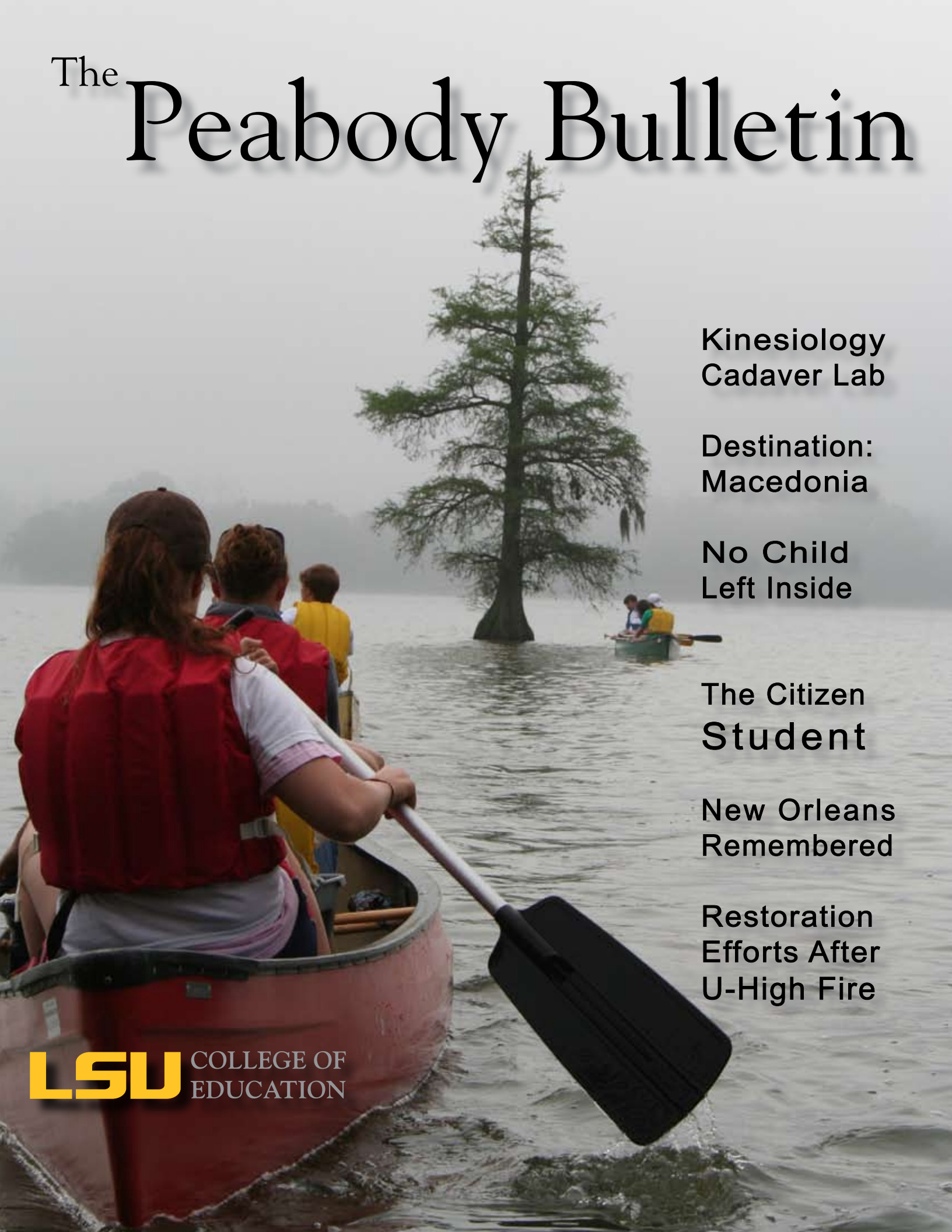


The Peabody Bulletin

A group of people are seen from behind, sitting in a red canoe on a calm body of water. They are wearing life jackets; the person in the foreground is wearing a red one, and others further back are wearing yellow and blue ones. They are holding oars. In the background, a large, dark tree grows out of the water, its trunk submerged. The sky is overcast and the water is a greyish-blue.

Kinesiology
Cadaver Lab

Destination:
Macedonia

No Child
Left Inside

The Citizen
Student

New Orleans
Remembered

Restoration
Efforts After
U-High Fire

The Peabody Bulletin

A Communiqué from the Dean

Volume 3, Issue 2



By the time this issue of The Peabody Bulletin goes to press, the current legislative session will be over. It looks like this was an historical session for LSU in a variety of ways. Through the efforts of our upper administration, the people of Louisiana have conveyed confidence in LSU by supporting us as a result of a variety of legislative mandates and a renewed interest in the Flagship Agenda.

As the Flagship College of Education in the state, it will be important for us to achieve the expectations implied by these legislative mandates. Many of the articles in this issue convey the excellence that is a part of our tradition and future. We continue to lead the state in educational and healthy living research, teaching, and service. Our innovative programs, outreach efforts, and scholarly activities have significant practical implications for our various professional and academic communities in the state as well as nationally and internationally. We share pride in the hard work of our faculty and students who represent the College of Education and LSU around the country and abroad.

I received an email from a faculty member at the University of Arkansas praising ETPP Department Chair [Earl Cheek](#), Instructor Gerlinde Beckers, and recent Ph.D. graduate Evan Ortlieb for their contributions to the recent University of Arkansas Literacy Symposium. She commended them on their professional demeanor, “uniquely distinct presentation style,” and command of the research literature in the area of differentiated literacy for diverse learners. This is just one example of the many ways our faculty and students make and receive recognition for significant contributions through their scholarly efforts.

In addition to scholarly contributions, our faculty are involved in numerous collaborative efforts to continually expand our reach and diversity. For example, we have met with key individuals across the university to develop an international exchange program in the Department of Kinesiology in collaboration with Disney World. Kinesiology Chair [Amelia Lee](#) has been working with Disney representatives to provide opportunities for international students to take classes at LSU and work in a supervised internship at Disney World.

While our College develops learning opportunities and experiences that make us unique, we also seek to capture important data on our activities for analysis and improvement. Following intense deliberations about a comprehensive electronic assessment system replacement, we are in the process of making our final recommendation to Academic Affairs. Assessment and Accountability Coordinator [Paula Summers Calderon](#), Ph.D., has worked tirelessly with faculty at



Dean M. Jayne Fleener encourages College of Education faculty, staff, and students to initiate in community service projects. Here Fleener is pictured reading Senator Edward M. Kennedy's book *My Senator and Me: A Dog's-Eye View of Washington, D.C.* to second graders in Mrs. Jill Crutti's class. Dean Fleener's mixed breed dog "Gaia" joined the class and reportedly stole the show.

LSU, coordinators at the other institutions across the state, and a variety of vendors who are interested in working with LSU teacher and leadership preparation programs. Once this system and implementation plan is approved, Dr. Calderon will provide training for and work with faculty who prepare P-12 educational professionals to integrate unit and program assessments into the new system.

As we begin a new fiscal year, I look forward to working with department chairs, division leaders, faculty, and staff as we welcome our new faculty colleagues and embark on another year of excellence. While we focus on the upcoming year, we are also developing ways to celebrate the College's centennial anniversary (1908-2008). We are planning a variety of activities and events to showcase 100 years of research, teaching, and service. This will be a rare opportunity for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends to celebrate and promote the many areas of excellence in the LSU College of Education.

M. Jayne Fleener

M. Jayne Fleener, Ph.D.
E.B. "Ted" Robert Professor and Dean

COVER PHOTOS: University High School Students took to the university lakes as part of a year-long water quality testing project in instructor Steve Babcock's science class. For more information about the Lab School's environmental awareness activities, see page 4.

Inside

Cadaver Lab Demonstration	2
Sponsored Programs Activity	6
8 th Annual Kinesiology Golf Classic	8
Honors & Awards Convocation	12
Faculty Farewell	15
No Child Left Inside	16
Commencement	18
The Citizen Student	20
New Orleans Remembered	24
U-High Gymnasium Restoration	28
New Faculty	29
Peak Performance Clinics	30



Kinesiology Students Get the Upper Hand: *Cutting-Edge Cadaver Laboratory*

The LSU Department of Kinesiology is offering cutting-edge training for students by providing access to cadaver-based anatomy courses through a collaborative effort between the LSU Health Sciences Center and the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

"The minute these students graduate and enter professional schools, the first thing out of the chute is gross anatomy," said [Wanda Hargroder](#), a professor in the department and one of the

visionaries behind the lab.

"There are other options. You can teach courses which use CDs and computer animated graphics to illustrate anatomy, but you cannot replace the detailed, in-depth, hands-on instruction that access to a cadaver lab provides students," added Hargroder. "It gives our students a significant advantage."

"I see it as a no-brainer," echoed [Kara Spinks](#), a

sophomore in kinesiology who said she first learned of the class from Kinesiology Associate Professor [Dennis Landin](#).

"Why would you pass up an opportunity to have a hands-on experience like this, guided so closely by a faculty member?"

Spinks also remarked that she feels extremely prepared as an undergraduate, working one-on-one with the kinesiology faculty. "A lot of students tell us that once they are in grad school, you just get thrown right in. At

ABOVE: Kinesiology Associate Professor Dennis Landin (pictured far left) traveled to New Orleans for professional training with LSU Health Sciences faculty on teaching cadaver courses with fellow kinesiology faculty Ray Castle, Wanda Hargroder, and Melissa Thompson. FACING PAGE/UPPER RIGHT: LSU Department of Kinesiology Instructor Melissa Thompson conducted a dissection demonstration for students, faculty, and LSU College of Education administrators. FACING PAGE/BOTTOM: Students in the course gathered in groups to analyze aspects of the human anatomy.

least this way, we've been there, done that."

"We want to know what to expect, to be prepared," said Laura Roan, a graduate student in biological sciences.

"Having this on your resume, immediately separates you from the rest," added zoology graduate student Courtney Cain.

Roan and Cain are also both research associates at Pennington Biomedical Research Center and beginning the long application process for medical schools.

The course "KIN 1999" is a special topics pro-section lab offered for the first time spring 2007. In addition, the course "KIN 4501" will allow 10-15 students the opportunity to actively dissect cadavers this summer.

The spring class immediately filled to capacity serving 40 students in its first semester. The summer section is also booked.

"We have the interest," said [Melissa Thompson](#), a kinesiology instructor. "Students are begging us to get in this class. We would love to allow more students access to this unique learning environment, but we are limited by funding and space issues."

And, while these courses attract students from a variety of disciplines such as basic sciences, they also provide an opportunity for College of Education faculty to initiate research opportunities with other health sciences faculty on

campus and nationally.

Along with Hargroder, kinesiology faculty members Landin, Thompson, and [Ray Castle](#) drove to New Orleans for professional training on teaching cadaver courses and developed solid relationships with members of the LSU Health Sciences Faculty.

The formation of the cadaver laboratory was one example





of the department's expanded mission. Department of Kinesiology Chair [Amelia Lee](#) summarized the breadth of the focus "to include the dissemination of knowledge on all aspects of physical activity and its effects on the human organism."

The department uses cutting-edge technology in several laboratories to study muscle movement in live subjects. For example, students and faculty have access to Biodex and Flourescopic machines, which use advance technology to measure muscle performance and visualize joint movements.

"If you pick up an issue of Grey's Anatomy, you'll see that descriptions of muscle activons haven't changed much since the 1800s," said Landin. "But, with the Biodex and other machines, we can offer a much

deeper understanding and definitive descriptions of human movement," added Landin.

"We conduct our research using live human subjects and then follow-up with the cadavers for educational and clinical instruction. Eventually we hope to make our cadaver lab available to the medical community for demonstrating and practicing new medical procedures such as disk repair or other high-demand surgeries."

This technology paired with access to the cadavers is something that really sets LSU undergraduate students apart from the rest.

"Access to cadavers is critical to the development of three-dimensional view of human anatomy that is the cornerstone of understanding injuries for our athletic training students," said Thompson.

During the final semester before graduation, athletic training students sit for their national medical board licensing exams concluding a total of six clinical education semesters.

LSU Staff Athletic Trainer Ana Gross explained that hands-on practical training is essential.

"Nothing in medicine is exactly like the book," she said. "Each person – each body – is different. You have to be in the lab to get the complete understanding of the human anatomy for application in the field."

Landin added that the class only draws the most fascinated of students.

"We don't have bored students or those who skip class," he said. "They are really interested

ABOVE: This summer, 15 LSU students, who were enrolled in KIN 4501, were able to actively dissect cadavers.

in the subject matter and that makes for an excellent interaction with the students.”

Landin explained, for instance, how the class that focused on the heart is always an exhilarating one because students can handle the heart and interact with the major blood vessels.

“Everyone knows a good deal about the heart. We all have a sort of common knowledge about what it does and how important it is. But, to hold one in your hand, to see inside it, to feel inside it – gives a deep understanding of how truly magnificent that organ is.”

Other classes that stood out in his memory were focused on the lungs and chest.

Landin noted one class that analyzed the thoracic cavity.

“Students saw one of the main arteries that flow to the

brain nearly completely plugged with plaque, one main cause of stroke. This was on a cadaver that had more than eight inches of fat tissue. It’s a real eye opener.”

In addition to gaining a better understanding about how our lifestyle choices have a tremendous impact on our health, these LSU students are also expanding their resumes.

“With access to a human cadaver lab, LSU students have an opportunity that probably less than 10 percent of the 350-plus degree programs in athletic training offer nationwide,” said Castle. “Our highly-prepared students are competitive and will eventually enter the workforce as competent and skilled healthcare providers.”

And, while the lab is critical for student preparation and could lead to forming collaborative faculty networking, this program is also important to Louisiana.

By improving the quality of education for LSU students as they prepare to enter medical and allied health professional schools, many of these students return to the region after completing their degrees.

“The lab will have a positive effect on healthcare and economic development in the state,” said College of Education Dean [M. Jayne Fleener](#), adding, “This is a tangible example of engaged students and faculty impacting our community.”

“Nothing in
medicine
is exactly
like the
book. Each
person,
each
body, is
different.”

—Ana Gross, LSU
Staff Athletic Trainer

MACGREGOR RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SERVICE-LEARNING RESEARCH



Current TIAA-CREF Service-Learning Research Fellow and College of Education Associate Professor [S. Kim MacGregor](#) (pictured above left, with Center for Community Engagement, Learning & Leadership Director Jan Shoemaker) received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Service-Learning Research at the Gulf-South Summit Conference in March 2007. MacGregor’s research focuses on the assessment of academic programs particularly on programs in higher education aimed toward integrating service-learning experiences into course content. Through a series of papers, MacGregor’s research reflects a commitment to developing deeper understanding of how the service-learning experience can be maximized and how the partnership between the community and the academy can be strengthened.

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

AWARDED GRANTS

- Carson, Russell. (2007, March). Take Action: Healthy People, Places, & Practices in Communities. *United States Department of Health and Human Services*: \$5,000.
- Denny, R. Kenton. (2007, April). Louisiana Coalition for Positive Behavioral Support. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$1,468, 672.
- Gaston, Suzan. (2007, March). 2007-08 LSYOU Year-Round Program (Active & Follow-up Students). WIA 21-EBR: City of Baton Rouge: \$199,999.
- Gaston, Suzan. (2007, June). 2007-2008 LSYOU Year Round Program. *Tangipahoa Parish School Board*: \$359,610.
- Willis, Elizabeth (with J. Norris). (2007, May). Louisiana Literacy Plan: East Feliciana. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$60,000.
- Willis, Elizabeth. (2007, January). LSU Writing Project. *National Writing Project*: \$45,000.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

- Blanchard, Pamela. (2007, May). LSU Coastal Roots Program. *Pennington Foundation*: \$10,000.
- Carson, Russell. (2007, March). Take Action: Healthy People, Places, & Practices in Communities. *United States Department of Health and Human Services*: \$5,000.
- Cheek, Earl; Callender, Karen; and Denny, Margaret. (2007, May). Louisiana Professional Development School Partnership. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$249,593.
- Denny, R. Kenton; and Callender, Karen. (2007, May). Louisiana Professional Development School Coordination Grant. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$232,423.
- Denny, R. Kenton. (2007, April). Louisiana Coalition for Positive Behavioral Support. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$1,499,754.
- Gaston, Suzan. (2007, May). LSYOU—Louisiana State Youth Unlimited Program. *Pennington Foundation*: \$50,000.
- Gaston, Suzan. (2007, May). LSYOU Summer Food Service Program. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$6,666.
- Gaston, Suzan. (2007, June). 2007-2008 LSYOU Year Round Program. *Tangipahoa Parish School Board*: \$359,610.
- Kirshner, David. (2007, March). Structural Understanding of Algebra. *National Science Foundation*: \$299,983.
- McHardy, Robbie. (2007, May). Accessing Gifted Education Through Technology. *Jack Kent Cooke Foundation*: \$600,000.
- Willis, Elizabeth (with J. Norris). (2007, May). Louisiana Literacy Plan: East Feliciana. *Louisiana Department of Education*: \$60,000.
- Willis, Elizabeth. (2007, January). LSU Writing Project. *National Writing Project*: \$45,000.



Destination: Macedonia

Lence Miloseva, Ph.D., joined the College of Education as the Junior Faculty Development Program Fellow (JFDP). The JFDP is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State and is administered by American Councils for International Education.

Miloseva joined the College from Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia, with a focus in developmental psychology. She will expand her research to include educational psychology, focusing on individual's ability to cope with stress and implementation of these methods into programs at universities and schools.

The JFDP is a non-degree, professional development program that provides promising junior university faculty with the opportunity to develop new courses and implement curriculum reform at their home institutions, cultivate teaching skills and techniques derived from exposure to U.S. educational methods, expand the information base in their fields of study, and become a vehicle for on-going contact and exchange between home and host institutions.

8th Annual Kinesiology Golf Classic



The 8th Annual Kinesiology Golf Classic was held on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at the LSU Golf Course. One hundred golfers attended and played in the tournament. This year, the tournament raised \$15,000 for student scholarships that are given each year by the College of Education, Department of Kinesiology.

“The golf tournament brings our friends and supporters together for a fun Saturday. We raise money for our deserving students and bring awareness to the community about who we are and what we do as a department,” said Kinesiology Instructor [Helene Afeman](#), who is also co-coordinator of the tournament.

Major sponsors this year were LSU Head Basketball Coach John Brady, Walk-On’s Restaurant, and Laser Center for Sight, each donating \$500 or more to the tournament.

ABOVE: 100 golfers lined up for a shotgun start and a cloudless day on the LSU Golf Course.

RIGHT/L to R: Jane Bateman, Dana Berthelot, Wanda Hargroder, and Robyn Wool Folk were one of 25 four-person teams that raised \$15,000 in student scholarships.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



PK-3 Program Celebrates Accomplishments

BELOW: The PK-3 program held a luncheon for their first cohort of graduating seniors at Juban's Restaurant on March 11, 2007. Teaching Strategies, an early childhood education publishing company, selected the LSU Preschool as a model site for a video they are currently producing. Teaching Strategies also publishes the Creative Curriculum, the most prestigious and widely used preschool curriculum. Along with the success of the highly competitive PK-3 program, graduates are also experiencing success outside of LSU. [Caitlin Fontenot](#) and [Afton Tucker](#) have accepted positions at Northwestern Elementary School in Zachary. [Christina Freyder](#) was accepted to Mississippi University for Women in Columbus for graduate study in reading and literacy. [Kerri Blue](#) received the Pathways Scholarship for fall 2007.



College of Education Faculty Make Impressive Show at International Conference

College of Education faculty and students made 42 presentations at the American Educational Research Association's (AERA) meeting in Chicago in April 2007. The theme of this year's meeting was The World of Educational Quality. Founded in 1916, AERA is the most prominent international professional organization concerned with improving the educational process by encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education and evaluation and by promoting the dissemination and practical application of research results.

Teacher Recruitment Day

LEFT: LSU Career Services hosted the Spring 2007 Teacher Recruitment Day on March 28, 2007, in the Maddox Field House. One hundred and eighteen schools from 17 different states attended the event. Two hundred and eleven students scheduled over 700 interviews with recruiters.



Professor Presents at Cardiology Conference

ABOVE: At the American College of Cardiology 2007 conference in New Orleans [Mike Welsch](#) (pictured far right at Honors Convocation) presented a slide and lecture program for Medscape entitled Cardiac Rehabilitation Emergence, Neglect, and Resurgence.

Students Selected for Who's Who

[Marci Mayet Dill](#) and [Amanda Leigh Villarrubia](#) were selected for the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. They were chosen for their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success. They are two of only 31 students chosen from LSU.



ABOVE: A group of fifth-graders present their findings on the effects of the hurricanes to the lower grade students in an interactive presentation.

Lab School Holds Annual Primary Years Programme Exhibition

The Laboratory School Primary Years Programme held its annual exhibition on May 14 – 15, 2007. The fifth-grade students presented the results of their inquiries for the younger schoolmates, parents, and faculty that toured the exhibition.

The central point of the exhibition was “Living and non-living factors affect biomes and ecosystems around the world.” Areas of study included the effects of ocean pollution on marine life, effects of sewage on surface water used for drinking, the disappearance of coral reefs around the world, effects of exceeding fishing limits, the effects of hurricanes on oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, the effects of hurricanes on erosion of coastal Louisiana, and many more.

This annual exhibition gives students the opportunity to engage in an in-depth collaborative inquiry and unites the students, teachers, parents, and other members of the school community in a collaborative experience that incorporates the essential elements of the Primary Years Programme. It also gives students, parents, and faculty the opportunity to celebrate the transition of learners from primary to middle/secondary education.



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Spotlight on New Staff

JENNIFER NEUBAUER
Coordinator of Communications
College of Education Office of Public Affairs

Jennifer Neubauer joined the College of Education in May 2007. Before joining the staff, Neubauer was an intern with the College while taking classes for her B.A. in print journalism, which she received from the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication in May.

Neubauer assists with coordinating and creating activities and print/online communication materials for marketing, publications, public/alumni relations, and development initiatives. In addition she interviews and photographs individuals and events to write and coordinate content for news releases, media advisories, brochures, flyers, and event/academic publicity materials.

Previously Neubauer also interned for the Baton Rouge Bar Association where she collected information for writing press releases and content for publications, in addition to assisting with the coordination of special events.



World Language Fair

The University Laboratory School held the World Language fair on April 27, 2007. More than 600 elementary students participated, all of which receive daily French instruction from [Christelle Thompson](#) and [Helen Reynaud](#) or Spanish instruction from [Gabriella Moscarelli](#) and [Virginia Fernandez](#). In addition, 100 high school students in Spanish and 50 high school students in French worked booths at the fair.

The organization and planning of the event was done in French and all activities were conducted in French by the high school students. French and Spanish Club students put together all the materials and made the games for the fair. The high school students were able to speak French and Spanish to the elementary students and successfully adapted their approach to the varied age groups visiting the booths.



ABOVE: Students attending the language fair had the opportunity to play La Petanque, a French ball game.

Awards & Activities

- [Chris Akers](#), [Zach Bayam](#), [Ben Simpson](#), and [Carson Prewett](#) attended the state chess tournament in New Orleans on April 21, 2007. Simpson won all five games and 1st place in his K-8 under 800 division, and Prewett won the bronze medal. Together they won the 3rd place school trophy for their division. Bayam won the gold medal for his K-12 under 1000 division and Akers won 10th place for his K-12 open division.
- The U-High Boys and Girls Tennis Teams won the state 2A championship tennis tournament. The Boys Singles title was won by [Hunter Odom](#) and the Boys Doubles by [Eric Landry](#) and [Christian Armstrong](#). Girls Doubles title was won by [Katherine Rossi](#) and [Carley Wahlborg](#). [Kylie Adamek](#) placed 2nd in Girls Singles. Also contributing for the teams were [Bryson Agnew](#), [Tyler Willson](#), [David Drake](#), [Taylor Scala](#), [Coleman Wahlborg](#), [Caroline Burks](#), [Kristin Crifasi](#), [Mary Allison Johnson](#), [Katie Breland](#), [Ellis Ducote](#), [Coach Shoptaugh](#), and [Coach Waglborg](#).
- In the recent Louisiana Council for Economic Education's Stock Market Game, U-High students occupied 47 of the first 50 places in the Baton Rouge area and finished 1st, 2nd, and 4th in the statewide rankings.
 - [Dave Dixon](#), 12th grade: 1st place in Baton Rouge and state with a return of 30.43 percent;
 - [Clay Adamak](#), 10th grade: 2nd place in Baton Rouge and state with a return of 24.06 percent; and
 - [Casey Hawkland](#), 10th grade: 3rd place in Baton Rouge and 4th place in state with a return of 15.05 percent.
- [Meredith Broussard](#) and [Austin Bennett](#) placed 1st and 3rd in The Advocate's annual Holocaust Essay Writing Contest. Both students were honored at a ceremony at Beth Shalom Temple.
- The following students placed in the top five in the State Literary Rally: [David Blum](#), 3rd in American History; [Matt Deville](#), 2nd in Sociology; [Andrew Meng](#), 1st in Chemistry; [Alex Pietrogallo](#), 1st in Spanish III; [Vish Pontis](#), 1st in Computer Science; [Ashton Stewart](#), 5th in Biology II
- **RIGHT:** The U-High poetry slam team won the WordPlay All City Poetry Slam Festival. Team members were [Lyn Denby](#), [Katie Humphries](#), [Molly Kennedy](#), [Shelley Moore](#), and [Austin Winslow](#). The team was coached by Baton Rouge slam poet [Donney Rose](#). Kennedy and Winslow were selected to represent Baton Rouge as part of Brave New Voices, the national teen poetry slam championship in San Jose, California this summer.



For more news on the
University Laboratory School, visit
www.uhigh.lsu.edu



HONORS & AWARDS CONVOCATION

The 2007 College of Education Honors Convocation, honoring more than 180 outstanding students, faculty, and staff members, was held on April 29, at 2 p.m. in the Lod Cook Alumni Center on the LSU campus.

Thirteen faculty members were recognized for awards in their fields of expertise or professional associations. During the ceremony, the college honored 25 undergraduate students and 59 graduate students who have received scholarships awarded by the college, as well as 82 students who maintained a 4.0 grade-point average during the fall 2006 semester while taking at least 15 hours.

Additionally, students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in academic or community service organizations were recognized for their contributions. The college also named the outstanding sophomore, junior and senior, along with recognizing 16 other students who have received various university honors. The college's student council was recognized for having received LSU Student Government's most outstanding council designation.

LSU College of Basic Sciences major [Jacquelyn Zimmerman](#), who is seeking a concentration in secondary education, was recognized as a Barry M. Goldwater Fellowship Recipient. Also recognized were LSU Lab School students who have earned National Merit distinction: [Chase Smithburg](#), National Merit Finalist; [Karl Schultz](#), National Merit Commended Student; and [Amy Heard](#), National Merit Achievement Finalist.

"It is my honor to congratulate our exemplary students and faculty for these numerous awards and accomplishments," said College of Education Dean [M. Jayne Fleener](#). "This flagship College of Education is built on the excellence of our students and faculty."





The ceremony highlighted members of the College of Education, which includes the Department of Educational Theory, Policy and Practice and the Department of Kinesiology as well as the University Laboratory School. The college also acknowledged students in collaborative programs such as “Geaux Teach,” in which students pursue a concentration in secondary education leading to teacher certification while earning a degree through the College of Arts & Sciences or Basic Sciences in a specific content area such as mathematics or biological sciences.



FACING PAGE/TOP: College of Education Council President Amanda Villarrubbia presenting at the ceremony.

FACING PAGE/BOTTOM/L to R: Three College of Education-affiliated students were selected for the Who's Who class of 2007. Jacquelyn Zimmerman (College of Basic Sciences; secondary education concentration) and Amanda Villarrubbia (Elementary Holmes; Psychology) attended the ceremony. Marci Mayet Dill also received the award but was not present for the photo.

TOP: Recipients of the Lillian Oleson Scholarship.

CENTER: Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice Department Chair Earl Cheek received an award for reaching the 30-year service milestone.

RIGHT: Early Childhood Education Majors Jessie Speer and Afton Tucker received several awards at the ceremony.



Lab School Teachers Encourage Environmental Awareness

Melissa Babcock Argrave,
Contributor

In conjunction with the national Earth Day Groceries Project on April 22, 2007, [Marty Loupe](#) invited Lab School students to collect paper grocery bags that they then decorated with environmental messages to pack groceries for shoppers at Winn-Dixie on Lee Drive.

Along with Loupe's efforts, Lab School High School Science Instructor [Steve Babcock](#) led more than 16 science students on a canoeing expedition in the LSU Lakes on March 30, 2007. His class launched from the LSU docks at 8:30 a.m. and included activities such as water testing and netting trash.

The canoeing trip was the culminating activity for a year-long water quality testing project of the lakes and shoreline that involved activities such as canoe skills and water safety, water sampling and testing from open water areas, map and compass-reading skills, plant and habitat assessment, identification of primary uses and impairments, service and stewardship.



LSU Graduate Students Collaborate with BRCC on Technology Integration

College of Education Associate Professor [Janice Hinson](#) led a group of educational technology graduate students to develop ways for Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) faculty members to integrate new technologies into their teaching practices. The collaborative project teamed up with BRCC Media Services Coordinator Regina Perry and included presentations on podcasting, Webcasting, and tablet PCs, which are installed on the podiums in each classroom.

The students developed training materials such as PowerPoint presentations, workshop guidelines, and step-by-step tip sheets along with examples of use in several different content areas. These materials will help professors at BRCC to utilize emerging technologies within their

curriculum, which can enhance their instructional offerings to the students.

In addition, the students assisted with the development of four unit plans using educational software to create graphic organizers, directed Internet searches, animation, newsletters, and greeting cards. This technology component will be a part of the new teacher education curriculum beginning at BRCC in fall 2007.

The students presented their projects to the BRCC Academic Council on May 1, 2007, where they received enthusiastic support for their work. Hinson and Perry plan to continue collaborating on future projects. Two graduate students in educational technology will also complete internships at BRCC this summer to help them develop their teacher education Web site.



FAREWELL TO RETIRING FACULTY

On April 28, 2007, the College of Education hosted a retirement celebration for two of its beloved faculty members.

William “Bill” Doll has been an educator for more than 50 years and retired from the College as the Vira Franklin & J.R. Eagles Professor. In addition to publishing four books, writing countless articles, co-founding the Curriculum Theory Project, and traveling the world as an international scholar, Bill Doll is known by many as a legend in curriculum, revolutionizing the field by introducing complexity and chaos. In 2005, he received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Educational Research Association.

Terry Geske, the J. Franklin Bayhi Professor of Education, first joined the College as a faculty member in the former Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Counseling in 1984. He has published extensively in the areas of the economics of education and education finance policy. His research efforts were concerned with schools of choice, charter schools, higher education finance, and the TOPS program in Louisiana. Geske has served as a member on the Oversight Committee for Tax Plan Propositions for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System. In 2005, his work landed him a seat at the Oxford Round Table, focused that year on economics and the financing of education.



ABOVE: Bill Doll (in purple and gold bowtie) stands with current and former students.

BELOW/L to R: History Professor Karl Roider and Terry Geske at the retirement party.

“While many across the world know William Doll as a famous scholar, we here at LSU have had the profound privilege of knowing Bill Doll on a much more intimate level—as a colleague, teacher, friend, and simply fellow human being.”

*—Petra Munro Hendry,
Co-Director of the
Curriculum Theory Project*

No CHILD LEFT INSIDE

PK-3 Program Kicks-Off Week of the Young Child



On April 22, 2007, the Association for the Education of Young Children at LSU (AEYC@LSU) held a kick-off party for the national Week of the Young Child celebration. The event, appropriately named “No Child Left Inside” was located on the expansive LSU Parade Grounds and included physical fitness activities like an obstacle course, kiddie pools loaded with treasures and discoveries, sidewalk chalk exercises, a jump rope station, and a guided relay race.

In addition, parents and educators worked together to learn how to create various outdoor materials for children and a variety of “rainy day” activities.

Week of the Young Child (April 22-28, 2007) was sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) as an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country, including child care and Head Start programs, preschools, and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children.





ABOVE: A bubble station (top left) and parachute play (top right) were among the many activities the PK-3 students organized for children to explore. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Many activities utilized hand-eye coordination while getting kids to be physically active. **BOTTOM RIGHT/L to R:** The Early Childhood Education faculty, standing to sitting: Renee Casbergue, Karen Donnelly, Terry Buchanan, Jennifer Baumgartner, Joan Benedict, Carol Aghayan, and Cyndi DiCarlo.

“Early learning experiences are crucial to the growth and development of young children,” said [Afton Tucker](#), College of Education student and vice president of AEYC@LSU. “Week of the Young Child provides opportunities for all of us to recognize the importance of the early years, and to work together to build better futures for all children.”

AEYC@LSU has 50 College of Education early childhood education majors working together to build public support for high-quality early childhood education programs. AEYC@LSU is an affiliate of NAEYC, the largest organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of early education programs for children birth through age eight. Founded in 1926, NAEYC has nearly 100,000 members and a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional affiliates.





LSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SPRING 2007 COMMENCEMENT

On May 18, 2007, the LSU College of Education honored 315 students at the commencement ceremony. Representing two foreign countries, 16 states, and 43 different parishes, the graduating class consisted of 250 bachelor's, 48 master's, and 13 doctoral degrees. In addition, four students earned Certificates of Education Specialist.







The Citizen Student

LSU Students Mix Democratic Educational Theory with Practice

Shanelle Matthews, Contributor

After Hurricane Katrina obliterated the Gulf Coast in August of 2005, hundreds of thousands of students were forced to relocate to alternate school districts nationwide. Unexpectedly uprooted from their livelihoods, these students were required to adjust mentally, physically, and academically to what may have seemed to some a foreign way of life.

Renaissance Village, a FEMA trailer park, was built in October 2005 as a refuge for homeless Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Of the estimated 1,600 tenants, approximately 500 children under 18 years of age attend schools within in Baker and Baton Rouge.

Almost immediately after FEMA created Renaissance Village, the College of Education initiated a tutoring program called The Delta Express Program to address the needs of the children who reside there.

The New Orleans Public School System, often criticized pre-Katrina for its high numbers of failing schools, did not offer school districts much hope that these displaced students and their families would be dedicated to seeking formal education. However, the students of Delta Express are defying all expectations.

“When people discuss education, they seem to agree that New Orleans schools are the worst ones in the country, so there shouldn’t be much expected. And, yes, there are a lot of schools that are struggling, but

IMAGES: At the Future Fair LSU students created various themes for individual booths such as “Future is Fun” (pictured left) and “Future is the World Around Us” (pictured below right). The Renaissance Village children tasted foods from different countries, learned facts from an interactive globe, and played a Jeopardy-like game exploring their knowledge of professions.

that doesn’t mean you can generalize that to every single child in that school,” said [Jolanta Smolen](#), College of Education Campus Coordinator for Delta Express. “A lot of these kids are dedicated to getting their homework done. They want to read books and improve their education,” Smolen added.

Delta Express is a tutorial group organized by the LSU College of Education initially in collaboration with the University of California Berkeley’s UC Links after-school initiative. The expressed mission of the program includes social, emotional, health, and civic components in order to address the various needs of the children and families of Renaissance Village. The Delta Express tutors include LSU students from departments university-wide who are enrolled in College of Education courses, offering optional service activities. Throughout each semester, these students have spent several hours every week engaging Renaissance Village students in arts and crafts, physical fitness, and most importantly, their homework.

In EDUC 2000, the first two and a half weeks of the semester (five classes) emphasize basic educational theory to prepare the LSU students for tutoring. Delta Express bases much of the program on “democratic education” – a theory that promotes the active citizen-student.

“Democratic education is based on your right to speak up, especially when you notice social injustice taking place around you,” explained Smolen.

The idea is that the student becomes an active citizen, looking for the root cause of problems and attempting to find solutions.

In the case of the children at Renaissance Village, Smolen describes how LSU students involved the children in the planning of the final project “Future Fair” organized by the LSU students. They spoke with the students about their interests and where they saw themselves in the future.

“It’s really important that the children know that they will take charge of their own lives and their choices will define how they’ll get there,” added Smolen.

In another Delta Express course, EDCI 2001 students organized a similar educational fun day called “Tiger Fair” in which they hosted cultural centers based on Egyptian and African traditions, constructed hand-crafted, artistic picture frames, and performed magic tricks based on scientific principles.

While these special events sparked the children’s interests in different ways, Delta Express tutors challenged and encouraged the students on

a daily basis to be academically dedicated. For example, on a typical day in the trailer park after the children stepped-off the school bus, they would have a snack, and work with the LSU Delta Express tutors on homework assignments. The tutors also checked for any teacher’s notes or marks about discipline





or absentee problems. “It hasn’t really happened at all, but it doesn’t hurt to check,” said Smolen.

Sharing stories about their day, playing games, and working through homework together, led to a great bond between the children and their tutors, “We can definitely tell that we’ve touched the children’s lives, just by the way they look at us when we walk in the door. And the way they come in and give us a hug,” said [Shelby Gamble](#), a student in the spring 2007 class. “They’re so excited about sitting down and doing their homework with us. And it’s not just about doing their homework – they want to tell us about their day.”

With the dedication of these LSU students and the resolve of the Renaissance Village children, the College of Education’s insight has paid off. Each of the students in the Delta Express Program passed the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) test. This is compared to the



22 to 41 percent of students in the City of Baker School District who performed unsatisfactory on each of the four subjects on the LEAP exam.

But the children haven’t been the only ones to gain from the experience. Delta Express tutors have learned just as much. Among the lessons learned have been those related to social issues surrounding the impact of Katrina and the FEMA trailer park, children in crisis, children of poverty, and education. And, perhaps most importantly of all, LSU students have learned much about themselves.

“These kids have definitely taught me different ways to handle situations, either behavioral or learning situations,” said [Kristen McLean](#), an elementary education student who returned a second semester to volunteer with Delta Express.

After finishing their homework, the students have the option of playing a board game, reading a book, or participating in the Kinesiology Lifetime Exercise and Physical Activity Service-learning Program (LE PAS). Delta Express students work hand in hand with the LE PAS program, an acronym that literally means “the step” in French.

The LE PAS program, developed by Assistant Professor [Russell Carson](#), is housed in the College of Education Department of Kinesiology. The

program is designed to address the physical and social needs of displaced children living in the compact space of Renaissance Village, while providing hands-on learning and civic engagement to students enrolled in kinesiology classes. Since its implementation in June 2006, the LE PAS has offered K-5 children 60-90 minutes of exercise and movement Monday through Thursday, and enlisted more than 50 kinesiology students.

LE PAS offers aerobic exercises like step aerobics, jogging, and sprint training; rhythmic movements such as hula hoops and jump ropes; martial arts, circuit training, and other flexibility and muscular endurance activities; cooperative challenges like parachute games and group juggling tasks; and sports like ultimate Frisbee and soccer.

“Probably the most significant outcome of this work was developing trusting relationships with the 20 plus children that attend regularly,” said Carson. “The LE PAS program provides a stable, safe space for these children to move and interact, while allowing kinesiology students the opportunity to apply course content in a practical, community-based manner”

In addition, Delta Express tutors use outside playtime as incentive for the children to finish their homework.

“They have to finish their homework before they can join us,” said [Timothy Mars](#), the on-site coordinator for the Louisiana Exercise and Activity Program.

Most of the students said that the outside activity time was one of their most successful reward incentives, especially for children arriving directly from school and beginning their homework immediately.

“It is all about keeping them happy, active, not necessarily a structured physical education class,” said Mars. “We use games to push them physically. In the end, many didn’t realize how hard they were working because they enjoyed it so much,” added Mars, who also is currently a student at Southeastern Louisiana University and a research intern at Pennington Biomedical Research Center.



FACING PAGE/TOP LEFT: Emily Johnson, currently a Holmes program graduate student, returned as a four-semester Delta Express volunteer.

FACING PAGE/BOTTOM LEFT: Nicholas Soileau, a political science major, conducted an informative session with students about work and play-related safety issues.

FACING PAGE/RIGHT COLUMN & ABOVE: Kinesiology students led Delta Express participants in physical activities as an incentive for completing their schoolwork.

BELOW/L TO R: Jolanta Smolen served as the co-teacher for the EDUC 2000 course and Timothy Mars was the on-site coordinator for kinesiology component.



*See Delta Express
Continued on Page 33*



New Orleans Remembered

*LSU College of Education and Honors College Host Documentary
Filmmakers and Discussion of New Orleans Public Schools*

More than 200 community members and LSU faculty, staff, and students joined the Honors College and the College of Education for the free private screening of the independent documentary “New Orleans Left Behind” on April 19, 2007.

Directed by Vincent Morelli and Jason Berry, the film tells the very personal story of three African-American high school seniors as they navigate through their final year of high school in New Orleans. Including rare, never-before-seen footage, shot before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina, the film aims to illustrate how an uneducated impoverished population reacts under the stress of that unique situation.





"We examine the core of our American values, how our most vaunted beliefs and government policies have played a role in our nation's shame," said Morelli.

The documentary also featured interviews with Noam Chomsky, Jessie Jackson, Ice T, Congressmen William Jefferson and Maxine Waters, author Michael Eric Dyson, and Jim Derleth, the US AID Specialist assigned to East and West Africa.

This screening was an exclusive opportunity for members of the LSU community provided by the LSU College of Education and Honors College. After viewing the film at the Canal Place Theatre in New Orleans, Honors College Associate Dean Granger Babcock and Student



LEFT BEHIND

The Story of the
New Orleans Public Schools

Activities Coordinator Mark Dochterman spearheaded the idea of bringing this event to the LSU community. Dean M. Jayne Fleener worked with Dochterman to make the necessary contacts in order to waive the \$4,000 viewing fee and \$10/ person admission fee to attend a private showing of the documentary. The filmmakers, realizing the importance of the film to the LSU Community, reduced the showing fee, which was also paid by the College of Education, in order to make the video accessible to this audience.

LSU has been noted for its remarkable, university-wide, response and relief efforts following the 2005 hurricanes. "It was only natural to continue our leadership role in addressing the many challenges our state faces still today," added Dochterman who is also a doctoral student in the College of Education's higher education program.

"We must keep Louisiana's public schools in the forefront of any Katrina and Rita discussions," said Dean Fleener. "This film puts the spotlight on the importance of public schools to an informed and capable democracy. I can't imagine a more passionate and appropriate audience

than our university community, P-12 professionals, and fellow educational stewards across our region."

A lively question and answer panel discussion followed the poignant documentary. Director Vincent Morelli led the discussion with heated comments by former New Orleans teachers, students, and parents along with community members, education activists, and two of the three students highlighted in the film.

IMAGES: After the private screening, audience members asked questions and met with the students highlighted in the documentary and its filmmakers.





Faculty Promote Careers in Education

Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice faculty members [Jackie Bach](#) (pictured below) and [Thomasine Mencer](#) (above) were invited to Crestworth Middle School to represent the field of education at the annual career day.

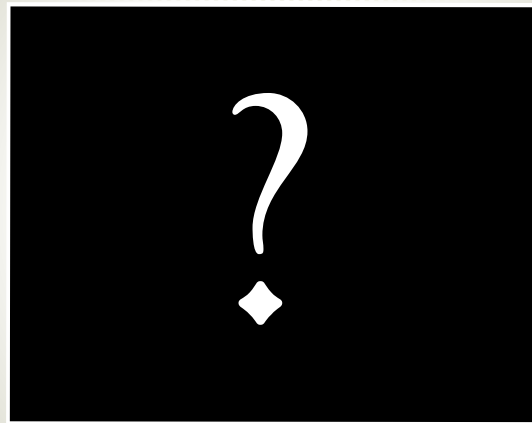
The event was designed to inform students about the various opportunities available to them and how they should prepare for future careers in occupations such as a nurse consultant, investigative reporter, law enforcement, sales, and veterinarian or positions within social and community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs or Chambers of Commerce.



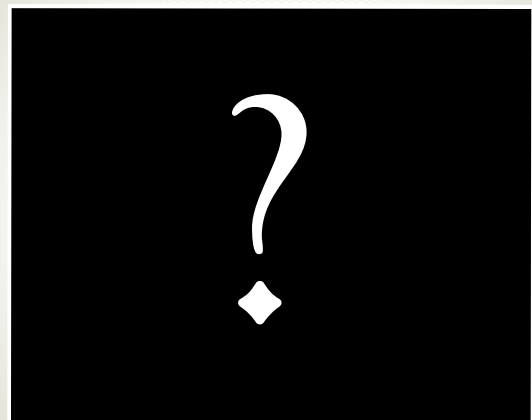
Faculty Guess Who

At a recent retreat, faculty and staff attendees were asked to write down a little known fact about themselves. Upon collection, these “little known facts” were so surprising that they deserved to be well known. Look through upcoming Bulletins to see if you can guess who it is.

Answers can be found on the last page of the Bulletin.



"I was ranked fourth in my age group nationally in the 5K swim!"



"I climbed to the top of Mt. Healy in Alaska."



U-High Spirit Lives On

Fire Consumes Gymnasium, Restoration Efforts Abound

In the early morning on Saturday, May 12, 2007, a fire caused significant damage to the University High School gymnasium, the location for all of the school's celebrations, including pep rallies and school dances. The fire consumed the ceiling and roofing, scoreboards, bleachers, lighting, and sound. In addition, several windows were blown out by the intense heat. Standing water damaged the basketball court beyond repair and two state championship banners were burned. It has not yet been determined whether or not the rock climbing wall may be recoverable. Luckily because there was no activity on campus at the time, there were no injuries.

After two investigations of the gym fire, the cause of the fire has been determined as arson. The Lab School has arranged for a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the identity of the person or persons responsible for the fire. This is in addition to the \$1,000 already being offered by Crime Stoppers. Anyone with information should call Crime Stoppers at 344-STOP.

The school administration, University Laboratory School Foundation staff, Capital Campaign Co-Chairman Brett Furr, and [Dean M. Jayne Fleener](#) were on hand in the early hours along with Chancellor Sean O'Keefe, Director [Wade Smith](#), ULSF President Connie Miller, Past President Bill Firesheets, board members, parents, and faculty who arrived throughout the morning to offer their support.

"A family is defined by times such as these," said Smith. "The fire may have damaged a gym, but the spirit of U-High is still in tact. The fabric that binds the Cub Community is being tested and I have no doubt that response to this mindless act of destruction will strengthen these bonds."

While this tragedy will affect the master construction timetable, both Risk Management and Facility Planning have begun a schedule of restoration to bring the gym back to operational condition.

Service Project Paints “Coast to Coast”

On Wednesday, May 2, 2007 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, a class of 25 LSU education students enrolled in [Margaret-Mary Sulentic Dowell](#) and [Jennifer Jolly](#)'s class painted the finishing touches on a colorful 30' x 35' U.S. map painted on the recreation area of Highland Elementary School.

The map features all 50 states and will be used in instructional and recreational fitness activities for the students at the school. It is also a part of Principal Kaye Van Sickle's renovation plan to make the campus more appealing and visually striking for the students and teachers.



New Faculty

Please welcome these new colleagues to the ranks of our flagship faculty. Look for a formal introduction and biographical sketch in upcoming issues of *The Peabody Bulletin*.

Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice

[Hillary Braud](#)

Assistant Professor in Elementary Education
University of Texas

[Keena Arbuthnot](#)

Assistant Professor in Research/Policy
University of Illinois

[Jennifer Curry](#)

Assistant Professor in Counseling
University of Central Florida

[Noelle Witherspoon](#)

Assistant Professor in K12 Leadership
University of Alabama

[Tom Ricks](#)

Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education
University of Georgia

[Sarah Raines](#)

Assistant Professor in Educational Leadership
University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Department of Kinesiology

[Dee Jacobsen](#)

*Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in
Sports Management*
University of Southern Mississippi

[Lee Hong](#)

Assistant Professor in Motor Behavior
Penn State

[Alex Garn](#)

Assistant Professor in Pedagogy
University of Indiana



Practice What You Peak

Fabian Roussel and the Peak Performance Clinics

Fabian Roussel (MS, PT, ATC) grew up at LSU, attending LSU football and basketball games. His father, Professor Buddy Roussel, was a 30-year veteran of the Dairy Science Department; his dedication to the University was handed down like a family heirloom.

Roussel continues the family tradition by working with the LSU Department of Kinesiology training LSU physical therapy interns and frequently hiring them as full-time employees.

In fact, Fabian has accepted nearly 40 kinesiology interns at one of the Peak Performance clinics since he started working three years ago with Kinesiology Professor [Wanda Hargroder](#), Ph.D.

Professional schools want students that have gained experience by volunteering or working in a physical therapy clinic. This competitive intern program is in high demand among human movement majors. Human movement internships present LSU students with educational opportunities they can apply to their chosen profession. Students also can apply these learning experiences during the interview process for graduate or professional schools and full-time jobs.

“Fabian was the original site supervisor for our physical therapy interns and has proven to be one of the best mentors available in the community,” said Hargroder, who is also

the director of the Human Movement Internship Program in the LSU Department of Kinesiology.

“Fabian is always willing to accept numerous interns and provide them with a setting that meets the learning objectives set forth by our faculty. We can always count on Fabian and the Peak Performance clinics to provide our students with a challenging internship that will expose them to real-life situations and test their applied knowledge in the field,” added Hargroder.

Roussel added that it’s a win-win situation for him, the clinics, and LSU, “The majority of my physical therapy techs are students at LSU. They make up my best workers because

they are young, hungry for knowledge, and interested in becoming physical therapists themselves.”

Interning and working alongside a seasoned professional is exactly how Roussel first became interested in the field of physical therapy. Former LSU Kinesiology Professor Marty “Doc” Broussard mentored Roussel as an undergraduate, constantly driving him to be successful.

“Doc really took a chance on me. When I was a freshman, he let me walk on as a student athletic trainer. Soon, I earned a scholarship and became his head trainer. This allowed me to treat athletes at LSU and work with the team physicians,” recalled Roussel.

Imagine a high school sports fanatic whose favorite subject was science now working with LSU athletes and the physicians that treat them—Roussel was a natural fit for the profession that perfectly blends the two.

And, his passion for the physical therapy profession shows. In business now for seven years, Peak Performance has seven physical therapy locations in Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, Gonzales, Brusly, and Prairieville. But Roussel’s success was not achieved overnight.

After graduating from LSU Medical Center in New Orleans, Roussel took a job as a staff physical therapist for a group of local orthopedists for nearly 10 years. He received a master’s degree in exercise

physiology from LSU in 1995 and received credentials from the National Athletic Trainer’s Association, the Louisiana Athletic Trainer’s Association, and the American Physical Therapy Association.

Roussel started thinking about opening his own clinic and, in 2000, made the big step with fellow partners Chris Purvis and Scott Dickie, who are also LSU alumni.

Now all three alumni are giving back to the institution that provided the foundation for their success. In addition to accepting 40 LSU students as interns, Roussel, Purvis, and Dickie have also hired a number of purple and gold graduates.

During her undergraduate study at LSU, Physical Therapist Lindsey Harvey worked as a tech with the first Peak Performance clinic. By

the time she graduated from physical therapy school and was looking for employment, Peak Performance had grown to six clinics. As a staff physical therapist at Peak Performance, Harvey now serves as a mentor and trainer for the volunteers, interns, and techs.

Harvey said their first choice is to hire students who were former interns and volunteers, “We love our students. They’re the most motivated employees because this is what they want to do,” remarked Harvey, adding that, “They want to learn as much as they can. The only thing we don’t like about them is that they leave us...to go on to PT school.”

Such was the case for May 2007 graduate [Leslie Beard](#), who is now attending physical therapy school at the University of Saint Augustine for Health Sciences.

FACING PAGE/L to R: Fabian Roussel demonstrates a physical therapy procedure for LSU student volunteer Jonathan Pecoraro.

BELOW: The LSU Peak Performance team poses outside of their Industriplex location. **L to R:** Co-owner Fabian Roussel, Leslie Beard, Lindsey Harvey, Aimee LeBlanc, Stacie Sulik, and Co-owner Chris Purvis.



ALUMNA WINS TEACHING AWARDS

“My internship was outstanding. Fabian is such a hands-on boss. He gets to know the interns and works very closely with them, trying to make sure that they get the most from the intern experience,” added Beard.

“When I saw how closely we get to work with patients and follow them through the course of treatment, I knew that’s what I wanted to do every day for the rest of my life. Fabian had a lot to do with that,” said former intern and kinesiology junior [Aimee LeBlanc](#) who is currently working as a tech at Peak Performance.

Roussel has also passed on his passion for the profession to his employees and students.

“We see young kids; we see athletes; we see older individuals—we see snapshots of people in different stages of their lives,” said kinesiology senior [Stacie Sulik](#), adding, “In this profession you can touch all walks of life.”

“One of our patients started out nearly paralyzed from a terrible car accident. Before I left, he was walking,” recalled kinesiology junior [Jonathan Pecoraro](#) whose volunteer hours were spent assisting the physical therapist care for a patient recovering from a serious spinal cord injury. “This job is very rewarding,” he concluded.

Roussel offers them all one piece of advice, “When you get involved in this profession, you

spend your life as a caregiver. It is very important that you take the time out to also care for yourself.”

You can catch Roussel on any given day at one of the clinics, at area high schools helping injured athletes, or at a Spectrum Fitness club practicing what he preaches.

BELOW: Holmes program graduate [Phuong M. “Fawn” Thai](#) was awarded the local Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award. Thai also received the Baton Rouge Gifted Association’s Gifted Middle School Teacher of the Year Award, which is voted on by students. In addition, Thai has been nominated for the Presidential Award.



*Delta Express
Continued from Page 23*



Robbie McHardy ranked fourth in her age group nationally in the 5K swim.



S. Kim MacGregor climbed to the top of Mt. Healy in Alaska.

“For some children, the time they spend with our group and the other kids in the program is their best time of the day. It may be the most positive environment they are in that day. It’s not just about physical activity. We are there to push them to exercise, yes—but we are also there to push their minds to think and to believe in themselves,” added Mars.

The children of Renaissance Village have benefited much from having the College of Education and Delta Express involved in their lives. Although many have come to this area from a less rewarding educational system, experienced unimaginable hardships, and ripped from their homes and foundations, these eager young students have defied the many negative generalizations surrounding their misfortune. With the help of Delta Express, the LE PAS program, and other connected agencies, these students have succeeded despite low expectations and often negative media attention that unjustly surrounds the Renaissance Village FEMA trailer park in Baker.

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