Rouge Community College chief Myrtle Dorsey. It looks as if the cult of high security that has fascinated the now-reigning President and former Sea World attorney, now post-Shamu McNeese State President Philip C. Williams as well as former Baton precious or so endangered that he or she alone must be offered the job before he or she must pull the ripcord and return to campus, where the job-seeker might be seen as a deserter or traitor. Search committees are often told that a candidate is so sensitive and occupy such controverted seats that candidates’ identities must never be revealed and that interviews must be handlers (whether executive search firms or higher-level administrators) that candidates for high office are so exquisitely secrecy in executive searches and even the limitation of such searches to one candidate has about as much validity as Harold but no one would want to miss the implication of Martin’s itinerant moment: that all the propaganda about the necessity for the Elysian Fields, suddenly turned up in Bulldog territory as a candidate for President of the University of Georgia System.

Denizens of Tiger Town were startled when LSU Chancellor Mike Martin, who, having expressed climactic career content - Chancellor Martin UGA Interview Rips Veil of Secrecy

President’s Message

Contradictions are easy to find. One need only listen to the prattle at the state capitol about workforce development and then look at the support for any step along the K–20 educational pilgrimage to find stark contrasts. It is simple enough to survey any campus, compare the actions against the capacities and against the habits of assorted administrators, and come to the conclusion that confusion, if not hypocrisy, rules the academic world. That recognition, along with the proverbial twenty-five cents, will get you the stirring stick for a far pricier coffee. The question that might be asked, going into the summer period of research and reflection, is “what can individual faculty members do to make academic life better”?

All of this is to suggest that faculty colleagues are also susceptible to certain contradictions and conundrums that impair their ability to act, the overcoming of which can indeed increase the ability to make changes. One reason for the rise of administration and its intermittent usurpation of faculty prerogatives is a belief among faculty members that professionals will benefit more from cultivating acquaintances within their own disciplines and hoping for new opportunities in the nationwide market than from attending to business at the home base, where opportunities seems so few. Statistics, alas, seldom bear out such judgments. Fewer than ten percent of tenured faculty ever move from their tenure-granting institutions. The sad truth is that, with regard to the “metrics,” the most good for the most colleagues results from contributing to the home campus and by working with legislators than by advancing in a specialty. Research is certainly important, but it is naive to believe the media-relations line that everyone will make LSU better by pumping up research volume (with the secret goal of becoming sufficiently marketable so as to look elsewhere and jump from Flagship).

Another odd habit to which all of us acquiesce is the love of departments. Departments possess very little policymaking power and often ensure that colleagues in smaller specialty areas will never blossom on the great field of educational debate. They attempt to force abundant talents through small funnels, with predictable results and with cooling effects. Academic departments induce a false consciousness, emerging from all those old hypohalomic impulses to protect territory, that leads colleagues to strengthen the fences that enclose them. As I suggested in my last “welcome” message, many faculty members would be best served not by garrisoning a department but by negotiating with this, that, or the other Dean for a chance to teach or research outside the home department or college or even, for a time, at another Louisiana campus. Despite being encrusted by the hoarfrost of experience, academic professionals are often too hot to pursue ideals. After several years in faculty governance and after having visited dozens of campuses, I can affirm that no initiative has ever achieved unedited implementation or attained anything near its intended form. If anything, we have too high a level of morality in the professional ranks and a genteel reluctance to do battle with the sometimes slightly dirty weapons that fill the political arsenal. Perhaps the best key to attaining a feeling of success is to make a list of allowable compromises even at the same time that an idealized proposal or position paper is being developed.

Happy summer to all—allowing, of course, that there may be occasional compromises with respect to happiness, but that, even when adjustment occurs, there is little that a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake can’t put into perspective!

Chancellor Martin UGA Interview Rips Veil of Secrecy

Denizens of Tiger Town were startled when LSU Chancellor Mike Martin, who, having expressed climactic career content-ment and having affirmed that the stately oaks and broad magnolias of LSU would be his last stop before heading out to the Elysian Fields, suddenly turned up in Bulldog territory as a candidate for President of the University of Georgia System. No one would want to begrudge the instructively, indeed epidemiologically friendly Martin a career-enhancement opportunity, but no one would want to miss the implication of Martin’s itinerant moment: that all the propaganda about the necessity for secrecy in executive searches and even the limitation of such searches to one candidate has about as much validity as Harold Camping’s prophecies of the Rapture. Not only at LSU, but on every campus in Louisiana, search committees are told by their handlers (whether executive search firms or higher-level administrators) that candidates for high office are so exquisitely sensitive and occupy such controverted seats that candidates’ identities must never be revealed and that interviews must be conducted in concealed locations (usually mediocre airport hotels) so as not to disempower the candidate on his or her home campus, where the job-seeker might be seen as a deserter or traitor. Search committees are often told that a candidate is so precious or so endangered that he or she alone must be offered the job before he or she must pull the ripcord and return to the secure environment of his or her extant job. Does evidence support this high level of caution? Take the case of Chancellor Martin: when word broke in New Mexico that he applied to LSU, he was offered a raise back on the home turf; when George contacted him, his “stock” back in Baton Rouge seemed to rise. Similar experiences seem to have befallen former Montevallo President and former Sea World attorney, now post-Shamu McNeese State President Philip C. Williams as well as former Baton Rouge Community College chief Myrtle Dorsey. It looks as if the cult of high security that has fascinated the now-reigning James Bond generation of executives may be under attack from that old enemy, evidence.

Fourth Alexandria Summit Slated for June 18th

The new Louisiana Statewide Colleagues’ Collaborative (LSCC), colloquially known as “The Alexandria Summit Meetings,” has slated its next working session for 10:00 am on Saturday, June 18th, on the campus of Louisiana State University in Alexandria. The mid-summer event will server as an opportunity for the new committees established by the LSCC to confer and to consolidate plans as well as to explore a variety of new issues, including the latest round of attacks on state benefits programs. The LSCC is open to all persons with a long-term interest in faculty governance, whether or not those persons are currently serving on a faculty senate. For more information, contact LSU Faculty Senate president Kevin Cope (enccope@lsu.edu).

LSU Reveille Updates LSU Salary Database

In another of its signature irreversible moves, the LSU Reveille has updated and republished its LSU salary database. The database, which reports the state portion of all salaries paid on the Flagship campus, is a veritable engine for the production of both transparency and envy. But, whether good or bad, the database, which is remarkably unchanged since the publication of its predecessor in 2008 (the last time LSU offered general raises), contains more than a few revelations, some of them a consequence of omission. For example, it is very difficult to find salary records for those involved in the philanthropic work of the LSU Foundation, yet those Foundation stipends that do pop up indicate that the folks in that office really do love gold while living purple (or whatever that bizarre slogan is). Similarly, we see the danger of getting what we wish. An apparent overall decline in administrative salary suggests that those who may eventually serve in the leadership of LSU on an active basis will earn less than those who have receded into the tranquility of private life. So much for the “baby boom” creating a better tomorrow.
While no unit or department across LSU's main campus has been a tremendous anchor for me, "he says with sincerity. Some time working in North Carolina after graduating from LSU, Lombardo confides that he knew he'd come back: "LSU was connection to the university and the state runs deep. A native of Lafayette, Lombardo holds a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering from LSU. Lombardo goes so far as to say that he immediately thought of Baton Rouge as home. Though he spent some time working in North Carolina after graduating from LSU, Lombardo confides that he knew he'd come back: "LSU was a tremendous anchor for me," he says with sincerity.

While no unit or department across LSU's main campus has been completely unscathed by the budget crisis, Facility Services' large payroll and operational costs have made it a target for scrutiny, resulting in some $4.5 million in cuts since 2005. Lombardo's feelings on the subject are understandably mixed. From a business standpoint, Lombardo recognizes that the unit's goal is to serve the needs of LSU as a university dedicated to academic excellence; "we've got to shore up the core," he comments. At the same time, however, Lombardo knows all too well that cuts to any unit is not simply a numbers game: "when you start talking about 3, 5 and 10% cuts, you're invariably talking about coworkers," he says rather pointedly.

Lombardo's mixed feelings on the budget crisis speaks to the spirit that many of the university's administrators embody, a spirit that above all seems to focus on the LSU community and which often outweighs individual needs. In keeping with that spirit, Lombardo stresses that his job as Assistant Vice Chancellor is an interim position and that candidates are competing for the job even as he speaks. Yet his focus remains on the important contribution his unit makes to the university on a daily basis: "positive work goes on here every day," he says simply.

**REDSTICK RESTAURANT REVIEW: FAT CLEMENZA'S BRICK-OVEN PIZZERIA**

By Carl Freedman

For obvious reasons, I normally confine my reviewing to local (or almost local) restaurants. But I claim three excellent justifications for making an exception in the current instance. First, though the restaurant in question is not in or even very near Baton Rouge, it is located in the Destin, Florida area, a popular vacation spot for a good many Baton Rougeans; and, as the season for beach holidays gets underway, I assume that anyone interested enough in food to read this column agrees with me that discovering good restaurants in a new or unfamiliar city is one of the most delightful aspects of out-of-town travel. Second, what I have to say here follows logically from what I said last month, in my review of Monjuni's Highland, about Italian food (or Italian-American food—a distinction of which I was reminded with some emphasis by a friend in Rome who read the Monjunis piece). Finally, my third justification is simply my enthusiasm for Fat Clemenza's Brick-Oven Pizzeria.

Last month I noted that really good Italian restaurants often tend to resemble the unpretentious family-owned places featured in mob movies; and Dom Damiano, the proprietor and self-styled "boss" of Fat Clemenza's, is clearly quite conscious of the connection. It's not only that he has named his restaurant after the Mafia capo in THE GODFATHER who, during one scene, teaches Michael Corleone how to cook: but further signifiers of what Roland Barthes might have called "the Mafia effect" abound as well, from the voicemail that claims to be recorded by Luca Brasi, to the restaurant's slogan, "Food For the Whole Mob," to the prominently displayed images from the GODFATHER trilogy, GOODFELLAS, THE SOPRANOS, and other works that have done so much to shape our cultural imagination of La Cosa Nostra. Described thus in cold print (or pixels), all this might, to the hood atmosphere of the place—where Dom himself occasionally visits the tables to say hello and make sure you're enjoying yourself—and, above all, the extremely high quality of the food.

The pizza—baked at 900 degrees in an old-fashioned wood-fired oven—is superior by at least a whole order of magnitude to the usual American version of the dish, and is concocted in fairly classic ways. You will find no smoked salmon or canned pineapple sitting atop a pizza here. Instead, a limited number of well-chosen traditional ingredients—most prominently hot salami, prosciutto, onion, mushrooms, peppers, oregano, basil, and, of course, tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese—are combined in various different ways. Though I've not yet had the chance to try it myself, I'm especially looking forward, on a future visit, to ordering the white pizza that the menu lists as a house specialty; it dispenses with tomato sauce and adds ricotta cheese to the mozzarella, along with hot salami and (a bit surprisingly) artichoke. (continued on page 3)
Friday, December 10, 2010, the Southern University Board of Supervisors appointed a 17-person chancellor search commit-
tee to be co-chaired by Board Member Patrick Magee of Lafayette and John Spain, Executive Vice President of the Baton
Rouge Area Foundation. Remaining members of the committee were College of Business Dean Donald Andrews, Board Vice-
Chairman-elect Murphy Bell, Alumni Federation President Dennis Brown, Nursing professor Sandra Brown, Attorney Scott
Chenevert of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu’s Legislative Liaison Jason
Hughes, Staff Senate President Toni Jackson, Board Member Patrick Jefferson, Criminal Justice assistant professor Chanika
Jones, Attorney Wade Shows of Baton Rouge, Student Government Association President Demetrius Sumner, Custodial Ser-
dices Director Ralph Sterling, Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi, Student Recruiting Coordinator Mark Young, and Board
Chairman-elect Darren Mire as ex-officio nonvoting member. The committee lacked adequate representation of faculty and
women; we promptly brought this to the attention of the committee and the Southern Board.
Mason directed the search committee to work with DHR International, a Chicago executive search firm, hired at a cost of
$65,000. We felt that the hiring of the search firm brought very little to the table and was an unnecessary expenditure. The
search firm presented ten candidates, out of twenty five, to the search committee for a thorough evaluation. The committee
recommended five semi-finalists: Savannah State University President Earl Yarbrough, former Virginia Union University Presi-
dent Belinda Childress Anderson, current Assistant Chief Administrative Officer to Mayor Kip Holden and former Southern
Dean of Graduate Studies James Llorens, former Alabama A&M University President Robert Jennings, and Philosophist Smith
College President Walter Kimbrough. Kimbrough withdrew. Paul Quinn College President Michael Sorrell and Southern Phys-
ics Department Chairman Diola Bagayoko were added to the list of interviewees at the request of Mason and Trivedi, respec-
tively. Interviews were conducted during April 18-20, 2011. The three finalists for the chancellor’s position were Bagayoko, Llorens,
and Yarbrough. The Advocated wrote – “Southern Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi pushed Wednesday for Llorens,
Bagayoko, and Yarbrough to be the three finalists of the six. Trivedi argued that Sorrell was not prepared to lead a research
university of nearly 8,000 students because Paul Quinn College only has about 200 students and because Sorrell did not have
a doctoral degree or a background in academia beyond Paul Quinn.” Mason interviewed the three finalists during the follow-
ing week.
During the April 29 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Mason was scheduled to submit his recommendation to the Board;
but, he asked for more time. However, the Board promptly proceeded to appoint Llorens, one of the finalists, the chancellor
of the Baton Rouge campus. Trivedi, after succeeding in the selection of the three finalists, refrained from advocacy any one
candidate over the other.
From the faculty’s perspective, we are reasonably satisfied with the search process and cautiously optimistic about the final
outcome of the search process and the incoming chancellor. We are hoping for the best.
Campus facilities. (continued on page 5)

In those first months, I toured each residence hall and college, recreational facilities, divisional offices, and many other units in the division include Undergraduate Admissions, Student Aid, Orientation, Residential Life, First Year Experience, Center for Academic Success, Dean of Students, Campus Life, Disability Services, Greek Life, Career Services, Student Advocacy & Accountability, University Recreation, and Parent & Family Programs. I found staff in each unit to be dedicated, motivated, and engaged. My first month, I had over 40 individual meetings with leaders from the senior colleges, faculty, administration, and student bodies. In those first months, I toured each residence hall and college, recreational facilities, divisional offices, and many other units in the division include Undergraduate Admissions, Student Aid, Orientation, Residential Life, First Year Experience, Center for Academic Success, Dean of Students, Campus Life, Disability Services, Greek Life, Career Services, Student Advocacy & Accountability, University Recreation, and Parent & Family Programs. I found staff in each unit to be dedicated, motivated, and engaged.

Still both Professor Cope and I agree that this modest gain is a positive and encouraging sign and is most likely the result of efforts from the campus, our colleagues on other state campuses, and our friends and supporters in the community. Let’s hope that continued expressions of our concerns in the management of the pension systems will keep reaching our state leaders and their reactions will be supportive of our efforts to move our great institution ever forward.

Reflections from Administrator on First 14 months at LSU
By Kurt Keppler, Vice Chancellor for Student Life & Enrollment Services

Much has happened since I arrived in Baton Rouge in March, 2010. Suffice it to say that I have had a whirlwind learning experience and enjoyed almost everything, except budget cuts. The campus is beautiful, culture intriguing, and food downright dangerous.

My career in student affairs has taken me to four other public universities in Missouri, Virginia, and Georgia, ranging in size from 13,000-32,000 students. The journey taught me to be fairly effective in moving my family across the country, working through spousal employment issues, selling and buying homes with limited research and exploration, and seeking schools, soccer clubs, and veterinarians. Moving to a new institution presents both incredible opportunity and interesting challenges. Each institution has a unique campus culture, governance model, legislative process, and System Board, along with nuances that can take considerable time to understand and maneuver.

As a land-grant flagship, LSU reminds me a great deal of the University of Missouri. Louisiana’s state revenue and budget shortfalls, combined with the large amount of mid-sized regional institutions, offer a similar scenario to one I faced in the University of Georgia System. The capital city location, history, and architectural style provide a similar feel to the city of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. Despite the parallels, it was clear from the start that LSU had a spirit, vitality, and level of pride unlike anywhere else.

My arrival officially marked a divisional reorganization which added Enrollment Services and formed the Division of Student Life & Enrollment. With that (and further reflection by department leadership), the division’s new mission became as “recruit, admit, engage, retain, and graduate a diverse student population for success at LSU and beyond.”

Units in the division include Undergraduate Admissions, Student Aid, Orientation, Residential Life, First Year Experience, Center for Academic Success, Dean of Students, Campus Life, Disability Services, Greek Life, Career Services, Student Advocacy & Accountability, University Recreation, and Parent & Family Programs. I found staff in each unit to be dedicated, motivated, and experienced.

My first tasks on campus were simple, yet critical — meet the many faculty and staff I would be working with to develop a clear understanding of their roles and establish a foundation for collaborating to achieve the common goal of student success. In my first month, I had over 40 individual meetings with leaders from the senior colleges, faculty, administration, and student body. In those first months, I toured each residence hall and college, recreational facilities, divisional offices, and many other campus facilities. (continued on page 5)
Internationalization – From Margin to Mainstream
By Jane Chandler, Assistant Director, Development and Outreach-International Programs

Over the last decade, the Faculty Senate has passed no less than three separate but interrelated resolutions to promote international education at LSU. Additionally, in 2005 the Faculty Senate International Education Committee submitted an extensive report to the OAA on the state of international education at LSU and peer institutions. In 2007 the committee proposed three key actions to the administration: clarification of the University’s intentions with regard to international education and research, empowerment of International Programs to coordinate campus international initiatives with the FSIEC acting in an advisory capacity, and an administrative mandate for a systematic assessment of current international activities and a strategic plan leading to a comprehensive globalization program.

In February 2009, with the support of then LSU Provost Astrid Merget, International Programs(IP) formed a task force to determine the existing level of internationalization at LSU. With the help of IP staff, the Task Force of 35 faculty worked for over a year, carrying out individual interviews and a campus-wide survey of faculty international activity. Guided by the definition that “internationalization integrates an international, global, and/or intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of a university,” focus groups gathered information on student involvement (American students abroad and international students at LSU), faculty research and teaching, international components in curriculum, international linkages, and university policies and practices that deter international engagement. The Task Force co-chairs, Dean Nancy Clark and Professors Meredith Veldman and Lawrence Datnoff, presented the findings in a comprehensive final report to Provost Hamilton in June 2010.

Subsequently, a seven member Ad Hoc committee comprised of representatives from IP and faculty met to determine the next steps to move LSU towards intentional, comprehensive, and integrated internationalization. Using the Task Force report, internationalization strategic plans for other universities, and a large array of literature on best practices developed by the American Council on Education, Center for Institutional and International Initiatives, the Ad Hoc committee submitted a formal request to Provost Hamilton to establish an Internationalization Strategic Planning and Implementation Committee (ISPIC). Without hesitation, the Provost signed on to the ISPIC, appointed Vice Provost Jane Cassidy as the liaison between the committee and OAA, and issued invitations to the committee nominees. The composition of the ISPIC is predominantly faculty along with a few key administrators, thus representing a broad representation of disciplines, expertise, and perspectives.

The 20 member ISPIC will create a strategic plan that echoes and enhances the basic premises of globalization in the 2020 Flagship Agenda and will oversee its implementation during a three to five year period. A member of the UPC also resides on the ISPIC to help guide actions that will contribute significantly to the performance indicators in the areas outlined in the Flagship Agenda: Discovery, Learning, Diversity and Engagement. The inclusion of intercultural competencies will add a new dimension to these indicators and contribute to the ability of our university and our graduates to collaborate and compete in today’s global workplace.

We are confident that the long-awaited internationalization of our campus is now achievable. A strategic plan will provide the impetus for the transition from reports to concrete and measurable outcomes, and with sustained support from senior administration and implementation by mid-level and lower administration, the obstacles to internationalization can be addressed.

More information on LSU’s Internationalization Initiative: www.oip.lsu.edu. The second meeting of the FSPIC will be June 5, 2011, co-chaired by Dr. Emily Batinski and Dr. Mark Gasiorowski.

Retention Committee to Prepare Final Report
Saundra McGuire’s gargantuan retention committee, which was charged with the urgent search for ways to retain greater numbers of students between the various years of their undergraduate educations, has received final reports from its five subcommittees and is in the process of formulating a set of recommendations for Provost Jack Hamilton. The subcommittee recommendations bristle with both commonsensical and innovative solutions to the nagging problem of student retention, some of which include improvement of the learning environment and the sense of citizenship in an academic community; scheduling of events so as to allow participation by students living off-campus; creation of a targeted intervention program for those students at greatest risk of dropping out; review of an assortment of policies relating to ease of transfer or re-entry into LSU; and upgrading of student and customer service training among student workers.

Annual Faculty Football Ticket Raffle Underway!
With the generous cooperation of the Athletic Department, the LSU Faculty Senate is once again sponsoring a raffle for 100 season tickets (or fifty pairs of tickets) for 2011 Tiger Football. Twenty tickets (ten pairs) will be reserved for instructors; the remainder will be allocated to those in professorial ranks. If you are a full-time faculty member who would like to enter the raffle, please send an email containing your name, your contact address, your rank (professor or instructor), and an indication as to whether you seek one or two tickets to facultyfootball@lsu.edu by June 2nd. Please do not use any other address as this creates extra work. The raffle will occur in mid-June, with winners being notified through a broadcast email.
LIFESTYLE FEATURE: THE SIX COOLEST RIDES AT LSU

For years, ambitious professors and administrators have affirmed that LSU is a university that is going somewhere. Those same enthusiasts for destinations have been a bit less attentive to the large number of vehicles, either functional or commemo- rative, that spangle the campus. True, many of LSU’s transport devices are little more than rickety old jalopies plastered with purple or gold decals and humped up with the designation “fleet vehicle.” Nonetheless, the campus also provides byways for some of the coolest rides on the planet, of which we unveil the top half-dozen (in the hope that readers will find or recom- mend more!).

NUMBER SIX: ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GO-CARTS. Every bit as green as they are purple and gold, the denizens of the Athletic Department have long specialized in electric vehicles of all descriptions. Possibly recognizing that the upgraded school buses that haul athletes to practice sessions lack panache, the NASCAR-regular folks in the tall brick building nestled by Death Valley have created a remarkable array of multi-purpose carts that blend the best of the golf-cart, go-cart, and even shopping-cart traditions. Caddies, carriers, and hoists of every description sprout from these ever-metamorphic transport devices. The only reason that these peppy-painted buggies remain at number six is that they haven’t fully shed their association with airport carts and lazy hitchhiker-travelers ready to mow down those on their way to their departure gates.

NUMBER FIVE: THE FETI AIRLINER. Way down on Nicholson, at the little-visited but ever-exciting Fire and Emergency Training Institute, the curious visitor will discover a wonderland of deconstructed travel devices ranging from a spindly old war-horse of a helicopter to a bridge of a vessel that looks like a retirement home for Popeye. At the center of this training camp and clearly visible on satellite photos in the FETI airliner, a blasted-out passenger jet (very likely an old DC-9) that has taken more than a few hits for the firefighting team. If you ever want to see what a jet might look like after the Green Berets or Navy SEALS have a run at it, this machine of many miles is the treat for you!

NUMBER FOUR: THE LSUPD MOBILE COMMAND UNIT. Nearly everyone applauds the upgrades that Chief Rabalais has brought to the LSU Police Department. Now, the Ultimate College Cop has unveiled his Mobile Command Unit, a customized truck worthy of West Coast Choppers that so abounds in design energy as to seem to leap out of its parking place. In its dazzling white base color, the MCU seems to glow in the dark and to ap- pear over the horizon like a cowboy wearing a white hat. A purple and gold door shield proclaims its authority while italic logo lettering in purple with gold flashing seems to scream readiness, speed, and capability. Zooming into an emergency scene aboard this civilized tank would be the ultimate Dolf Lundgren experience.

NUMBER THREE: SEISMEAUXBILE. One can never tell when or where creativity will pop up, and so it is that it has suddenly spewed out in a big way from the vents of the geology department. There, an alumnus trailer has been retrofitted out as a mobile geology laboratory and then dressed up in colors suggesting Mike the Tiger’s Sunday best. There is always something sublime about the geological. Few can help speculating about the thundering processes underway beneath the earth; fewer can resist the allure of a volcano or the mystery of a fault or crevasse. To imagine the pilots of the Seismeauxible criss-crossing the earth’s surface and sending down probes after probe into unknown abysses is to recover the sense of wonder that should animate academic careers.

NUMBER TWO: THE FETI FIREWAGON. FETI scores high with regard to stimulating transport options. Driving is about destinations, and the places that FETI goes are the places where big events transpire. Few vehicles can match the robust enthusiasm and unremitting vigor of the splendid FET fire wagon, which veers from the traditional red hue of veteran fire engines to the LSU version of a firecracker. And when, in the manner of the venerable “President” parking hang-tag in windshield of a buggy that explodes all the stereotypes and that celebrates surprises is all that one needs to put a smile on the old kisser for the rest of the day! Congratulations to President Lombardi for the gutsiest approach to transportation that higher educa- tion has ever seen.

New Transfer Degree Website Debuts, Garners Modest Attention in the Short Term

The Louisiana Transfer Degree, the sixty-hour portable credential that guarantees admission with junior standing to any Louisiana public four-year institution, has de- buted its web site and has shown at least a slight increase in usage, with Google Analytics reporting a peak of fifty- one hits on May 23rd. There is also a downside, in that vis- itors to the transfer degree site seem to be lingering on the web page for only two minutes and forty-nine seconds, according to the same source. LSU seems to have gotten the best of this game insofar as a Google search for “Louisiana Transfer Degree” turns up an LSU web page that describes how one can depart from another Louisi- ana school and then slide into Tiger Village.

Newsletter to Take A Summer Recess, Resume Publication in September

The Faculty Senate Monthly Newsletter will take its annual summer publishing recess following this issue. Publication will resume in September, per the usual schedule and with the usual host of features, news, and commentary. Many thanks to all of our faithful readers and happy summer!

Faculty Senate, Gautreaux Stoutly Resist Plans to Privatize Office of Group Benefits

Late in April, the Jindal administration announced but provided minimal explanation of a plan to privatize the office of Group Benefits ("OGB"). OGB oversees a smorgasbord of insurance and savings offerings for state em- ployees but is primarily known for its management of all state employee medical plans other than the much-admired LSU First plan, which is available only to LSU System employees. Shortly after the announcement of the plan, Jindal officials sacked OGB Director Tommy Teague, who had raised questions about one goal of the plan, the fate of the $521,000,000.00 (as in “half bili- ion”) surplus presently in the OGB coffers. Senator Butch Gautreaux, powerful head of the Louisiana Senate Retire- ment Committee, launched a resistance effort, summon- ing Commissioner of Administration Paul Rainwater to his committee hearings and asking state employee lead- ers, including higher education faculty leaders, to voice their views about the proposed confiscation. During ex- tended testimony on May 2nd, Rainwater could offer no explanation as to what would become of the huge OGB surplus other than to indicate that he planned to “unlock value.” As the testimony proceeded, Rainwater back- paddled from a request for the outright sale of OGB to a suggestion that a few of its health plans might be tempo- rarily outsourced to private management firms. LSU Fac- ulty Senate President Kevin Cope offered opposing testi- mony, arguing that the destabilization of benefit plans would impair recruitment at all levels, would constitute a confiscation of employee-derived payments without due process or proper representation, and would not result in measurable savings. Cope slammed Rainwater for resort- ing to euphemisms to conceal nefarious intentions, cau- tioning that a phrase such as “unlock value” would lead to a failing grade in even an elementary English course. The debate may be viewed online (go to http://senate. legis.state.la.us/Retirement/Archives/2011/video.htm and click the link to the May 2nd meeting video) (note: videos are best viewed in Internet Explorer). Gratefully, and thanks to the hard work of Senator Gautreaux, the privatization move seems to have stalled.

Resist Plans to Privatize Office of Group Benefits
REPORT FROM THE FRONTIERS OF COMPUTATION

By MELODY CHILDS, DIRECTOR, USER SUPPORT AND STUDENT IT ENABLEMENT

Over the past decade, LSU has established itself as a national and international leader in a number of fields of research that push the frontiers of high performance computing (HPC). Throughout this decade, CCT, ITS, and more recently, LONI, have led and facilitated LSU’s— and the state’s— development of facilities and expertise in support of computation and research–enabling computing. However, until recently, there was no “formal” LSU structure that would ensure that funds were dedicated to the long-term maintenance of our research cyberinfrastructure and the talented people who comprise the HPC staff.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the existing, but informal, collaboration between CCT and ITS has been formally recognized and strengthened in a way that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of our HPC resources and staff. Working closely over the past several months, Vice Chancellor Brian Voss and CCT Director Dr. Joel Tohline have agreed to permanently dedicate funds and other resources for this important and strategic work.

The formalization of the ITS/CCT collaboration is also timely in that it will finally allow Dr. Honggao Liu to focus on his new responsibilities as Deputy Director of CCT. Some of you may not realize that Dr. Liu has been wearing two hats for quite some time now: as both Director of HPC and Deputy Director of CCT. Under the new collaboration, Dr. Liu will continue to be heavily involved in the strategic advancement of research computing, but the day-to-day systems and operational responsibilities for LSU and LONI HPC resources will be transferred to ITS, and responsibility for these services as well as many of the current HPC staff will be housed in ITS within the USS division.

As of today, therefore, I am pleased to announce that “HPC-1” (for lack of a better name, therefore perhaps a temporary name) is officially part of the USS division of ITS, and Sam White has graciously agreed to serve as interim Director of HPC-1. “HPC-2” (in addition to other staff at CCT not in HPC-2) will report to Dr. Liu at CCT. The staff of HPC-1 and HPC-2 met jointly yesterday, and they will continue to work as closely together now as they have always done. However, just so you will know who your “new” colleagues are, I have listed the HPC-1 and HPC-2 staff below.

Please join me in congratulating both Honggao and Sam as they focus their attentions on their new responsibilities. Likewise, please extend a warm welcome to your new ITS/UISA colleagues.

HPC-1

Sam White, interim Director; Harsha Bhagawaty, Lisa Giaime, Jason Kincl, Robert Leche, Wan Lee, Alex Pacheco, Isaac Traxler, Sirish Tummala, Liqiang Wang, Xianwu Xu; Le Yan

HPC-2

Phil Bordelon, Charles Cavanaugh, Joshua Gruge, Jim Lupo, Robert Leche, Lisa Giaime, Jason Kincl, Robert Leche, Wan Lee, Alex Pacheco, Isaac Traxler, Sirish Tummala, Liqiang Wang, Xianwu Xu; Le Yan

Tip of the Month: VARSITY VESTS

LSU logo and trademark products have always been a mixed bag. Despite urging from the Faculty Senate to create upper-end LSU and LSU Tiger goods, apparel, and services, most of the items offered in the Tiger Gift Shop as well as in the various sports-themed shops around Baton Rouge linger at the lower end of the quality scale. Fortunately, a start-up on our own Industriplex Boulevard has begun online merchandising of better-quality LSU apparel and accessories. Varsity Vests now offers a delightful selection of ties, vests, scarves, cufflinks, garments, and cummerbunds for that top-shelf logoware customer. Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope is especially fond of the Tiger cufflinks and the yellow tiger motif tie. Offering a four-season palette in fabrics that adapt to Louisiana humidity, Varsity Vests is sure to emerge as a top-ten design initiative!