



Cavanaugh's Surprise Scholarship presented in chancellor's name

It may have been one of the best-kept secrets on the LSU Alexandria campus.

Friends and family members established an endowed scholarship in Chancellor Robert Cavanaugh's name – and he didn't find out about it until a surprise announcement at the Faculty/Staff meeting on Jan. 10.

"I can't believe we actually pulled it off," said Missy LaBorde, director of Institutional Advancement, pointing out that talks began back in early September.

Missy and Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness Carol Corbat had already discussed the need to create the scholarship whenever Cavanaugh retires. When his longtime friend Gene Howard independently came forward to ask whether there was a scholarship in Cavanaugh's name, everyone agreed there was no reason to wait.

What followed was an elaborate plan to keep the whole matter a secret until the Jan. 10 meeting. There were plenty of undercover e-mails and hush-hush phone calls. As the date drew closer, a few more LSU Alexandria employees were brought in – strictly on a need-to-know basis.

To keep the announcement under wraps on the day of the event, organizers had to make sure the chancellor stayed inside Coughlin Hall auditorium during the faculty/staff meeting. While employees were hearing up-



Dr. Cavanaugh poses with his family and friends after they surprised him at the staff/faculty meeting.

dates on the university, Howard and Cavanaugh's family members were gathering just outside the doors in the Coughlin Hall lobby. Members of the media also were in on the secret and hid in the lobby until the big reveal.

It wasn't until Missy took the podium to talk about the LSUA Foundation that the surprise guests entered the auditorium. Cavanaugh, sitting on the first row, seemed puzzled when he saw his

wife, daughter, granddaughter and other family members file in the row behind him.

Their presence quickly became clear as Missy announced the formation of the Chancellor Dr. Robert

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Dr. Cavanaugh, Gene Howard and Missy LaBorde relax after the surprise announcement.

Campus Clipboard

Dr. Charles T. Kelly, assistant professor of criminal justice at LSU Alexandria, has been named a member of the nationwide Police Executive Research Forum. Based in Washington, D.C., PERF is an organization dedicated to improving policing and advancing professionalism through research, public policy debate, provision of management services and executive development training and publishing.

Sheryl Herring has been listed in the 2005/06 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." The publication honors teachers who have made a difference in the lives of their students.

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Cavanaugh** on the birth of his granddaughter, Katelyn Elizabeth. Katelyn was born Dec. 21 to Robert and Jane Ann Bush. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

Our sympathies go out to **Audrey Dyson** on the loss of her brother, Preston Keith Dyson, who was killed in an automobile accident on Dec. 30.

Welcome new employees: **Howard O'Donnell** is a new instructor in Arts, English and Humanities. **Brandi Rabalais** has been hired as a recruiter for our campus.

Faculty members on Advising Honor Roll

Several LSU Alexandria faculty members were selected to the Advising Honor Roll for their work during registration.

To be named to the honor roll, a faculty member must have had at least five student evaluations returned and scored above the university average on the following two questions: "Is approachable, courteous and easy to talk to," and "Is a helpful, effective advisor whom I would recommend to other students."

Named to the Advising Honor Roll for November 2005 were Sandra Franklin, Haywood Joiner and Cathy Robinson from Allied Health; Walter Hollingsworth, Carol Martin and Beth Whittington from Business Administration; Elaine Beck, Beth Douzart, Julie Gill, Janice Guillory, Callum Johnston, Donna Odom-Lacaze, Melissa Parks and Vicki Younger from Education; Pat Franks, Sue Haynes, Linda Hickman, Elizabeth Jackson, Nelda Jeane and Bobbie Perkins from Nursing; Owen Elmore, Doran O'Donnell and Jeremy Simmons from Arts, English and Humanities; Kathy Kelly, James Rogers and Mary Treuting from Behavioral and Social Sciences; and Doug Allen, Carol Corbat and Reed Crook from Biological Sciences.

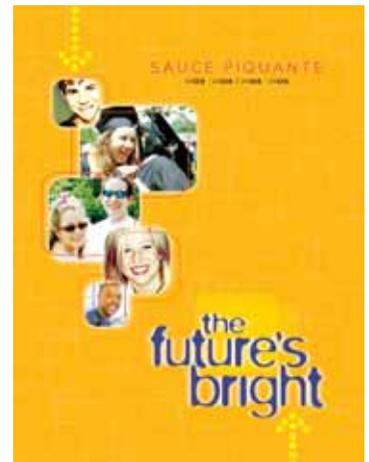
Yearbooks selling for \$10

The 2003-05 LSU Alexandria "Sauce Piquante" is on sale in Auxiliary Services.

The yearbook features students and events from Fall 2003 through Spring 2005. For budgetary reasons, this is the first time that a \$10 charge has been levied on each yearbook and the first time that it covers a two-year period. The charge is in addition to the \$2 yearbook fee that students pay at registration each semester.

In the past, yearbooks were free to students who completed two semesters, \$3.50 to students who completed one semester and \$7 for non-students.

David Wesse, vice chancellor for finance and administrative services, said the yearbook fund "was literally running out of money," prompting campus officials to make some tough decisions. They considered but nixed the idea of raising the \$2 student yearbook fee. Instead, they decided to save money by printing the book every two years and charging \$10 to anyone who purchased it. Wesse said students and LSU Alexandria employees will be pleased with the quality of the new book.



Campus United Way donations exceed expectations

LSU Alexandria employees contributed \$5,877 to the United Way this year, a significant increase over last year's contributions.

Campaign chair Jennifer Smith said the donations were \$1,215 more than what employees gave in 2004. That was somewhat of a surprise given that charities nationwide predicted a decrease in donations because so many donors had spent their money to help victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Not so at LSU Alexandria, where 93 faculty and staff members reached in their wallets and hearts to contribute to the



Psychology Club and United Way campaign members pose in front of the "Window of Hope." They are, standing left to right, Michael Carmouche, Dr. Kathy Kelly, Jennifer Smith, Dr. James Rogers and, kneeling from left, Tammy Marshall, Brandy Lee and Kelsey Lajaunie.

United Way of Central Louisiana. Employees pledged \$4,356 in payroll deductions and contributed \$176 in cash.

The LSUA Psychology Club collected \$233 for the United Way during its "A Window of Hope" fund-raiser. The money from the Psychology Club fund-raiser along with the campaign contributions from LSUA faculty and staff bring the grand total contributed by LSUA to \$6,110.

"I would like to express a very special thank you to the

faculty and staff of LSUA and the Psychology Club who through their generosity and kindness made this campaign a wonderful success," Smith said. "Thank you also to Dr. Jim Rogers and all the team leaders who gave of their time to help with the campaign. I could not have done it without them."

Rogers served as vice chair. Team leaders were Sandra Gremillion in Allied Health; Gloria Powell for Business Administration; Lisa Mayeaux for Arts, English & Humanities; LaMona James for Nursing; Deborah McCann for Education; Jodie

Milliner for Mathematics and Physical Sciences; Jessie Monk for Facility Services; Linda Smith for Institutional Advancement and Institutional Research/Effectiveness; Rachael Hunter for Library Services; Jaime West for all offices in Abrams Hall; Kathy Wimmert for Student Services and Auxiliary Services; Heather Gauthier for IET Services; Wanda Hickman for Continuing Education; and Rosemary Robertson-Smith for the Children's Center.

Media Relations Office here to serve the campus

For those of you new to LSU Alexandria, the media relations office is located on the second floor of the Library and is here to promote the university.

The office needs your help, however, in achieving this goal. Here are a few things that each of you can do:

Please let Media Relations Coordinator Kathy Gunn know of any upcoming events or personal achievements in your departments. It is her job to turn your news into a press release for possible publication in local newspapers, radio stations or television. To help, please e-mail her something in writing about the event or achievement.

Please give Kathy a heads-up if you are interviewed by anyone from the media. One part of her job is to keep track of all newspaper clippings and television interviews involving LSUA employees or students.

Please do not schedule feature interviews with local television and radio station talk shows on your own. Let Kathy do that. TV and radio stations have to keep track of how many slots they give to LSUA and other organizations so as not to show partiality. If you schedule your own interview, you may be denying someone else from campus

a chance to promote their event or message.

If you haven't already, take the time to meet with Kathy. She likes to know how each employee feels about dealing with the news media. For example, some people don't mind doing phone interviews with newspaper reporters but feel uncomfortable about conducting interviews on TV. Some faculty members don't mind reporters calling them directly; others would rather get a heads-up in order to prepare for interviews.

Keep the media relations office in the loop on events or news items. We don't want to be caught off guard by a reporter looking for information about something on campus. And finally, don't worry about formalities. It's Kathy's job to put your press release into the proper style for use by the newspaper, TV or radio station. If you were awarded a grant, for example, send Kathy a copy of the grant abstract or synopsis. If you're putting on an event, save yourself the trouble and simply send her the flier. She can take it from there.

Kathy can be reached at 427-4407 or at kgunn@lsua.edu.

Coming up this month ...

February

3 Go Red! Wear Red!

Show your support for the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign by wearing something red. Contact Melissa Parks at Ext. 6454 to find out more about supporting the fight against heart disease and stroke.

3 Film presentation of "Penny Serenade"

Classic starring Cary Grant and Irene Dunne to be shown at 7 p.m. in the Coughlin Hall Auditorium. Admission is free. Sponsored by the Chancellor's Arts and Humanities Committee.

12 Student Organization Fair 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., campus quad

14 Student Radiological Technology Association Bake Sale

8 a.m.-noon, Coughlin Hall

15 Deadline for nominations for the LSUA Staff Outstanding Service Award

22 Mardi Gras Parade, noon, campus block



27 Mardi Gras Holiday

Campus closed. Students and faculty are off Feb. 28. Campus is open Feb. 28.



March

3-4, 9-12 Empty Space Players' Director's Showcase

Showcase features one-act plays directed by LSU Alexandria talent.

Martin Oak dedicated

LSU Alexandria officials on Jan. 20 dedicated a 130-year-old live oak in honor of Roy and Vinita Martin, longtime friends and supporters of the university.

The Martin Oak at LSUA measures more than 15 feet in circumference and has a crown spread of more than 100 feet. It is located in the front of campus near U.S. Highway 71.

The Martins are members of the LSUA Foundation Board of Directors and are well known at LSUA for giving their time, talents and financial support to the university.

Roy Martin is a charter member of the foundation and was chairman of LSU Alexandria's first fundraising campaign. He has been an avid supporter of the nursing program at LSUA while Vinita Martin's interest has been the business program and the Children's Center. Mrs. Martin provided funding to



Dr. Robert Cavanaugh presents Roy O. Martin a plaque.

Louisiana Garden Clubs. Officials last year dedicated the Mulder Oak in honor of Howard Mulder and the late Eloise Mulder.

The dedication ceremony was held in recognition of Louisiana Arbor Day. Among those attending were Martin, his daughter Carole Baxter and Vinita Martin's daughter, Linda Joseph. Also in conjunction with Louisiana Arbor Day, officials planted 31 trees on campus.

name one of the classrooms in the center.

Through the years, the couple established three endowed scholarships and anonymously provided funding for numerous students pursuing college degrees. They also established four endowed professorships to benefit faculty members at LSUA.

The Martin Oak at LSUA is among the university's first trees to be registered with the Live Oak Society of the

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Cavanaugh Endowed Scholarship.

A visibly surprised and honored Cavanaugh choked back tears in appreciation. He later joked that his first thought was that he had somehow forgotten that he had announced his retirement. For the record – he hasn't.

Howard said his decision to push for the scholarship was easy. Although he never worked with Cavanaugh, he always admired his friend's accomplishments and dedication to LSU Alexandria. He was particularly pleased with Cavanaugh's work in bringing about the university's four-year status.

Finally over the shock of the surprise, Cavanaugh recently described his feelings about this tribute to his career.

"This scholarship not only is an honor for me today, but it provides a service to the students for many years to come. Helping students reach their goals is what LSUA is about, and it is what I have spent my career working to do. This scholarship should help students to reach their goals.



Dr. Cavanaugh prepares his remarks for the faculty/staff meeting, unaware that his family and friends are gathering in the lobby outside the auditorium.

"If I had been asked what I would like – this scholarship would have been the answer."

The Chancellor Robert Cavanaugh Endowed Scholarship shall be awarded to a full-time student enrolled in a baccalaureate program at LSU Alexandria.

Picture this ...



MLK's legacy honored



Audience members lined up to greet Dr. Rodney McClendon after he gave the keynote address at LSU Alexandria's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon on Monday, Jan. 30. McClendon, chief of staff to the president at Texas A&M University, spoke on "King's Legacy: A Matter of Dignity." In photo at right, McClendon greets Alexandria Mayor Ned Randolph.

LSU Alexandria hosts regional debate

More than 100 college students from Louisiana and surrounding states competed Jan. 27-29 in the LSUA Debate and Forensics 2006 Oak Tree Invitational. Photo at right, the LSUA team prepares for competition. Photos below, teams came from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

