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Faculty Senate Newsletter, February 2013

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

LSU FACULTY SENATE

Monthly Newsletter

February 28, 2013



President's Welcome

Years ago, American Airlines backgrounded its television advertisements with a hauntingly optimistic jingle featuring one phrase, "something special in the air." Tone, whether musical or inflectional or atmospheric, is indeed something airy—something halfway between the inferred and the empirical. One of the wonders if not miracles of recent educational policy is the sudden change in tone among the campuses of the University of Louisiana System since the arrival of new, imaginative, and energetic leadership in the "UoL" System office. Nothing has changed in the budget picture and therefore not too much has happened empirically. Nevertheless,

and suddenly, the Presidents of the University of Louisiana System campuses are fielding new ideas, reaching out to new constituencies, and, in general, going after the gold. This energizing effect has proved happily infectious and has also enlivened the growing community and technical college system. Even ever-beleaguered Southern is, in a phrase, "hangin' in there," or least least hanging loose. Meanwhile, dark moods and nervous secrecy keep the mood glum and the glance retrospective over on Lakeshore Drive.

What is bringing about the "UoL miracle" is the new willingness to consider ideas and to break free of old slogans about who is the "flagship" or who is the biggest kid on Louisiana's short block. At the recent "CLCU" (Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities) conference—on which a report will appear in the March 31st Newsletter—we heard UNO President Peter Fos talk about urban research universities and we heard private college President Ronald Ambrosetti talk about the revival of liberal arts within pre-vocational programs. Up in Shreveport, at the edge of the LSU System, we have heard medical education activist Philip Rozeman questioning whether big and consolidated is really better than in-touch and on-the-local-ground.

This and the column next month will take a cue from the "UoL Renaissance" by considering some of the clichés and shibboleths that resonate through the current debate over higher education in Louisiana. Few of the keywords and buzz-phrases that have been bruited in this debate have been examined with any degree of resolution or granularity. Let us begin with the number-one misused term, "workforce development." This short term is, in fact, a tissue of implications and insinuations rather than meanings. The vague word "workforce" would surely cover the plurality of human beings and might even include professors. The insinuation behind the word, however, suggests only a very small slice of the potential workforce: an array of formerly white-collar but increasingly blue-collar, non-management personnel with technical competence but with career trajectories that are shorter and flatter than university propaganda might allow. The term "workforce" converts professionals such as engineers or chemists into day laborers and implicitly transfers the management function, even in industry, to a less competent management caste. The obsession of the LSU System Presidential Search Committee with "non-traditional" (read: managerial but not academically qualified) candidates mimics the aforementioned process of demotion and transfer of authority. Young people who are seduced by the rhetoric of "workforce development" may well find themselves in the position of the aerospace experts of the 1970s, who ended up plying their air- and space-travel skills by flipping burgers up high.

"Development" is a likewise diffuse term. No one curriculum and no one university, no matter how comprehensive, can "develop" a generic, all-purpose "workforce" that meets every need. Workforce needs, moreover, change over time. The hubris of contemporary statisticians leads many would-be experts to feel certain about future labor needs, but that feeling is as much the product of faith as of empirical evidence. The term "development" implies the passage of time, during which needs will change—as is evidenced by the totality of human history—and during which students would be better served by the exploration of skills that will create future prospects rather than by the task-specific cultivation of skill sets suitable for perceived needs. When currently workforce-pertinent skills are no longer current or when the job market drifts in new directions, industrialists will surely blame universities for not keeping up with the times.

Open for consideration, too, is the apparent abdication by public universities of their responsibility for that segment of the workforce that brings value to life. Able religious leaders, social reformers, artists, labor union officials, and plain old volunteers are ever in short supply. Universities have gained the prestige they enjoy by their provision of those who serve the public and who enhance, interpret, and improve the strange adventure of human life. As the repeated failure by Louisiana to attract high-revenue, professional-intensive industries demonstrates, the shortfall in the Louisiana culture and non-profit sectors carries a high price tag.

There will be another day, another month, another year, and another future in Louisiana. "Workforce development" is an unsustainable and ultimately incoherent mission. And there will be another welcome column next month, in which we will look at the whole workforce of hard-duty slogans, whether "privatization," "online education," or "consolidation."

Blogger Dayne Sherman Gill-Nets Guillory

Senator Elbert Guillory, Senate Retirement Committee Chair, continues his streak of no-shows. Last year, Guillory no-showed for a public forum on retirement issues that had been set up especially for him. This month, Guillory had accepted an invitation to speak at the "Alexandria Summit" of faculty leaders, only to bail from the event fifteen minutes prior to his scheduled start. Ardent blogger Dayne Sherman stayed on the case, paintballing the truant Senator with an account of his habitual absences that ran in *The Independent* and in *The Daily World*. We wager that Senator Guillory won't go missing again.

Pearson Prescribes Poison Pill For Retirement Activists

Since the 2009 discovery of the devastating effects of the unfunded accrued liability ("UAL") on higher education retirement accounts, activists engaged in behind-the-scenes talks with campus, System, and HRM officials have been searching for a solution. Among the solutions that have been proposed is withdrawal from TRSL plans, whether defined benefit or defined contribution. That option is especially appealing to participants in the Optional Retirement Plan ("ORP"), who have been encumbered with an obligation to the unfunded accrued liability ("UAL") that they never created, an obligation that funds the retirement plans of other state employees or that recirculates back into the general budget. In an attempt to block even this quiet attempt at self-defense by participants in an "optional" plan who are allowed no other options, Representative Kevin Pearson has floated House Bill 33, which requires any agency departing from TRSL-managed plans to pay its "share" of the UAL immediately upon its egress from the TRSL bailiwick. A "poison pill" intended to terminate options, so enormous an up-front payment is probably unattainable for any public institution. Worse, TRSL has repeatedly refused to disclose what might be the alleged share of the UAL owed by any given agency. Not knowing the price makes it rather difficult to pay the fee.

Bagayoko Hammers Mason, Mason Fights Back

In its January 31st issue, the *Newsletter* informed its readership of widespread discontent on the Southern University campus with the new contract with online services provider EOServe, which now manages the Southern online program in exchange for 40% of revenues from students who enroll in live classes on the Southern campus (which suggests that EOServe, unlike Louisiana university officialdom, thinks that the greatest revenue opportunity is not online, but in the good old bricks-and-mortar university). Following that report, a fervid exchange broke out between the voluble Diola Bagayoko, a distinguished professor of physics and a renowned faculty activist, and suave Southern University System President Ronald Mason. The witty Bagayoko had turned his formidable administrative and satirical talents to the production of a treatise entitled "The Bill of Sale of Southern University," a point-by-point denunciation of the EOServe contract that resonates of the style of Thomas Paine and that cheekily declares that "any failure to read this document thoroughly and to act accordingly will be a calamity." The startled Mason, well aware of Bagayoko's facility as a controversialist, returned fire with an editorial affirming that Southern had not been sold. At press time, this internecine broil had not yet reached the treaty stage.

Higher Education Headliner

Steven B. Heymsfield, MD, Executive Director of Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Although the A&M campus continues to garner national and international attention for its exploits both in and out of the classroom, it is by far not the only shining star in the LSU System. Quality education and research can be found in any of the System's arms of academia from Alexandria to Eunice, Shreveport to New Orleans, and of course Baton Rouge. Research is of particular interest just up the street from the flagship campus at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, a world-renowned facility helmed by Dr. Steven B. Heymsfield, the Center's Executive Director.

Pennington, which is one of LSU's research-only campuses, has set its sights on understanding the complexities of today's worst diseases. "We literally study from the cells up to the whole body," Dr. Heymsfield explains. Diabetes and obesity are of particular interest, being at the forefront of both the local and national consciousness. Two other areas of interest are healthy aging and disease prevention. The medical community believes that many of today's chronic and degenerative diseases could disappear if conditions like diabetes are eliminated, and Pennington's research is helping make that happen.

Dr. Heymsfield is no stranger to the diseases that most concern Pennington's researchers. He might oversee the academic and administrative affairs of Pennington as Executive Director now, but his professional specialty has always been obesity research. Before his 2010 appointment to the chancellor-like position, Heymsfield dabbled in other areas as a Professor of Medicine at Columbia University and as Global Director for Scientific Affairs and Obesity at Merck & Co. He believes that his experiences in academia and big business have helped shape his administrative philosophy. "A big business runs differently than an academic institution, so I have a different way of looking at things than I did [before]," he says. Five years at Merck are allowing him to "bring more industry thinking to my job here at Pennington."

This business and medicine-minded sensibility has brought a host of new projects to the Center. Heymsfield is especially proud of the recently-built imaging center that will keep Pennington on the cutting edge of medical technology. The new addition will provide an opportunity to look at tissues such as the heart, brain, liver, and kidneys and "understand them at a level we haven't been able to understand them before."

Biological research may be the core of Pennington's activities, but the Executive Director admits that "We also need to do more about embracing the community around us here and reaching out." The first target area is the relationship between Pennington and LSU A&M. Competition for funding and misunderstandings about ownership have historically caused tension between the two campuses, not unlike a sibling rivalry. Heymsfield works daily to ease this paranoia and focuses instead on collaboration, believing that "We are stronger together than we are competing with each other."

The local medical community is also of interest to the scientist, who says that the close proximity to the Our Lady of the Lake, Baton Rouge General, and Ochsner medical centers can bring opportunities for collaboration that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Potential ties do not end with established hospitals or medical professionals though. Heymsfield also sees opportunities to reach out to medical students. The Baton Rouge area already hosts many third and fourth year medical students from the LSU-Health Sciences Centers and medical residents who find themselves here for work. Heymsfield envisions a future in which research-minded medical students can spend all four years of study in Baton Rouge. Students, he believes, can take advantage of the A&M campus "where they could have additional training that they wouldn't have in New Orleans. For example they could also go to law school or get a master's in public health or business." The project may become a possibility sooner than even Heymsfield expects, with the addition of a new building for medical education already on the horizon.

Pennington's association with LSU has benefitted the research institution in many ways, but there are also downsides to being part of an academic entity. The most unfortunate is that the System's budget woes extend to the Perkins Road facility. "It's been a real disaster for the institution," he says. "You can't take a financial hit and still expect everything to be fine." Budget cuts have especially affected what the Center would like to do for local communities. One-time desires to establish an organic garden, a maze, and a nutrition museum for children have been set aside for now, potentially slowing Pennington's progress in building connections to the minority and rural communities.

The Center has been a bit quieter about their financial constraints than other campuses, but concerns have been presented throughout the System's administration. Heymsfield says that the major drawback for Pennington and the AgCenter is that they are not able to increase tuition to offset the brunt of the cuts like the law school and medical schools have. "The mood is pretty glum . . . and it's not getting better," he says.

Heymsfield speculates that the key to improvement may come in the System's understanding that in business, you can't be all things to all people. He explains that "when Pennington reorganized, we thought really clearly about how we distinguished ourselves from other institutions like us. How are we different? We want to have a niche." From his perspective, there has not been a real articulation of what the problem is at the System level. Going forward there must be answers. "Why was the reorganization needed, what is the vision moving forward, and in what areas should the university be strong?" he asks. A rededication of funding to more academic pursuits, recruitment of top-quality academicians, and a leader with academic credibility and a business mind certainly wouldn't hurt either.

After more than two years at Pennington, Heymsfield says he enjoys what he does and where he is. His new home down south isn't quite New York, but he does say that "the climate is nice and the people are very friendly." The physician who once would have never expected to be holding an academic position, let alone to be running a biomedical center is especially pleased that he can conduct research. "Some people give that up, but I can't imagine doing it."



LSU Rewards Virtue a Second Time

Spoiling its record for mistakes but thereby unexpectedly rewarding virtue and competence, LSU A&M has appointed long-serving interim Chief Information Officer Brian Nichols as the true and permanent Chief Information Officer. Long overdue, the legitimization of Nichols canonizes a career that has covered the spectrum of academic activities, from managing risks and otherwise chastising hooligans to the advancement of the highest technologies and on to the reform of course-management software and enterprise systems. Nichols has never flagged in his commitment to faculty service and to the promotion of academic excellence. He has set an example for thinking men and women while also attaining mastery of the practical arts. Congratulations are due to Brian on the occasion of a new chapter in what we hope is the lengthening story of his service-driven life.

Linguistic Innovation in IT World -

More than a few users of online databases and services lament the necessity of remembering piles of passwords in heaps of formats. Lamentations grow louder when IT administrators require long, allegedly secure passwords. Struggling with the mnemonic shock induced by password overload, Louisiana's computer experts have conjured up a new term, "passphrase," by way of suggesting a strategy for the ready recollection of long passwords. Passphrases take various forms, whether apparently nonsensical strings of characters that serve as acronyms for memorable phrases or whether short phrases—e.g., "camptownladiessingonetwo3"—that are memorable in their own right. Enjoy the new primer on passphrases that is available [online](#).

Pearson: Freeze Has No Impact-

The age of on-demand video has had the paradoxical effect of reducing coverage in that no one can watch everything all the time, with the result that much activity goes unmonitored. The *Newsletter* staff is therefore elated when highly-placed sources discover the devil that is always in the details and who nowadays hides within the masses



Representative J. Kevin Pearson

of media. Well worth watching is an excerpt from a video recorded on May 9th, where the Louisiana House Retirement Committee debates the limiting or even freezing of the ORP "normal cost," that portion of employer contributions that reach employee accounts. By advancing through the [video](#) to the 1:57:10 mark, the amazed viewer may witness the ever-garrulous but seldom informed Representative Kevin Pearson affirming that a freeze in the sums flowing to employee accounts will have "no impact" on participants in the Optional Retirement Plan ("ORP"). A few rival representatives wondered whether such a move would hurt recruitment or damage current employees—Representative Jones asked whether "if the state's not puttin' it in, then they're [the employees] not gonna get it"—only to hear the repeated mantra, "there is no impact."

Scuttled Cash Balance Plan Unbalances ORP

Phones were ringing, chiming, or otherwise screaming off the metaphorical hook when retirement plan watchers discovered that a technicality in the new “cash balance plan” threatened to reduce the flow-through employer’s contribution to employee retirement accounts by another 4%, immediately following the latest cut from 5.8% to 5.2% (out of the nearly 23% tendered by university employers). The implementation of the cash balance plan, which would apply only to those hired after July 1st, 2013, has been canceled by the courts because the legislative vote for it fell short of the required two-thirds super-majority. Unfortunately, the Louisiana legislature has developed no plans to undo a key element of the cash balance plan, the proposed alignment between the TRSL “normal cost” rate, the Optional Retirement Plan (“ORP”) “normal cost,” and the anticipated “normal cost” rate for the cash balance plan. Those hired after mid-summer may not receive more than the lowest common denominator among these rates, 1.8% of their salaries. This limitation that will make it almost impossible to recruit or retain faculty members and that will create a two-tier arrangement within the already broken ORP, with some members receiving 5.2% and others receiving the minimum 1.8%. Reports from well-placed sources indicate that Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell understands the problem and is taking his usual quiet but effective approach to resolving this problem; better, he is reportedly supported by the most influential “HRM” people in the state. Possible temporary solutions include a one-year suspension of enforcement of the limitation in anticipation of an eventual legislative solution. Faculty and staff members statewide should remain vigilant during the legislative session and might begin preparing to offer public comment or to contact legislators.



Tip of the Month: Darrell's of Lake Charles

Restaurants founder most quickly when they get out of their depth. When Mortadella mavens relinquish the pink pistachio pleaser in ambitious pursuit of truffles, caviar, or Chateaubriand, the end rather than the ideal is instantly in sight. It is at least nominally impossible to get out of one's depth when specializing in submarines, as does southwest Louisiana's legendary sub shop, Darrell's. Situated on academically shabby College Drive adjacent to the intersection of Ryan Street and Interstate 210 in overlooked Lake Charles, Darrell's streamlined, even ballistic menu, comprised of eight specialty sandwiches, has demonstrated the value of simplicity and reputation in a way that not even masters of modern minimalism such as Philip Glass and John Cage could achieve. Heralded for its perfectly rendered sandwich buns, its masterful jalapeno mayonnaise blend, its deft shredding of lettuce, and its sophisticated blending of apparently simple cheeses, Darrell's has achieved a perfect realization of an American classic. Especially tasty among its offerings are the deceptively simple ham and cheese poboy and the savory barbecue beef poboy, which includes not only the marvelous capsicimized mayonnaise but also an exquisite barbecue sauce that hovers delicately over the multiple boundaries between sweet and sour and spicy. The Michelin guide accords its highest rating to restaurants that merit a special trip. Without question, Darrell's is *THE* reason to go to Lake Charles.



Darrell's sign

Wyoming Bests Louisiana, Advocate Blasts A&M

The obsession with secrecy that characterizes the oligarchies that comprise and surround Louisiana's higher educational management boards sustained another public-relations setback when little old Wyoming, a venue seldom regarded as the natural habitat of avant-gardistes, repudiated its previous stance regarding the secrecy of presidential searches and agreed to reveal the names of candidates for the Wyoming CEO position. Recognizing that the public has an interest in the leaders of all state agencies and that higher education has done little to earn an exception from the rule of both law and public scrutiny, Wyoming, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, has decided to leap from the bucking bronco of defiant confidentiality even before its eight seconds in the courtroom expire. Meanwhile, the prominent Baton Rouge and Louisiana newspaper, *The Advocate*, unleashed a thoughtful but downright ferocious editorial calling for the release of candidates' names and the opening up of the LSU presidential search. In its scorching editorial, the *Advocate* explodes the notion that candidates are harmed by the disclosure of their identities (most of them end up with counter-offers and raises) and slams the LSU leadership for its lack of respect for free and open discussion. The Wyoming repentance and the *Advocate* article follow on a resolution by the LSU Faculty Senate that calls attention to the violation of LSU of the rules governing executive sessions, that questions whether the private LSU Foundation should be used as a screen to reduce rather than promote public discussion, and that calls for immediate disclosure of both demographic information relating to the secret pool of applicants and for release of the names of the circa thirty applicants rumored to comprise the first cut of candidates. Passage of the Senate Resolution was accelerated when LSU rebuffed a public records request from the *Advocate* and insisted that the list of candidates was private and proprietary.



Wyoming ejects from secrecy bronco

Governor Plans to Divert \$30M from College to Fraud

Each spring brings a new proposed state budget from the Louisiana Governor's red-bean counters. Although these documents usually dissolve in the shredder of legislative debate, their details often provide insights into the mentalities against which higher education leaders struggle. So it is that the latest budget proposal from the “fourth floor” opens the possibility that, if revenues prove less than expected, the hefty sum of \$30,000,000.00 may be plucked from the higher education budget in order to fund the unannounced war against fraud, including tax fraud. The theoretical justification for such a diversion, that this not-so-paltry sum would yield far more in recovered tax obligations and would ultimately benefit higher education, not only seems something of a stretch but ignores the sad fact that crime often enough arises from inadequate education.

No Bozo Driving This Bus

Users of Tiger Trails, the LSU A&M campus bus system, have reason to rejoice. The indefatigable Gary Graham, head of the parking and traffic unit at LSU, is preparing to move into the third generation of bus service, following the pedestrianizing of the LSU A&M campus and following the adoption of a private bus company with gleaming neo-art-deco buses as the successor to the old city buses that once plied the campus and that required more than pliers to keep running. In an hour-long meeting with LSU's Faculty Senate President as well as in several conferences with LSU stakeholders, Graham and President Mitch Skyer of the Solstice Transportation Group reviewed a host of bus-related opportunities ranging from increased service to the downtown area, reconfiguring of the bus service so as to make it more suitable for faculty and staff, and extension of the route system by way of encouraging “green” bus commuting.



Tiger trails bus locations in real time

Southeastern Professor Makes Fed Court Case Media Event

When University leaders promote the use of multimedia resources, they imagine droves of happily compliant customer-students cheerfully clicking their way through six-week online courses and downloadable PowerPoint shows that lead those students to a bright future full of big salaries and grateful donations to the e-alma mater. Doubtless the enthusiasm for online education abated when ingeniously controversial Southeastern Louisiana University professor Stephen Rushing took his momentum-gathering case to the court of internet opinion. Rushing, who has beat the odds by advancing to the oral argument stage in federal court, began his legal career nearly a decade ago with complaints against former SELU exec John Crain in which he alleges a variety of due process, freedom of speech, and information access violations. The reliably creative Rushing has now upped the electronic ante by creating, on his personal, non-university web site, a six-minute multimedia slide show concerning a summary description of his case. The purpose of the slow, Rushing reports, is to inform the public about his allegations and to encourage attendance at his hearing on March 5th, 2013, in the US Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Have a view and take a listen [online](#).

Unsigned Letter Stimulates Information Search

The LSU Faculty Senate has received an unsigned and anonymous communiqué posing a question: “Why was there no required open search process for the Student Health Center Executive Director position as there are for other positions around campus?” Truth is, there should have been, and it is indeed a wonder that this question must be asked. If anyone in the reading public can answer this question in some non-cliché or believable way, please contact the *Newsletter* via the LSU Faculty Senate office, 3194 Pleasant Hall.

MONTHLY MOVIE REVIEW

SIDE EFFECTS (Steven Soderbergh, 2013) By Carl Freedman

There can be few forums more appropriate than this one in which to review a Steven Soderbergh film. For Soderbergh is, of course, Baton Rouge's own and, in a way, LSU's own. His father was a member of our faculty; as Dean of the College of Education between 1976 and 1981, Peter Soderbergh could have been one of the administrators profiled in this newsletter, had it existed then. The young Steven Soderbergh was educated at the LSU Lab School (where he began directing short Super 8 films) and might well have proceeded to enroll in LSU as an undergraduate, had he not decided, instead, to go to Hollywood and try his luck in the movie industry. He returned home to Baton Rouge, however, to make his first feature-length film—and the rest, as they say, is history. *SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE* (1989) not only grossed more than twenty times its budget in the United States alone, but won the Palme d'Or at Cannes and several other honors as well. It also provided significant impetus to independent American filmmaking in the 1990s (though the careless journalists who sometimes credit Soderbergh with having invented independent film need to be reminded of directors like John Cassavetes and John Sayles). For more than two decades, Soderbergh's has been one of the most respected names in the business.

During this time, Soderbergh has made a remarkable variety of films, from thoroughly commercial big-budget star vehicles like *ERIN BROCKOVICH* (2000) with Julia Roberts, and *OCEAN'S ELEVEN* (2001) with George Clooney and Brad Pitt, to much smaller and highly conceptual efforts like *THE GIRLFRIEND EXPERIENCE* (2009) and *MAGIC MIKE* (2012). I have never enjoyed or admired all of Soderbergh's films equally, but I have always respected his high intelligence and his determination to undertake many different kinds of filmmaking. My personal favorite among his works is probably the two-part *CHE* (2008), a wonderful 257-minute biopic of the great Argentinian-Cuban revolutionary, with scenes of guerilla warfare that feel so real you might almost think you're watching a documentary, and with Benicio Del Toro in the title role giving one of the genuinely stunning performances of the decade.

SIDE EFFECTS is Soderbergh's latest movie, and he has announced that it will be his last. If so, he will have concluded his filmmaking career on a high note. The film is a psychological thriller and has, inevitably, been described as "Hitchcockian." But "post-Hitchcockian"—or even, perhaps, something like "post-post-post-Hitchcockian"—would be more appropriate. The plot is so complex as to make even Hitchcock's more labyrinthine narratives—like *NORTH BY NORTHWEST* (1959), *THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH* (1956), or *SUSPICION* (1941)—seem, by comparison, as simple as the story of how Jack and Jill went up the hill. Whereas Hitchcock most typically broods over moral guilt and quasi-religious sin, Soderbergh here gives relatively little attention to either, ultimately focusing instead on something that I, at least, find a good deal more interesting and important: finance capital.

That *SIDE EFFECTS* is, in the end, a parable of late capitalism does not become clear until quite late in the film and after a number of surprising twists and turns in the plot. Yet this dimension of the movie is subtly hinted at from the beginning, as we meet the young wife Emily Taylor—played by Rooney Mara, who, in view of this film and of her awesome performance in David Fincher's *THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO* (2011), seems to be making a specialty of representing attractive, fascinating, and deeply disturbed young women. Emily's husband Martin (Channing Tatum) is just being released after several years in prison for insider trading. He does not appear particularly scarred by the experience, is welcomed by his old colleagues back into the world of high finance, and is confident that he can soon rebuild the wealthy position that the couple had enjoyed. Emily, however, does not seem to be doing so well, and begins to display the symptoms of clinical depression. While driving out of a parking garage, she aims her car at a brick wall and presses down on the gas pedal.

Emily sustains only minor physical injuries. But, because the crash looks like a suicide attempt—it is clear that she never attempted to swerve or slow down before hitting the wall—the psychiatrist Dr. Jonathan Banks (Jude Law) is called in by the hospital to examine her. He concludes that Emily requires long-term therapy, and she agrees. A most conscientious practitioner, Dr. Banks consults with Emily's former therapist, one Dr. Victoria Siebert (Catherine Zeta-Jones), who turns out to be much more important to the plot's machinations than one is meant to think at first. Dr. Banks also tries various medications on Emily, finally settling on a new, experimental drug called Ablixa, the only fictitious medication among numerous real-world antidepressants and anti-anxiety drugs that the film mentions. Emily says she finds the Ablixa very helpful. Meanwhile—and this is important—Dr. Banks, whose wife has recently lost her high-paying job, helps to maintain their yuppie Manhattan lifestyle by doing consulting work for a pharmaceutical corporation.

Emily's depression appears to lift, her sex life with Martin revives robustly, and everything seems to be going well enough for everyone until something dreadful happens: Emily stabs Martin to death, but claims she has no knowledge or memory of the event. A recognized side effect of Ablixa is sleepwalking: could Emily have done the deed without any conscious intention? At this point the complications of the story-line increase geometrically, and various possibilities open up. The killing of Martin Taylor becomes front-page news, and Dr. Banks gets into quite a bit of trouble for having prescribed the Ablixa. His difficulties are exacerbated when word resurfaces of an old case in which a young female patient of his committed suicide and left behind a note claiming that she had been sexually involved with her shrink—a claim that Dr. Banks insists was the delusion of a paranoid schizophrenic. Is the movie an exposé of the ethical corruption of psychiatry in general—especially in its increasing reliance on expensive mood-altering drugs—and of Dr. Banks in particular? Or is Dr. Banks that quintessentially Hitchcockian figure, the well-meaning but inept innocent man who is cruelly trapped by circumstantial evidence? Why does Dr. Siebert keep re-entering the narrative, seeming creepier and creepier every time she does? And what, exactly, was Emily Taylor's real problem in the first place? I will not attempt to disentangle all these mysteries here, but will simply note that, as often, that advice remains sound which Mark Felt (better known as Deep Throat) gave to Bob Woodward 41 years ago in a Washington parking garage: Follow the money.

At film's end all mysteries are wrapped up neatly—perhaps too neatly, because you might argue that the film finally wants to become a fairly conventional thriller, with some soft-core lesbian pornography thrown in as a bonus for the male gaze. But I think that *SIDE EFFECTS* is more intelligent than that.

(continued on page 5)

UoL Continues Athletic Salary Drive

Last month, the inquisitive *Newsletter* reported the presentation of a \$200K per annum (plus benefits and perquisites) contract to the ULM football coach. Apparently eager to prove his commitment to the Bulldog faithful—a commitment



Louisiana Tech bulldog logo

whose red and blue colors had to be renewed in a public and forceful way when he was suspected of collaborating in a LaTech-LSUS merger—exiting LaTech President Dan Reneau has petitioned for a five-year, \$300K per annum (plus post-season, fringe, and lifestyle benefits) contract for his football coach, for whom no less than the possibility of a BCS championship supplement is opened in the new contract (Nick Saban, get ready for retirement on Alabama's superior retirement plan!). A bit further down on the high-level UoL dole is the Northwestern football coach, who bags \$116K per year plus benefits from a school where faculty dismissals landed the campus not in the end zone but on the AAUP censure list. Barring an amazing onomastic coincidence, Northwestern has also provided a contract to a husband-and-wife volleyball coaching team despite having no published spousal hiring or trailing spouse of domestic partner policy for faculty members. Perusing the actions of the UoL Athletic Committee also reveals a steep gradient in salaries as readers plunge into the Title-IX zone or women's sports. Thanks to a conveniently organized web site, the records and details of these transactions may easily be viewed [online](#).

LSU Engineering Building Lands Aviation Safety Seminar

Those acquainted with the Chinese notion of Chi recognize the reciprocity of architecture and character. When good citizens fill buildings, both they and their environment flourishes; reciprocally, when buildings are properly designed or emblemize good citizenship, virtuous citizens use them to good ends. So it is that LSU's Patrick Taylor Hall, home of the LSU College of Engineering and venue for the leadership of faculty friend and ever-innovative Dean Richard Koubek, has emerged as the home-away-from-home of the aviation safety seminars conducted by AOPA, the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association, America's largest advocacy group for private aviation. Come March 13th, the AOPA Air Safety Foundation will host its second seminar, on the proper and safe use of aviation charts, in the alcoves of LSU Engineering. We congratulate Dean Koubek on creating an atmosphere in which worthwhile projects seem to leap out of the walls spontaneously!



Air Safety Foundation comes to Taylor Hall

MOVIE REVIEW (continued)

For one thing, the extent to which the ending can be described as “happy” is problematic, to say the least. For another, the pacing and cinematography of the film are nearly as important as the story-line. Though in fact one surprising event follows another in increasingly rapid sequence, the camera work and the soundtrack often give a different, much slower impression. “Poisonous fog” is a phrase that the film quotes from *DARKNESS VISIBLE* (1992), William Styron’s widely read memoir of his own struggles with clinical depression; and as viewers we often seem to be moving in a poisonous fog ourselves. With its sometimes muddy colors, its relatively long takes, and its languid, haunting music, the film often creates for the audience the sense of being lost—or trapped—in a fog of mental illness.

Now, mental illness is, at least in one of its aspects, the inability to navigate the world in a satisfactory way. It is the incapacity to love and to work, as Freud—who thought that listening to what people have to say is more salutary than manipulating the chemistry of their brains—classically put it. But, as Soderbergh’s film subtly yet repeatedly asks, can any of us competently navigate the world that modern capitalism has created? Can we truly represent for ourselves the world of avant-garde finance, in which, for example—to take an instance crucial to the film’s plot mechanics—it is possible to make big money from the huge sudden downturn in the price of a stock? Not for nothing is *SIDE EFFECTS* set in Manhattan, the most globally privileged site of finance capital. For me, the final fascination of this movie is that it leaves its Hitchcockian genealogy behind and asks us to consider that the most consequential and disorienting force in the world is nothing other than capital accumulation. Of course, human beings are involved with this accumulation, but we move through it uncertainly, as though through a haze of poisonous depression. It hardly feels as though we are central to the process any longer. It feels as though we are just—how should one put it?—side effects.

—Carl Freedman

Oscar’s Pizza Joint Under New Management

Regular readers of the *Newsletter* remember the extensive review of the Baton Rouge pizza scene in our *Holiday 2011* issue. In that issue, our roving food editors noted that Oscar’s Pizza Joint on Perkins Road (across from the Campus Federal Credit Union) showed potential but had several kinks to work out of its system. Now the proprietors of Nino’s Italian Restaurant, a pair, indeed couple of young culinary entrepreneurs, have purchased this business and have transformed it into the best pizzeria in the Red Stick City. Building their pizzas atop a masterfully rendered sourdough whole-wheat dough that is completely free of the grainy taste that mars most unrefined breadstuffs, the chefs at the new Oscar’s create exquisite flavor profiles that begin with a background aroma from boutique olive oil and ascend through woody mushrooms, tart tomatoes, and an assortment of toppings, including savory homemade sausage with a hint of airy fennel and caraway but nevertheless with abundant earthy umami. The pizza is beautiful to behold as well as to consume; make sure to bring your camera. Oscar’s new and streamlined menu can be viewed [online](#). Campus Federal Credit Union President John Milazzo was recently seen enjoying a lunch calzone, wick brought a smile to his face even despite the vacillations of the economy.



Oscar’s Pizza Joint

Lifestyle Feature

Monumental Baton Rouge

Despite never appearing on the Forbes Magazine list of the [most miserable cities](#) and therefore never having to feel small, Baton Rouge seldom celebrates its immensities. The habitual modesty of the people of Baton Rouge contrasts with the abounding enormities of Louisiana’s capitol city. Not only does the combined city and parish include a vast swath of territory; it also abounds with big and bodacious commemorative sites, whether monuments signifying big conceptions or large semi-sacramental objects or colossal renderings that elicit the heroic from the otherwise petite. A tour of the assorted literal and figurative colossi that festoon our city will more than repay the effort in the aesthetic currency of enjoyment and appreciation.

Given that Baton Rouge has seen its share of military action and given that LSU styles itself as “The Old War Skule,” military monuments are not only expected but are easy enough to find. Baton Rouge has more than its share of moth-balled monumental military airplanes, all zipping through imaginary skies and raising ambiguous if stimulating imaginations of questionable conflicts that led eagles to dare even when flying through troubled skies. Easiest of access and probably of the greatest historical interest is that remnant of the cold war and of the early jet age that seems to be in a shallow climb-out over the LSU ROTC and AFROTC building. Cocked slightly toward the sky, this compact early jet harkens back to a day when America looked up to a future and anticipated that even a few skirmishes now and then would lift struggling nations into the great big beautiful tomorrow. Never mind that the jet is soaring directly into the path of another monumental flyer, the rambunctious LSU missile.



LSU ROTC missile

(continued on page 6)

Alexandria Interim Discussion Kept Brief

The Bard of Avon affirms that “brevity is the soul of wit,” but whether or not it is also the soul of conversation remains to be seen. The latest victim of the misdirection of Shakespeare’s brevity mandate is the affable Paul Coreil, former Director of Louisiana Cooperative Extension Services and incoming interim Chancellor at LSU in Alexandria. There are few who have not liked the low-key and cooperative Coreil and there are few who would doubt that the accomplished chief extension agent could have convinced almost any reasonable person that he would be the man for the short-term Alexandria job. Unfortunately, Coreil’s entry into Alexandria is proving hotter than anticipated owing to dismissive behavior by LSU System officials. Faculty leaders at Alexandria were twice told that the LSU System President would return to their campus “in a very few days” and “in a few weeks” to hold discussions with faculty concerning the interregnum and succession at Alexandria. Only a few days later, the LSU System office announced the appointment of Coreil, an event that must have been foreseen at the time that LSUA leaders received the aforementioned reassurances.

Van Heerden Settlement Details Join Presidential Candidates Underwater

In the same week in which the American Association of University Professors (“AAUP”) warned the LSU System that its secret presidential search and its faculty-free “transition” procedures might land the entire LSU System on the AAUP censure list along with the LSU A&M campus and several other Louisiana schools, LSU’s legal team came to a settlement with aggrieved coastal studies expert Ivor Van Heerden. Never far from the arms of its favorite paramour, Dame Secrecy, LSU quickly clamped down on information flow, refusing to release details of the settlement and intoning that favorite mantra, “the University doesn’t comment on litigation.” Whether or not the “numbers” for the settlement ever appear, there are only two possibilities: either public funds were diverted to the settling of the case of private donations that should have gone to advancing the higher education ended up in the solicitor’s satchel. If the latter, the amalgam of recent expenditures for an assortment of studies, consultants, and settlements raises questions about the claim by the LSU Foundation that it lacks cash reserves and sends a signal to donors that benefactions may serve unintended purposes. Long-timers may also remember that the Chancellor whom Van Heerden accused of limiting free speech was hired by the same leaders who are pushing the consolidation and restructuring of the LSU System and who used the same rhetoric of urgently needed change to justify their neglect of superior faculty wisdom.

The Club at Union Square Pops Up on Facebook

The inexhaustible Jason Tolliver, who refined “The Club at Union Square” from the dross of the old Faculty Club, has scored another hit by taking LSU’s new fine-dining offering into the world of social media. A decided step forward in the development of a night life on the LSU A&M campus, the Club at Union Square grafts Louisiana culinary conceptions to the sturdy stem of French culinary techniques. Non-Facebookers may see the new [Facebook page](#) without subscribing to the privacy-probing juggernaut of social media.

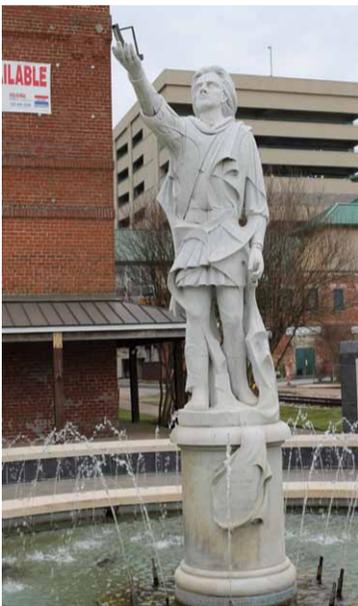
LIFESTYLE (continued)

Zooming along Nicholson drive in the direction of downtown brings one to the static display Corsair fighter, a muscular jet that, despite its energetic design, seems to hover rather than soar over the Louisiana Arts and Sciences Museum ("LASM"). In the more modest fashion of the Vietnam era, the downtown Corsair draws attention to the human being behind the controls (a mannequin pilot) and to the possibility of mishaps (the visible ejection seat). A different and at once more optimistic and less penitential angle on this same conflict can be viewed at the American Legion Hall just south of the intersection of Florida Boulevard and Wooddale, where an F4 Phantom fighter, accessible at close range and mounted within reach of the passerby, seems to scream up into the heavens on afterburners at the same time that it squeezes or even slams down on the overawed viewer. These three static displays together recount the emergence of American control of the world's skies, the rethinking of air power and of war generally, and the heroic if nostalgic reconstruction of the period of American hegemony.



Corsair fighter jet

Airplanes are not the only offerings on the military monument menu. Often overlooked are the two cannons from the Fort Sumter conflict that silently but (owing to their superb polish) glowingly guard the LSU Military Science department. Downtown also offers the USS Kidd, a competently restored World War II destroyer. The appeal of this exhibition is diminished somewhat by the apparent lack of any connection between the Kidd and its exploits and Baton Rouge; it seems as if Baton Rouge needed a big warship primarily because Mobile, Alabama has one. Nevertheless, the docents at the Kidd do a fine job of curating this somewhat inelegant but dutiful ship and of reaching out to younger generations through their various overnight-on-board programs.



Christopher Columbus statue

Curiously, monuments to animate creatures often attract less interest than monuments to the devices invented to destroy them. That having been said, Baton Rouge is not short of grand objects either representing or invoking those who have experienced the joys of Louisiana life. "Not short" might be the best way to describe the two colossal white marble renderings of the Sieur de Bienville and the Sieur d'Iberville that stand atop already tall plinths in the oversized lobby of the new state capitol. It would be nice to imagine that the early explorateurs were so squeaky clean as these porphyry giants suggest. Despite their immensity, these towering fellows seem minuscule in comparison to the surprisingly diminutive statue of Huey Long that stands and that confidently extends its hand from a high white pedestal in the capitol garden. Standing atop what appears to be a galloping Pegasus (shown in relief on the pedestal), the pipsqueak potentate from way-out Winnfield seems remarkably at ease, as if he is about to take a seat on a sanitized and bleached version of the Rock of Gibraltar while viewing a celestial rodeo performance. A less relaxed member of the men of bronze and alabaster resides—or, rather, strides—at the bend joining the USS Kidd Museum and the Belle of Baton Rouge. There, a neo-futurist Christopher Columbus, his hair a mass of triangles whipped by the winds of materialist modernism, raises a strangely miniaturized sextant to the skies in a way that would render such a device useless. Adding to the confusion is

Columbus's apparently frenzied walk; despite being noted for his seafaring, the famous Italian mariner appears to be in a footrace through pools of highly chlorinated water. Fleetness of foot characterizes two other monuments to members of the animate creation. An earlier issue of the *Newsletter* commented on the heroic bronze figures of speedy Begnal tigers that form a multi-part monument around the campus, much in the manner of telescopes composed of multiple separate mirrors or dishes. Those seeking a brazen (or at least concrete and steel) memory of the swiftest of tropical felines might extract a kind of melancholy pleasure from a visit to the empty remnants of Lacumba's enclosure on the Southern University campus, a domicile which, owing to hard budgetary times, has, according to *news reports*, fallen into dormancy. The last live Jaguar on the Southern campus passed to the eternal savannah way back in 2005, yet the remnants of his state apartments can still leave us singing Bob Hope's old theme song, "Thanks for the Memories."

A fundamental feature of the monumental is the exaggeration of importance. The Italianate look of Mike the Tiger's LSU habitat, for example, could easily lead viewers to suspect that he might be eligible to succeed Pope Benedict XVI. In the 1980s, Louisiana cuisine enjoyed a huge increase in popularity, with the result that some restaurants have resorted to monumentalism to sustain a feeling of hope and promise long after the Cajun revival lost its momentum. An example would be the loopy and fruity palace of crawfish that is Ralph and Kacoos's. Like most monuments, the current Ralph and Kacoos stands where nothing happened, the great days of this eatery having transpired years ago in its original modest location on the northern end of Airline Highway. Today, this heavily hued haven for hushpuppies pummels the visitor with what might be described as a baking-powder look: a huge, puffing façade that looks rather like bologna on amphetamines. A similar but subdued approach characterizes Mike Anderson's on Brightside Drive, a building that tries to convince its viewers that it is nought but a humble crab shack despite being purpose-built to look dilapidated.



Ralph and Kacoos

Alexandria Summit: Crowds, Legislators

The "Alexandria Summit" meeting, the quarterly gathering of colleagues committed to faculty governance and stewardship of Louisiana higher education, held its first meeting of 2013 on February 2nd on the campus of LSU in Alexandria. One of the most successful gatherings to date, the meeting attracted over three dozen faculty members from all four Louisiana systems (LSU, University of Louisiana, Southern, LCTCS). Keynoting the event was Senator Herbert Dixon, Chair of the Louisiana House Labor and Industrial Relations Committee, who not only dazzled the crowd with his friendly but fervidly purple tiger sportswear but who also hopeful messages concerning the power of public input and the need for increased activism by faculty members. Dixon's appearance was the first visit by an active member of the legislature—an indication of the growing importance and influence of the Alexandria meetings. Conferees also enjoyed a dual-topic presentation by AgCenter expert Kenneth McMillin on what ordinary faculty members can do to influence academic policy and on what agriculture is doing for academe; a sobering but useful report from the medical campus in Shreveport by Lucy Robinson; a presentation on the faculty experience in community and technical colleges by Fletcher Technical Community College faculty members Bonnie Le and Maureen Watson; a seminar on legislative processes by Louisiana Association of Educators Executive Director Michael Walker-Jones; reports on the state-of-affairs at Southern University and in the AAUP by, respectively, Thomas Miller and Brooks Ellwood; a litigation report from SELU colleague Stephen Rushing; a view of the improvements underway in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Faculty Senate by Charity Bryant; and an astounding report on the payroll gaff at Baton Rouge community college by Laura Sells, who explained how faculty members attempted to give back overpayments, were rebuffed, and then were criticized for hoarding extra money. The meeting included a fine breakfast repast catered by Elisabeth Elder of LSUA and a scrumptious lunch confectioned by the Louisiana Association of Educators.



Representative Herbert Dixon



The Alexandria Summit



Happy St. Patrick's Day, *Newsletter* readers!

(continued on page 7)

LIFESTYLE (continued)

More charming is the quaintly modest monumentalism of the old Frostop burger joint near the corner of Government and Third Streets, where one might rewrite the famous polka to read “roll up [rather than out] the barrel” by way of celebrating the enormous root beer mug and adjacent root beer barrel that pop out of this structure like fries jumping in hot oil.

Some monuments in Baton Rouge became monuments in virtue of being monuments. They had little intrinsic value but when age and decay set in began to acquire the patina of ancient dignity and the air of at least former magnificence. In this category would surely fit the old Broadmoor Cinema, with its arching Bauhaus lines and its art deco marquee, which, in its near and already pathetic ruin, evokes both the golden age of Hollywood and the era of modern design innovation. Floating in the middle of a crumbling parking lot amidst shabby discount stores, the old Broadmoor looks like some sort of apparition. The blanched center for make-believe called the Old State Capitol would surely fit in this category as well, this building having been worse than a white elephant in its time but now serving as a demonstration that anything can be made to commemorate anything—and that such anything-attractions can generate ticket sales.

Let us not forget that Baton Rouge is a bracketed city. Visitors inbound from the west arrive via one of two redoubtable bridges, the older of which could pass as a Lego-land reduction of San Francisco’s Golden Gate span. Better, the powerfully arching forms of the train trestle within this massively overbuilt ribbon of airborne highway convey a simultaneous sense of industrial might and wanton indulgence. That blend of hope and hilarity defines not only the monumental but also the culture of Baton Rouge.



The Frostop

Lombardi Back in the Mix

It is with great joy that we note the return to the dazzling world of academic policy and educationalist debate by no less than former LSU System President John Lombardi. Lombardi, who prided himself on his academic accomplishments and who was always eager to consult and converse with faculty, has recently released two edifying and informative essays. The first, a lengthy contribution to the *Reality Check* blog on Insidehighered.com, wrestles with the future of online education and takes a balanced as well a critical view of MOOCs (massively open online courses). The second item, appearing in *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*, entitled “The Career President,” and serving as the keystone contribution in a special feature called *Leading the University: The Roles of Trustees, Presidents, and Faculty*, offers an account of the life cycle of a university president or chancellor that is worthy of Bernard Mandeville (author of the searingly satiric and devastatingly accurate *The Fable of the Bees*). Lombardi cleverly and convincingly demonstrates how the structure of the modern campus or system presidency ensures that nothing can be accomplished and reveals the complicity of management boards and other political appointees in the stymieing of industrious campus executives. Congratulations to John Lombardi for once again telling the truth with grace and precision. Great to have you back!

Shorts Goes Long on Service Charges

Veterans of the stock market know that “going long,” purchasing with the expectation that share prices will rise over time, is the easiest if not always the best way to make money. Never missing an opportunity to carve more from the commission block under the guise of saving money, Short’s Travel, the state booking agent, has devised a scheme that, in seeming to benefit the traveler, allows for the collection of double reservation fees. Shorts “goes long” by continuously checking flight fares for twenty-four hours after the apparent completion of the reservation. If a fare fluctuation of \$100.00 or more is detected, Shorts cancels the first reservation, replaces it with a second, cheaper reservation, and then assesses a second reservation fee. In theory, this process should result in at least a \$76.00 saving once Shorts’ hefty \$24.00 booking fee is deducted (\$100.00 saving minus \$24.00 booking fee), but, in practice, the saving is closer to \$52.00 after a second \$24.00 booking fee is applied. Given that most travel agents are also bulk buyers and sellers of reservations—companies such as Expedia or Travelocity, for example, buy hundreds of tickets on a block, “futures” basis and then resell them with the aid of software that predicts market rises and falls—it would not be surprising to discover that Shorts may further compound its gains through such a scheme (it would be easy enough to buy tickets in bulk, stockpile them, allow customers to buy high-priced tickets, collect the first booking fee, cancel the reservation from the open market, sell the customer a cheap but still profitable stockpiled ticket, and then collect a second booking fee). There is no evidence to suggest that any auditor is watching for or guarding against that kind of market manipulation.



“A G Answers” is your newest source of human resources management advice. LSU HRM Chief A. G. Monaco addresses *Newsletter* readers’ questions about HRM and “employees’ lives” in general. Have a pressing HRM issue for A G to address? Please send your queries to encope@LSU.edu.

This month’s query comes from an anonymous reader, who asks:

“Dear A G,

With a recent history of no raises for the last four years it has become more difficult to recruit new faculty to the campus. Do you think that the changes in the pension system and the introduction of the new “cash balance system” will further limit our ability to recruit top faculty and administrators? -- Anonymous”

Dear Reader,

No matter what questions are asked on this campus inevitably the subject understandably turns to pensions.

Initially I felt that including higher education in pension changes last year was unfair since K-12 were “pardoned” from the changes leaving the universities in the state to pay more for less. I did not however think that it would impact our recruiting and retention of faculty since virtually all new faculty choose the Optional Retirement Plan due to factors of immediate vesting and its portability. I was wrong.

Last week we were informed that should the cash balance plan pass legal muster and then be implemented on July 1 it would dramatically impact the ORP plan. It is believed that the Attorney General will interpret the new pension law to mean that the ORP must receive the same employer contribution as the cash balance plan. That would mean that employer contributions to the ORP would be reduced from an already low 5.6% to somewhere between .8% and 1.8%.

The state will guarantee a minimum return on cash balance accounts of 4% so if the market does not overcome the lack of contributions to that fund the state will make up for any shortfall should returns not provide a return of 4% or above. No such guarantee exists for the ORP and when it is assumed that TRSL will continue to deduct an administration fee from ORP accounts these pensions will for all practical purposes be totally employee funded. The likelihood that LSU can effectively recruit high quality candidates to the campus will be diminished. Can we even expect to find a presidential pool of candidates willing to consider the position after they review the Optional Retirement Plan?

For existing employees there should be no change in their pension benefit at this time, but future faculty members will be dramatically impacted. The good news is that LSU led by President Jenkins and other administrators has begun to work to try and change the ORP back to its previous configuration. Supporters of LSU and higher education in general in both state government and the legislature are working with us in attempts to achieve the necessary change. Kevin Cope and the members of the Faculty Senate have already begun to work with other campuses to get the message out. We need faculty and staff on this campus to work with their respective groups to explain to all that will listen about the negative impact this will have on the future quality of the faculty and staff on campuses throughout the state.

—A G



A G Monaco

JOIN LSUNITED TODAY

WHO WE ARE:

LSUnited is the higher education organizing committee of the Louisiana State University faculty and is affiliated with the Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE), the largest and most influential association of professional educators in the state, with more than 20,000 members.

OUR GOALS:

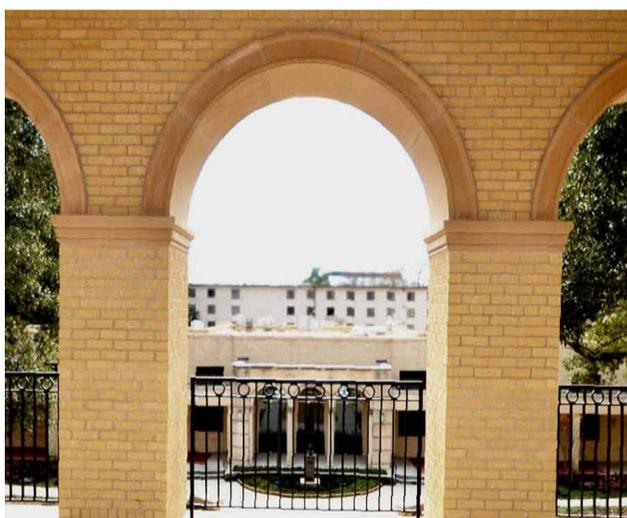
The Louisiana higher education community is at a crossroads, and LSUnited is organizing to become a powerful voice for educators at Louisiana State University. We strive for a shared vision and collaborative governance for all faculty members.

- **JOB SECURITY** – Address concerns and issues with the administration and oversight boards
- **FAIR PAY** – Develop a clear means of negotiating pay systems that are equitable, justly applied, and transparent
- **BENEFIT PROTECTIONS** – Protect and improve benefits in health insurance, retirement, employer contribution rates, and faculty options
- **A VOICE ON THE JOB** – Establish policies, procedures, and protocols for better decision making in the work environment
- **SHARED GOVERNANCE** – Engage in collective advocacy and exercise our historical right of self-determination



A Vital LSU! A Vital Community!

Need more info? Contact us at
LSUNITED@LIVE.COM
OR VISIT **LAE.ORG**



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LSU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Seeks Vice-President

Founded in 1897 and headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and rewards academic success. Equally important, the Society provides its members access to exclusive resources and benefits designed to serve their academic and professional needs. Today, there are over 300 chapters of Phi Kappa Phi, ranging from Maine to the Philippines and from Alaska to Puerto Rico with over 115,000 members. Since its inception, Phi Kappa Phi has had over 1 million members. In addition, over \$700,000 is awarded to student scholars annually. Phi Kappa Phi is one of only three scholarly entities whose student members can wear cords at LSU commencement.



The LSU Chapter # 043 was founded in 1930 and now has nearly 1,000 active members. The Executive Team consists of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as 12 Student Vice-Presidents. We are a very active chapter with two induction ceremonies annually, an awards ceremony where we award \$4,000 to students, non-tenured faculty and alumni for exceptional scholarship. We also have partnered with Adult Literacy Advocates (ALA) of Baton Rouge to hold an annual "An Evening with Great Authors" with all proceeds going to ALA. The Student Vice-Presidents also plan and execute 1-2 community service activities each year.

The Chapter is currently accepting nominations/ applications for the position of Vice-President to serve a two-year term before becoming President. Please consider this opportunity. The workload is manageable and the personal reward is significant. We will continue to solicit applicants until the position is filled. To apply or ask questions, please contact Rich Vlosky (Chapter President) at vlosky@lsu.edu, or by office phone (225) 578-4527.



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI

Lunchtime Lagniappe Explores Louisiana History and Tradition

Lunchtime Lagniappe, a popular weekly series of lectures that explores the rich culture and history of Louisiana, resumes March 6 at the Capitol Park Museum in downtown Baton Rouge. Four programs are scheduled for Wednesdays during March.

The following programs are scheduled:

March 6: Madame Legendre: Hostess to History

Historian and genealogist Yvonne Lewis-Day traces the life and career of Madame Legendre who ran Baton Rouge's first five-star hotel and hosted many famous visitors in early the 19th century.



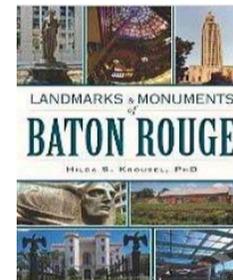
March 13: Louisiana's Contributions to Advancements in Medicine

Curator Polly Rolman-Smith brings Louisiana medical history to life with fascinating artifacts and images from the Louisiana State Museum science and technology collections.



March 20: Landmarks and Monuments of Baton Rouge

Dr. Hilda Krousel tours Baton Rouge landmarks and monuments, some long forgotten and obscure. A former editor at LSU Press, Dr. Krousel is the author of Don Antonio de Ulloa: First Spanish Governor to the State of Louisiana.



March 27: The Fresh Table: Cooking in Louisiana All Year Round

Cook, blogger and *The Advocate* food columnist Helana Brigman shares techniques and recipes for tasty Louisiana cooking, whatever the season.



All programs begin at noon and are free and open to public.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch and may come and go as their schedules require. The Louisiana State Museum Friends will have refreshments available for a small donation.

The Capitol Park Museum is located at 660 N. Fourth St., Baton Rouge. The museum is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, visit www.crt.state.la.us/museum.