



Oak

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Keeping LSU Alexandria
employees connected

Leaf

Robinson returns from Ethiopia with 'new perspective'

LSU Alexandria Phlebotomy Coordinator Cathy Robinson returned to the United States on Nov. 26 speechless but with so much to say about her trip to Ethiopia.

After only two weeks spent in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Robinson had "no idea where to start" in her interview after she returned. Every day, Robinson gained a "new perspective" and appreciation for the resources Americans have in the United States.

As a member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Robinson was selected to participate in the President's Plan for AIDS Relief. She joined five others clinical laboratory scientists for a two-week trip in last month to the capital city of Ethiopia.

While there, Robinson taught Ethiopian professors and lab directors the basics of laboratory testing, specifically quality assurance, using modules created by the Centers for Disease Control and ASCP.



Robinson pictured with her students in Ethiopia.

Robinson said she taught a "very educated group of 32 men and women, two of which were women."

At first the group was quiet and gave no response to questions, but by the second week, they were "really chatty" and "liked to make jokes."

"That was the most exciting part," Robinson said. "They realized that they weren't alone."

The quality of the "top labs" in the country shocked Robinson. "I'm very appreciative for what we've got. Their lab infrastructure has a ways to go," Robinson said.

Some international companies are donating money and equipment, but to Robinson, "it's like putting one cent into a 500 gallon bucket."

Donations are ultimately what lead to better overall health in the world's struggling countries such as Ethiopia, according to Robinson.

With one company's substantial donation of lab controls, Ethiopians can get better lab results on their patients, so doctors can then make better patient diagnosis. This then allows better treatment options for the patients, which all combined lead to better healthcare and better overall health of the people, according to Robinson.

In this way, Ethiopia mirrors the United States. "They have the exact same concerns as us," Robinson explained. "It's incredible to see."

**See Robinson,
Pg. 6**

Rogers attends conferences in D.C., Alabama

Dr. James Rogers, assistant professor of history, recently attended the Southern Conference of British Studies in Birmingham, Ala. on Nov. 16. At the conference, he presented a paper entitled "Exclusive Dealing, Shopkeepers and Communal Politics in Industrial Victorian Towns."

On Nov. 29 through Dec. 3, Rogers will also attend the

National Council for the Social Sciences Conference in Washington, D.C. At this conference, he will be trained as a Social Sciences Program Reviewer, which is a process by which collegiate teacher education programs are accredited by the NCSS and the National Council for the Advancement of Teacher Education. ●

LSUA professors present at LCTE conference

The Louisiana Council of Teachers of English (LCTE) held its annual conference, "Nuts and Bolts: Practical Strategies for Classroom Success," on October 27-28 in Alexandria at the Downtown Holiday Inn.

LSUA assistant professor Dr. Arthur Rankin spoke about practical assignments that help build research skills and familiarity with both the Internet and databases.

Kimberly Elmore's "More Teaching [and] Less Policing" showed how to combat online plagiarism.

Dr. Bernard Gallagher applied the approaches of Jane Schafer and Lynn Troyka to writing paragraphs about literature.

A former LSUA student, Brenda Parmalee, also demonstrated how to use the "I-Search Paper" as a bridge into the research paper. Hope Coulter, the featured speaker for the conference, emceed the Friday night poetry reading that was held at the Alexandria Museum of Art.

Dr. Steve Jackson from LSUA read first and then opened the event to the public. A crowd, estimated at about 45, attended the event and that was co-sponsored by the LCTE, LEH, and LSUA.

New officers were also elected for the upcoming year. Gallagher was elected vice president of the LCTE. ●

Bovey presents paper at convention in Charlotte

LSU Alexandria adjunct instructor of education Sherry Bovey presented her paper "Sociological Theories of Delinquency: Can They Explain

Delinquency among the Gifted?" on Nov. 4 at the National Association for Gifted Children Convention in Charlotte, N.C. ●

Awtry, LaSIP presentations

Dr. Thomas Awtry, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, presented "Mastering Basic Facts" at the dual Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics and Louisiana Science Teachers Association conference on Oct. 20. Also at the conference, the Louisiana Systemic Initiative Program participants presented a poster session entitled "Classroom Connections: Share-a-thon." ●

English prof presents paper

Dr. Seth Bovey, professor of english, presented his paper entitled, "Pulp Fiction, Gangster Films and the Beginning of the Noir Western" to the Western Literature Association's conference.

Nearly 500 people from around the United States and even China attended the conference held in Boise, Idaho in late October. ●

Nangia acknowledged

Dr. Shonu Nangia, assistant professor of foreign languages, was acknowledged by Vista Higher Learning in the Instructor's Annotated Edition of "Espaces: Rendez-vous avec le monde francophone" for his help in reviewing the textbook. ●

If you have an accomplishment you'd like to publish, e-mail the information to nborden@lsua.edu. ●

LSUA tops goal for United Way campaign

This year, LSUA faculty and staff contributed \$6,269 to the United Way campaign, which was a 6.5 percent increase from LSUA's contribution last year. LSUA had a goal of 5 percent set for this year, according to Jennifer Smith, LSUA United Way campaign chair.

While not all departments met the second goal of 100 percent participation, several did including Biological Sciences, Continuing Education and the Learning Center at the Airpark. Out of 246 full-time faculty and staff members who received donation forms, 82 contributed to the campaign.

At the Psychology Club's fundraiser entitled "Fall Into the Habit of Helping Someone," the club collected over \$150 for the United Way.

The money from the Psychology Club fundraiser along with

**See United Way,
Pg. 6**

LSUA faculty, staff members embrace local writer through museum involvement

With four faculty and staff members involved, LSU Alexandria is well-represented in the Arna Bontemps Foundation, Inc located in Alexandria.

Serving as current Board of Directors President, Dr. Haywood Joiner, chair of allied health, knows "what a jewel we have in downtown Alexandria."

Joiner is referring to the Arna Bontemps African American Museum and Cultural Arts Center, which is also the birthplace of Alexandria-native writer Arna Bontemps.

Fellow professor Dr. Bernard Gallagher, professor of English, agrees with Joiner, adding that Bontemps himself is "one of the best kept secrets of Alexandria."

Gallagher currently serves on the Board next to interim instructor of English, Dr. Philip Tapley.

Tapley sees Bontemps as someone who "has been

neglected by the literary community" despite his stature and significance as a writer.

Though a provocative writer, Bontemps still "had a sure sense of values," Tapley explained. This is credited to his family's religion, Seventh-day Adventist, according to Dessie Williams, multi-cultural affairs coordinator, chair of the Museum's Quiz Bowl, and former board member.

What played an even larger

role in Bontemps' writing was his birthplace. Bontemps was born in 1902 in his home

formerly located at the corner of Ninth and Winn Streets.

Though his family moved from Alexandria, he still wrote in about the influence that the city had on his early life. After graduating college, Bontemps became a leading authority on the Harlem Renaissance, according to Williams.

To celebrate Bontemps, Tapley has authored two articles on Bontemps and his writings, while Gallagher is currently working on a historical project on the writer. ●

"Bontemps is one of the best kept secrets in Alexandria."

●Dr. Bernard Gallagher

Welcome new LSUA faculty, staff members

June Hudgens
Delores Harris
Tracey Jones
Melissa LaBorde
Brittany Perkins
Ronnell Stewart

Part-time Instructor
Assistant Professor
Director of Children's Center
Assistant professor
Associate 2 Teacher
Financial Aid Counselor

Staff Senate JAM raises funds for staff scholarships

Many thanks...

Glenna Cornell, Staff Senate president, would like to extend a special thanks to Facility Services for their help in set up and Ricky Aaron, Belinda Aaron's husband, who did an excellent job of cooking the brisket.

Felicia Dobbins, receptionist; Carla Reed, education; Carol Martin, business administration; and Dan Purvis, student services, won door prizes at the JAM. ●



(Above) Staff Senators Shelly Keiffer, Jennifer Smith, Debbie Decuir, Glenna Cornell, June Guillory, Linda Smith, and Belinda Aaron are all smiles in front of the feast they prepared for the JAM.



(Left) Rebecca Ardoin with the Children's Center and Heather Bandy with Records were the recipients of the Staff Senate Scholarships presented at the Staff Senate JAM.



(Above) Go DJ! Dewayne Lair, facility services, enjoys a slice of pie while he serves as DJ for the Staff Senate JAM.



(Above) Karen Williams, copy & duplicating services, and Mona James, administrative assistant in nursing, relax after eating brisket and all the fixings prepared by Staff Senate and Ricky Aaron.

Snapshots

AFA Gumbo Social brings LSUA alumni, friends together

Dr. Dee Slavant, student services, dances with John Hebron, student worker, at the AFA Gumbo Social on Nov. 14.



Dr. Cavanaugh shows Kay Casey, new director of institutional advancement, a picture of him from a LSUA 1970's yearbook.



Faculty, staff lend helping hand at Open House

[Above] Recruiter Averri LeMalle discusses education options with a grandmother who attended the Fall Open House held on Nov. 21.



In appreciation

A big thanks goes out to the following faculty who hosted prospective students during Open House on November 21:

Brenda Ellington
Kimberly Elmore
Owen Elmore
Bernard Gallagher
Greg Gormanous
David Huey
Melissa LaBorde
Doran O'Donnell
Margaret Ortigo



[Right] Dr. Betty Elder, professor of biology, answers the questions of an enthusiastic possible future student of LSUA.

A huge thanks goes out to OP&M for turning the Brumfield Caffey Annex around so quickly after an orientation the night before Open House.

United Way, Continued from Pg. 3

the campaign contributions from LSUA faculty and staff bring the grand total from contributed by LSUA to **\$6,420.**

Smith and Dr. James Rogers, campaign co-chair, would like to express a very special thank you to the LSUA faculty and staff, the Psychology Club, and the team leaders, who through their generosity and kindness made this campaign a wonderful success. ●



Jennifer Smith, Nick Fontenot, Carrie Dewitt, and Dr. Richard Elder stand in front of the leaves signed by those who donated at least \$1 to the Psychology Club's fundraiser.

Robinson, Continued from Pg. 1

Robinson brought back with her an appreciation that she hopes all Americans have.

"We're so lucky to have the resources we have, and we need to be more appreciative and not take them for granted," Robison added.

Robinson hopes to share and spread this sense of appreciation to her students here at LSUA. Along with learning new teaching techniques in Ethiopia, Robinson also learned how to motivate students as well as how to teach them to be more global in their approach.

To illustrate her point, Robinson discussed with a professor in Ethiopia the idea of having their medical technology students interacting via the Internet.

During her two-week stay in Addis Ababa, Robinson also used the Internet to keep her students and co-workers updated on her experiences by using her blog found at www.medtechtravel.blogspot.com.

Robinson will return to Ethiopia during the first quarter of 2007 to help Ethiopians set up the equipment and instruments that will be delivered to their labs soon.

Finally, although Robinson missed being with her family during Thanksgiving, she did not go without the traditional Thanksgiving Day meal. The hotel she stayed at provided Thanksgiving meal complete with the usuals – turkey, green beans, pumpkin and walnut pie, and what Ethiopians call "smashed potatoes." ●



A Mandy Goodnight Q&A article with Cathy Robinson during her stay in Ethiopian can be found in the Nov. 25th issue of The Town Talk.

Visit www.medtechtravel.blogspot.com for a first-hand account from Robinson.

Commencement reception, Holiday Social scheduled

Following commencement on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m., there will be a reception at the Alexandria Museum of Art for faculty and staff involved in the ceremony.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 12-1 p.m., a campus Holiday Social will also be held in the Caffey Annex for staff, faculty, and student workers.

Assorted finger foods will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite sweets and goodies for dessert. Please RSVP with Felicia Dobbins by calling extension 0 or e-mailing her at fdobbins@lsua.edu. ●

Construction continues on several projects

Phase III of the Science Building renovations should be complete by Dec. 11, according to Bob Karam, executive director of facility services. After this, there is one final phase remaining in the project.



Demolition has begun on the Oakland Plantation Golf Course Clubhouse. The golf course staff can now be found in a temporary building behind the old clubhouse. ●

Encourage female students to apply for Ms. LSUA

LSU Alexandria is now accepting applications for the 2007 Ms. LSU Alexandria Pageant. Those female students who are interested in participating should pick up a contestant application from Room 206 in Student Services. Applications are due on Monday, December 18 in Room 206.

During the week of Nov. 27 from 12-1 p.m. in the Student Union, Ms. LSU Alexandria 2006 Kerra Marcotte and pageant coordinator Kathryn

Wimmert will be available to answer questions about the pageant process.

The pageant is open to any part-time or full-time student who has at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and has earned at least 12 credit hours. Those interested must also be an active member of one LSUA student organization.

The winner of the pageant, which is held in April 2007, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information, contact Wimmert at 473-6545. ●

LSUA wins French Film grant

For the second consecutive year, LSU Alexandria has been selected to participate in the French American Cultural Exchange's French film grant program, the Tournées Festival, for 2006-2007, according to Dr. Shonu Nangia, assistant professor of foreign languages.

With the funds received through the grant, LSUA will host a French film festival in late March 2007. LSUA joins over 85 universities selected across the United States in celebration of contemporary French cinema. ●

Upcoming Events

Dec. 1

Last Day of Classes for Fall Semester

Dec. 4-8

Final Examination period

Dec. 8

Graduates' Final Grades Due	12 p.m.	in Records
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Dec. 11

Final Grades Due	12 p.m.	in Records
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Dec. 11-15

Secret Santa		Abrams 120
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Dec. 14

Fall Commencement	10 a.m.	Riverfront Center
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Dec. 15

Secret Santa Reveal Party	9 a.m.	Bayou Robert Room
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Dec. 18

Ms. LSUA Pageant Applications Due		Rm. 206, Student Services
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Dec. 25-Jan. 1

Christmas Holidays-Office Closed