Faculty members earn endowed professorships

Five LSU Alexandria faculty members will get extra funds over the next two years to pursue various academic interests ranging from biological research to studying the link between early childhood education and adult incarceration.

The five have been awarded endowed professorships, which provide faculty members with a salary supplement and additional funds for professional development, travel or equipment. The awards are made possible through private gifts to the LSUA Foundation, which are matched with a gift from the Board of Regents Support Fund. Recipients are selected through a competitive process.

The Huie-Dellmon Trust Endowed Professorship in Liberal Arts and Science was awarded to Dr. Ginger Jones, associate professor of English. Jones plans to use the development portion of the professorship to enhance the Myth, Legends and Folklore course to include a travel component. Traveling will allow her students to explore the influence of Jean Lafitte and Marie LaVoe and others. “I want to teach my students to read, write, question, explore and discover by becoming active, rather than passive, learners,” she said.

The Roy and Vinita Martin Endowed Professorship was presented to Dr. Susan Sullivan, assistant professor of biological science. She plans to use the development portion of the professorship to continue and expand research on leaf cutter ants in hopes of finding colonies of Streptomyces that may inhibit growth of household molds or even growth of other bacteria.

Her philosophy of teaching centers around learning as a life-long journey. She sees the role of a teacher as being akin to that of a very good field guide for a particular section of a journey — to enlighten and to guide.

The J.H. Johnson Endowed Professorship in Business Administration was awarded to Beth Lord Whittington, assistant professor of criminal justice. She plans to use the professional development portion of the professorship to study the link between quality early childhood education and incarceration rates.

She believes that if Louisiana offered quality pre-kindergarten programs to all 3- and 4-year-olds, we could seriously retard the rapid rate at which we are currently incarcerating individuals.

The Cliff E. Laborde Sr. Endowed Professorship in Education was awarded to Julie Gill, an assistant professor of kinesiology. With the development portion of the professorship, she plans to continue her studies of learned helplessness — the belief that despite one’s best efforts, failure is unavoidable. Her objective is to identify LSU Alexandria students who demonstrate signs of learned helplessness, then help them overcome their fears and help them attain their educational goals.

Gill believes that educators should continuously strive for excellence and push students to achieve their highest potential. When you expect more, your receive more.

The Barbara M. Martin Endowed Professorship in Nursing was awarded to Kim Herrington, associate professor of nursing. She plans to use the development funds of the professorship to develop a pilot study focused on student assessment to identify at-risk nursing students and to increase their chances for success within the program.

She believes the best gift that a teacher can give her students is the stimulation of the enthusiastic search for knowledge within the nursing arena to provide better nursing care of patients as well as to become a more effective and well-rounded nurse and human being.

The LSU Alexandria Alumni and Friends Association will host a Cochon de Lait at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, on the campus plaza. Faculty and staff are invited to attend.

This is the second Cochon de Lait to benefit the AFA.

The event includes food, fellowship and fun. Music will be provided by Steve Wells and David Marler. Dr. Robert Cavanaugh is scheduled to provide an update on campus issues.

Tickets are $20 and benefit LSU Alexandria and Alumni and Friends Association program development. Tickets can be purchased in Auxiliary Services, Institutional Advancement or in the Chancellor’s Office.
Dr. Jerry Sanson, professor of history and political science, led the reading and discussion series “Louisiana History: Perspectives of the Pelican State” at the Louisiana Historical Association fall board of directors meeting in Lafayette. The series was sponsored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. He also reviewed several books, including *The Deacons for Defense Armed Resistance and the Civil Rights Movement, Alabama in the Twentieth Century*, and *The Two Reconstructions: The Struggle for Black Enfranchisement for Choice, Steamboats on Louisiana’s Bayous: A History and Director for the Arkansas Review*, and *Inside the Carnival: Unmasking Louisiana Politics for Louisiana History.*

Dr. Henry Robertson, associate professor of history, attended “English Spoke Here: Great Britain and Louisiana” at the Williams Research Symposium of The Historic New Orleans Collection in January. He has recently reviewed *Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi* for *Louisiana History* and *The Uncivil War: Irregular Warfare in the Upper South, 1861-1865* for the *Arkansas Review.*

Dr. Jim Rogers, assistant professor of history, and Dr. Eamon Halpin, professor of English, presented papers at the Social History Society’s Annual Conference at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. The title of Rogers’ paper was “Between Class and Community: The Social Milieu of Domestic Shopkeepers in Victorian Industrial Towns” and Halpin’s paper was “Empire and Loss: The Theme of Renunciation in Virgil, Shakespeare and Freud.”

Carol Martin, instructor of business applications and coordinator of student computer competency, attended Course Technology’s Conference for Information Technology Educators on March 16-18 in Orlando, Fla. She attended eight sessions dealing with Skills Assessment Manager, Emerging Technologies and Teaching Techniques, Practical Computer Security and College Computer Literacy.

Dean Freddie Litton, Dr. Judy Rundell, Beth Douzart and Vicki Younger of the Education Department attended the national NCATE Accreditation and Accountability Conference in Arlington, Va. The Department of Education is scheduled for an initial accreditation visit in fall 2008.

Vicki Younger, PK-16+ coordinator, attended the National Professional Development Schools Conference in Orlando, Fla. This conference helps universities plan ways to deepen partnerships with local schools in their service district.

Education instructor Donna Odom-LaCaze attended the National Association for Alternative Certification Conference in Denver, Colo., on March 30-April 1. Presenters discussed the latest research concerning the alternative routes to teacher certification.

Dessie Williams, assistant professor of study skills, was named president of the National Association for Developmental Education in Albuquerque, N.M. NADE focuses on the academic success of students in higher education and comprises 27 state and regional chapters. Williams also attended the New York College and Skills Association Symposium in Cooperstown, N.Y., on April 2-4. She served as a panelist and addressed the topic of “Research and Best Practices in Developmental Education.”

Dr. Bernard Gallagher, professor of English, had a paper selected at the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association Conference. The paper is titled “The Subversive Nature of Child’s Play: Metonymy in Arna Bontemps’ and Langston Hughes’ *The Pasteboard Bandit*.” Gallagher also has been elected co-vice president of the Louisiana Council of Teachers of English.

Congratulations to Karen Williams from Copy & Duplicating Services on the birth of her son. Q’vondrick LaPatrick Williams was born Monday, April 4, weighing 9 pounds, 6.5 ounces and measuring 20 inches long.

Assistant English professor Lillian Wooley, center, escorted four LSU Alexandria students to the prestigious National Undergraduate Literature Conference in Ogden, Utah, last month. LSUA was well represented since only 250 student papers were chosen for presentation from across the nation. Attending were, from left, Gabriel Guillory, John Cady, Cory Rice and Diane Ehresman.
Faculty members honored for years of service

Mathematics professor Dr. Larry Herrington was among several faculty members recognized for years of service to the university during the Spring Faculty Meeting. Herrington received a pin for 25 years of service at LSU Alexandria.

Chancellor Robert Cavanaugh presented Herrington the 25-year pin in a meeting which also recognized achievements of other faculty members.

Earning a 20-year pin was Dr. Doug Allen, biology professor. Fifteen-year certificates were presented to Nelda Jeane, associate professor of nursing, and Dessie Williams, assistant professor of study skills. Earning five-year certificates were Richard Gwartney, chairman of the Department of Arts, English & Humanities, Janeen Whitmore, assistant professor of nursing and Elizabeth Jackson, assistant professor of nursing.

Cavanaugh also announced several personnel actions recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. Gwartney was promoted to associate professor with tenure, Dr. Sultan Parvez was promoted to associate professor with tenure and Dr. Ginger Jones received tenure.

Circle K collecting textbooks

Circle K is collecting textbooks for Room to Read’s efforts to rebuild more than 100 schools in Sri Lanka. Old textbooks or instructor editions are welcome.

Faculty and staff can leave books with Jodi Milliner in the MAPS Department, Carla Reed in the College of Arts and Sciences, Joyce Abshire in the Education Department or Susan Eversull in Biological Sciences Department. A collection box also is located in the bookstore.

If you want a Circle K member to pick up your books, call Dr. Dorene Fox at Ext. 4438 or e-mail her at CircleK@lsua.edu.

Speakers Bureau being updated

In an effort to keep LSU Alexandria visible and active in community events, Institutional Advancement is updating its Speakers Bureau and Experts Guide lists.

The lists are of faculty and staff members who are experts in their various fields. It will be used by members of the media to use when searching for expert sources for news stories, or by civic organizations looking for speakers on various subjects.

We’re adding a third component: faculty and staff willing to help our recruiting efforts by guest lecturing at local high schools.

You will have the option of signing up for all three components or just one or two. We’ll be circulating signup sheets soon or you will be able to sign up via our website. Stay tuned.

Pat on the Back: A big thank you goes out to Facility Services for setting up tents, tables and chairs for the Shakespeare-on-the-Greene festival of Renaissance. Also, thanks to Eamon Halpin, chairman of the Chancellor’s Arts & Humanities Committee, for making the festival a success.

CAPS begins June 13

Children’s Academic Program for Summer (CAPS) will be held June 13-24 at LSU Alexandria. CAPS is a two-week educational enrichment program for children who have completed grades 1 through 6.

To participate, the child must be certified as gifted or have a “B” average or higher. Participants will learn about art, music, computers, mathematics, science and physical education in an exciting and challenging environment.

To receive a registration form, contact LSUA Continuing Education at 473-6495 or CAPS@lsua.edu.

Campus Clipboard ... Continued from Page 2

Welcome to our new employees:

Julie Bonial joins LSU Alexandria as the new director of Human Resource Management. Julie started the position on April 29.

Chris Laffitte joins the University as a new recruiter in Admissions and Records.

Mary Bowie joins LSU Alexandria as a custodian 1 in Facility Services.

Congratulations to Jackie Clark in Food Service on the birth of her granddaughter, Amari Elise Scott. She was born April 27 at Rapides Women’s & Children’s Hospital and weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. Her mom is Lisa Scott. Congratulations, Jackie!
May

6       Final day of spring classes

9-13   Final exams

13     Graduates' final grades due in Records by 2 p.m.

16     Summer intersession begins

16     Final grades due in Records by noon

17-18  Records office closed
       No transcripts or grades available at this time

19     Commencement, 10 a.m., Fitness Center gymnasium

19     Nurse pinning ceremony, 11:30 a.m.,
       Fitness Center gymnasium

19     LSU Alexandria Alumni & Friends
       Cochon de Lait, 6:30 p.m., plaza.
       Tickets are $20. Contact Institutional Advancement, Auxiliary
       Services or the Chancellor's Office to purchase.

June

9       Registration for summer session

13     Summer classes begin

13-24  CAPS
Catherine Tabor and Haywood Joiner got into the spirit of the festival. It's not often that Richard Gwartney gets out of character, but we understand. His role of King of the Fairies was put on hold while he munched on some nachos.

Donald Caplan, Kendall From and Jim Stacy get ready for "The Winter's Tale."

The University Chorus directed by Richard Gwartney provided entertainment.

Dr. Steve Jackson, photo at left, was one of several entertainers during the festival. At right, Lisa Mayeux, Eamon Halpin and Dr. Robert Cavanaugh take a break.

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Dr. Judy Rundell questions an education major during Geo-Awareness Day.

All kinds of characters greeted Georgia Cavanaugh during the Friends of the Library Book Sale.

Follette Vice President Kieran Keenan and Dr. Robert Cavanaugh cut the ribbon on the newly remodeled bookstore.

Dr. Dorene Fox got festive at Circle K Hawaiian Day.

Several children of LSU Alexandria faculty and staff converged on campus for Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Elaine Beck sported an unusual hat at the Education Department’s Geo-Awareness Day.