

Three generations of Colonels

Morgan City's Bergeron family maintains an impressive Nicholls tradition



Back row, from left: Phil Menard, Sara Shields-Menard, Mark Menard, Aimée Gauchet Menard, Roy Bergeron Jr., Steve Bergeron, Alison Bergeron, Drew Bergeron, Matthew Tycer. Front row, from left: Anne Brown Rhodes, Catherine Bergeron Menard, Rosie Bergeron Brown and Karen Brown Tycer. Not pictured: Greg Brown.

Alison Bergeron spent her high school days putting her own spin on well-established theatrical roles — the brainless scarecrow from *The Wizard of Oz*, the eccentric Mad Hatter from *Alice in Wonderland* and the tyrannical Miss Hannigan from *Annie*. She respected the decades-old

classics while letting her personality come through in her performances. In her newest role as a Nicholls State University freshman, Alison faces a similar challenge — carrying on a long family tradition while also charting her own path. Many students have parents or siblings with Nicholls ties, but few have Colonel roots that

run as deep as hers. For starters, Alison's brother, Drew, is a Nicholls senior active in campus organizations. Her father, Steve (BS '84), was among the first students to take classes in Gouaux Hall. Her two aunts have fond memories of riding the school bus to Nicholls in the late 1970s. Her cousins include a

former *Nicholls Worth* editor, KNSU station manager, Colonelette dancer, university tour guide and campus ministry leader. And, if that list isn't impressive enough, her grandparents Margaret and Roy Bergeron Jr. (DIP '55) are staunch Nicholls supporters, known to invite University President Stephen T. Hulbert over for coffee and

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The Colonel is published twice each year by the Nicholls State University Alumni Federation.

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Building a Colonel legacy

Whenever I notice a father and daughter eating crawfish together at the annual alumni boil or a group of family members returning to campus for Homecoming, I feel an immense sense of Colonel pride. The large number of alumni whose children and grandchildren choose to attend Nicholls shows positive institutional growth. It also illustrates that families trust the university to continue providing a high-quality education and college experience.

The Bergerons from Morgan City, for example, are 14 Colonels strong. In our cover story, Roy Bergeron Jr. discusses what the university has meant to three generations of his family. I invite other families with Colonel legacies to share their stories by sending them to deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu. If you're a graduate who lives out of state, I hope that you'll encourage your children to consider Nicholls, where their out-of-state tuition fees will be waived because of your alumni status.

To ensure that Nicholls remains a top choice for future generations, the federation needs your support. You can help keep traditions, such as Homecoming, thriving by renewing your Alumni Federation membership and encouraging family and friends to join, too. Dues make it possible for the federation to host alumni events, fund student scholarships and help support campus programs and activities. Additionally, I encourage you to visit Nicholls, attend campus events and support Colonel athletic teams. These small actions speak loudly of our alumni backing. I look forward to seeing you and your family around campus soon.



In the Colonel Spirit,

Debbie Raziano (BA '74)

Director, Alumni Affairs

Share your ideas with our staff



Detillier

Twice a year, staff members from several campus departments put together this magazine with you in mind. We hope that each issue leads you to reminisce about your college days and feel a bit envious of the modern Nicholls facilities and amenities. Please send us your ideas about what you'd like to read in *The Colonel*. With this issue, we also welcome a new editor. Stephanie Detillier (BA '06), a former *Nicholls Worth* editor, was a creative writer/editor at Nicholls from 2006-08, before moving to Columbia, Mo., to earn a master's degree in magazine writing from the Missouri School of Journalism. After a year working for the University of Missouri's alumni magazine, she has returned to her Colonel roots as the publications coordinator. She invites alumni to share feedback and story ideas for *The Colonel* by emailing her at stephanie.detillier@nicholls.edu.

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stephanie.detillier@nicholls.edu.



Staff of *The Colonel* include: Back row, from left, Lee Daigle, Jamie Bustos, Clyde Verdin Jr., Jerad David, Mike Wagenheim, Graham Harvey. Bottom row, from left, Renee Piper, Misty Leigh McElroy, Debbie Raziano, Jessica Harvey, Stephanie Detillier.



Scan this mobile QR code with your smartphone camera to link to the Nicholls Alumni Federation website. (A scanning application/QR code reader is required. We suggest ScanLife, a free app.)

Important Dates

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

Fall Commencement • Saturday, Dec. 10

Jubilee • Monday, March 12–Friday, April 27

Swamp Stomp Festival • Friday–Sunday, March 16–18

Alumni Annual Meeting/Crawfish Boil • Saturday, April 21

Atlanta Crawfish Boil • Saturday, April 21

A Thousand Words



Can a picture really be worth 1,000 words?
We think so.

In this 1962 *La Pirogue* photo, Lorraine Robichaux, Carolyn Songy, Marie Pontiff, Audrey Cortez, Agnes Breaux, Ann Pontiff, Dianne Foret and Anna Lee Chauvin nearly drop Louis Templet. Share your stories about this photo or the memories it brings to mind by emailing deborah.raziano@nicholls.edu.

Letters

Former Little Colonel shares team history

The photo of the Little Colonels brought a flood of memories. In 1956, I believe, Bonnie Bourg gathered her PE class and suggested we start a marching/dance team. We said yes with enthusiasm. And so it began. We called ourselves the Dixie Darlings. The outfits were designed after a Confederate uniform due to our school's namesake, Francis T. Nicholls. Soon we learned that the University of Southern Mississippi had a dance team with the name Dixie Darlings, and we changed the name to Little Colonels. A local seamstress sewed and fitted our uniforms. All skirts were the same distance from the ground. We had no jackets, just a red sweater with a Nicholls decal, which we sewed on.



We girls became a cohesive unit and best friends. We were so proud to represent our college at high school football games, Career Day and Mardi Gras parades. I graduated in 1959 still a Little Colonel and loving it. Thanks for stirring wonderful memories in me, and yes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Mary Weimer Hebert (BA '59)
New Orleans

Thankful for campus support

When I arrived on campus in 1960, I was a scared, tall country boy from St. Charles, Mo., who was recruited to play basketball. During my senior year in high school, my English teacher told me I had little chance for success in college. Her attitude stayed with me as I boarded the train for my initial trip from St. Louis to New Orleans.

Upon arriving on campus, I found quality professors who were as committed to my success as they were committed to all students' success. Every night I was in the upstairs library in Elkins Hall remembering my English teacher's prediction. When I needed extra help, there was always someone who was available to give that help.

Well, I graduated with a degree in economics and went on to get my MBA. I worked 23 years for Fortune 500 companies as a vice president of human resources, and I have had my own small consulting company for nearly 25 years. My wife, Nancy, and I enjoy a great life in Austin, Texas.

Many memories came to mind when I saw that picture. However, what came to mind most was a profound sense of gratitude for Nicholls and the education and confidence I gained during my four years in Thibodaux. For that, I will be forever thankful.

Harlan Oelklaus (BS '64)
Austin, Texas

Does your family have generations of Colonel alumni? Write to us about what Nicholls has meant to your family. 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.

From outdated to high-tech

After the final phase of renovations, Peltier Hall Auditorium is now considered a campus gem, featuring projection technology for enhanced lectures and a modernized, larger lobby more conducive to hosting special events.

“Generation after generation of students have come to this auditorium to take the ACT,” says Dr.

Stephen T. Hulbert, university president. “Those folks had seen a deteriorating facility that, frankly, was starting to become an embarrassment. What you see now is absolutely state of the art.”

Work crews built a new entrance and knocked out the wall in the original entry area to create more open space. The lobby now welcomes visitors with multicolored decor, artwork, furniture and upgraded lighting.

Final-phase improvements, which began in fall 2010, also included a wooden acoustical shell on stage, a rear-projection screen, restroom renovations and accommodations for people with disabilities. The 9-by-16-foot projection screen connects to a system that can play high-definition movies and interface with computers. The new technology allows instructors to highlight and write on the screen; display documents, slideshows and movies; and



Slade Besson, assistant director of University Computer Services, demonstrates the innovative rear-projection screen during the Aug. 16 dedication ceremony of Peltier Auditorium.

magnify 3-D objects.

“We are very proud of the work that’s been done, and I want to thank everyone who made this happen,” Hulbert says.

The first phase of the project,

which began in fall 2009, included new seating, ceiling and lights in the auditorium; new paint and flooring; and ADA-compliant features including a lift for stage access. — *Graham Harvey*



Warm colors, featured artwork and comfortable seating have transformed the auditorium’s lobby.

Coffee for Colonels

Jazzman’s Café, formerly in the Bollinger Memorial Student Union food court, has moved into a stand-alone brick facility on the corner of Ardoyne and Madewood drives.

The new coffee shop — operated by Sodexo, Nicholls’ food-services provider — features Wi-Fi access, interior and exterior seating, and the first Jazzman’s drive-up window in the nation. A smartphone app, downloadable at jazzmanscafe.com/mobileapp.html, allows customers to order beverages and bakery items from anywhere and pick them up without having to wait in line.

“Our campus is growing to meet the needs of the next generation of students,” says Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, university president. “Being able to tout features such as drive-thru food service and mobile ordering will help us attract new students.”



The south end of campus now features Jazzman’s Café, which serves coffee, sandwiches and sweet treats.

Menu items include brewed coffee, beignets, espresso beverages, iced beverages, coffee milkshakes, fruit smoothies, teas, baked goods, gourmet salads and various sandwiches.

In addition to serving the cam-

pus, Jazzman’s welcomes off-campus visitors and is open five days a week: 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. Free visitor parking is available. — *Graham Harvey*

Nicholls ranked among southern schools

For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine has ranked Nicholls among the best regional universities in the southern United States. Rated 89th, Nicholls is the second-highest ranked school (after McNeese, No. 85) among Louisiana’s public regional institutions.

New administrators, familiar faces

A 30-year veteran of higher education, **Dr. Allayne “Laynie” Barrilleaux** (MBA ’80) has officially been selected as vice president for academic affairs and approved by the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System.

“While the campus had the opportunity to consider four talented finalists, from this president’s perspective, Laynie brings the greatest balance of professional experience, understanding of the complex and challenging accountability agenda of government, and enthusiasm for the hard work that lies ahead for Nicholls,” says Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, university president. “I look forward to her leadership within the executive team and with the faculty, as together we continue to build upon the foundation of our already strong academic programs.”

Barrilleaux is a distinguished service professor of management and former liaison to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She served as assistant vice president for academic affairs at Nicholls from 2005 to 2010, after which she assumed duties as interim vice president upon the retirement of Dr. Carroll Falcon.

Nicholls administrator **Michael Naquin** (BS ’78) was named interim associate vice president for finance and chief financial officer in spring 2011, following the retirement of Lionel Naquin Jr. (BS ’68, MBA ’72), former vice president for finance and administration.

“Nicholls is very fortunate to have Mike taking the financial reins,” Hulbert says. “His decades of experience and dedication

to this institution and the city of Thibodaux will serve us well.”

A native of Thibodaux and a certified public accountant, Naquin began his professional career at Nicholls in 1979, initially hired as the university’s internal auditor and later promoted to assistant controller and controller. In July 2001, he was named assistant vice president for business affairs and controller — a title later changed to assistant vice president for finance. Naquin’s position will remain interim pending the completion of other administrative procedures. Although he shares his last name with his predecessor at Nicholls, they are not related.

Head women’s basketball coach **Mary “DoBee” Plaisance** was named senior woman administrator for the Department of Athletics in April. Plaisance addresses the needs of women student-athletes by serving as a voice for gender equity at the university, conference and NCAA levels.

“Coach Plaisance brings a great deal of insight into the needs of our female student-athletes and the sports they compete in,” Rob Bernardi, athletics director, says. “I am certain she will help ensure that all our student-athletes enjoy a rewarding collegiate athletics experience.”

Plaisance, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate, is in her fourth season at the helm of the women’s basketball program. Prior to Nicholls, Plaisance served as head women’s basketball coach at Loyola University New Orleans for 13 seasons. While at Loyola, she was also an assistant athletics director. — *Graham Harvey*



Barrilleaux



Naquin



Plaisance



Nicholls goes ‘All-Steinway’

During the finale of the fourth annual Monster Piano Concert, 21 pianists — including music faculty, students, alumni and guests — performed on 21 Steinway pianos.

The September event marked the university’s official designation as an “All-Steinway School.” The Nicholls Department of Music is the first public Louisiana program to exclusively feature Steinway & Sons pianos for performance and music education. The only other “All-Steinway School” in the state is Tulane University.

Globally, nearly 130 higher education institutions — including the Yale School of Music, China Conservatory of Music and Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama — can claim such a distinction.

“Serious music students know that Steinway pianos are the finest in the world,” says Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, Nicholls president. “I am

quite proud that Steinway & Sons has chosen Nicholls to be included in this elite group. The designation solidifies our Department of Music’s global reputation for excellence, and we look forward to new recruiting possibilities as a result.”

Funding for Nicholls’ Steinways began in 2007 with gifts from private

donors and foundations and continues with annual fundraising events such as the Monster Piano Concert. The music department currently has 20 Steinways and is awaiting the delivery of a new grand.

“During the past few years, I have seen the university’s steely resolve in action, moving ever forward toward

the accomplishment of a goal that some thought impossible,” says Steve Kinchen, president and co-owner of Hall Piano of Metairie, Nicholls’ Steinway provider. “The community surrounding Nicholls can be proud of this accomplishment, and we are blessed to have been a part of their vision.” — *Graham Harvey*



Music from 21 pianos fills Talbot Auditorium during the Monster Piano Concert, where Nicholls received All-Steinway status. To watch a clip of the concert finale, visit youtube.com/nichweb.

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call him on his birthday.

“Coming from Central Catholic High School, I liked the small, family-oriented environment of Nicholls,” Alison says. “But I also chose Nicholls because almost my whole family went there.”

Alison is the 14th Colonel in the Bergeron family — the latest addition to a legacy spanning three decades.

Her father, Steve, says the tradition’s longevity adds another bond among family members. “I followed in the footsteps of my sisters and dad,” he says, “and now I’m thrilled to see Drew and Alison thriving in the same culture I took part in.”

A modest start

Roy, the Bergeron patriarch, has witnessed Nicholls’ transformative growth through the experiences of his three children and six grandchildren. When he enrolled at Francis T. Nicholls Junior College in 1953, the campus consisted of one building and just a few more students than his high school. Like many in the area, Roy’s parents couldn’t afford to send him away to college; taking the family car to Nicholls was his only option for higher education.

“I studied and made some decent grades,” he says. “I stress to the younger ones how important grades are, but it is also important to meet various people and learn how to cope with people who do things differently than you.”

ROTC provided physical activity and social opportunities for Roy, who became the first lieutenant for Company A in his sophomore year.

“The military was a big part of the atmosphere and everyday life at Nicholls then,” he says. “It was very demanding because we were training to be reserve officers, but ROTC was also a big part of student activities.”

Two days after finishing his last Nicholls classes, Roy began work at Shell Oil Co. making “big money” — \$2.66 an hour. The first question he

was asked during the job interview was how much education he had.

Two years of college studying mechanical engineering, Roy said.

Ohh, the supervisor replied, nodding his head with an impressed expression. Two years of college.

Despite Roy’s modesty about his education, he was among those who began to alter the regional workforce because of the opportunities Nicholls afforded locals.

“My co-workers probably had sixth-grade educations, and all of a sudden here comes a young buck with two years of college,” he says. “At the time, I didn’t realize how important Nicholls was to me and to the region’s future.”

Colonel kids and grandkids

Roy reconnected with Nicholls when his three children, Catherine Bergeron Menard (BA ’77), Rosie Bergeron Brown (BA ’78) and Steve enrolled there. In the university president’s office, he soon found a familiar face — his Nicholls classmate and fellow ROTC cadet, Dr. Donald Ayo (DIP ’54).

“He called me one day after he had been named president and said, ‘I need your help.’ He had a number of problems that needed attention and wanted outside opinions,” Roy says.

That experience strengthened both Roy’s friendship with Ayo and his family’s level of campus involvement. The Bergerons attended alumni crawfish boils, culinary fundraising dinners, building dedications and athletic events. As Nicholls prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary, Roy served as the chair of the civic ties and events committee, which planned socials in various communities.

Thus, the third Bergeron generation grew up with a strong campus familiarity. Roy’s grandson Drew, who expects to graduate in December 2012, recalls attending childhood language-therapy sessions in Talbot Hall, middle-school social studies

fairs in Shaver Gymnasium and Free Enterprise Week in the College of Business Administration.

“Choosing Nicholls really wasn’t that big of a decision,” he says. “My family has a legacy here; it’s a good school; I knew where everything was on campus ... so sign me up.”

With 14 family members selecting the same university, some might call that Bergeron brain-washing. Roy prefers to see it as a sign of his family’s support for the region’s sole university.

Shared experiences

Despite the vast campus changes through the decades, the Bergeron family’s Nicholls memories have many common threads. Steve, for instance, had the same mechanical drawing instructor, Benjamin Roth, as his dad and the same history professor, Dr. Paul Leslie, as his son. Rosie’s two daughters — Anne Brown Rhodes (BA ’00) and Karen Brown Tycer (BS ’03, MEd ’05) — followed her lead in pursuing education degrees.

Only 14 months apart in age, sisters Catherine and Rosie had strikingly similar college lives: Both commuted to campus by bus a few days a week, majored in kindergarten and elementary education, and met their future spouses at Nicholls.

“I met my husband, Greg (AS ’78), because we had two English classes together,” Rosie says. “He was majoring in sugar cane technology, a field I knew almost nothing about.”

Joseph “Loy” Menard Jr., who took a few college classes before entering the workforce, noticed his future wife, Catherine, on the Nicholls bus during the summer of 1975. Rather than approaching her then, he devised a plan to get her attention.

“One day, he saw me walking from class and thought he’d make an impression if he ran into me,” Catherine says. “He caused me to drop my books and then he picked them up for me.”

The Menards’ two sons found their wives at



Phil, Roy and Steve dig into trays of mudbugs during the 2008 Nicholls alumni crawfish boil.



During one of the university president’s visits to Electronics Corner, Alison poses with Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, Drew and Roy. During Hulbert’s tenure, Roy has introduced him to business and community leaders in the Morgan City area.



Flanked by culinary students dressed as soldiers, Lois (Steve's wife), Rosie, Margaret (Roy's wife), Roy and Catherine attend Bite of the Arts, a John Folse Culinary Institute fundraiser.

Nicholls, too. Mark Menard (BA '01) and Aimée Gauchet Menard (BA '01) met during the annual softball game between KNSU and *The Nicholls Worth* in their freshman year. That night, Mark accompanied the victorious newspaper crew to Western Sizzlin, and the couple took subsequent classes together — but they never spoke. That is until a mutual friend took it upon herself to play matchmaker. As KNSU station manager and *Nicholls Worth* editor, Mark and Aimée rang in 2001 with a midnight engagement and married the year after their graduation.

The most recent family wedding, held this July, was the culmination of another Nicholls friendship. Mark's brother, Phil (BS '06), married a fellow Free Enterprise Week camper, Sara Shields-Menard (BS '06, MS '10). Both returned as camp counselors, took calculus class together and were active in the St. Thomas Aquinas campus ministry. The couple pursued different career paths after graduation but reconnected three years later.

Giving back

Roy didn't realize it at the time, but in the 1950s, he took something meaningful away from his Nicholls experience. He has spent the past few decades paying it back — and encouraging his family to do the same.

"As meager as my two years of college were, it was good enough to get me started on my career path early in life," says Roy, who has owned Electronics Corner in Morgan City since 1990. He tells his grandchildren, "Take something from Nicholls,

but give back what you can; put something back into the program."

For many of them, campus student employment provided an opportunity to earn extra money and be of service to the university. Phil was the webmaster for the Office of Continuing Education and developed online registration forms for noncredit courses. Back in the maintenance department, Sara helped with administrative duties. She later asked Dr. Ramaraj Boopathy, distinguished service professor of biological sciences, if she could wash dishes in his lab; instead he assigned her to help with his research. Through a grant Nicholls obtained after the BP oil spill, Sara worked as a lab technician studying oyster ecology last year.

Karen, a Delta Zeta alumna, says her student job in the history department helped her feel more connected to Nicholls. During graduate studies, she used that university bond to become a campus tour guide.

"I loved meeting people who were considering Nicholls," says Karen, whose husband, Matthew Tycer (BS '04), is also a Colonel. "Even today, I remember where departments are located and so many random campus tidbits."

Roy hopes that Bergeron generations will continue backing the university. "Nicholls has provided each family member with a well-rounded education in their different curricula," he says. "I'm proud that we can continue to support the school and see it flourish. Even if you think, 'I'm only one person,' you can always find a way to help in some way. You can't outdo that sort of thing." — *Stephanie Detillier*

Meet the Bergeron family's Colonel alumni:

- **Roy Bergeron Jr.** (DIP '55) is president of Electronics Corner Inc., an electronics retail supply store in Morgan City.
- **Catherine Bergeron Menard** (BA '77) is a secretary at Electronics Corner.
 - Her son **Mark Menard** (BA '01) is a producer and on-air contributor for WWL-AM radio in New Orleans. His wife, **Aimée Gauchet Menard** (BA '01) is an English, journalism and Louisiana history teacher at Holy Rosary High School in New Orleans.
 - Her son **Phil Menard** (BS '06) is a teaching assistant in the Department of Management and Information Systems at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville. His wife, **Sara Shields-Menard** (BS '06, MS '10), is a research assistant in the MSU Department of Biological Sciences. Both are first-year doctoral students.
- **Rosie Bergeron Brown** (BA '78) is a secretary at Electronics Corner. Her husband, **Greg Brown** (AS '78), is a plant manager at St. Mary Sugar Cooperative Inc. in Jeanerette.
 - Their daughter **Anne Brown Rhodes** (BA '00) is a teacher and head of the social studies department at Central Catholic High School in Morgan City.
 - Their daughter **Karen Brown Tycer** (BS '03, MEd '05) is a guidance counselor at Central Catholic. Her husband, **Matthew Tycer** (BS '04), is a machinist at E. J. Fields Machine Works in Morgan City.
- **Steve Bergeron** (BA '84) is vice president of Electronics Corner.
 - His son, **Drew Bergeron**, is a senior majoring in mass communication and interdisciplinary studies and minoring in marketing and government.
 - His daughter, **Alison Bergeron**, is a freshman majoring in business administration.

Calling all out-of-state Colonels

As admission deadlines approach, university recruiters encourage alumni to consider Nicholls when helping their children choose where to apply. Children of out-of-state alumni will be afforded the benefits of in-state tuition in addition to being considered for scholarships. Waiving out-of-state fees for alumni is just one way Nicholls hopes to foster multigenerational Colonel legacies. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 985-448-4507.

2011 Homecoming highlights: pirogues, parade floats and plenty of golfers



2010 Homecoming Queen Lacey Angeron, left, and King John Lombardo, far right, congratulate the 2011 royalty: Hailey Silverii, biology junior from Thibodaux, and Tyler Folse, pre-physical therapy senior from Cut Off.



Grand marshal Tim Emerson (BS '90), senior vice president of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Houma, rides in the Homecoming parade with his children, Emily and David. His wife, Nicole Bourgeois Emerson (BS '90), sits alongside their driver, Dwayne Duplantis.



Members of the Class of 1961 receive their golden diplomas at the Homecoming reception. From left, Marie Musso Baudoin, Billy Arcement, Ken Philips, Betty Duet Melancon, Bill Bolton, Patricia Dugas Chauvin, Patricia Ledet Bumgardner and President Stephen T. Hulbert.



Olabisi Akingbola, nursing sophomore from Nigeria, and Abby Shanks, culinary freshman from Bossier City, paddle toward the finish line during the annual pirogue races.



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Revamped tournament draws record number of golfers

The annual Homecoming golf tournament doubled in size this year thanks to an energized planning committee and a host of sponsors who helped create an upscale, fun atmosphere.

The 2011 event, sponsored by the alumni federation, grew from 16 teams in 2010 to 38 teams. Previous tournaments were held at the nine-hole Bayou Country Club Golf Course in Thibodaux, where a small group of golfers enjoyed hamburg-

ers and refreshments. This year's competition, held at LaTour Golf Club in Mathews, attracted numerous sponsors who provided T-shirts, keepsake photographs, gift bags and a catered menu, including fried fish, grilled pork chops, shrimp cocktail and bloody marys.

Renamed after the late John Brady, the tournament is now called the Nicholls Alumni Federation John Brady Golf Tournament. Brady, who

developed LaTour Golf Club, was a long-time Nicholls supporter and one of the first golfers to participate in the Homecoming tournament.

"John had the vision to build LaTour for the region," says Debbie Raziano, director of alumni affairs. "He and his wife, Clara, have contributed a lot to Nicholls, so it seemed like a natural transition to move there and help grow the tournament."

Gary Barbaro (BS '80), former

Nicholls and NFL athlete, and John Ford (BS '84), director of human resources at Nicholls, served as chairs of the tournament committee.

Another element added to the event is the dedication of the tournament's revenue. Fifty percent of the total amount raised has been committed to the Alumni Federation Scholarship Fund. The remaining revenue will fund future alumni programming and various campus promotions. — *Lee Daigle*



The winning team for the golf tournament's morning flight includes, from left, Thad Allemand, Kelly Candies (BS '93, MBA '95), honorary chairman Gary Barbaro, Otto Candies II (BS '86) and Sid Candies (BGS '91). Jolie Brady, not pictured, won the closest-to-the-hole competition.



For the afternoon flight, the winning team members include, from left, Benny Folsie (BS '02), Kirk Trosclair (BGS '97), Barbaro, Brian Clement and Peyvand Magshoud. Dr. Richard Morvant (BS '74), not pictured, won the afternoon closest-to-the-hole competition.



Tournament chairman John Ford (BS '84), volunteer Cody Blanchard (BS '10) and alumni director Debbie Raziano drive through the LaTour Golf Club grounds.

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Outstanding Alumni awards honor six success stories

The 2011 slate of Outstanding Alumni honorees include a printmaking professor, business executive, education leader, sous chef, nurse practitioner and university registrar. The awards, given each fall, recognize six alumni who have excelled in their chosen professions.

The College of Arts and Sciences announced **Ernest Milsted** (BGS '98, BA '02) as its Outstanding Alumnus. Milsted is an assistant professor of art at Southeastern Louisiana University and the printmaking area coordinator. The award-winning artist holds a Master of Fine Arts in printmaking from the University of Notre Dame and has featured his work in 33 exhibitions.

Otto Candies III (BS '86), secretary/treasurer of Otto Candies LLC in Des Allemands, was named the College of Business Administration's Outstanding Alumnus. He was previously president of Compania Paraguaya de Transporte Fluvial SA, an international river marine transportation company. Candies belongs to the Louisiana Millennium Port Authority and the American Bureau of Shipping. He served as chairman of the board for Offshore Marine Service Association in 2009–10. The College of Education honored

its former dean **Dr. Cleveland Hill** (BA '73, MEd '79) with the Outstanding Alumnus award. A former Colonel basketball center, Hill held many roles at Nicholls, including assistant professor of physical education, director of student teaching, dean of the College of Education and acting dean of students. A U.S. Army veteran, Hill is currently an adjunct instructor of educational leadership interns at Our Lady of Holy Cross College and a test administrator for the Military Entrance Processing Command in New Orleans.

Since graduating from the John Folse Culinary Institute, **Jacqueline Blanchard** (BS '06) has worked with some of the most renowned chefs in the country, including stints at Bouchon with Thomas Keller and at Chez Penisse with Alice Waters. She served as chef de partie at Frasca in Boulder, Colo., and Blue Hill at Stone Barns in upstate New York. Blanchard is currently the executive sous chef at Restaurant August with Chef John Besh in New Orleans.

The College of Nursing and Allied Health's Outstanding Alumna **Annette Windham** (BSN '86) is a nurse practitioner who has worked for the Internal Medicine Clinic of Houma under Dr.



From left, Annette Windham, Dr. Cleveland Hill, Otto Candies III, Ernest Milsted, Kelly Rodrigue and Jacqueline Blanchard receive Outstanding Alumni honors during the Homecoming reception.

Russell Henry for the past seven years. Windham, who was in the first graduating class of the Nicholls BSN program, previously worked at Terrebonne General Medical Center for 18 years. She belongs to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Kelly Rodrigue (BGS '95, BS '96, MS '00, BA '01), the Outstand-

ing Alumnus for University College, is the university registrar and director of records and registration at Nicholls. In addition to serving on countless university committees, Rodrigue belongs to and has held various leadership positions with the Louisiana Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the Louisiana ACT Council, and the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. — *Jessica Harvey*

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"3 Little Pigs" honors a friendship formed at Nicholls. Other bricks celebrate graduations and retirements.

Nicknames carved in brick

Cindy Bush Lyons (BA '76) doesn't remember why she and her two friends began calling themselves "the three little pigs," but the moniker stuck and now is forever emblazoned on a brick in the Nicholls quadrangle.

Upon moving to campus in 1972, Lyons met Elaine Francingues Landry (BA '76) and Linda Dyess, who lived down the hall from one another in Ellender Hall. "We joined the same sorority, Delta Zeta, and still remain dear friends," says Lyons, who purchased the brick in honor of their friendship.

When Nicholls decided to build a monument to commemorate its 50th anniversary, bricks for the surrounding plaza were sold to help offset construction costs. Although the monument has been paid for, inscribed bricks can still be purchased for \$60 each with proceeds now going to the Nicholls Foundation's scholarship fund.

"We've sold a lot of memorial bricks and some to commemorate Nicholls retirements," says Dr. David Boudreaux,

vice president for institutional advancement. "A brick can be used to celebrate or mark any event."

Among other nicknames etched in brick is "Swiss Willy." Mike Davis (BS '73), assistant vice president for facilities, says the name arose when former campus architect William Steib said he didn't want to take sides in a discussion about a problematic contractor. "He's sitting here working for us yet saying he doesn't want to take sides," Davis recalls. "We said, 'You think you're Switzerland?'"

Co-workers started calling him "Swiss Willy" and decided to buy a surprise brick for Steib, who had completed the project blueprints.

"After all the bricks were installed, we went out to take a look at it," Davis says. "We kept walking around, pointing to other bricks, anxiously waiting for him to see it."

To commemorate your Nicholls nickname, graduation year or other memory in brick, call 985-448-4134. — *Stephanie Detillier*

Starting them off young

Building a long-term fan base doesn't start with getting alumni or even current students hooked on Colonel sports. Even though those two groups are an important part of the equation, Nicholls fandom must begin earlier.

That's why the Junior Colonels Club, sponsored by the Days Inn & Suites of Thibodaux, was revamped this summer.

"It's a great opportunity for youngsters to get involved with

Nicholls athletics," says Brandon Ruttle (BS '05), associate director of marketing and development for Nicholls athletics. "We'll get them closer to the players than any other university can."

Junior Colonels Club members will have opportunities to participate in Nicholls game-day activities. For a \$30 annual fee, they receive free admission to all regular-season home events, except for football games. Additional perks include

Scholarship helps student keep up 4.0

By 2:30 p.m., the Powell courtyard area is nearly devoid of students, many of whom have headed to their part-time jobs or back home. A staffer empties pots of coffee and closes the snack area of the Ponder student lounge, but Neal Bollinger keeps reviewing Spanish grammar. Today, he's tutoring a fellow student. But as a senior with a 4.0 GPA, Bollinger dedicates much extra time to his own classes, too.

Without the help of scholarships, Bollinger says, he probably wouldn't be an honors student or on track to graduate in May. For the second year in a row, he's receiving \$800 per semester through the Clift Gresham Memorial Scholarship, funded by the Nicholls Alumni Federation.

"I'm one of eight kids, so scholarships are the reason I am able to come to Nicholls," says Bollinger, who is majoring in management and minoring in Spanish. "My parents didn't save for us to go to college, so I knew I'd have to pay for it myself."

The scholarship honors Dr. Henry Clift Gresham, who taught economics and finance from 1969 to 1981. Known for his dedication to students, Gresham died of a heart attack on Homecoming day in 1981 after participating in campus events. "He was a gem of a man and probably ahead of his time in his profession," says Debbie Raziano, alumni affairs director. "Neal is the ideal student to



Neal Bollinger has received the Clift Gresham Memorial Scholarship for two years.

receive this memorial scholarship."

Bollinger says he uses the financial award by focusing on academics without having to work off campus. He has written a thesis and studied abroad with the Honors Program, been inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma honor society and served on the college's grievance committee. Hoping to pursue an executive-level management career, the Bayou Blue native holds himself to a high standard.

"Keeping up my grades doesn't come easy," he says. "It takes a lot of effort, but I feel like I owe that to my scholarship sponsors. It's one way for me to give back and say thank you."

— *Stephanie Detillier*



a club T-shirt, an opportunity to be introduced with athletes before select games, a Junior Colonels Club newsletter, exclusive autograph sessions and more.

Nicholls athletics invites Colonel fans in the eighth grade and younger to join. To register a child, visit geauxcolonels.com or call 985-493-2517.

"We're looking to the future,"

Ruttle says. "We want to start our younger fans on the right track to becoming Colonel supporters for life." — *Mike Wagenheim*

40 years, many stories, ONE TEAM

Colonel football marks its 40th varsity season

More than 1,000 men have been a part of Colonel football's growth from a scrappy club team to a full-fledged institution of pride for Bayou Lafourche residents.

This year, Nicholls honored these contributions by celebrating "40 Years of Colonel Football," a season-long tribute to celebrate the program's four decades of gridiron action.

Like most collegiate football teams, the Colonels had a humble start. Before becoming a sanctioned Division I program in 1972, Nicholls fielded junior college and club football squads. In 1950, as a junior college of Louisiana State University, Nicholls began intercollegiate play — with LSU hoping that the college might serve as a farm school for its program. The Buccaneers, as they were called, wore hand-me-down LSU uniforms and practiced on the campus front yard. Lack of funding, facilities and suitable opponents contributed to the program's quick demise.

In 1969, local clamoring for college football led to a student-organized

club team, with games held in the Thibodaux High School stadium. As the Colonels transitioned into varsity play, head Coach Gary Kinchen, a former LSU center, was hired to lead the team into its first NCAA season in 1972.

Being a part of those early years still holds meaning for former athletes such as tackle Jerry Sanchez, 1971 and 1973 team captain. "After my father passed away in my senior year of high school, I tried to go away to play football, and it didn't work out the way I wanted it to," he says. "I was a Thibodaux kid, and getting to be on the club team and then the first real team at Nicholls was something exciting and special."

Sanchez, who attended Nicholls on and off from 1969 to 1975, recalls intense practices intended to weed out those not ready for the rigors of college football.

"We started off with more than 100 kids, and a month later we were



down to about 60 or so. They worked us pretty hard," he says. "In turn, it really cemented the fact that we were in this for the long haul."

In for the long haul indeed. Despite winning the first two games ever played in the Nicholls stadium (named after John L. Guidry in 1973), the team posted a 5-17 record in its first two years under Kinchen, who died this past August.

The page turned in the team's favor, however, as Bill Clements assumed the head coaching role in 1974. Just a year later, the Colonels finished with an 8-2 record and the Gulf South Conference Championship, the first in team history.

The success continued with Clements' successor, Sonny Jackson (BS '65), the only Nicholls football coach with a winning career record. From 1981-86, Jackson boasted five winning seasons, including a 6-5 team that won the 1984 Gulf Star Conference Championship. A 10-3 record in 1986 earned Nicholls its first I-AA playoff berth and its only playoff win in history.

By today's standards, Jackson's

Students fill the stadium as Colonel football kicks off its first season in 1972. Photos and ticket stub courtesy of University Archives.

coaching style seems unconventional. Rather than recruiting coaches who had worked their way up the college ranks, he hired a stable of former high school coaches — a strategy designed to improve Nicholls recruiting.

Jackson's tenure also marked the start of an offense revolution at Nicholls. Conventional wisdom says to place the best players at the positions where they are most suitable.

But not on Jackson's team. Instead, the best players were put on offense in hopes of outscoring opponents. Jackson credits his coaching staff for many of the ideas spawned that year. "No backs, one back, standing up the tight end, sending the tight end in motion — all these things we were doing before they were big," he says.

With each Nicholls coaching turnover, offensive strategy has



In their 40th year, the Colonels continue to spur school spirit in Guidry Stadium.



Colonel football highlights

1975: Nicholls beats Southeastern in first football game between Louisiana universities played in the Superdome. Colonels win Gulf South Conference title.

1981: Largest crowd (14,125) fills Guidry Stadium for Nicholls versus Southern game.

1984: Nicholls wins Gulf Star Conference championship.

1972: In first home game, Nicholls beats Ouachita Baptist 12-7.

changed — from the “Stack-I” to the “Spread” to the vaunted “Triple Option” that dominated the Colonels’ offense for 10 years. Of the Colonels’ 21 NFL football draft picks, 11 have come from the offense.

The current Colonel offense is guided by head Coach Charlie Stubbs, who previously worked as offensive coordinator at seven schools and was

named the SEC Offensive Coordinator of the Year in 1999. Serving as the Nicholls head coach and offensive coordinator requires a hands-on approach — one that Stubbs also uses to ensure his players are good students and citizens.

“Right now, we’re going through some growing pains, whether it be youth, injuries or other factors,” he

says. “But once we get the program at the top where I want it to be, it’s going to be built on solid character and true student-athletes — something that the university and alums can be proud of.”

Although much has changed in the years leading up to the 40th season, the Colonels still take the field at Guidry Stadium. Red and gray still unite Nicholls fans — some who know

the team’s history, others who hope to be part of the team’s future.

“Tradition is what sustains everything,” says Stubbs, the ninth head football coach in Colonel history. “I let our players know that they aren’t just playing for themselves but for the people who played before them and the young kids running around in the stands.” — *Clyde Verdin Jr.*

From band geek to NFL standout

Gary Barbaro (BS ’80) could easily be considered a pioneer of Colonel football. He was on the first varsity football team in 1972, he helped capture the Colonels’ first conference championship in 1975, and he was the first Nicholls player to be drafted into the National Football League.

How he got drafted and forged an NFL career, however, remains a mystery to Barbaro, who didn’t pick up the sport until his senior year at East Jefferson High School.

“I was a band geek who had been playing the trombone since fifth grade,” Barbaro says. “I was always a tall, skinny kid, and my mom didn’t want me to play football because she was afraid I’d get hurt. Karen, my girlfriend at the time, now my wife, convinced me to join the team my last year.”

After a good but not stand-out season, Barbaro received a full football scholarship offer from one school: Nicholls.

“Nicholls was just starting its team, so they were just looking for bodies,” says Barbaro, a member of the Nicholls, Sugar Bowl and Louisiana Sports halls of fame. “They weren’t

going to get blue-chip players. The Nicholls program gave an opportunity to guys like me who wouldn’t normally have been given a chance to play collegiate football.”

During his last two seasons as a Colonel, Barbaro played defensive cornerback, and he helped lead Nicholls to an 8-2 record in 1975 en route to its first conference title.

“Winning the championship in just four years with the guys that the coaching staff got together, that meant a lot,” he says.

A native of New Orleans, Barbaro literally grew with the program. He came out of high school at 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighing 155 pounds. By the time the Kansas City Chiefs selected him in the third round of the 1976 NFL Draft, he stood 6 feet 4 inches, 210 pounds.

During his seven seasons with the Chiefs, he was named to the NFL Pro Bowl three times and tallied 39 interceptions, including a league-leading 10 in 1980. More than 30 years later, Barbaro still holds the Chiefs’ record for longest interception return for a touchdown — a 102-yarder in 1977.

Due to NFL contract disputes in 1983, Barbaro found himself in

Donald Trump’s office, where he signed to play with the Trump-owned New Jersey Generals of the U.S. Football League. After one season, he suffered a career-ending knee injury.

About 18 years ago, Barbaro returned to the NFL as one of 32 “fashion cops,” inspectors responsible for reporting uniform and licensed apparel violations. On New Orleans Saints game days, he’s on the sidelines looking for untucked shirttails and nonlicensed products. On weekdays, he is a partner in Marketing Agents South, a company that represents manufacturers of food-service equipment.

This football season, Barbaro, who lives in Metairie, also regularly traveled to Nicholls to serve as the honorary chairman of the 2011 Nicholls Alumni Federation John Brady Golf Tournament, which raises money for scholarships and alumni programs. He says the university not only gave him his only shot at an NFL career but also became a family tradition. His daughters — Angelle Barbaro Babin (BS ’99, MEd ’04) and Stacy Barbaro Collins (BA ’02, MEd ’04) — both graduated from Nicholls and so did their husbands.

“I was blessed to get a scholar-



First Colonel drafted by the NFL, Gary Barbaro played for the Kansas City Chiefs from 1976 to 1982.

ship to Nicholls,” Barbaro says. “To help raise scholarship money that will help other students achieve something they might not have been able to do otherwise has been an honor.” — *Jamie Bustos*

- **1986:** In Division I-AA Championships, Nicholls nabs first (and only) playoff win.
- **1991:** Colonels begin competing in the Southland Conference.
- **1994:** Under the “Stack-I” offense, Nicholls is ranked ninth in the nation in rushing.
- **1996:** For the first time in 10 years, Nicholls makes the NCAA playoffs.
- **2005:** Colonels win Southland Conference title.
- **2008:** Nicholls rises to its highest-ever overall national ranking, No. 13.

Friends

ROBERT FALGOUT, retired Nicholls professor of agriculture, was given honorary lifetime membership by the board of directors of Sugar Industry Technologists Inc., an international organization of cane sugar refiners.

DON LANDRY, former Nicholls basketball coach and athletic director, wrote *Boxing, Louisiana's Forgotten Sport: History of High School and College Boxing* (self-published, 2011). The book chronicles the rise and fall of high school and college boxing in Louisiana.

1960s

DR. JOHN J. CAVAN (BS '61) was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 13 in Newark, N.J. Cavan was also inducted into the Nicholls Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Mississippi Delta Community College Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. Cavan, president of Southside Virginia Community College, is a former Nicholls basketball player and has completed more than 120 marathons.

1970s

KEVIN MELANCON (BS '73) is chief credit officer for Community Bank in Raceland, where he handles credit and lending policies.

MILTON D. BOURGEOIS JR. (MBA '74) is chairman of the Louisiana

Hospital Association's board of trustees.

DR. ERIC GEIST (BS '75), a private practice oral surgeon in Monroe, received the Alumnus of the Year award from the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry. He is an associate professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Surgery at LSU Medical Center in Shreveport.

GENE PAUL RHODES (AS '75) was listed in *Who's Who in Business* and *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*. He has been self-employed since 1990.

RAYMOND "CHIP" DIDIER JR. (BS '77), a coach and teacher for 33 years, was inducted into the Louisiana Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He volunteers as a coach while enjoying retirement with his family and hunting, fishing and golfing.

DR. CHRISTOPHER J. PORTIER (BS '77) joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2010 and now serves as director of the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health and its Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He has received numerous awards and is recognized internationally as an expert in the design, analysis and interpretation of environmental health data.

JANE MARGARET TRICHE-MILAZZO (BA '78) was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed

by a unanimous Senate vote as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She previously was a state District Court judge from Napoleonville.

GREG BORNE (BS '79), with more than 25 years of banking experience, is a vice president and lending officer at First American Bank in Houma.

1980s

DR. DAVID BREAUX (BA '80) is dean of the Graduate School at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He completed his doctorate at the University of Kentucky.

MARTIN FOLSE (BA '81) served as the 2011 king of the Krewe of Houmas and as the grand marshal of the Krewe of Hercules. He is the owner and manager of HTV Channel 10 in Houma.

CRAIG CHERAMIE (BS '84, AS '85, BS '86) was appointed by Gov. Bobby Jindal as a trustee to the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority. A representative for H.D. Vest Financial Services, he owns Craig Cheramie CAP/PFS and Cheramie Financial Services in Harahan.

TONY TROWBRIDGE (BA '84) has joined the copy-desk staff of the *Chicago Tribune*, a daily newspaper with the ninth largest circulation in the country. He was previously a copy editor for *The Virginian-Pilot* in Richmond.

DORIS GONZALES BEAUDEAN (BA '85) exhibited her artwork at the Lockport Branch Library in July. She began pursuing art as she wanted after she retired from teaching five years ago. Her work has been exhibited at local venues across Lafourche Parish.

EILEEN SHANKLIN-ANDRUS (BS '85), who had been working in the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, was promoted to First Assistant Inspector General for Audit & Review. She heads the unit responsible for auditing city departments and agencies.

LARRY D'ANTONI (BS '86), with more than 15 years of athletic training experience, is coordinator of the Sports Medicine Center at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center. He previously was head athletic trainer at St. James High School.

DAN GUIDRY (BS '87) was inducted into Murphy USA's Circle of Stars for his performance in 2010. He and his crew saw the most improved fuel gallon sales, top customer satisfaction scores and top overall performance in his region.

TRESHA MABILE BERGEN (BA '89) received an honorary doctorate from Nicholls in May. Her 2010 documentary, *Talibanistan*, which she directed and produced for National Geographic and aired on CNN, was nominated for an Emmy Award for outstanding research. Another National Geographic documentary, *Can the Gulf Survive?*, won the award.

1990s

TOBY BRADY (BS '93, MBA '97) was appointed to the Coastal Commerce Bank board of directors. He is owner and president of Louisiana Capital Group in Larose and owner of Allport Services in Port Fourchon.

CHERYL DEGRUISE (BA '93, MEd '99) was one of 15 principals to participate in the state superintendent's War College Initiative, which provides coaches to under-performing schools. Degruise, principal of Dularge Middle School, is currently coaching two schools. She was chosen because of Dularge Middle's ranking as the highest scoring high-poverty school in

Alumni Affairs remembers long-time secretary

Eleanor Falterman Talbot of Labadieville, who worked as a secretary for all five Nicholls alumni directors, died on Aug. 16.

"She was the thread that ran through all of us," says Director of Alumni Affairs Debbie Raziano, who worked with Talbot for 18 years. "Eleanor was dependable, thorough and a hard worker who taught me a lot after I became director."

Talbot began her Nicholls career in September 1965 as a stenographer-clerk in Social Sciences, Speech, Art and Foreign Languages (which later became the Division of Liberal Arts). She transferred to Alumni Affairs and News Bureau and Publications in 1971 and worked strictly for Alumni Affairs from 1989 until her retirement in July 1998.

Ann Theriot Sanders, 1995-96 Nicholls Alumni Federation president, remembers Talbot as "cheerful, efficient and

a great person to be associated with." Raziano says Talbot was also a good confidante. Prescribing to the adage that it's not polite to ask a woman her age, Talbot kept her age a mystery, even among her co-workers. In addition to her official secretarial duties, she was also known for giving spelling help to Raziano, a self-professed bad speller. Even more respected, however, was Talbot's wisdom based on her three decades on campus.

"She had valuable institutional knowledge and knew where alumni were," Raziano says. "Eleanor saved the day many a time."



Talbot

a tri-parish area and one of 13 schools to make the Louisiana Department of Education's High-Performing, High-Poverty distinction list.

KEVIN GEORGE (BGS '96, BS '99, MEd '03) is supervisor of secondary education for the Lafourche Parish school system. He previously was principal at Thibodaux High School for four years. Before that, he worked for the Recovery School District in New Orleans and the Terrebonne Parish school system.

FRANK WILSON (BGS '97) was named 2011 Recruiter of the Year by Rivals, a media authority on athletics recruiting. He has produced two top-10 classes in the two seasons that he has been LSU's football recruiting coordinator.

GLENN J. BERGERON II (BA '98) established Chicory Bloom Press in 2008 to publish poetry chapbooks. He has published chapbooks for poets such as Camala Ryan, Catherine Savage Brosman and former Louisiana Poet Laureate Darrell Bourque. Two of Bergeron's poems were featured on the poetry

segment of a Lafayette radio show.

DARRYL ESCHETE (BA '98) is director of the Chippewa Falls Public Library in Wisconsin.

MILICENT HOTARD (BA '99, MEd '05) was named Teacher of the Year at Sixth Ward Middle School in Pearl River. She currently teaches seventh- and eighth-grade science.

STACI COWART PRATHER (MEd '99), teacher at LaSalle Junior High School, was named one of LaSalle Parish's 2012 Teachers of the Year.

BARBARA WATTS (BS '99) is a shareholder in the Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick Co. in Lafayette.

2000s

BRENNAN MATHERNE (BA '03) is the public information officer for the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. He was previously Lafourche Parish government's public information officer. For the sheriff's office, Matherne handles media requests, serves as a spokesman, updates its website and manages its social media presence.

RAYMOND LEGENDRE (BA '06) is a reporter for *The Columbian* in

Vancouver, Wash. Before joining the 35,600-circulation daily, he reported for *The Courier* and *Daily Comet*.

KATIE GIROIR (BA '07) received her Juris Doctor and Graduate Diploma in Civil Law from LSU Law Center in May.

RENEE BOURGEOIS (BS '08), a fourth-year student at LSU School of Dentistry, received the 2011 Pierre Fauchard Academy Foundation Dental Student Scholarship. She has been a class representative to the American Student Dental Association and currently is first delegate to the ASDA.

MICHELLE CHIASSON (MEd '08) is principal of E.D. White Catholic High School in Thibodaux.

2010s

CODY BLANCHARD (BS '10) is executive director of Thibodaux Main Street, a program designed to foster historic preservation, growth and the revitalization of the area. He previously was the marketing and public relations director for the city of Thibodaux under former Mayor Charles Caillouet.

GRANT CROCHET (BA '10) was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He will undergo two years of training in an officer specialty.

ANATOLY BOSE (BS '11), a former forward for the Nicholls basketball team, signed a one-year contract for the 2011-12 National Basketball League season with the Sydney Kings in Australia.

ERIN MCMAHON (AGS '11) was named the 2011 Outstanding Woman with a Disability of the Year by the Lafourche Mayors' Committee on Disability Issues. McMahon is working toward her bachelor's degree at Nicholls.

In Memoriam

Faculty/Staff Deaths

T.C. CALMES of Hammond, head baseball coach from 1974 to 1979 with a 152-124-1 record, on Sept. 14 in Baton Rouge at age 72. In 1972, he was one of 31 people who established University Baptist Church in Thibodaux.

DR. CHRISTINAM. COATES, assistant professor of physical sciences from 2010 to 2011, on Sept. 21 in Lake Wales, Fla., at age 34.

PAGE M. COLLIER, who taught English from 1963 to 1984, on July 1 in Thibodaux at age 81.

DEANNA H. FALCON (BA '83) of Thibodaux on Aug. 23 at age 66. She was director of the Nicholls Job Link Center in the early 1990s and later NCAA compliance officer in the athletics department.

RONALD GARY KINCHEN of Baton Rouge, head football coach

from 1972 to 1973 with a 5-17 record, on Aug. 17 in Houston at age 70. He was "Go" team center on the Orange Bowl Champion LSU football team of 1962.

ELEANOR FALTERMAN TALBOT of Labadieville, Alumni Affairs secretary from 1971 to 1998, on Aug. 16. (See story on Page 14.)

Alumni Deaths

STANLEY ARCENEAX (BS '66), an accountant for Byron Talbot Contractor, on July 28 in Thibodaux at age 66.

LARRY T. BROCK (BS '67) of Pleasure Bend (near Vacherie) on April 7 at age 66. He was an LSU Ag Center county agent and taught agriculture internationally.

SHERRY CANDIES HEURTIN (BA '68, MEd '73) of Des Allemands

on May 7 at age 75. She was a St. Charles Parish public school educator and principal.

MURIEL DEES ARCENEAX (MEd '72) on April 22 in Vicksburg, Miss., at age 85. She was an activist at local and state levels in a broad range of civic concerns (library, parenting, YWCA, cancer, women's rights).

LEN JOSEPH PITRE (AS '77) of Waynesboro, Miss., on July 23 in Biloxi, Miss., at age 64. He was a self-employed engineer and UNOCAL Oil Corp. retiree.

BRIDGET ANDREA NEIGEL (BS '82), a New Orleans area residential landscape designer, on March 21 in Metairie at age 51.

ANTHONY MICHAEL OLIVEIRA (BS '08), a chef in Vail, Colo., and then in Memphis, Tenn., on Feb. 24 in Memphis at age 29.



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