, Associate Professor

Shirley Benson McDonald

"The Role of Technology in the Interactions between Secondary School Library Media Specialists and Teachers"
Advisor: Janice Hinson, Associate Professor

Cynthia Beatty Vavasseur

"How Principal Participation in an Online Community of Practice Impacts the Professional Development Experience of Middle School Teachers"
Advisor: S. Kim MacGregor, Associate Professor



Above: Sarah Smitherman (EDCI) and William Doll
Below: Lisa Johnson (Kinesiology) and Melinda Solmon





The University Laboratory School has the highest percentage of National Board Certified Teachers. They are pictured **Above L to R:** (Back Row) Patsy Scates, Amy Clark, Frank Rusciano, Judith Gremillion, Steve Delacroix, Worth Thompson, Christelle Thompson; (Middle Row) Nancy Jurasinski, Barbara DeCuir, Joanna Faerber, Ellen Daugherty, Gail Guillot, Nancy Von Brock, Carol Young; (Front Row) Adele Dufrene, Catherine Rosenfeld, Donna Lamonte, Jeanne Jendrzewski, Helen Headlee, and Candence Robillard.

Newsweek Ranks U-High in Top Five Percent of U.S. Public High Schools

Melissa Babcock Argrave, Contributor

For the second consecutive year, Newsweek magazine ranked the Louisiana State University Laboratory School or U-High in its listing of "America's Best High Schools."

At number 201, the University Laboratory School is the only public school in the state of Louisiana to appear on the list. U-High moved up two spots on the list, ranked number 203 in 2005.

Newsweek researchers list all schools that achieved a ratio of at least 1.000 on the Challenge Index, a measurement based on an equal ratio of a school's graduates compared to the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests administered there. This year 1,139 schools made the list.

University Laboratory School Director [Wade Smith](#) said, "We commend the U-High faculty for creating a learning environment which excites our students about learning while challenging them to high goals."

In the current issue of Newsweek, Barbara Kantrowitz and Pat Wingert wrote in their article "What Makes a High School Great," "With our Best High Schools list, Newsweek recognizes schools that do the best job of preparing average students for college. By dividing the number of AP and IB tests taken at a school by the number of graduating seniors, we can measure how committed the school is to helping kids take college-level

courses. We think kids at those schools have an edge, no matter their economic background."

"Our students excel because they embrace the challenging AP and IB curriculum," Smith added.

According to Jay Mathews, an education reporter and online columnist with the "Washington Post" who developed the Challenge Index rating system utilized by Newsweek, these schools comprise the top 5 percent of American high schools.

Mathews added, "Studies by U. S. Department of Education senior researcher Clifford Adelman in 1999 and 2005 showed that the best predictor of college graduation was not good high-school grades or test scores but whether or not a student had an intense academic experience in high school. Such experiences were produced by taking higher-level math and English courses and struggling with the demands of college-level courses like AP or IB."

The LSU Lab School was the first International Baccalaureate school in the state of Louisiana. University High School Principal [Albert Camburn](#) said he credits the IB program for his student success, "Our IB Diploma graduates are superbly prepared for the rigors of college academics." Camburn also acknowledged his students success to a strong, well-prepared, and knowledgeable faculty.



WHERE ARE THEY HEADED?

EDCI

Lauren Chatelain
Teacher
Washington, DC

Laura Compton
Graduate Student
LSU-Baton Rouge

Robert DeKleine
Teacher
New Jersey

Rosemary Hagius
Teacher of Algebra I
J. Frank Dobie High School;
Houston, TX

Joshua Laborde
Teacher and Coach
Port Allen High School, LA

Christina Oatis
Graduate Student/Curriculum
& Instruction with a focus on
Mathematics
LSU-Baton Rouge

Cynthia Oby
Graduate Student/Art Education
LSU-Baton Rouge

KINESIOLOGY

Erin Bolin
Graduate Assistant/Medical
Outreach at hospital and high
school
University of Texas at Tyler

Ashley Bonck
Certified Athletic Trainer
Graduate Assistantship
University of Oklahoma

Robyn Bossier
Clinical Exercise Physiologist
Cardiopulmonary Reconditioning
Program
Our Lady of the Lake Regional
Medical Center; Baton Rouge, LA

Alix Boudreaux
Graduate Student/Physical
Therapy
University of St. Augustine for
Health Sciences; FL

Calyn Davis Bunol
Registered Dietitian
Touro Medical Center; New
Orleans, LA

Natalie Cohn
Graduate Student/Occupational
Therapy
Texas Women's University

Nicole Curtis
Graduate Student/Physical
Therapy
Thomas Jefferson University;
Philadelphia, PA

Renee Davis
Graduate Student/Physical
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University of St. Augustine for
Health Sciences; FL

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Washington University in St.
Louis, Missouri

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Therapy
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Shreveport, LA

Steven Fremin
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Therapy
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and University of St. Augustine for
Health Sciences; FL

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Department of Human Nutrition,
Foods & Exercise; Blacksburg, VA

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Mobile

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Shreveport, LA

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Therapy
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Health Sciences; FL

Patrick O'Brien
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Shreveport, LA

Ashley Riley
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Assistant
LSU Health Sciences Center;
Shreveport, LA

Jennifer Riley
Graduate Student/Physician
Assistant
LSU Health Sciences Center;
Shreveport, LA

Shaina Riser
Graduate Assistant
Nicholls State University;
Thibodeaux, LA

Suzette Songy
Graduate Student/Physical
Therapy
Attending Bellmont, Vanderbilt

Patrick Whitley
Athletic Trainer Intern
Miami Dolphins; FL

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Brian Casemore
George Washington University

Nicole Guillory
Kennesaw University

Elecia Lathon
Southern University at Baton
Rouge

Nicholas Ng-A-Fook
University of Ottawa; Quebec,
Canada

Donna Porche-Frilot
Educational Consultant

La Tefy Schoen
North Carolina State University

Sarah Smitherman
University of North Carolina at
Greensboro

Donna Trueit
University of Victoria; British
Columbia, Canada

FOREVER LSU

LSU Team Trying to Reduce Risk of Falling among Louisiana Seniors

Every year, one out of three adults over the age of 60 will fall. Approximately half of these falls will require hospitalization. Falls represent the number one cause of injurious death to older adults. For those who survive, falls pose serious threats to independence and quality of life. In addition, falls place a tremendous financial burden on families, the community, and health care systems. Moreover, growing evidence suggests that a high percentage of falls are preventable.

Students and Faculty from the LSU College of Education Department of Kinesiology have partnered with a number of other scientists and community agencies to address senior health issues. The partnership, known as the Louisiana Active Aging Partnership (LAAAP), has recently begun implementing a falls-prevention program in East Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding areas.

The lead organization on the project is the LSU Department of Kinesiology, spearheaded by faculty members [Bob Wood](#) and [Becky Gardner](#), and doctoral student [Jennifer Fabre](#). Participating graduate students include [Iina Antikainen](#) (pictured top right), [Fernanda Holton](#) (pictured bottom left), [Delilah Moore](#), [Kevin Paul](#), [Phil Page](#), [Brent Rhodes](#), [Ryan Russell](#), and [Shivani Singh](#).

To date, the investigative team has piloted a falls risk screening and education program at several sites. These include the West



Baton Rouge Parish Council on Aging, the Leo S. Butler Center, the A.C Lewis and Southside Branches of the YMCA, St. James Place CCRC, and the St. Paul's Catholic Center. The pilot sites have allowed the researchers to reach approximately 150 seniors.

The screening includes a brief evaluation of medical history, medication usage, past falls, and home safety survey along with some simple tests of balance, mobility, and visual acuity.

The participants are provided with a summary of the screening results, educational materials, and individualized counseling regarding strategies for lowering their risk of falls.

The LAAAP plans to take the falls prevention program statewide this fall with the assistance of the LSU Agricultural Extension and other members of the partnership.

Info?

If you have questions about material contained in this publication or would like to submit a story idea, please contact:

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