

The Oak Leaf



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A publication for LSU Alexandria employees



Campus embraces Katrina's victims

The LSU Alexandria community has welcomed its new neighbors — Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are unable to return to their South Louisiana homes.

The evacuees began arriving at the special-needs shelter in the Fitness Center on Saturday, Aug. 27, before Katrina hit. After the storm devastated the New Orleans area, the number of displaced residents continued to grow, prompting officials to open the Caffey Annex to handle the influx. At its peak, there were as many as 400 special-needs patients and their caregivers living in the two shelter areas.

The number was around 250 after Labor Day and continued to drop as evacuees were finding homes elsewhere. The Caffey Annex was closed Sept. 7 and officials are predicting the Fitness Center shelter will be closed Saturday, Sept. 10.

This is the third time that LSU Alexandria has accommodated hurricane evacuees. But this case is unique because these victims have nowhere to go. As a result, employees and students have opened their hearts to their new neighbors.

"I'm always impressed with how



*BCM students load a truck with donations for hurricane victims. The donations have been pouring in since Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. **Photos above:** Evacuees staying at our shelter are men, women and children of all ages. Most lost everything.*

open and caring the LSU Alexandria community is to people in need," Chancellor Robert Cavanaugh said. "I'm not surprised by the fact that they are helping so much."

Cavanaugh offered a special thanks to employees involved in food service, housekeeping and grounds maintenance, who have been working tirelessly to help the men, women and children who are staying in the shelter.

"I haven't heard one word of complaint," he said. "We realize this is a time of great need. People are willing and happy to help."

He also credited employees who registered 83 displaced college stu-

dents over the past week. Although late registration is closed, students are encouraged to consider taking B-term classes, which begin in October.

Numerous student organizations and individuals have pitched in to help the new neighbors. The campus community has been generous with donations, ranging from toys to much-needed clothing and cash. Employees even threw a surprise party for a New Orleans evacuee who turned 9 on Sept. 2.

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The Fitness Center continues to house Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Campus Clipboard

Debra Rollins was appointed chair of the state-wide LALINC Information Literacy Committee. LALINC, the Louisiana Academic Library Information Network Consortium, is a consortium of all academic libraries in Louisiana.

Dr. Owen Elmore has been chosen to be a celebrity judge for the Louisiana Liar's Contest, Saturday, Sept. 24, in Alexandria. It will be at 2 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre in the Rapides Foundation Building.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to **Karen Norman** on the loss of her husband, Dr. Thomas Foster Norman. Thomas died Thursday, Aug. 25, in Ochsner Foundation Hospital in Metairie. Our sympathies also go to **Larry Williams** on the loss of his little niece, Taylor Elizabeth Normand. Taylor died in her Baton Rouge home on Aug. 23, just three days after her birth.

Recruiter **Shelly Kieffer** gives a big thank you to all who participated in the Football Jamborees held on Friday, Aug. 26. Dr. Thomas Armstrong, Dr. Ed Martinez, Kathy Wimmert, Dr. Dee Slavant, Dessie Williams, Dr. Ginger Jones, Shelly Kieffer and student Jessica M. Double were at Alexandria Senior High School. Lillian Wooley, Leslie Quinn, Julie Gill, Sheryl Herring, Debra Rollins, Chris Laffitte, and student James McDonald were at Pineville High School. Lisa Mayeux, Tammy Lacombe, Heather Gauthier, Beth Dozart, and student Brandi Rabalais were at Marksville High School. LSUA plans to be present at many more community events. You will have a chance to assist with recruiting efforts throughout the year.



Dr. Greg Gormanous, Dr. Jerry Sanson and Dr. Robert Cavanaugh joined other dignitaries Aug. 26 at the dedication for the Old LSU Site Walking Trail. The new walking trail is located at the U.S. Forest Service site on U.S. Highway 71 in Pineville. The site is recognized as the birthplace of LSU and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

From Karen Norman and her family

Please know that all of the thoughts, prayers and concern shown by my LSUA family during Thomas's illness and passing were taken to heart and very much appreciated.

You have been a great comfort to Emily, Sarah, Margaret and me.

Being back at work among friends helps a lot. Thank you so much.

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"Everyone has just been outstanding," Cavanaugh said. "LSUA continues to be a warm, friendly and caring place."

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry on Sept. 7 held a benefit concert on campus where they raised more than \$1,200 for the shelter victims. Meanwhile, members of FLAME are gathering school supplies and uniforms for evacuated children. They also are selling ribbons to raise money for hurricane victims.

Students in the Small Group Communication and Problem Solving class are collecting luggage, laundry

baskets and large plastic containers. These items can be donated at the BCM from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on weekdays. The OAKS are holding a bake sale at the Organizational Fair on Monday, Sept. 12, to raise money for the special-needs shelter.

To find out how you can help, check out a new link on the Web site www.lsua.edu. The link gives daily updates on the hurricane relief effort, and includes fundraisers and items needed for donation. If you have an event to report, contact Mary McCampbell at mmccampbell@lsua.edu or Ext. 4418.

Wooley heading new office at England Airpark

LSU Alexandria's permanent office at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish is up and running, and its coordinator is asking all of us to stop by for a visit.

Lillian Wooley, who has been with LSUA for 11 years, is heading the new office located at England Airpark in Alexandria. It opened on Aug. 15 and is there to help students and faculty members who use the facility.

Wooley's new colleagues are educators from all over the state. LSUA is one of 10 academic institutions offering courses at the center. Wooley's duties include recruiting adult learners and coordinating a collaborative agreement that the university recently signed with LSU Eunice and the LSU System.

Under the agreement, students will be able to take



Lillian Wooley is coordinating LSU Alexandria's new office at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish at England

remedial courses through LSU Eunice at LSU Alexandria. It will have a significant impact when LSUA increases its admissions standards in 2007.

Students choose to take their classes at the Learning Center for a variety of reasons. Some like its location to the northwest of Alexandria. Others like the night-class offerings. And it also is not uncommon for LSUA students to take some of their courses at the main campus and others at the airpark location, Wooley said. LSUA currently

offers 14 courses at the Learning Center.

The new office is located in Room 115 and is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday. Wooley invites everyone to stop by and tour the facility.

Welcome new faculty to our campus

LSU Alexandria welcomes its new faculty members, who come here from all parts of the United States.

The new faculty members, their rank and highest degrees are: **Dr. Kimberly Buckalew**, assistant professor of English, Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette; **Kimberly Elmore**, instructor of English, M.A., University of Alabama; **Dr. Alice Blackwell**, assistant professor of English, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; **Dr. Elizabeth Norwood**, assistant professor of communication studies, Ed.D., West Virginia University; **David Wlodarski**, assistant professor of theatre and technical director of theatre, M.F.A., University of Idaho; **Dr. Richard Elder**, assistant professor of psychology, Ph.D., Kansas State University; **Dr. Reed Crook**, assistant professor of biology, Ph.D., University of Georgia; **Dr. Wayne**

McGraw, professor of chemistry, Ph.D., Florida State University; **Dr. Tanya Melton**, assistant professor of mathematics, Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette; **John Taylor**, instructor of chemistry, Ed.S., Florida State University, MCS, University of Mississippi; **Dr. Dixie Clark**, professor of accounting, D.B.A., Louisiana Tech University; **Dr. Charles Kelly Jr.**, assistant professor of criminal justice, Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi; **Angela Bordelon**, assistant professor of nursing, M.S.N., Northwestern State University, La.; **Darlene Deshotels**, instructor of nursing, B.S.N., University of Southwestern La.; **Linda Hickman**, assistant professor of nursing, M.S.N., Northwestern State University, La.; **Debbie Smith**, assistant professor of nursing, M.S.N., Northwestern State University, La.

Congratulations to **Teresa Rush-Laprairie** on the birth of her son on Sept. 8. Bryar Trell Laprairie weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Beard** on the May 20 birth of her son. Charles Sadler Beard weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.



Coming up this month ...

September

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

13-14 LifeShare blood drive Coughlin Hall parking lot

16 Constitution Day, noon, campus quad

17 Beginning Mountain Biking

A Free Forum presented by LSUA and Red River Bank, 8 a.m. until noon, West Kincaid Lake Boat Ramp. Call Continuing Education at Ext. 6495



October

1 LSUA Leadership Conference
Caffey Annex

13 Fall into Fashion Caffey Annex, noon
Fashion show sponsored by FLAME. Tickets are \$5

14-15, 20-23 "Burn This"
Lanford Wilson play to be presented by the Empty Space Players.
Call Ext. 6467 for more information.

27 Trick or Treat Street

28 Southern Crossroads Storytelling Conference

Workshops and storytelling sessions all day on campus. Registration fee is \$40. Contact Owen Elmore at Ext. 6519 for more information.

