



Volume V Number 5

# The Acorn



Office of the Vice Chancellor  
for Academic and Student Affairs

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## Kudos

Congratulations to Dr. Arthur Rankin who has published an article on the 1922 German film “Dr. Mabuse, der Spieler” in The Senses of Cinema, an on-line journal.

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Ells on the publication of “Ecological Rhetoric Through Vicarious Narrative,” in Environmental Communication, Vol. 2, Number 3, November 2008.

Dr. Rhonda Shook, along with LSUA Theatre student Sarah Swart, will make a presentation at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeast Theatre Conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. Congratulations to Dr. Shook and to Ms. Swart!

Congratulations to Dr. Shonu Nangia on the receipt of another grant from the French-American Cultural Exchange in support of the now annual French Film Festival to be held in the Spring of 2009. The festival is an important aspect of our rapidly developing cultural opportunities made available to our students, faculty, staff and the community. Thanks, Shonu!

Dr. Sue Sullivan, Ms. Sandra Purifoy and Dr. Christof Stumpf were selected to participate in the STAR (Scientific Teaching Assessment and Resources) mini-institute to be held on the LSU-BR campus from January 6-8, 2009. This is

an important opportunity through which Sue, Sandra and Christof can both contribute to and learn about new ways of teaching science. Congratulations to each!

Congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Pastor, a LaSIP participant and a staff member and teacher at J.I. Barron Elementary School, who was just named the 2008 Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics Elementary Teacher of the Year. While not a graduate of LSUA, Ms. Pastor’s affiliation with our LaSIP program and the influence that the program has on K-12 mathematics education makes this accomplishment worthy of celebration.

Congratulations to Dr. Tommy Awtry who was named co-recipient of the 2008 Outstanding College Math Teacher by the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

Vice Chancellor Armstrong was given the Louisiana Association of Developmental Educators Award for an Administrator giving Outstanding Service and Support of Developmental Education.

Congratulations to Dr. Genet Duke on the announcement that she will present a poster session at the American Geophysical Union on December 15-19 in San Francisco.

Congratulations to Michelle Riggs, Jules Tate and the entire faculty and staff of

the Bolton Library on the reception honoring the donation of the Manning-Compton papers by Mr. Richard Johnson. The reception was held Thursday, November 6, with a good attendance from campus and community. The donation marks a milestone in the development of the University archives and we thank Michelle, Jules and their colleagues for their hard work in getting us to this point.

## Happenings

The Department of Allied Health held an Open House and hosted a special lecture on “Controlling Prescription Costs” by Dr. Dusty Nassif on November 6. This is the first in what will be a series of public health seminars and lectures sponsored by the Department of Allied Health.

The Honors program held a special lecture and reception at the Alexandria Museum of Art on Thursday evening, November 6. The guest speaker was George Anastaplo of Chicago speaking on Greek Philosophy. Our thanks to Betty Elder, Steve Vanderslice and others involved with the Honors program as they open the honors classes to the general public.

The Cavanaugh Lecture series featured Dr. Ronald Marks, Dean of Social Work at Tulane University on November 7. The lecture was a fascinating look at the opportunities provided by study abroad, international immersion programs and study in India. Thanks to Richard Collins and the Department of Arts, English and Humanities for their continued good work in sponsoring this public lecture series.

There is still time to see the wonderfully entertaining “Tuna Series” featuring Kody Walker and Richard Gwartney. Tuna Back to Back offers you the chance to see most of the population of Tuna, Texas as they celebrate “Tuna Christmas” and “Greater Tuna.” All performances are at the Kress Theatre. Contact Dr. Rhonda Shook or Ms. Lisa Mayeux for ticket information and consider purchasing a season pass to support LSUA’s Empty Space Players.

The Region 6 (LCTCS) Career Pathways Team will present a workshop on Thursday, November 20 from 8:30 – 1 P.M. at the Paragon Casino in Marksville. This might be a good time to learn more of “Career Pathways” which is being developed by BESE and the Board of Regents to better guide students into career related decisions. The registration deadline is November 17; to register, contact Donnis Poe at [donnis.poe@ltc.edu](mailto:donnis.poe@ltc.edu).

Several of you have had the chance to meet with Renisha Beaudion as she joins us at LSUA. With plans for working with various student organizations and more underway, Renisha will soon be meeting with individual department chairs and/or faculty to learn ways in which her office can support departmental activities even as she also initiates activities designed to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students. Renisha will be circulating a survey in the near future to ascertain the level of interest in various activities on the University campus.

The Advising Center will provide LSUA advising services for new Spring 2009 FTF and LSUA orientation on November 20, December 4, December

11 and January 5 as well as advising and orientation support for LSUE students. The approach to advising and orientation will be informational and developmental.

Dr. Tim Culver, Noel Levitz consultant, completed his annual Title III consultation visit to LSUA on November 12<sup>th</sup>. This included meetings with Chancellor Manuel, department heads, faculty, staff and professional advisors. Now that the advising center is established the future planned focus of Title III will be on faculty development. Dr. Culver will issue a written report with specific Title III compliance assessment evaluation and strategic planning recommendations for the next phase of Title III initiatives.

IET Services is providing a series of workshops during November. Workshops will be on MS Word 2007, MS Excel 2007, MS Publisher 2007, MS Power Point 2007, MS Outlook 2007, D2L Gradebook, and Computer Basics 101. For a complete schedule contact IET Services at [ssingh@lsua.edu](mailto:ssingh@lsua.edu) or [spampana@lsua.edu](mailto:spampana@lsua.edu).

As a reminder, the fall library hours are 7:45 – 9:30 from Monday through Thursday, 7:30-4:30 on Friday, Closed on Saturday, and Open on Sunday from 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. beginning November 2. Hours will be extended to 8 P.M. on Friday, December 12, Sunday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 17 to assist with examination week. The library will be closed Thanksgiving weekend, November 27-30.

With regard to the library hours, we note that in the event of a campus closing for

a natural disaster such as a hurricane, the library will be closed and will only re-open when the University re-opens.

The Honors Program will host a special lecture by Dr. Michael Turner on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Science Auditorium. His talk on Astrophysics will give considerable insight into complex issues using layman's language. Our thanks to Dr. Betty Elder, Dr. Steve Vanderslice and others who contributed to bringing this program to the University.

The Department of Arts, English and Humanities is hosting the Louisiana Association for College Composition conference with sessions at the museum and on campus this Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15. The special guest is Dr. Scott Russell Sanders from Indiana University.

The University will celebrate International Week with a series of programs Monday, November 17 through Thursday, November 20: "India" by Amy Pillaresetti, "Ethiopia" by Cathy Robinson, "Czech Heritage" by Cookie Tuma and Dr. and Mrs. David Holcombe, and "Tunica-Biloxi Tribe" by Donna Pierite of Marksville. All programs will be held in the Student Center Lobby from 12:00-1:00.

Our thanks to the nurses of Christus St. Francis Cabrini who came to campus on October 20 to administer flu shots to faculty, staff and students. We most appreciate the convenience of this service and thank the Department of Nursing for sponsoring the event.

The semi-annual Geo-Awareness Multicultural Fair for third grade

students from Mabel Brasher Elementary School will be on November 20 from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. and will be held on the Campus Quad. Dr. Diann Norris, Department of Education, coordinates the event and this year it will feature students from Dr. Rhonda Shook's acting class as well as strong support from the students of the French and Spanish clubs.

The Regional Science Fair will be held at LSUA on Saturday, March 14, 2009. This event brings young scientists and their parents to campus from around the region and winners go on to state and national competitions. Dr. Genet Duke, Math and Physical Sciences, is assembling the judging panels. If you are interested in helping please be in touch with her through e-mail ([gduke@lsua.edu](mailto:gduke@lsua.edu)) or phone 427-4430.

Thanks to the several faculty and departments who submitted grants to the Board of Regents research and enhancement programs this year. Some very exciting proposals were submitted from geology (Dr. Genet Duke, MAPS), the writing center (Dr. Brenda Ellington/Ms Elizabeth Beard, AEH), forensics and criminal justice (Ms. Beth Whittington, Criminal Justice-Business) and communications (Dr. Doran O'Donnell, AEH). The proposals were forwarded after careful review at the department and administrative levels of the University. Notification of possible awards will be late in the spring semester, 2009; if awarded the grants will be for the 2009-2010 year.

The fall 2008 commencement will be at the Riverfront Center at 10 A.M. Faculty will line-up by 9:30 for the procession. Make plans now to attend

the faculty staff reception to be held at the Alexandria Museum of Art immediately following the graduation ceremony.

## **Enrollment News**

Enrollment remains a significant challenge and opportunity for all of us at LSUA. A recent report underscored the challenge facing us as the number of public high school graduates in Louisiana is expected to decline some 43% over the next decade and the number of public high school students will fall by 12%. While Louisiana has a higher percentage (some 20%) of private school students, the precipitous drop in the number of high school graduates means that we must not only recruit high school graduates to LSUA more aggressively, but we must also continue to work with the adult learners who have consistently been such a large part of our student population. Recruitment is everyone's business.

## **Facility Improvements**

Using renovation funds, the University will move to demolish the old Tennis Courts. The demolition, the building of the Multi-Purpose Academic Building and the closing of a portion of Jerry Myrick Drive will have the effect of not only expanding classroom space but also expanding the campus quad. The campus fountain will soon be the middle of the campus quad.

Final reviews on the Multipurpose Academic Building are nearing completion; the bid date for the project is now thought to be mid-January.

Foundation work for the new water tank with five times the capacity of the current tank is underway.

Work is well underway on the Business Education Center at the Central Louisiana Business Incubator. We anticipate opening the Business Education Center for the spring semester, 2009.

Using “Major Renovation Funds,” Bob Karam and OPM are busily making improvements to the Avoyelles Hall Classrooms. With the completion of this project, the Avoyelles building – with the Nikos Restaurant at one end and classrooms and offices at the other – with have experienced a complete “make over” over the last two years. Thanks, Bob.

## **Personnel**

Congratulations to Haywood Joiner who completed all requirements for his doctorate and will receive his degree from Grambling University at the December graduation.

Dr. Mary Treuting has agreed to coordinate the Title III program which, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the grant and beyond, focuses on faculty and staff development issues.

Ms. Pat Franks, Department of Nursing, has announced her retirement at the end of the fall semester, 2008. Best wishes to you, Pat; we will most certainly miss you and your many contributions to the University.

Congratulations to Esther Blood and Matthew Barrett who delivered an 8 lb. baby boy, Aaron, on October 31st at 7:03 a.m.!