

COLONEL PIONEERS

In a two-story building with missing floor tiles, few desks and no pencil sharpeners, Bonnie Bourg teaches health and physical education courses. At 21 years old, she is the youngest member of Francis T. Nicholls Junior College's charter faculty. But, for Bourg, Nicholls does not feel like anything more than a high school.

In many ways, it isn't. The campus has no auditorium, no residence halls, no stadium. Bourg relies heavily upon her versatility and liberal arts background to teach P.E. without a gymnasium, showers or air conditioning.

On rainy days, she leads students in tumbling, square dancing and craft projects. Sometimes, she hangs a curtain across the length of the Elkins Hall attic, where her students draw back their bows to shoot arrows that hit the fabric without piercing the walls.

Al Delahaye is a journalism student at Louisiana State University, Bourg's alma mater. It's 1948. He won't join the Nicholls staff until 1957. But from their conversation one would never guess that he wasn't part of Nicholls from the start.

"In its first 15 years, Nicholls survived on sheer resourcefulness," he says.

"With only one building, students had no place to hide when cutting classes. Some instructors took skipping class personally and would go find students, most likely in the cafeteria."

Delahaye is relaxed, in his element, as he and Bourg jog one another's memories. Bourg's mind reaches back 60 years, to when she rode a student-driven public school bus to Nicholls each day.

Delahaye recalls stories and photos he's garnered through interviews for his Nicholls history books and hours of thumbing through old yearbooks.

"Most of the first students were from families that had never sent anyone to college," Bourg says.

Nicholls reshaped the culture of the Tri-Parish region. No longer did

students have to travel far for higher education, changing the attitude that men and women should work and keep house after high school.

Bourg and Delahaye molded campus organizations and traditions. No longer did Nicholls lack theater productions, a campus newspaper, student government, a mascot, Greek life, an alma mater or an alumni federation.

"Bonnie pioneered things and then passed them on to other faculty members," says Delahaye, who created his fair share of university legacies – and publicized the ones he didn't during his tenure as director of publications and public information.

"Luckily for me, I got bored easily. I liked starting something and then moving on to something new," Bourg remarks.

However, students borrowed their first traditions from Louisiana State University, to whom the Thibodaux junior college reported until 1956. There, upperclassmen initiated freshmen by clipping their hair. Since Nicholls only had freshmen in 1948, the men started cutting each other's hair, usually at the flagpole.

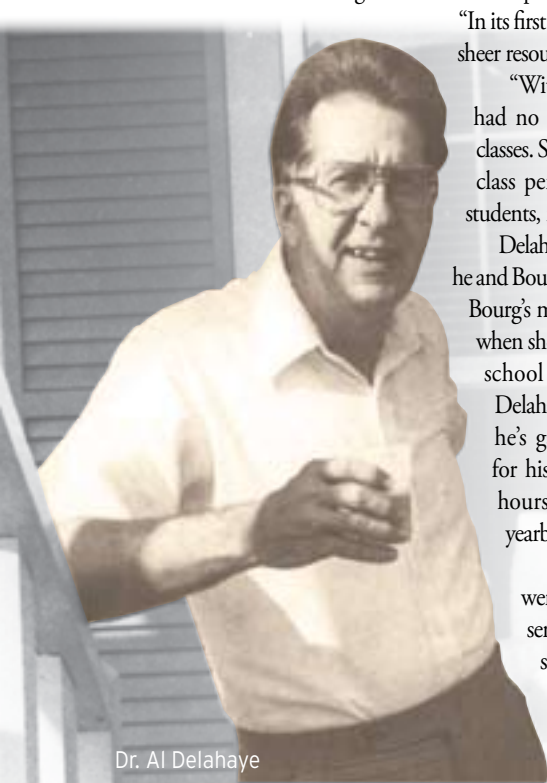
"LSU traditions became Nicholls traditions," says Delahaye, although they would not become mainstays.

An individual campus pride soon developed. In the 1960s, university President Charles Elkins even asked students not to wear their high school letter jackets or, if they did, to remove the letters or wear the jacket reversed.

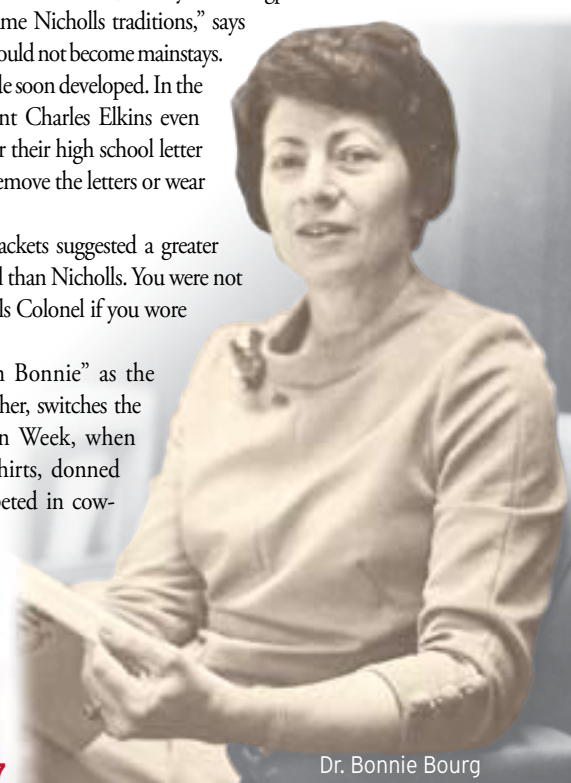
"High school letter jackets suggested a greater loyalty to your high school than Nicholls. You were not considered a good Nicholls Colonel if you wore one," Delahaye explains.

Bourg, or "two-gun Bonnie" as the 1962 yearbook describes her, switches the conversation to Western Week, when she dressed in fringed shirts, donned a cowboy hat and competed in cow-milking contests. The event included competitions to catch a greased pig, grow the thickest beard and chew tobacco without spitting.

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Dr. Al Delahaye



Dr. Bonnie Bourg

THE COLONEL

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Dr. Stephen Hulbert
University President

Debbie Raziano (B.A. '74)
Director of Alumni Affairs

Donna Auman
Administrative Assistant, Alumni Affairs

Renee Piper
Editor/Writer

Jerad David (B.A. '00)
Graphic Designer

Doug Keese (B.A. '99)
Photographer

Contributing Writers

Dr. David Boudreaux, Vice President
for Institutional Advancement

Dr. Al Delahaye, Professor Emeritus of Journalism

Stephanie Detillier (B.A. '06), Creative Writer/Editor

Graham Harvey, Writer/Media Relations Specialist

Brandon Rizzuto, Director of Media Relations for Athletics

Kristy Tazuin Goulis (B.A. '92), Director of Career Services

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Gayle Clement Tazuin (B.S. '73)

Contact *The Colonel* at:

Office of Alumni Affairs

P.O. Box 2158

Thibodaux, LA 70310

(985) 448-4111

deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu

If a story in *The Colonel* makes you remember your days at Nicholls, let us know. We welcome letters on subjects covered in the magazine and of broad interest to our readers, as long as they are respectful. We will publish as many as we can, subject to space limitations. We edit for space, clarity and style.

Staying in Touch.....

The face of your alma mater, Nicholls State University, has changed dramatically since your graduation. Streets have been paved, new signage has gone up, new residence halls are nearing completion, the cafeteria and the bookstore have been renovated, and there is more to come. Those are changes you can see and be proud of. But deep below the surface, Nicholls remains the same as it was when you were here: a warm, friendly campus, where each student counts and where everyone knows everyone else. After 60 years, we are still a place where people come first. And that is why we still need you and why we want to hear from you!

We are interested in knowing what opportunities you have had and how Nicholls has helped you reach your goals. To ensure that you receive your copy of *The Colonel*; the university magazine *Voilà!*; and event reminders like the Homecoming brochure and crawfish boil flier, be sure to update your contact information. Please fill out the form on the back page and mail it to us.

Our annual enrollment and membership renewal notices will be going out in July 2008. Please support the Alumni Federation's scholarship programs and our alumni events by joining or renewing your Alumni Federation membership.

In the Colonel Spirit,



Debbie Raziano
Director, Alumni Affairs



Ride with Colonel Pride!



Visit <http://omv.dps.state.la.us/> to get your Nicholls license plate. The Nicholls General Scholarship Fund receives \$25 of the \$26 fee above the regular vehicle registration.

A Thousand Words



I got goose bumps and a little teary-eyed when I saw the pictures in *The Colonel*!

I have recently moved back to Metairie since renovating my house from Katrina. Sadly, I lost my yearbooks from high school as well as college that were on a bottom shelf.

How neat to now have, not one, but two pictures! I have a 12-year-old daughter who just started cheering, and I have shared some of my Colonel chants with her.

My years at Nicholls were the happiest of my life, making memories and friends for life!!!

“Go BIG RED!”

Claire Tatum (B.A. '76, M.Ed. '80)
Metairie, La.

Can a picture really be worth 1,000 words? We think so. Share your stories about this 1987 photo or the memories it brings to mind. Send to: deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu or The Colonel, Office of Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 2158, Thibodaux, LA 70310. Call (985) 448-4111 for more information.

BURNING QUESTION

- What were your favorite NICHOLLS TRADITIONS? Write in and
- tell us about the traditions that make you long for your days
- as a student. We'll feature responses in the next issue. Send to:
- deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu or The Colonel, Office of Alumni
- Affairs, P.O. Box 2158, Thibodaux, LA 70310.

Let Fellow Drivers Know Who You Are

Exhibiting your Nicholls pride is simple and inexpensive, Alumni Director Debbie Raziano says. To order your Nicholls license plate, she offers this explanation:

“Ask your dealer to order a Nicholls license plate when you buy your next automobile. The cost of the plate is \$26 above the regular, biennial vehicle registration fee – and all but \$1 of the surcharge will be returned to the Nicholls General Scholarship Fund.

Another way to get a Nicholls license plate is to exchange your current plate.

To determine the cost, go to www.expresslane.org or call the Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles at (225) 925-6371 or 1-877-368-5463. You'll receive a credit for your existing, unexpired registration. Once you've determined the cost, send a written request for your Nicholls plate to the DMV, P.O. Box 64886, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-4886. Include a photocopy of your registration certificate, proof of insurance and a check payable to the DMV for the determined cost.”

Nearly 1,000 Nicholls license plates have been ordered since their inception. The next could be yours.

Federation Presents 2008 Awards for Excellence

The Alumni Federation conducted its annual Awards for Excellence reception in April, honoring recipients who have most helped to advance the university and the federation.



From left are Dr. Stephen Hulbert, university president; Roger Hamilton Jr. ('98), alumni federation president; Dr. Barry Landry (B.S. '77); and Debbie Raziano ('74), director of alumni affairs. The **James Lynn Powell Award**, the federation's most prestigious award given to a Nicholls graduate, was presented to Landry, a Thibodaux-based, general surgical practitioner. A long-time member of the federation, the Nicholls Foundation and the Colonel Club, Landry has taken special interest in caring for Nicholls student athletes.



From left are Archie Manning and Brett Terrebonne ('89), alumni federation president-elect. The **Harvey Peltier Award**, the highest award given to a non-graduate of Nicholls, was awarded to Manning, former NFL quarterback and father of two current NFL stars. The federation recognized Manning for bringing the Manning Passing Academy to Nicholls and for his role in resurfacing the Guidry Stadium football field.



Dr. David Middleton

The **Marie Fletcher Distinguished Service Award**, honoring past or present administrators or faculty members, was awarded to **Dr. David Middleton**, head of the Department of Languages and Literature. He is also an Alcée Fortier professor, distinguished service professor of English and poet-in-residence. The award includes a cash stipend of \$500 provided by the alumni federation.



From left are Chris Terracina ('73), secretary-treasurer of The Lorio Foundation; Rita Dickey, executive director of The Lorio Foundation; Camille Morvant ('71, '80), president of The Lorio Foundation Board of Directors; and Ann Hebert ('70, '80), member of The Lorio Foundation Board of Directors. The **Corporate Mark of Honor** was awarded to The Lorio Foundation, a private, not-for-profit organization responsible for funding more than \$1.44 million in new projects at Nicholls, including two scholarships, a new bus, a server for the Nicholls network, four endowed professorships, three Steinway pianos and a harpsichord.



Joanne Price

Joanne Price, administrative assistant in the John Folse Culinary Institute, received the **Ramon Labat Award**, presented annually to former or current civil service employees who have shown exceptional professionalism and have consistently promoted Nicholls.

Three Nicholls employees were named **honorary alumni**: Robert Bernardi, athletics director; Dr. Quenton Fontenot, assistant professor of biological sciences; and George Kaslow, assistant professor of culinary arts.

• During his tenure, Bernardi has presided over the restructuring of the athletics department, improving



the academic standing of student athletes by working to place all academic advising under University College. He has overseen the refurbishment of many Nicholls athletic facilities as well.

• Fontenot currently directs seven students' theses, has helped to create the Bayosphere Research Lab and has published extensively in such serials as the North American Journal of Aquaculture and the North American Journal of Fisheries Management.



• Kaslow, known as "Chef George" to his students, is a recipient of both the BellSouth Endowed Professorship and the Nicholls Apple Award for Outstanding Support for Student Activities. He is also active with Nicholls fundraising events, including Bite of the Arts and the Lafcadio Hearn Award Dinner and Distinguished Visiting Chef Series.



George Kaslow

Crawfish Boil Draws Over 350

More than 350 alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered in the Cotillion Ballroom on Saturday, April 12, for the alumni federation's annual business meeting and crawfish boil.

Attendees devoured 2,300 pounds of crawfish, 200 pounds of potatoes, 300 ears of corn and Alumni Director Debbie Raziano's dipping sauce. "That sauce is good enough to bathe in," said one attendee who preferred to remain anonymous.

Following the feast, attendees danced to the music of Soul Survivors.



Having a great time at the annual crawfish boil are John Weimer ('76) and Debbie Raziano ('74).



Ben Harang ('94), J.P. Piper, Shelby Hypolite ('78) and Thomas Lanham enjoy the hot boiled crawfish.

Alumni Federation Names Officers for 2008-09

Brett Terrebonne (B.S. '89, MBA '97),
president

Herbert Kimble (B.S. '75),
president-elect

Glenn Chance Jr. (B.S. '90, MBA '06),
vice president

Luke Ford Jr. (DIP '54, B.A. '63),
secretary

Stella Lasseigne (B.A. '68, M.Ed. '80),
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Martin Benoit (A.S. '79)

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Eddie Hebert (A.S. '71, BSN '92)

Dr. Leslie Jones (B.S. '91, M.Ed. '92)

Mitzi Naquin (B.S. '97, MBA '99)

Stephen Peltier (B.S. '75)

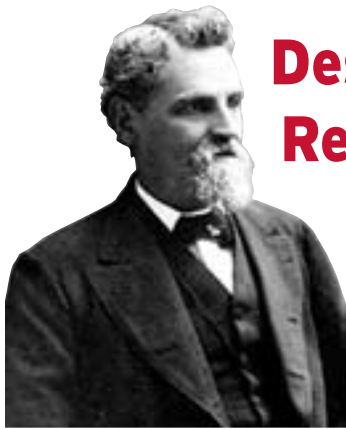
Mark Plaisance (A.S. '82, B.A. '83)

Ernest Richard Jr. (BGS '87, A.S. '02)

Gayle Clement Tausin (B.S. '73)



Ten alumni federation past presidents attended the April 12 crawfish boil. Pictured from left: Roger Hamilton Jr. ('78); Eddie Hebert ('71, '92); Daniel Cavell ('77); Benjamin Jones ('77); Harvey "Drew" Peltier III ('77); Michael Davis ('73); William Barbera ('82); Donald Chaisson ('69); William Riviere ('87); Bruce Vicknair ('74, '80); and director of alumni affairs, Debbie Raziano ('74).



Francis Tillou Nicholls (1834-1912)

Descendants of Francis T. Nicholls Reconnect with the University

presented the family with gifts from university President Stephen T. Hulbert and tickets to the Dec. 19 game.

“Attending the game and reconnecting with the university was truly a gift for the entire family,” Judy Young said. “It is just so great to have the opportunity to connect the past with the present. This was something special, and I’m glad that the family got the chance to meet some people from the university.”

Sidney Stanley Young added, “My brother and I rooted for Nicholls to beat UNC; there is no question about that. We all root for Nicholls.”

Francis and Sidney Young vividly remember traveling to Thibodaux to visit their great-grandmother, Virginia Nicholls Young – the daughter of Francis T. Nicholls.

“I remember playing on the huge oak trees that they had around the house,” Sidney says, describing what was known as Ridgefield Plantation. “We would climb on them and have so much fun. I don’t think my father was too fond of us playing on them for fear of us getting hurt, but it sure was fun.”

Francis Young recalls: “In the backyard at the house, I remember there was an old capped natural-gas well that we thought was so cool. Being from



Sidney Stanley Young, Caroline Young Irvin and Francis Nicholls Young pose Dec. 10 in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Raleigh, we didn’t have things like that in our backyard.”

Their other brother, James Richard Young, lives in Boston, and was unable to make the trip to Chapel Hill.

Virginia kept the stories of her father, Francis T. Nicholls, alive by telling them to her grandchildren. She described how Francis lost his left arm in a Civil War battle while serving as a colonel in the 15th Louisiana Infantry. After healing from his wound, Francis returned to the battlefields as a brigadier general, only to be shot in the left foot, which was later amputated. Besides serving twice as governor of Louisiana, Nicholls also served as chief justice of

the Louisiana Supreme Court from 1892 to 1904.

“I remember the story of how some people of his time wanted him to be a judge. He said that he was too one-sided to be a judge, jokingly of course, because of having lost some body parts during the Civil War,” Caroline says.

Francis Young recalls a story about his great-great-grandfather that isn’t in history books. “She [Virginia] told us that Francis’ leg was wounded in battle and that his wife, Caroline, went to the battlefield and carried him to safety. He might have died out there that day, and, if that was the case, then we wouldn’t be talking today.”

Men’s basketball game in Chapel Hill, N.C., led to a Nicholls family reunion of sorts. Although the Colonels came up short against the No. 1-ranked University of North Carolina Tar Heels, they reconnected with three descendants of Francis T. Nicholls, the namesake of Nicholls State University.

Francis Nicholls Young, Sidney Stanley Young and Caroline Young Irvin are the great-great-grandchildren of Francis T. Nicholls.

Nicholls head coach J.P. Piper received a phone call from Judy Young, wife of Francis Nicholls Young, saying that her family lived near Chapel Hill and planned to attend the upcoming game.

“Once I knew they were interested in coming, I wanted them to meet the players and have the best seats in the house for the game,” says Piper, who

Nicholls Turns 60 - Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future

On Sept. 23, Nicholls will celebrate 60 years of providing higher education opportunities to the people of the Bayou Region and beyond.

In preparation, Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, the institution’s fourth president, convened a committee to begin planning special activities to honor the university’s past and celebrate its future. He appointed Dr. David Boudreaux, vice president for institutional advancement, as chairman. Boudreaux previously chaired the university’s 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

Hulbert said that, while the 60th anniversary celebration need not be as extensive as the 50th, it should,

nevertheless, focus on the many major accomplishments of this still young institution and its graduates.

Dr. Alice Pecoraro, retired vice president for academic affairs and chair of the campus events subcommittee, proposed that the celebration emphasize the actual birthday of the university – Sept. 23. The committee tentatively approved the following activities:

- The day will begin with a breakfast for university retirees.

- A mid-morning lecture, perhaps on the humanities, is being considered.

This lecture may become a permanent part of the university’s calendar.

- At 10:30 a.m., an umbrella decorating contest will be held in the Century Club Room of Guidry Stadium.

- A second-line parade from the Guidry Stadium parking lot to the 50th anniversary fountain in the Quadrangle is planned for 11:30 a.m.

- Following the parade, food and beverages will be served, and a cake

cutting ceremony, presided over by Hulbert and distinguished guests, will take place.

- An evening “monster” piano concert featuring faculty, students and alumni playing the university’s new Steinway pianos has been scheduled. Two 60th anniversary compositions may be commissioned for the event.

The committee will also use traditional university events to celebrate the anniversary. Several subcommittees have been created: alumni events, student events, athletic events, publicity and fund raising. All will be open to alumni, faculty, staff and the public. Details are still being planned.



Spotlight on Chef Randy Cheramie

Chef Randy Cheramie (B.A. '76), associate dean and instructor in the John Folse Culinary Institute, has business and theater experience and a passion for cooking.

A native of Golden Meadow, Cheramie joined the institute in January 2001, incorporating a certain amount of drama and comedy into his classes, and for good reason. Cheramie earned a bachelor's degree in theater and continues to work as a professional stage and film performer, immersing himself in such roles as Tevye in the Jefferson Performing Arts Center's production of "Fiddler on The Roof." He also lends his theatrical talent to commercial and industrial voice work; his booming voice is often heard on local television commercials.

"I love to act," Cheramie says, "and true fine dining has a lot of similarities to live performance. The ambiance is set with décor, lighting and table settings. Everyone is in costume. Timing plays an important role in the success of the performance. I continually use theater metaphors in my lectures and labs."

But theatricality is only part of Cheramie's unique pedagogy. He also employs a down-to-earth approach, tempered by years of business experience. Having inherited Randolph's Restaurant in Golden Meadow from his parents after their 40-year tenure, Cheramie spent 20 years as the restaurant's chef/owner.

"In 1981, at the request of my family, I returned home to take over the reigns of the family business," Cheramie says. "I taught myself the classical sauce system, French techniques, the proper handling of proteins, vegetables, etc., and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, I used my customers as guinea pigs. I experimented on them with my creations and had some great results. A lot of people drove a long way to eat with me."

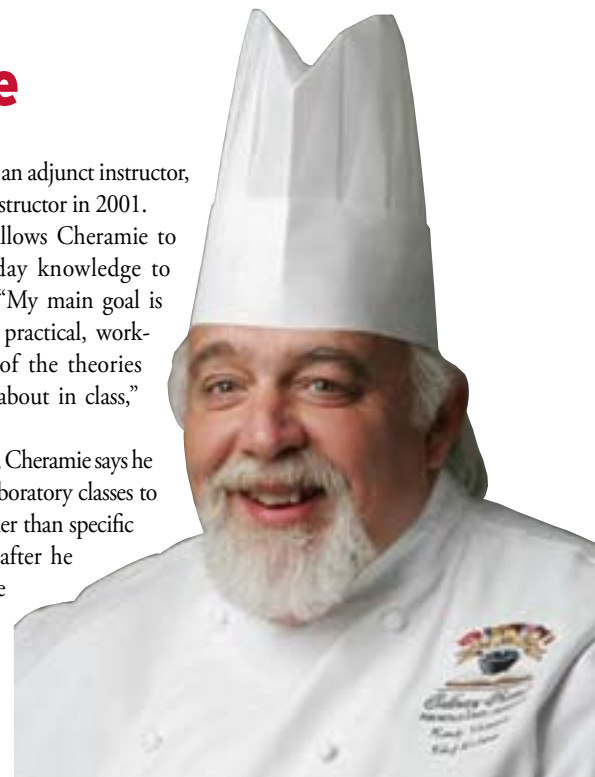
Then, in 1999, Cheramie received a phone call from the dean of the John Folse Culinary Institute, who asked him to teach French cuisine, Culinary Arts 371.

He joined the faculty as an adjunct instructor, becoming a full-time instructor in 2001.

Such experience allows Cheramie to bring realistic, everyday knowledge to life when he teaches: "My main goal is to give my students a practical, work-based understanding of the theories and concepts we talk about in class," he says.

As for cooking itself, Cheramie says he wants students in his laboratory classes to focus on technique rather than specific recipes. For example, after he teaches students the technique of making broccoli cream soup, they should be able to make any kind of cream soup without a recipe.

"The students are completely engaged," Cheramie says. "They never miss a class. All 16 of them show up for every class. They're all about it – so how can I not be all about it? Also, it's a lot of fun for me to see a student leave here and really go on and succeed. It's a great responsibility, but I try to help them develop a true respect for food and to understand what the standard is."



Pioneers, from page 1

However, no women and few men wore blue jeans. Since the ROTC cadet corps included all non-veteran male students, a military atmosphere dominated the campus. All students dressed neatly and were courteous, often at the command of ROTC instructors or Elkins himself.

Bourg: "Students were not allowed to play pedro in the cafeteria so they would get on buses, which stayed parked on campus, to play. Often they would drop candy papers and Coke bottles out the windows."

Delahaye, finishing Bourg's thought: "Dr. Elkins asked students to return their bottles to cases next to vending machines. Litter was his pet peeve. At the time, no ROTC cadet would dare show up to campus unshaven or throw a cigarette butt on the ground."

Imagine a campus without the sight of rubber flip flops, wrinkled T-shirts or sagging shorts, where neatness and elegance were prided, especially at the annual Cadet Christmas Ball—a tradition that long survived the ROTC program.

At the most anticipated annual

event, members of the sweetheart court wore white opera-length gloves and stylish gowns. Men voted for the campus sweetheart, a woman of beauty and popularity who earned a yearbook glamour shot spanning a page, or more. "A big fuss was always made about a beautiful woman," Delahaye says.

All campus events required faculty chaperones, with Delahaye being the student favorite. He describes how students devised a "brilliant" idea to use grocery store boxes to decorate for the "Southern Plantation Homes"-themed ball. "They had a perfect place to hide their liquor bottles," says Delahaye, who usually attended events to take photos for the yearbook. Students with alcohol knew he would not squeal – though no one drank publicly.

Bourg earned popularity for other Christmas antics, such as writing "Ode to the Commode" in December 1955 when a toilet blasted off the wall after students tossed a torpedo in at mid-flush.

"Over the years, I hated to see traditions disappear," Bourg says, "but they were usually replaced by something

else or taken up by other organizations."

Delahaye and Bourg discuss the height of the Newman Club, a Catholic student group once more prestigious than student government. Without opposition, members erected a 30-foot-wide Advent wreath in front of the Rienzi Circle flagpole. Opponents could, however, be found in campus politics, which was tremendously competitive for most of the 1960s. Uniting the campus was theater, which once involved as many as 150 students.

"Practically every student in the school was in 'Li'l Abner,'" says Bourg, who directed the musical's singers and still has a \$2.50 ticket stub from the 1962 show. "We wondered who would show up to see it. It bridged the gap between athletes and other students."

It took until the 1960s for Nicholls students and faculty to begin vocalizing their conflicting values and opinions. Students staged a cafeteria hunger strike, conducted panty raids and, in 1974, streaked the campus for four days.

Bourg, a Phi Mu Fraternity alumna, helped create the Greek life program.

Delahaye was initiated as an honorary member of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity. And as Greek Week's popularity continued, Freak Week poked fun at the chariot races and athletic competitions with non-Greeks dressed in zany costumes.

Student life wasn't the only aspect of campus changing. "In the 1970s, Nicholls was growing at such a rapid speed that the administration had to reinvent the wheel every year," Delahaye says, describing how often policies were adjusted.

One thing has not changed, says Bourg, who retired as vice president for student affairs in 1990. "At Nicholls, it is known that the student is all important. Faculty are dedicated to teaching and mentoring."

Delahaye, professor emeritus of journalism, who many believe never retired (though he officially did in 1990), says, "One campus grievance that never changes is complaints about parking. During the early years, people complained if they had to park past the flagpole in the circle. 'We almost had to park on the bayou,' faculty would say."

Alumni Celebrate Colonel Pride with Homecoming Events

Alumni and friends from near and far came together to celebrate their Colonel pride during the 2007 Homecoming festivities. Homecoming Week activities included: the “Paint the Town Red” campaign that encouraged businesses to display “Geaux Colonels” signs; the traditional Homecoming parade, bonfire and pep rally that drew big crowds despite the spotty showers; the annual golf and tennis tournaments; a Homecoming buffet and reception; and the announcement of the outstanding alumnus from each college.

Homecoming Week festivities culminated with the Saturday evening football game against McNeese State University. A crowd of 6,486 watched as the Colonels fought hard, but ultimately were defeated by the Cowboys 28-7.

The 2007 Homecoming Queen, King and Court were presented at halftime.

Stacy-Ann Smith, psychology senior from

St. Catherine, Jamaica, was crowned queen, and Kenneth Temple, culinary arts senior from New Orleans, was crowned king.

Members of the 2007 Homecoming Court were Megan Archer, mass communication senior from Cut Off; Jonathan Babin, pre-medicine biology senior from Raceland; Alexander Barnes, government and criminal justice senior from Algiers; Curtis Bashkharatee, pre-medicine biology senior from Houma; Michelle Becnel, biology senior from Chackbay; JennaLynn Galjour, secondary English education junior from Raceland; Jesse Gautreaux, nursing junior from Cut Off; David Gravois, mass communication fall graduate from Thibodaux; Kelsi Guidry, health and wellness senior from Cut Off; Nicoya Hutcherson, general studies junior from Los Angeles; Lindsay Mayet, pre-medicine biology senior from Lockport; Trey Ruggiero, pre-medicine biology junior from Plaquemine; Shaye



C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier ('68), winner of the 2007 James Lynn Powell award, was grand marshal of the 2007 Homecoming parade.

Sedotal, pre-dental hygiene junior from Pierre Part; and Jennifer Smith, mass communication junior from Houma.



Honoring the 2007 Homecoming Queen and King are from left: Debbie Raziano ('74), director of alumni affairs; Dr. Stephen Hulbert, university president; Stacy-Ann Smith, Homecoming Queen; Kenneth Temple, Homecoming King; Roger Hamilton Jr. ('98), alumni federation president; and C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier ('68), recipient of the 2007 James Lynn Powell Award and Homecoming grand marshal.

Colleges Recognize Their Outstanding Alumni



Blayne Bergeron ('87) is presented University College's outstanding alumnus award by Dr. Albert Davis, dean of University College, and Dr. Stephen Hulbert, university president.



Robert Naquin ('71) is presented the College of Business Administration's outstanding alumnus award by Dr. Shawn Mauldin, dean of the college, and Hulbert.



Michael Gulotta ('03) is presented the John Folse Culinary Institute's outstanding alumnus award by Randy Cheramie, associate dean of the institute, and Hulbert.



Dr. James Stewart ('84) is presented the College of Arts and Sciences' outstanding alumnus award by Hulbert.



Mary Beth David ('69, '75) is presented the College of Education's outstanding alumnus award by Dr. Deborah Bordelon, dean of the college and Hulbert.

The College of Nursing and Allied Health recognized Stephen Mire ('79) as its outstanding alumnus. Mire was unable to attend the awards ceremony.

Hebert, Patel Win Tennis Tournament

Twenty-one people participated in the 2007 Homecoming tennis tournament. In the ladies division, Pam Hebert won first place and Luisa

Calderon won second place. In the men's division, Dr. Sandeep Patel won first place and Antonio Blanco won second place.



Participants in the 2007 Homecoming tennis tournament pictured from left are: (front row) Amy Trainor ('98); Sherry Delcambre; Ronnie Delcambre; Dr. Claudio Guillermo Jr.; Dr. Sandeep Patel; Stephen Toups ('77); and Cheri White ('06, '07); (middle row) Luisa Calderon; Sharon Naquin ('72); Shelly Martin ('84); Pam Hebert; Mary Roeder; and Patrice Hidalgo ('77); (back row) Barbara Trosclair; Dr. Tim Mead; Jason Gaudet ('01); Richie Naquin ('93); Antonio Blanco; Trey Greco ('94); Darren Adams ('98); John Acosta ('01, '02); and Randy Esteve.

44 Golfer Compete; Results Announced

Forty-four people participated in the 2007 Homecoming golf tournament. Results of the competition are:

- In the championship flight, David Bourgeois (B.S. '82, MBA '94); Dennis Rochei; Buster Lagarde; and C.J. Lagarde won first place. Second place went to Bruce Vicknair (B.A. '74, M.Ed. '80); Nick Terracina (B.S. '91, mBA '96); Chris Terracina (B.S. '73); and Laury Dupont (B.S. '95).

- In the first flight, Luke Ford (DIP '54, B.A. '63); Wiltz Duplantis (DIP '56); Gary Naquin; and Richard Hebert (A.S. '76) won first place. Second place went to Henry Lafont (B.A. '76); Charles LeBlanc (B.A. '62, M.Ed. '68); Ray Bernard (M.Ed. '74); and Harold Adams (B.S. '68)

- Chad Dugas and Chris Sins (BGS '98) won the closest-to-the-hole competition.



Debbie Raziano ('74), director of alumni affairs, is pictured with the second place winners of the first flight competition: Henry Lafont ('76); Charles LeBlanc ('62, '68); Ray Bernard ('74); and Harold Adams ('68).

Millions Being Spent on Campus Improvements

Improvements to the Nicholls physical campus have seldom been more evident. From residence halls and academic buildings to athletics complexes and administration facilities,

the Nicholls campus shines brighter every day.

“It’s an exciting time to be at Nicholls right now,” says Mike Davis, assistant vice president for finance and administration. “We’re galloping

toward the future. By 2012, this campus will look dramatically different than it did in 2004. Any returning alumnus will find a campus to be proud of.”

Re-Inventing Residence Halls

Three new dorms are nearing completion – a three-story, 202-bed facility for honors students across from the Galliano Hall Cafeteria and two facilities, with 202 beds each, between Bowie Road and the tennis courts. Upon completion of the new residence halls – all slated

to open prior to the fall semester at a cost of \$19 million – Meade, Long, Millet and Zeringue residence halls will be demolished.

Extensive renovations are also scheduled for Calecas and Ellender halls. Calecas will no longer be used solely as a residence hall but will become home

to University Police and accommodate overflow housing. In Ellender, the number of beds will be reduced from 307 to 150 to ensure more privacy so that no more than two students are assigned to a bathroom.

In addition, Nicholls is nearing completion of \$664,000 in renovations to the La Maison du Bayou on-campus apartment complex.

Nicholls purchased La Maison from Collegiate Housing Foundation in 2007 and immediately began various physical improvements, including the replacement of furniture and appliances, re-flooring every apartment and transitioning from a fresh-water to a salt-water swimming pool. These and other improvements are slated for completion by June 2008.

Hulbert says these efforts are all part of a larger initiative to recruit and retain students. “For Nicholls to continue to attract top-quality students, a comfortable standard of on-campus living must be a priority. In our effort to maintain and strengthen that standard, we are indeed succeeding.”



On-going construction of residence hall between Bowie Road and the tennis courts.

Other Campus Construction Projects

- Improvements to Didier Field – including a new backstop and bleachers – wrapped up before the 2008 Nicholls baseball season began.
- A major, state-funded renovation of Beaugard Hall costing about \$14.8 million is scheduled to begin in November.
- Construction of a \$500,000 soccer field house – almost wholly donated by Pipeline & Construction Maintenance Inc. of Houma – is slated for completion during the fall 2008 semester.
- The current University Police building will be changed into a convenience store by August.
- University officials hope that the State of Louisiana will approve \$17.3 million later this year for the construction of a new John Folse Culinary Institute building at Highway 1 and Bowie Road.
- Phase two of the Talbot Hall, Division of Art renovation is expected to be completed by the start of the fall semester. This project includes a new clay-storage area, intended for climate control and air-filtration purposes.
- Construction of new restrooms for Chabert Hall is expected to wrap up by July.
- University officials continue to work on construction plans for a new recreation center. A date for completion has not yet been estimated.
- New bleachers have been installed on the second level of Stophor Gym.



New bleachers at Raymond E. Didier Field

- By June 30, the interior of Polk Hall will have been repainted.
- The Cotillion Ballroom will be repainted and its entryway floor replaced by June 30.
- A campus emergency notification siren system is slated for completion by June 30.

THEN & NOW

Pirogue Races on Bayou Lafourche

On Saturday, April 11, 1953, three ROTC cadet companies held a pirogue race on Bayou Lafourche between Raceland and Thibodaux – and a tradition began. Company A, captained by Percy Zeringue of Thibodaux, won with a relay time of three hours and two minutes. For its win, the company received a “gold-plated” paddle.

When ROTC ended in 1958, the freshman class took on the responsibility of keeping the pirogue race tradition alive. Relay teams were formed by each

of the classes – freshman, sophomore, junior and senior. At one time the starting point

was a few miles below Napoleonville, the finish line in front of the campus. At each mile marker the pirogue and paddle changed hands, the tired paddler rolling out of the pirogue, his replacement splashing in.

In 1970, the races were coordinated by the Student Entertainment and Activities Association (now the SPA). For the first time, a queen reigned over the events. A competition, complete with formal gowns, was held to choose her.

Pirogue race winners were recognized in 14 categories, even one for the most decorative boat. There were times when students and faculty were thrown into the bayou and the university fountain became a wading pool. By 1974, the queen was no longer chosen at a pageant but by student body vote; a pirogue court made up of freshman women involved in campus organizations was also elected.

Eventually, the springtime races were held in conjunction with Crawfish Day. The races were shortened to 50 yards in one direction, around a buoy and 50 yards to the finish line. Winners were named in four different divisions – women’s doubles, men’s doubles, women’s single and men’s single.

Today, the pirogue races are still sponsored by SPA and coordinated through Campus Recreation. They have become part of annual Homecoming celebrations. Student organizations form teams to compete in double-elimination races. First-, second- and third-place teams are awarded certificates.



1955



2007

Top 10 Ways This Year's Freshmen Will Make You Feel REALLY Old!

It's hard to believe, but the class of 2012 will be arriving on campus in just a few weeks. Here's a look at how vastly different their life experiences are compared to freshmen of yesteryear:

1. They learned about JFK from Oliver Stone and about Malcolm X from Spike Lee.
2. The Internet has been an online tool since they were born.
3. They're always texting 1 n other.
4. Fox has always been a major network.
5. Pete Rose has never played baseball.
6. Nelson Mandela has always been free and a force in South Africa.
7. They've never "rolled down" a car window.
8. What Berlin wall?
9. They don't recall life without a cell phone.
10. Wal-Mart has always been a larger retailer than Sears.

The list was created by Beloit College.

Doody Brings Extensive Experience to Deanship

From popular barbecue and hamburger joints to upscale steakhouses and Italian bistros, Dr. Alton Doody Jr.'s entrepreneurial success has earned him a reputation as one of the nation's leading restaurateurs. The New Orleans native's latest initiative has unlimited potential for Nicholls.

Doody was hired last fall as dean of the John Folse Culinary Institute and charged to lead the institute through its next stage—expansion of its facilities, programs, faculty and student enrollment. His goal of increasing enrollment from 125 students per year to 400 students per year was recently approved by university President Stephen Hulbert and Dr. Carroll Falcon, provost and vice president for academic affairs. Moreover, officials hope that the State of Louisiana will

approve funds later this year for the construction of a new building – situated on an 8.1-acre site on the corner of Bowie Road and Highway 1 – to house the culinary institute.

In making the appointment, Hulbert said Doody has both the professional qualifications and the industry experience to lead Nicholls' culinary institute through its growth development.

"He is a credentialed scholar, an experienced and successful businessman, a community leader and someone who knows the culinary world firsthand," Hulbert says. "We are so fortunate that Alton Doody is joining us as we seek to expand our culinary program and build a new culinary education building."

Doody was awarded a bachelor's degree by Ohio Wesleyan University

before going on to receive his Master of Business Administration and doctorate from The Ohio State University. After a tour of duty as an Air Force lieutenant, Doody joined the faculty of The Ohio State University, where he directed the Master of Business Administration program. He also authored numerous articles and books and served as a consultant in the wholesale and retail trade industry.

Doody developed an early interest in the restaurant business and has been an innovator and national leader in the hospitality industry. He is co-founder of Lindey's, Hyde Park Grille Steakhouses, Bravo! Cucina Italiana (Italian Kitchen), Brio Tuscan Grilles, Le Bon Vie and the Voodoo BBQ and Grill chain.

Doody, in addition to his deanship,



will serve as visiting professor of innovation and entrepreneurship within the Department of Management and Marketing in the College of Business Administration.

Doody has two sons and two daughters, and his wife, Sally, has two sons and two daughters, also.

After 46 Years, It's 'Our Harvard on the Bayou'

After 46 years, "Harvard on the Bayou" has become "Our Harvard on the Bayou."

A Harvard University official notified the university last year that the traditional informal phrase violates Harvard's trademark policies. She proposed the addition of the word "our," an alternate that would eliminate Harvard objections. Nicholls officials accepted the "our" recommendation and began planning a design that includes the additional word. T-shirts and other apparel are expected to be on sale in the campus bookstore in a few months.

"Harvard on the Bayou" apparel has been shipped by the bookstore all over the country for decades. A few years ago a national publication featured two photographs of political consultant James Carville wearing a red and white "Harvard on the Bayou" shirt.

Harvard acted last year when a vendor checked with it about royalty and permission concerns. Speculation is that Harvard some years ago revised its trademark or

enforcement policies.

Last fall Brenda Haskins, executive director of auxiliary services, pleaded with Harvard to make a trademark exception in the case of Nicholls, saying that in the bookstore the "most requested

item from our students and alumni is a T-shirt with 'Harvard on the Bayou.'" She also forwarded a history of the "on the bayou" slogan prepared by Professor Emeritus Al Delahaye.

The phrase originated in 1962 when the adviser to the Nicholls Honor Society asked the bookstore to put it on wearing apparel, his goal being to emphasize academic excellence. That phrase on garments made them bookstore best-sellers, and it became what Delahaye called "a hallowed tradition." Haskins

said the term Harvard serves "as a benchmark for our institution's success; it is not intended to link an affiliation with Harvard University."

Dr. Vernon F. Galliano commented in 1963 at the end

of his 20-year tenure as president that "'Harvard on the Bayou' is the philosophy I was trying to follow." Delahaye said the phrase has always been used informally and with restraint, never appearing in university publications and pamphlets. He said no announcer at a sporting event has ever said, "Welcome to 'Harvard on the Bayou.'" He also said that "no one has ever been naïve enough to think that Nicholls, a regional, tax-supported institution, has any actual connection with Harvard," a private institution.

According to the Harvard licensing and operations manager, the traditional Nicholls phrase implies that Nicholls is an affiliate of Harvard. In proposing the addition of "our," the official said the revised phrase would not be in violation of Harvard policies and "would honor the history of respect the Nicholls community holds for Harvard."

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Our Harvard on the Bayou

It's a Small Colonel World

Tell us about a time when you unexpectedly encountered another Nicholls grad. Send your story to: deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu or The Colonel, Office of Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 2158, Thibodaux, LA 70310.



Hill - Dean *AND* Coach

Dr. O. Cleveland Hill (B.A. '72, M.Ed. '76) has played many roles at Nicholls – student athlete, coach, teacher and dean. But, perhaps the most challenging of all was that of the first black athlete to wear a Colonel uniform.

“It was challenging, some trepidation, some excitement and some fears – more imagined than real,” says Hill. “To understand what it was like, you would have to be able to grasp the concept of the time.”

It was 1968 when Hill, a freshman from Moss Point, Miss., first enrolled at Nicholls. America was divided over integration and racial tensions were high, even to some degree on the Nicholls campus.

Although he shies away from taking any credit, Hill nonetheless broke the color barrier for Colonel athletics. He did so in his trademark

accomplished twice in his career, still stands today as the most rebounds in a single contest.

When he was a sophomore, Hill was voted team captain, becoming the first non-senior to serve in that capacity in school history. Under head Coach Don Landry, the Colonels finished 16-9 and made it to the NAIA playoffs in 1972, Hill’s senior season. The 1972 squad became the first Colonel basketball team to advance to post-season play.

“Coach Landry believed in total team effort, and getting 15 guys from different walks of life to come together is always a mystery for coaches and a credit to Coach Landry,” Hill says.

“Leaving home and experiencing life is always a great education. People I knew when I was growing up black in Mississippi taught me that white people from the North are your friend, and white people from the South are your enemy. When

“Leaving home and experiencing life is always a great education...”

quiet, unassuming manner and with exceptional play on the basketball court.

“I have heard people call me a pioneer, but I don’t consider myself one. A lot of credit has to go to Dr. Vernon Galliano, Coach Raymond Didier and Coach Don Landry for having a vision of what Nicholls could be as a university,” Hill says.

The 6-foot-5 hard worker finished his playing career in 1972 as the all-time leading scorer with 1,606 points and all-time leader in rebounds with 1,174. Hill currently ranks seventh on the all-time scoring list.

His rebound record stood until 1995 when Reggie Jackson left Hill in second place. His record of 26 rebounds in a game, a feat he

I got here at Nicholls, one of the lessons I learned is that friendships can develop on an individual basis no matter where a person is from.”

Upon graduation, Hill was drafted by the Seattle Supersonics of the NBA and by the Kentucky Colonels of the now-defunct American Basketball Association. After an unsuccessful basketball camp with the Kentucky Colonels, Hill joined the Army. He worked in personnel administration but still found time for basketball. Hill was selected to the All-Army team in 1974 and 1975, and the Armed Forces basketball team in 1975. He also conducted basketball clinics for the State Department in Amman, Jordan.



Hill returned to his alma mater in 1975 as a student assistant coach while finishing teaching certification. Two years later, his former coach, Jerry Sanders, hired him as an assistant.

“We were so fortunate to recruit Cleve and have him at Nicholls not only as a basketball player, but as a person,” former coach and athletics director Don Landry says. “He was a leader who believed in team basketball and is easily one of my top players, perhaps the one I am most proud of.”

Hill retired from the university

in 2006, having been dean of the College of Education for seven years. In July 2007, he was called out of retirement to serve as the interim dean of student life, a stint that will end June 30. Hill will continue to have a presence on the Nicholls campus. Fans of Nicholls basketball or football are sure to see him at most home games. When asked what his future holds, Hill responds: “I’m not 100 percent certain, but I do know this, I will not remain idle.” Hill lives in Thibodaux with his wife, the former Lois Lorraine Charles of Houma.

Johnson Named Dean of Student Life

Dr. Rushton Johnson Jr. of Jackson, Miss., has been named dean of student life and assistant to the vice president of student affairs.

"We are excited that Dr. Johnson will be joining the leadership team at Nicholls," says Dr. Eugene Dial, vice president for student affairs and enrollment services. "His varied background in higher education will be an asset to the university and the students we serve."

Johnson says he is honored to have been chosen to serve as the next dean of student life: "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and particularly the students. This is a warm, friendly and hospitable community, and I am eager to join the leadership team and contribute in positive ways to the advancement of the institution's goals while enriching the lives of students."

Johnson's duties will include managing and supervising programs and services of the Office of Student Life and University Police. Such programs include residence life, student judicial affairs, parking services, campus recreation, Greek life, international student services and the student organizations program.

Johnson will serve as a management team member for the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services as well as a liaison to the Student Government

Association. He will also serve as an assistant professor of education in the university's educational leadership program.

"I believe that we must set high standards for our students in all areas of their college experience, make our expectations clear, provide tools and resources to assist them in meeting those expectations and consistently hold them accountable," says Johnson.

"We must insist that students take responsibility for their educational experiences and not sit on the sidelines with the expectation that quality experiences will be delivered to them on a silver platter. My desire is that the students of Nicholls would have a meaningful transformation in the mind, body and spirit that would further equip them to give excellent service to their communities and contribute to their chosen profession in powerful ways."

Currently the executive assistant to the president at Millsaps College, Johnson holds a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa; a master's in counseling from Jacksonville State University in Anniston, Ala.; and a bachelor's in psychology and sociology from Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama.

Johnson's experience includes stints as assistant dean of students



and director of residence life at Millsaps; director of residence life and director of multicultural affairs at Birmingham-Southern College; director of student activities and activity director for the National Youth Sports Program at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa; student ombudsperson and residence hall director at the University of Alabama; and residence hall director at Jacksonville State University.

Johnson is also committed to community service. He has been an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church all of his life, serving as Sunday school superintendent, Sunday school teacher, director of Young Adults in Christian Ministries and director of Christian education. He is an active member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jackson.

Career Services for Alumni Too

Nicholls alumni who need career assistance can look to their alma mater. The Office of Career Services provides students and alumni with timely information on full-time and part-time jobs and offers assistance in developing effective job search skills and strategies.

Nicholls graduates are encouraged to take full advantage of all resources and services offered, including individual career guidance, assistance in beginning a specific job search, tips on resumé organization and advice on how to prepare for upcoming interviews. For more information call (985) 448-4517 or visit the office's Web site, www.nicholls.edu/career.

Important Dates

Colonel Pride Night
Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008
(985) 448-4804

60th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008
(985) 448-4134

Sponsor A+ Scholarship Wine and Food Tasting Extravaganza
Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008
(985) 448-4134

Family Day
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008
(985) 448-4518

Homecoming
Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008
(985) 448-4111

Bite of the Arts
Friday, Nov. 21, 2008
(985) 449-7091

Fall Commencement
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008
(985) 448-4012

Elfert Receives Emerita Designation

Betty Elfert was recognized as associate professor emerita of languages and literature by university President Stephen Hulbert at the Faculty Institute on Jan. 8.

"The title recognizes Elfert's exceptional dedication, outstanding accomplishments, professional contributions and more than 33 years of service to Nicholls," Hulbert said.

Elfert retired from the university in May 2007, having served as director of academic success for more than a decade. She joined the English faculty in fall 1974. Elfert also successfully wrote grants that resulted in federal funds to help potential high school dropouts and support programs that assisted students in mastering basic skills.



Deaths



Shortly after celebrating her 105th birthday, **Hazel Abernathy** (B.A. '63) the subject of the fall 2007 Colonel cover story, "Still Living Big at 104," died. Abernathy was born Oct. 15, 1902, in Magee, Miss. and died Nov. 8, 2007, in Houma.

Josephine "Jo" Galliano died Feb. 18 in Thibodaux. She was the widow of Dr. Vernon Galliano, Nicholls president from 1963 to 1983.

Dr. Wade Ledet (B.A. '60) died

March 19 in Thibodaux. Ledet was the dean of University College from 1978 to 1990, and the president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association from 2006 to 2008.

Donald Peltier died March 6 in Thibodaux. Peltier was an honorary alumnus and president of the Nicholls Foundation from 1964 to 1993.

Marguerite Hoffmann Norris (B.A. '61) died Nov. 13, 2007, in Thibodaux. Norris was an assistant professor of English from 1972 to 1997.

Bernard Vice (B.S. '62) died March 29 in Dallas, Texas.

Berry Awards Fund Memorializes Director

A theater awards fund has been established in memory of **Dr. Melvin Berry**, retired professor emeritus of speech and theater, who died at his home on Feb. 16 after an extended illness. Berry directed about 100 plays and musicals from 1963 to 1999 and was the head of the Department of

Speech from the mid-1970s until 1989. He was 74.

Donors may make checks payable to the Nicholls Foundation (with "Berry Fund" written at lower left) and mail them to the Department of Mass Communication, P.O. Box 2031, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA 70310.

Fourth Manning Passing Academy Scheduled

For the fourth consecutive year, Nicholls will host the Manning Passing Academy, an annual football camp that draws more than 1,000 of the nation's most promising high school quarterbacks and receivers. The academy is owned and operated by Archie Manning and his sons Cooper, Peyton and Eli. The family takes an active role in the operation of the camp.

"I continue to be impressed with the commitment by the Mannings to give personal attention to each and every camper," said Robert Bernardi, Nicholls athletics director. "These guys don't just lend their name to the camp – they actually coach."

This year's camp is scheduled for Thursday, July 10, through Sunday, July 13. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at (985) 448-4444.

Where Do You Go in Your Nicholls Gear?

Send a photo and tell The Colonel about the most unusual places you've worn your Nicholls gear. Send to: deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu or The Colonel, Office of Alumni Affairs, P.O. Box 2158, Thibodaux, LA 70310.

Reunion Commemorates Residence Halls

More than 45 former dormitory residents and their friends turned out for a reunion celebrating the final Homecoming before Long, Millet, Zeringue and Meade residence halls disappear. After years of use, these long-standing icons of campus life are slated for demolition to make way for three new, state-of-the-art residence halls, which will open in August 2008. The residence hall reunion weekend, held in conjunction with Homecoming festivities, was planned by Curg Click (B.A. '90) and Dr. Tammy Cheramie (B.A. '90, M.Ed. '93). "Everything went great because we had a lot of people show up who we didn't know would be there," Click said. "Although we hadn't seen each other in years, it felt like we had just been apart for a weekend. I hope to bring everyone back together for a Long Hall implosion party this fall."



Residence hall reunion attendees gather in front of Long Hall.

The COLONEL

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

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Help us keep up with Nicholls alumni by filling out this form or visiting www.nichollsalumni.org to submit news online or to update your contact information. We'll use your news in the Colonel Notes section, and we'll use your contact information to keep you up-to-date on what Nicholls is doing.

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Degree(s), Major(s) and Year(s) Graduated _____

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