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Faculty Senate Newsletter, Holiday 2011

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LSU FACULTY SENATE

Monthly Newsletter

Holiday 2011 Issue



President's Message

With the arrival of the Advent season comes the temptation to make lists. Universities and their assorted faculty, political, and professional leaders rejoice in lists, whether the ranking lists published by *US News and World Report* or *Kiplinger's* or the erudition-flaunting lists more commonly known as curriculum vitae or the lists of problems with so many aspects of academic life that everyone carries in the ever-running journal of his or her mind. Among the most salient lists are those enumerating the parties responsible for the decay of education in Louisiana. Compiling a list of those who have contributed to the wretchedness of our present condition leads to a diverting

reciprocal blame-game in which faculty blame nefarious administrators, administrators jot down refractory faculty, and everyone blames either the legislature or the governor. Such lists provide an anodyne to the saccharine predictions about bright futures that emanate from central university offices across the country, but, at least in the case of Louisiana, they distract attention from the more fundamental causes that drive the aforementioned parties to act less than optimally.

Not only Louisiana State University, not only the LSU System, but all the institutions in the state partake of greatness in their various and sundry and sometimes eccentric ways. Few institutions are without a cadre of remarkable persons who have undergone the combined fiery baptisms of hiring committees, economic pressure on the academy, inadequately socialized students, and shoddy facilities. Many if not all universities produce top-quality research while doing such other great exploits as their resources allow. Many political and administrative figures, whether the low-key Senator Nevers at the Capitol or the jolly Chancellor Nunez over at LSUE, make earnest if sometimes stumbling efforts to do the right thing.

However wicked some of the personnel associated with education and its politics may be, the core of the trouble with Louisiana education is a lack of confidence. Starting at the top, it is lack of confidence that makes political bosses shy away from oil-related taxes, fearful that industrial magnates might take their support elsewhere when, in fact, those plutocrats would have a good deal even on far more demanding terms than are in force today. The top political leaders have so shaky an idea of Louisiana's merits that they cannot see the strength of their negotiating positions. Further down the line, lack of confidence leads the gubernatorial appointees in the assorted education bureaus around the state to imagine that developing a workforce of night managers at chemical plants is the upper limit of our achievement. Around the campuses, underestimating the confidence of the voting public in their beloved schools induces local university chieftains to take a kid-glove approach to the legislature even when a good old educationally enhanced whack might win more respect. In day-to-day campus life, lack of confidence appears in a thousand guises. It can be detected in the frantic editing of university promotional videos, which communicate the fear that inspecting a scene for more than three seconds might lead to criticism. Lack of confidence appears in the retrogressive costumes of the LSU Golden Girls, perversely nostalgic costumes positing that 1970s Las Vegas was probably the last place that one could look for protection from an imaginary group of kind old daddies. Confidence shortages underlie the reluctance to include controversial or dissenting letters or other material in alumni publications—something included in the media distributions of every confident campus. A sad confidence shortage can be unearthed in the extraordinarily safe character of the program of the Union Theater. The confidence shortage can even be tasted in the high level of baby-reassuring sugar in LSU vending machines. In sum, the lack of confidence can be found everywhere, even in the deceptively calm but in fact nervously tentative if utterly neutral color palette of LSU interiors.

The *Faculty Senate Monthly Newsletter* might be described as the ultimate nerve pill in the quivering world of Louisiana higher education. But it is not the only vehicle by which everyone in the university communities of our great state can be encouraged to think tough and to replace that glass jaw with a bit of Kevlar. All that is necessary to change the culture of anxiety that has given rise to our present circumstance is to ask, "have you hugged your dissident today?"—and mean it.

Regents Office Hijacks Common Course Numbering Initiative

Those following the statewide drama concerning "common course numbering" are never left wanting for new acts. Common course numbering, the assignment of identical numbers to allegedly equivalent courses taught at diverse institutions by way of simplifying transfer of student credit, was mandated by Act 356 of the 2009 legislature and has to date been managed by the mix of faculty and administrators on the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council ("SATC"). The high level of legitimacy and the extraordinary success of that Council has now been jeopardized by a daring takeover move down in the Claiborne Building (the Regents' elevated sixth-floor bunker). Both the SATC and an embassy of all four higher education system presidents recommended that the SATC create statewide working groups that, with adequate time and support, would address the bedeviling question of course equivalency (which underlies the notion of a "common" or identical number). Impatient and under pressure from legislators with minimal experience in higher education, a working group within the Regents' office has bypassed the normal course-and-curriculum committees and has compromised the authority of the educational systems by creating *ex nihilo* its own impromptu faculty groups, allowing those groups less than a week to cough up common course goals that allegedly constitute equivalence. The curious aspect of this legislature-driven power grab is that the Regents have long taken pride in proposing institutional missions and, with that, applauding the different traditions of institutions. With this wild-west-style assertion of the identity of education everywhere, the Regents seem to suggest that the differing and honorable characteristics of campuses and of the experiences that go with belonging to an institution make not a dime's worth of difference.

New Promotion and Tenure Review Guideline at LSU Stopped by Lack of Reviewers

Observers of human nature and disciples of experience know that bold efforts to legislate excellence seldom succeed, in part owing to the modesty of humanity and the sad fact that there are more average individuals and institutions than there are "overachievers" (it's that dogged Gaussian distribution curve again). So it is that, like many institutions, LSU has attempted to assert its greatness by requiring that all reference letters for persons seeking promotion and tenure emerge from only the most exalted institutions (presumably those above the 128th perch on the hierarchy of excellence to which *US News and World Report* has assigned LSU). Trouble is, the specialty fields that make a university great—the seemingly obscure areas from which genius often enough emerges—lack large numbers of reviewers who are willing to work, if not for free or for food, then perhaps for a "Forever LSU" t-shirt (forever being the interval that one will wait for compensation). Exactly where will we find a dozen outside and utterly impartial referees working at only top-level institutions who have achieved world renown in the study of butterfly gossamer and who are willing to divert from their hymenopteranisms long enough to scratch out an evaluation? To address this shortage, the LSU Faculty Senate will again look to revise PS-36 in a way that will allow for more ready recruitment of evaluators, recognizing that the days when the best wits automatically went to the best universities were either long ago or were always the product of hopeful imagination.

LSU System Study Calls Proposed Northern Louisiana Higher Education Merger into Question

Louisiana has more than its share of hobby higher education reorganizers, with a population of same most recently popping up in the region north of Alexandria. Calling for various permutations of a plan that would merge (according to various permutations of the scheme) LSUS, LaTech, LSUHSC-Shreveport, and even Centenary, the educational alchemists hoped to create a kind of cold fusion situation in which a variety of free-floating campuses would implode into a single great university. Seeking to counter these follies, the LSU System has released the first draft of a study showing that all of the supposed objectives of the merger plans have already been met and exceeded by the aforementioned campuses in their current configuration and that further monkeying with the administrative structure of these institutions would only divert money that could be better spent on the improvement of northern Louisiana. Even more remarkably, the report strikes a blow for the traditional liberal arts disciplines and shows that the current range of expertise produced by the time-tested university structures exactly matches the needs of the Shreveport-Bossier region. Veteran thinker and outspoken LSU Board of Supervisors Member John George told television station KTBS that educational and civic leaders should now focus on ways to boost the programs already in place and thereby help both LSUS and its market.

ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Brian Broussard, Assistant Athletic Director, Ticket Operations

For much of the LSU community, the end of the fall semester each year seems to be accompanied by a slow down in productivity as students, faculty and staff alike look forward to turkey and other savory and sweet dishes on Thanksgiving Day, and after finals exams are taken and grades are posted a holiday season of shopping, traveling to visit family and friends, and lots of merry making. For those who love college football, this time of year also brings the SEC conference championship followed by a month long build up to the bowl games.

But few of us will think about a small group of dedicated individuals who willingly give up part of their holidays to ensure that Tiger fans everywhere can attend these sporting events. Brian Broussard, Assistant Athletic Director in Ticket Operations, is



one of these people. "We came in for part of the day on Thanksgiving," Broussard says.

This is not to say that Broussard and his crew hold anything against the university's fan base. Indeed, Broussard is proud to represent the purple and gold each game day: "I like what we do on our end as an athletic program," he declares.

Broussard's and his staff's fierce devotion to the Tiger nation has deep roots. A holder of a Bachelor's of Arts in Political Science, Broussard has been in ticket sales at LSU since his days as a student worker. Likewise, many of Broussard's employees are students participating in the university's part time work study program. While some students have gone on to medical or law school, a good number have stuck around even amidst the on-

going budget crisis and potential job opportunities elsewhere because of strong ties to the LSU community: "There's a loyalty factor," Broussard asserts.

Despite technological advances like bar coding and the ability to print tickets to sporting events from home that have transformed obtaining tickets into a somewhat automated service, Broussard and his staff still have plenty of challenges to meet on a daily basis. Broussard's office promotes all sports events, whether via its email campaign, (sometimes) weekly ads in the Advocate, TV and radio spots, or online. In addition, the good people in ticket sales must contend with VIP and student fans who can be a little too enthusiastic to receive confirmation that their ticket purchases have been taken care of. "Everyone thinks they're the most deserving for tickets," Broussard states succinctly.

"I like what we do on our end as an athletic program."

Moreover, though Broussard stresses that his team's goal is to make the ticket buying experience as easy on the customer as possible, there are still those who prefer to purchase their tickets in person. "The lines are much better," Broussard quips, "they no longer go around the building."

As the Tigers, who finished the season unbeaten at 13-0 and ranked number 1 in the BCS standings, head into this year's national championship against number 2 Alabama on January 9, the ears of everyone in Broussard's office will be positively buzzing with excitement. "The phones will be ringing nonstop," Broussard jokes.

No Hire is Always Better Than a Bad Hire

By A.G. Monaco

The question most often asked of me following the recent scandals at Penn State and Syracuse is "What do you do to avoid such situations from occurring?"

If by asking they mean "How do you create a climate on campus whereby misbehavior can be safely reported," the answer is rather simple— you provide multiple outlets for employees to safely and quietly report inappropriate or illegal activities. Then while affording due process to all individuals, you review to the best of your ability each complaint and you ask for help from auditors, law enforcement, and other resources. The reason for multiple outlets is to allow the employee the opportunity to go up the "institutional chain" until an unbiased review takes place. In such cases you never allow the need to "look good" to overcome the obligation to "do good."

Interestingly not everyone meant the question that way and some really meant to ask me "How do you keep unworthy individuals outside your community?" I suppose you can do one of two things. Maintain a community of one. This alternative while reducing staffing costs generally limits efficiency and productivity. The second and more realistic approach is to include in the employment activities a strong applicant review process.

The process of selection cannot solely focus on technical ability. The process must review the applicants entire background: both employment and criminal.

A short few years ago a southern university had an angry faculty member open fire on her colleagues at a department meeting, resulting in several deaths. A rather cursory review of this person's criminal history would have found that prior to her employment at that institution the professor was convicted of assault after she attacked a mother holding an infant in a restaurant. Apparently the professor lost her temper because the other woman had taken the last available child's booster seat. Had the institution reviewed that arrest and conviction prior to its hiring decision it is likely that they would not have retained that person. In the same year at a very large midwestern university a new custodian facing discipline for poor attendance and work performance shot and killed his supervisor and wounded other co-workers. Again had an effective review of that person's criminal record been done it would have been discovered that less than three years earlier he had been found guilty of a parole violation (he had multiple convictions) when he assaulted a minor and as a result had been sent back to prison to finish an eight year sentence. In receipt of that information I would wager that the school would not have hired that person. There are in fact numerous other examples of where a pre-employment criminal background review could have helped to avoid illegal and dangerous activities on a campus.

The pre-employment review should not solely focus on criminal backgrounds but rather employment related matters as well.

(Continued on page 3)

Faculty Senate Debates Clock, Calendar, Council, Coughing

The November meeting of the LSU Faculty Senate meeting featured four Cs: clocks, calendars, councils, and coughing. Sponsored by former Senator Fereydoun Aghazadeh, Resolution 11-18, mandating that classes follow the precedent set by administrative meetings and commence on the exact hour or half-hour rather than after ten-minute delays from the colloquial scheduled time, passed on a split vote but with a sound majority. University Registrar Robert Doolos is now developing an implementation plan. Less successful was Resolution 11-03, a calendar matter, which would have lengthened Thanksgiving recess to an entire week. The Resolution failed in part owing to the congestion of the university calendar, which congestion has inspired further investigations into scheduling difficulties ranging from intersession to computing time required for the generation of class rosters. The results of those inquiries will appear, in due course, in the *Newsletter*. In the area of council formation, Senate Vice-President Ken McMillin's Resolution 11-17, which mandates elections for members of the Graduate Council in the event that the administration does not conduct such elections by January 31st, passed by a heavy majority. Coughing was the fourth "C" debated as the Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force presented its report, which is presently available on the [Senate web site](#).

New Interactive Tool Shows Recruitment and Enrollment Figures at a Glance

Have trouble grasping or visualizing recruitment and enrollment statistics? An amazing new interactive tool allows interested persons to select a university or college and then mouse over a United States map to see both the number and the percentage of students coming from other states (and, yes, LSU did attract more students from Alaska than from Idaho). The tool is useful in assessing just how national or regional a campus may be and is also revealing when in animation mode for showing whether any progress toward diversification of the student clientele is being made. [Give it a try!](#)

Dual Enrollment Programs Gaining Traction at LSU

Controversy erupted but then cooled on the big bad Baton Rouge campus when Student Life and Enrollment Services delegated new-ideas maven David Kurpius to invigorate the dual enrollment programs around the state. In a dual enrollment program, students in high schools register for classes that meet the requirements for LSU credit and that feature faculty certified by accrediting agency SACS. The practice is widespread and puts those schools who avoid participation at a disadvantage with respect to recruiting the best students. Initial proposals generated skepticism that LSU or any other academy could adequately control quality around the state, but Kurpius partnered with LSU Faculty Senate officials and dialogued with Admissions and Standards committee members to reach a compromise in which the program could go forward while details about quality control, monitoring, and faculty consent are worked out. Congratulations to David for a banner-quality work in the art of shared governance.



The Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts:
A Gem in the Dual Enrollment Treasury

No Hire is Always Better than a Bad Hire (continued)

The habit practiced by many universities of only reviewing the information submitted by references that the applicant themselves provide is one that needs to change. Think about it in this context -if you were applying for a job how likely would you be to provide the name of a reference you knew would not be supportive?

Calling contacts at other employers to inquire about the productivity and work behaviors of job applicants is a crucial tool in the area of employment selection. It is also important to make these calls to verify that the information submitted via application or resume is true. In the late 90's I was involved in a study of higher education job applicants. In our work we reviewed over 500 resumes and vitas and the results were surprising. We found that one in eight resumes contained substantial falsehoods. If more than 12% of your employment applications are unreliable in content then the need to verify work history is a crucial element of the selection process.

Now some of you are going to "Orwell me" and start talking about "big brother" and violations of privacy. I cannot argue that the intrusion on our private lives from many segments of government and society bother me as well. Still I believe we can utilize background checks in a humane but highly effective manner. First we should restrict such reviews to outside applicants only. We should not engage in any review without first seeking permission of the applicant to research their background. We need to train ourselves not to overreact to youthful mistakes or matters that have no bearing on the ability to effectively perform the job. Finally we must guarantee that the results of the background reviews are not widely distributed and any records from the reviews are either destroyed or if required to be maintained by law then retained under very restricted access.

The best way HRM can assist the LSU community in ensuring the quality of their colleagues and promoting a safe and honest workplace is to assist every search committee with a comprehensive employment and criminal background review of outside applicants prior to making job offers. While I recognize that the need for filling jobs within departments can be a pressing matter, it is still appropriate to say that "no hire is always better than a bad hire."

Beleaguered Southern Faculty Fighting Uphill Battle Against 'Hit-Man' Style Tactics of Administration

Life has gone from bad to worse at exigency-plagued Southern University, where every day brings strange and intimidating disclosures. November 9th brought an announcement from Southern Provost Janet Rami that faculty would have thirty-six hours in which to submit "feedback" to a reorganization plan that would have meant the termination of multitudinous faculty members. The proposal distributed to faculty included no explanation for the proposed changes, which were presented as revelations rather than as occasions for reflection. On November 11th, the Southern University Faculty Senate passed resolutions urging that the Graduate School and the Honors College remain intact, asking for an extension of the time allotted for "feedback" to the reorganization plan, demanding that any reorganization plan pass final review by a Faculty Senate committee, and asking that four Faculty Senate members join the University Administration Committee. When these and other demands went unanswered, Southern University Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi announced, on November 18th, the formation of a Faculty Defense Committee that would raise funds for legal assistance for the Southern Faculty and that would seek an injunction against the Southern University administration that would prohibit implementation of exigency measures on the grounds that Southern University had not followed its own exigency procedures or met other legal requirements for such a declaration. On November 26th, Southern University Provost Janet Rami sent chills through the academic community with a request for information for a job hit list, advising Architecture Chair Lonnie Wilkinson that "your program should be able to offer current courses and serve student populations with four or five faculty. You have seven faculty including the dean. Please give me a list of three faculty names for elimination of their positions (prioritize 1st to go to 3rd [sic]) by Monday end of work day"—thereby authorizing flagrant "cherry picking" of colleagues in wanton disregard of AAUP and other professional norms.

Information on how to contribute to the Southern University Faculty Defense Fund is contained in an advertisement in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Alexandria Collaborative Talks Higher Education at November Meeting

The Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative ("LSCC") held its sixth joint meeting with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates ("ALFS") in Alexandria on November 19th. Offering the keynote address was Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell, who offered an enhanced and extended version of his "listening tour" presentation that had been enlarged with material of special interest to experienced higher education professionals. Thanks to the generosity of the Commissioner, that data- and idea-rich presentation is now available online via the [LSU Faculty Senate web site](#). Purcell, who exulted "I love this stuff," earned the thanks of the Alexandria collaborative by taking nearly an hour of questions in addition to his already extended presentation. Thanks to Commissioner Purcell for setting a new standard in faculty outreach.

The Alexandria crowd also heard a full suite of presentations from both new and familiar colleagues, including a discussion by Natalie Lenard and Mary Thevenot of the situation of professors in private vocational institutions such as Our Lady of the Lake College. New collaborative member Richmond Eustis characterized life at the outer limits of the University of Louisiana System in Nicholls State University; Tammy Dugas and Mike Mathis introduced colleagues to the challenges impinging on faculty in the medical campuses; Sudhir Trivedi reviewed the chicanery at Southern University; Michael Russo enlightened colleagues about the development of "quality of life" policies such as a tobacco-free rule; and Stephen Rushing reported on the progress of the Template Policies committee. In another innovation, Lewis Deaton, of the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, offered a "living review" of Benjamin Ginsberg's *The Fall of the Faculty*. The longest and the richest meeting to date sets the stage for the next ALFS-LSCC gathering in late February or March (details will soon be announced).



Colleagues from across Louisiana confer in Alexandria

Interim CIO Nichols Procures Corel X5 Suite for LSU

One of the great perquisites enjoyed by LSU faculty and staff is the "Tigerware" software bank, which provides inhabitants of Tiger Town with site-licensed software free of charge or opens access to deeply discounted offerings of computing resources. Given the domination of the word-processing market by Microsoft, users of the far superior program, WordPerfect, have recently worried that the new Corel X5 suite—which is, in effect, WordPerfect 15.0—might not find its way into the university freebie banks. Now, thanks to the inveterate and obliging as well as all-around nice Interim Chief Information Officer at LSU, Brian Nichols, the X5 package is already up and available. Owing to his magnificent responsiveness and wondrous readiness to help, we recognize Brian as something even better than the titularly flawless WordPerfect: "CIO InterimPerfect." Thank you, Brian and team! We also like Brian's new McDonald's-inspired "2 Million Served" logo banner on the IT Services web site. Brian, you are a meatloaf among burgers!



Faculty Senate President Cope Presents Case of Retirement Fund Scandal to McNeese State

Baldness suffered a setback when the faculty at McNeese State University learned the hair-raising facts about ORP, TRSL, and the retirement fund scandal. At the invitation of McNeese State University Faculty Senate President Linda Larson, McNeese Faculty Senate Vice-President Janet Allured, McNeese Faculty Senate officer Connie Kersten, and a host of friendly "Cowboy" faculty, LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin L. Cope visited southwest Louisiana's greatest campus on November 7th by way of introducing McNeese colleagues to the enormous difficulties with the retirement programs. The presentation featured a new PowerPoint presentation which explains, in simple and accessible terminology, the problems that confront faculty and staff who hope the practice thrift and retire in at least minimal prosperity. That presentation is available online via the [LSU Faculty Senate web site](#), as is an even more accessible one-page, [bullet-list summary of the retirement debacle](#). Meanwhile, top-level but not yet released data indicates that the retirement system continues to move in the wrong direction and that next year the employer contributions to both the defined-benefit and defined contribution plans are likely to increase with no benefit to employees, all thanks to the mushrooming unfunded accrued liability. LSU Human Resources Management chief A. G. Monaco and his team are to be complimented for their continuing efforts to address this problem; ditto with respect to LSU Financial and Administrative Services commodore Eric Monday and his vice-rov Derrick Angeloz.

Noel-Levitz Issues Report on Redirecting Financial Aid to Statewide and Regional Colleges

Consulting firm Noel-Levitz has issued a report on the increasing of student retention by redirecting state-funded gift aid among students at statewide and regional (as opposed to Flagship and community) colleges. Among the findings were the discovery that high school GPA was the strongest indicator of college readiness, that Pell Grants increase retention among students with equivalent preparation, that gift aid favorably affects retention, and that, in sum, the best way to increase retention in Louisiana's mid-size institutions is to increase the GO Grant from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00 while eliminating GO Grant awards for students with total gift aid higher than 55%.

From LSU to GSU: Still a Tiger

By Rhonda Rolan

Editor's Note: Rhonda Rolan is a graduate of LSU. She is the Serials Librarian of Electronic Resources at Grambling State University.

Ten years ago I enrolled in the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at LSU to complete my second master's degree. I had considered attending school in Denton, Texas, because one of my friends completed the Master of Library Science program there, but I decided to investigate what was available in my own state. When I sent an email inquiring about SLIS, I immediately received an answer from Dr. Bert Boyce, the library school dean at the time. His message answered all of my questions and directed me to the information I needed to enroll in the program. The fact that the dean would take the time to answer my questions personally was probably the deciding factor to enroll at LSU. The lower cost in-state tuition was also appealing. Attending LSU was a decision I have not regretted because the professors in this program of study were outstanding. Even now, I can call on them at anytime for help with library issues here at Grambling. They are active in the Louisiana Library Association and continue to be a source of knowledge for all professional librarians in this state.

I have to admit, though, that in this post-Katrina era I have had some "what-if" moments. What if I had gone to school in Texas and found a job there, where higher education budgets for libraries are not being slashed as drastically as they are here? Did I make a mistake taking a job in my home state? Perhaps I could be working somewhere else making a higher salary with opportunities for advancement, instead of here with no promotions or raises.

To say we have challenges here at GSU doesn't even begin to cover the situation. When the library needs to make a major purchase, the request must first be approved by the Provost and it must also be endorsed by the Vice-President for Finance. I mean no insult to those who are in such positions, but our library collection development decisions are not being made by degreed librarians with professional training, but instead by someone outside the library. I have issues with this situation, most especially because I work with electronic resources. Stability in funding is a must because the technological world is already changing faster than we can respond to it as a higher education bureaucracy. With electronic resources, license terms must be re-negotiated along with the price. Sometimes the library has been able to purchase items at reduced costs. All of this is lost when the license agreement is not honored. If money becomes available later, then access must be provided again to the resource, which can be a fairly complicated process.

Yes, I am angry about the budget situation. I'm still a tiger—now both an LSU Tiger and a GSU Tiger. When a tiger is confronted, it sometimes extends its claws. They will most likely come in handy as we trim the library's journal list during the process of determining what must be cut for the upcoming year.

Faculty Senate, Auxiliary Services Resolve Campus Mail Policy Dilemma

Fans of privatization got their comeuppance when an ill-advised memorandum from the LSU central administration seemed to suggest that the new for-hire campus mail service would be reconnoitering and intercepting faculty correspondence. The aforementioned pronouncement seemed to suggest that any mail identified as private in character would be grabbed and returned to its sender. Examples of *verboten* packages included those sent by prominent online retailers such as Toy's R Us (which sells scientific toys that could be used in the classroom), Pottery Barn, and Old Navy. Investigation revealed that the triggering event in this escapade was of a more salacious variety: a colorful thong wrapped in a see-through package that stimulated watchdogs in the mail room. Fortunately, the LSU Faculty Senate came to the rescue, liaising with LSU Auxiliary Services ace Jason Tolliver. It seems that the mail policy problem arose from an extremely austere interpretation of campus policies (PS-91 and PS-101) that forbid the use of university resources for personal gain (in the case of the thong, we can only conjecture what that gain might be, although LSU long-termers will surely remember several Rupert-Murdoch-ready stories from past years, indicating that evidentiary parcels might have some sale value). The LSU Faculty Senate has now resolved to revise the aforementioned policy so that faculty members who may have good reason to receive packages at school (for example, those who are single parents yet who must babysit laboratories during working hours) will enjoy the traditional liberties of the profession.



Thong in transparent package triggers university mail flap

Introducing Word Press

By Sheri J. Thompson of IT Services

LSU ITS has been working with University Relations to phase out all of the Web sites housed in Studio Web. We selected the Rhythmyx WCMS to handle Web sites that required several different content types and needed sophisticated approval processes. We have also started offering a more simplified WordPress Web option. For blogs and sites that do not require work flow processes, WordPress may be a sensible solution for your department. University Relations will work with you to determine which option is best.

The strengths and limitations of both Web resources should be fully understood before selecting one over the other. WordPress sites may include a number of plug ins not available in the Rhythmyx WCMS like the Fast Tube (include YouTube videos into blog posts) and the Gravity Forms (a mechanism for creating and managing Web forms). WordPress sites offer instant publishing and the ability to change the theme—features that your department may or may not find optimal. Rhythmyx WCMS enables you to reuse a single piece of content in multiple ways throughout your site. How your site will need to function, who will be responsible for maintaining content, and what types of content your site needs all need to be taken into account. For more information, please see the [LSU WordPress site](#).

Governor Issues Self-Serving Executive Order

Never reluctant to take advantage of human suffering for the sake of political posturing while assigning work and responsibility to others, Louisiana's governor has issued another of his "BJ" executive orders, BJ 11-23, in which he orders university professors, administrators, and coaches to report child abuse to a host of authorities. Without making light of the miseries endured by children exploited by perverted adults, one must wonder whether the abuse inflicted by the economic devastation of the public education system would be reportable under this edict.

Syndicated Columnist Argues that Coaches' Chancellors' Salaries Incommensurate with Production of Pleasure

In a surprise vindication of Benthamite utilitarianism that mixes irony with compliments, syndicated columnist George Will has insinuated that compensation and the production of pleasure may not be proportional when it comes to coaches and chancellors. In his November 10th column, following the purported "game of the century" between LSU and Alabama, Will observed: "These teams' head coaches salaries are \$4.6 million and \$3.75 million, respectively, and their additional perquisites and incentives have cash values not to be sneezed at. But by some hedonic or other calculus, these coaches may add more to the national stock of pleasure, and even more value to their institutions, than do Alabama's president and LSU's chancellor, who earn \$487,620 and \$400,000, respectively." Notable in Will's column is the introduction of a new criterion for the evaluation of chancellor or president performance: the production of pleasure (colloquially known as "The Victoria's Secret Metric"). Likewise notable is the tacit affirmation that the CEOs of these great campuses are indeed producing pleasure, the adding of "more pleasure" on the part of the coaches being a comparative formulation that suggests that their less remunerated presidential counterparts are producing at least minimal, benchmark quanta of pleasure.

Tin Roof to Relabel Controversially Named LSU Beer

In his December 2nd column in *The Advocate*, education journalist Jordan Blum reports that Tin roof Brewing Company is feeling financial as well as carbonation pressure and so is going ahead with the release of the long-delayed LSU beer, upon which earlier issues of the *Newsletter* reported. Only one catch snarling the pop-top: lack of approval from the LSU Board of Supervisors. To get the cash flow moving and the hops otherwise jumping, Tin Roof will release the brew simply as "Blonde," without the Tiger-pertinent "Bandit" tag. Curiously, local police blotters showed no formal motion to drop the criminal charges.

Faculty Senate Commission to Address Long-Standing International Transfer Credit Issue

Those who advise undergraduates know that LSU has had its troubles in assigning adequate inbound transfer credit for courses taken at distinguished universities abroad. Students who have shown pluck by studying in Europe's most ancient houses of learning have arrived at the Red Stick university only to discover that their three-hour courses had been downgraded to 2.97 hours (or worse) by a conversion algorithm that even accrediting agency SACS only recommends. Some students in this situation have had to retake classes or stay in school extra semesters. The result is a powerful deterrent to internationalization, which Louisiana higher education sorely needs. Now, with the help of Vice-Chancellor for Student Life and Enrollment Services Kurt Keppler, the LSU Faculty Senate has commissioned a working group chaired by international studies expert Harald Leder and admissions whiz Marina Pereira. The assignment for that group is the development of a credit transfer procedure or protocol that will promote rather than prevent international study.



Harald Leder

Purcell Listening Tour Rolls into Baton Rouge



Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell

The final whistle-stop on Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell's "listening tour" was Baton Rouge, where, deep in the horsehide bowels of Alex Box Baseball Stadium, the Commissioner offered a presentation and fielded questions from a diverse ensemble of education activists and active industrialists. Growing in magnitude as well as in shock and informational value as it toured the state, the mature, ripened Purcell presentation unscrolled a Talmudic abundance of strange facts, including the disclosures that, in Louisiana, 75% of those who hold baccalaureate degrees live in but eight parishes; that 81% of Louisianans were born in Louisiana, i.e., that the circulation of population with the remainder of the nation is in tourniquet mode; that education increases the tendency to donate blood; that Louisiana trails the nation in job opportunities for those holding master- and doctoral-level degrees; that lifetime earnings for a holder of a doctoral degree nearly double those of a baccalaureate degree holder; and, most alarming of all, is that Louisiana is en route to becoming the number-one source of cheap labor in north America. Purcell received vigorous questioning from Southern University Faculty Senate Sudhir

Trivedi, who perplexed the attending businessmen with his dogged questions concerning the financial exigency calamity at Southern University; took questions from LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope regarding the encouraging of graduate education and the revivifying of the professorate as a cherished cultural institution; and heard exclamations from representatives of the chemical industry about the need for trained labor. Faced with questions about the inability to attract industry to Louisiana owing to the impoverishment of the education system and the inadequacy of cultural life, one industrialist interrupted Purcell and advanced a trickle-up theory in which the training of thousands of factory laborers would percolate up into a cultural revival of some sort (perhaps one full of orchestras playing the musical canon of socialist realism—get ready for Shostakovich!). On several occasions, ever-vocal Regents Chair Bob Levy injected a peculiar radical optimism, calling for a "clean break with the past." Levy, however, is to be complimented for at least one good move, which was the inviting of faculty leaders to a parley. To be continued!

Exception to Core 4 Arts Requirement Underscores Higher Ed Short Comings

The establishment of the "Core 4" admissions standards for Louisiana high school students seeking entrance into Louisiana colleges and universities may have seemed like a good idea at the time, but some cracks in the core are beginning to open. Most notable is the continuing faculty debate about the scuttled physics requirement—a debate still in process at almost every campus in the state. To be sure, the Regents are in a jam: on the one hand, they seek, wisely enough, to increase enrollment by promising, trained students; on the other hand, Louisiana and its requirements cannot undo the shortcomings of states (including our own) that cannot provide curricula adequate to meet our homegrown requirements. So it is that, on October 27th, the Regents quietly approved and stealthily distributed an exception to the admissions standards by which high school students who have not satisfied the "Arts" requirement of the Core 4 may be admitted without adversely affecting the receiving institution's exception allocation. On the one hand, such a concession makes moral sense, in that it avoids punishing students whose school systems have failed them; on the other hand, there is no missing the fact that competence in the arts is a trademark of an educated rather than a merely workforce-developed person. The Regents have made the right decision by helping otherwise helpless students, yet the move does little to remove the reputation of the Jindal administration for Philistinism and for distrust of the arts and other forms of critical thinking.

Governance Commission Recommends Against Superboard, For Budget Allocation Overseen by Board of Regents

Those in the Capitol who were hoping for an endorsement of a single "superboard" were happily disappointed when the Governance Commission established by HCR 184 issued its final recommendations. Concluding that repeated efforts at restructuring, reorganization, and realignment had failed for a variety of reasons, many of them good, the Commission panelists wisely opined that money and effort would be better spent maximizing the achievements of the extant systems and their management boards. This victory for common sense was not quite matched by the financial model proposed by the commissioner, in which the Board of Regents would acquire authority over the budgetary allocations of Louisiana's system and by which criteria such as contribution to workforce development would come under consideration when making disbursements (meaning that we can say "adios" to foreign language instruction unless accrediting juggernaut SACS manages to save us—and also that this "adios" won't even be heard by scholars in areas such as art history or theology, where the boots will be flying faster than those of Puss-in-Boots and Kitty Softpaws during their flamenco dance in the new hit cat film). Thank goodness that such a madcap idea will require a legislative act supported by two-thirds of the legislature. On the other hand, the commissioners had good things to say about remanding tuition authority to the system management boards. The complete final report may be viewed online at the [Regents' web site](#).

Senate, Traffic and Parking Director Collaborate to Resolve Parking Issues

During a very fruitful meeting with LSU campus Traffic and Parking Director Gary Graham, the LSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee resolved or initiated resolution of a plenitude of parking problems. Responding to student inquiries, the FSEC probed the plight of commuter students attempting to park near the Hart Lot only to find a panorama full of empty spaces allocated to absent residents. Redistricting of the Hart Lot is already underway and smiles are replacing scowls on commuter countenances. The difficulties often encountered by invited visitors when passing the access gates have been addressed, with Graham promising to issue new instructions to the keepers of the swinging beams and thereby increase the welcome afforded to honored guests. Those who remember Professor Luigi Marzilli's discovery of the leap-frogging method by which students were exploiting gaps in the construction sites to enter the restricted area of the "Easy Streets" campus will be delighted to hear that vigorous new enforcement efforts are underway against those with springy hindquarters. Finally, enforcement of the restriction of designated night parking spaces to faculty members has also been given some extra spritz. Thanks to Gary Graham for getting the buggy rolling by means of letting the wheels come to rest in the right place.

Blooper Website Draws up Penalty for Football Coach's Ungrammatical Sentences

Those who doubt that big-time varsity athletics contributes to the high standing of a university need only peruse the landmarks in the history of English prose to be discovered on a [new web site](#) highlighting the oracular utterances of a prominent football coach. That web site will allow fans of what the public schools call "language arts" to gape in amazement at the flexibility of the English language: at the ability of that ever-twisting tongue to convey meaning even under the most intense semantic stress. Questions as to whether or not such quotations enhance the reputation of a university have elicited a proposal from a reader to institute a new penalty in Division I football. That penalty would impose one five-yard penalty on a coach's team for each instance of an ungrammatical sentence uttered to a reporter or otherwise recorded in the media. This subtle proposal calls for the tallying of ungrammatical utterances by NCAA officials, who, locked away in the underground bunkers of Mark Emmert's NCAA, will make use of supercomputers to distribute the penalties over random passages in games across the season (prior to games, referees would be given a "penalty manifest" indicating the game times at which each team would receive its five-yard penalties). Then, at, say, 11:15 of the second quarter, a referee would drop a flag, blow a whistle, and assign a "hurting the hearer" penalty. Such a penalty would be a useful anodyne to hypocrisy. Those coaches who had preached the "work ethic" would, under this new rule, quickly learn to speak in a way appropriate for a university environment, thereby demonstrating that their previous sideline mis-sentencing resulted not from the distractions of hard labor, but from laziness.

AAUP Asks SACS for Conditions on UNO Accreditation



SACS President Belle Wheelan

Although the media have concluded that the transfer of UNO from the LSU System to the University of Louisiana System is a done deal, the big hurdle of SACS accreditation and, with that, demonstration of adequate faculty input into campus and curricular life, remain. The statewide Louisiana chapter

of the AAUP has issued an open letter to SACS President Belle Wheelan that enumerates several misdeeds by the University of Louisiana System, including the capricious dismissal of tenured professors, then asks that accreditation depend on the maintenance of recently-adopted campus exigency procedures. The full text of the AAUP letter is available on the [LSU Faculty Senate web site](#).

Senate Forms Committees to Revise PS 104 and 48

Always down and dirty in the den of details, the LSU Faculty Senate is in the process of drafting revisions to policies in which anomalies, oversights, or blunders have appeared. The Executive Committee will review PS-104, "Dismissal for Cause for Faculty," and will also review PS-48, which governs the appeals procedures for students, with an eye toward clarifying the appeals procedures for graduate students and toward establishing procedures for those who wish to appeal an admission decision by the graduate school. Faculty input into these revisions is welcome. The PS-104 project will be managed by ExComm members Bill Daly (chdaly@lsu.edu) and Ken McMillin (kmcmill@lsu.edu) while the PS-48 undertaking will be guided by ExComm member Joan King (jmking@lsu.edu).

LSU Professor Spearheads Intellectual Repository Initiative

Few universities in Louisiana have any plan to preserve their intellectual history. By national standards, the neglect of the archive of knowledge generated in-house is nothing short of shocking. An initial and exemplary response to this problem is being mounted by the vigorous Will Hires, who is spearheading an initiative to create an institutional repository for LSU. That repository would receive and record the productions of LSU professors—a process that could easily be adapted by and for all campuses. Hires recently welcomed Melanie Feltner-Reichert of the University of Tennessee, who updated a large assortment of colleagues on the latest in repository technology as well as with respect to her own project, the [Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange](#). Feltner-Reichert explained the full range of repository options, from communities keyed to academic departments to pen access electronic journals. Thank you, Dr. Hires!

LIFESTYLE FEATURE: PIZZERIAS OF BATON ROUGE

The mark of a great metropolitan area is an abundance of pizza options; a fortiori, the mark of a town such as Baton Rouge that is transitioning to greatness is an efflorescence of pizza options and, with that, a certain instability and unpredictability in the pizza offerings. It has not escaped the attention of the *Newsletter* that, over the last several years, Baton Rouge has entered on a pizza boom in which there may have been occasional busts but during which peaks on both the culinary and economic charts have been achieved. Pizza is integral to the academic life, especially for start-up researchers whose ambitions rise above fast food but whose time rationing and beginners' salaries may put the "fine" in "fine dining" out of reach. There is nothing so satisfying, when it comes to celebrating the accomplishments of academic life, whether publishing refereed articles or attaining tenure, than that lusty bite into that thirty- to sixty-degree wedge of tomato-based pleasure. Nor is there anything so common to the view as the exhausted aspiring scholar hunched over the steel or stone tray pumping in enough nutrition to get through the next paragraph, test, or office hour. The holiday season is also pizza time as erudite nutritionists, whether the professionals at Pennington Biomedical Research Center or the docents in student wellness centers, spend so much time in shopping, chatting, and otherwise meeting obligations that the day's talk about healthy eating must gradually fade into the evening encounter with pepperoni. As a guide to holiday moderately-paced dining for the hungry, semi-upscale, nutrition-alert but harried academic professional, the *Newsletter* now ambles among the most prominent pizza venues of Baton Rouge.

Given the festive mood of otherwise dark December, starting at the top, like a child looking at the star ornament atop a Christmas tree, would make for a merry mood. Far and away the best all-around pizza option on the Interstate 10 corridor is the underappreciated Rotolo's. Although Rotolo's offers several locations, its LSU-adjacent venue on Nicholson Drive, a converted former Pizza Hut, excels both in taste and atmosphere. There, a genial student pub environment coupled with 1970s smoked-glass windows and heavy wooden tables soaked in period polyurethane provides an experience worthy of a student *Kneipe* at the University of Heidelberg. Rotolo's has attained the perfect balance of sweetness and tartness in its tomato sauces while managing to include just the right amount of Mediterranean sassiness—caraway, fennel—in its sausages. Although Rotolo's pizza tends to cool off quickly, its slightly chewy crust savors of artisan bread while still piping hot from the oven. Not all of Rotolo's locations evidence the same down-market panache, but all offer a burst of fresh flavor and friendly, competent service seldom combined in budding Baton Rouge.

Several of the pizza purveyors in Baton Rouge carry high reputations but may be resting on, if not the laurels, then perhaps the oregano twigs left behind by former, more industrious generations. The biggest crash in the pizza market is surely the ever-pulsating DeAngelo's: ever-pulsating because, in recent years, locations have opened and closed with a regularity worthy of a variable star. DeAngelo's started in the Calzone game. Although it was never equal to the now-defunct Palermo's (once upon a time on Essen Lane, behind Albertsons), it can be credited with introducing that folded pie to Red Stick gobblers. On a wave of meteoric success, DeAngelo's added pizzas to its menus, prizing fresh ingredients and, in general, kicking it up a notch vis-à-vis Baton Rouge Italian food. Unfortunately, the second or third wave of DeAngelinos who now run (down) the business have over-schematized the operation, collapsed into routine, and ended up with a humdrum product. Plating is especially badly done, with calzones dumped starkly in the middle of cold beige plates sans garnish.

Joining DeAngelo's among the overrated or declining dynasties would be Fleur de Lis Pizza, which strives for the pub atmosphere found at Rotolo's but which has yet to embrace the range of cheeses, toppings, and ingredients that abound in the new wave pizzerias. Cramped and in-groupish, Fleur de Lis turns nostalgia into nuisance. Much the same could be said of a new dynasty pizza vendor, Schlitz and Giggles. A property in the growing empire of the Walk-Ons Bistro proprietors, the two locations of Schlitz and Giggles suffer from an identity crisis. The managers of Schlitz and Giggles seem unable to decide whether they want to create a restaurant, a bar, or a set for the next Budweiser commercial. One can almost imagine some hirsute gentleman approaching a leather-toting lady in Schlitz and Giggles and affirming "this Bud's for you—and I'm not really as old-line masculine as I seem, I'm actually a regional vice-president for a minor but solvent insurance firm." Also belonging in the battered bucket of declining dynasties are California Pizza Kitchen, in its overblown pseudo-urban venue at Perkins Rowe, where the diner is lucky to receive any dish that has been sitting under the heat lamps, waiting for waiters, for less than thirty minutes (perhaps this aggressively formatted chain is working on a new treat, "sausage jerky"); and Pizza Hut, which might well be re-branded as "Flavor Enhancer Hut" (nowhere else on earth can one find food that tastes like Disneyland looks).

Some of the most perpetual as well as promising pizza parlors parade around the perimeter of Baton Rouge. Almost everyone knows, although not everyone has visited, The Pastime (or its satellite in Drusilla Shopping Center, Pastime Junior), and there can be no doubt that the persistence of this institution against even such formidable threats as the building of the Mississippi River Bridge suggests that it has a lot going for it. Indeed, Pastime would surely win the "best and most historically alert web site award" for its archive-enhanced and antiquity-acknowledging internet offering. Even further out on the perimeter, way out in Prairieville, is the new Roma Pizza, which bills itself as Baton Rouge's only legitimate New York-style pizza parlor but which looks rather more like an urban storefront pizza takeout in Boston, Philadelphia, or some other rough and cold place. The coldness is only curiously cosmetic in that the gregarious Omar, the surname-free proprietor, livens up the experience with chat and cheer. Pizzas at Roma are not in the least Roman but rather old-style American, with good and solid American ingredients free of excessive subtlety of flavor but rendered artfully, to lip-smacking effect. The modern shabby ambience—prematurely deteriorating brand-new strip mall with blinding, buzzing fluorescent light—only adds to the attractively hard northeastern effect, convincing diners that they might well be looking not at Airline Highway, but perhaps at the Groton ship yards. (continued on page 7)



Frankenstein Early Instance of Retention Rate Difficulties

From reader Baerbel Czennia at McNeese State University comes a new factoid. The drive for the retention of students is much the fashion at contemporary universities and may seem to be a new phenomenon, but the first explicit retention problem is of far greater antiquity. Readers of Mary Shelley's gothic thriller *Frankenstein* know that, contrary to colloquial or cinematic usage, Frankenstein, the builder of "the monster," was not "Dr. Frankenstein," indeed never finished his degree. The supposed doctor—really a dropout from the good old "DFW" school—had taken a few miscellaneous courses in chemistry but never completed his general education credits and never arrived at the moment of graduation. Who ever would have expected that Boris Karloff's would-be father would end up as a candidate for probationary admission to BRCC?

Southern University System Officials Host Reception Amidst Financial Exigency Crisis

While Southern University faculty members face termination owing to the alleged financial emergency at the campus on the bluffs, members of the Southern University and Southern University System administrative aristocracy seem to have time to attend social galas and otherwise to brag in front of an audience of the best people. Page 80 of the November 2011 issue of *InRegister* magazine, Baton Rouge's leading social news rag, includes a report and a photo of the Southern leadership reveling at a reception thrown for the purpose of allowing the exigency-declarers to "discuss their plans to advance the mission of Southern." Time to get out the fiddle—Rome is burning and smells pretty bad.

In Memoriam: Ben Mount

It is with sadness that the *Newsletter* reports the passing of LSU Board of Supervisors member Ben Mount. A giant of a man and a Big Bird among a host of pigeons, Mount evidenced an immensity of heart and an elevating humanity appropriate to his alpine surname. An able representative of neglected southwest Louisiana and a lover of a good scuffle, Mount stirred up controversy on everything from band halls to bathrooms. This Tip O'Neill of higher education legislation provided an anchor and a balance to a management board under relentless political pressure. We shall not see his like again.

LSU Creates Accrediation Readiness Committee

At large universities, the seeking of accreditation is an almost perpetual process, what with the development of quality enhancement plans, interim reports, applications for certification of compliance, and, in sum, ever more. Under the leadership of accreditation magician Gil Reeve, LSU has created a new and extensive accreditation readiness committee under the able chairmanship of Darrell Henry. Unveiling a combination flow chart and organizational diagram that would make the Rosetta Stone look like The Little Red Schoolbook, Reeve, Henry, and their colleagues have made excellent inroads into a journey that would bear out the old saw, "it's not the arrival, it's the journey that matters," were it not that the stakes are high and the journey is now perpetual. Thanks to these colleagues for accepting assignments that are essential to the success of any university.



Darrell Henry

Pizzerias of Baton Rouge (continued)

Also in the “periphery” category would be Johnny’s Pizza and Pizza Buffet, which, although centrally located at the corner of Staring and Highland, traces its heritage to Monroe, Shreveport, and a variety of northern Louisiana hamlets, throughout which it is the leading pizza chain. Johnny’s offers a scrumptious, tomato-minimalist but topping-dense pizza with a unique yeasty crust. When hot, fresh, and ready to go, it can’t be beat as a form of comfort food. Johnny’s is best at lunch; at night, staffing shortages can lead to quality-control problems, but during the day, the buffet never stops delighting.

Our amble around area pizzerias concludes with four new-wave pizzerias that are all climbing the culinary ladder. A new



opening that has seized the attention of the *Newsletter* food staff is surely Red Zeppelin, a buoyant small eatery with plenty of glass and colorful light as well as a permanent al fresco option, that sits unobtrusively along Perkins Road but that scores a win for its aviation and blimp themes. Among the new pizzerias, Red Zeppelin is the most expert when it comes to flavor profiles, carefully stacking well-measured ingredients so as to run the tongue up and down a series of discriminable tastes while always maintaining a coherent mouth-image. Red Zeppelin needs to do some work on its salad offerings and its secondary hard-rock theme gets a little old, but the idea of a lively pizza joint along a busy road in a reviving section of town matches well with its tasty pies. A little less successful is Oscar’s Pizza and Ice Cream joint, which seems to aim

at a round-the-clock market by offering both lunch-and-dinner service punctuated with ice cream off-hour snacks. Oscar’s has ambition and has confected some novel pizza ideas, but it has some trouble with what seem to be canned olives with a slightly processed taste as well as with getting the food to the table in a thoroughly hot state. The ice cream, which is also available as a dessert, is far too sweet and presented clumsily. Still, Oscar’s has potential and offers a with-it urban decor. Another new entrant may have more potential: Isabella’s Pizzeria, now relocated to Bluebonnet Crossing, cannot be beat when it comes to pizzas decked with fresh ingredients and ambitious service that seems to have emerged from the Food Network school of fashionable interactiveness. The dining room is a bit cavernous in comparison to the size of the clientele, but the upgraded Isabella’s is clearly on the upward swing and is certainly offering some lively baked compositions. Perhaps still the best among the new-wave pizza producers is the Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, which, after having struggled for attention for nearly twenty years, has re-flagged itself as LPK Bar and Grill, adding a few bar-food offerings to the menu. LPK opened the eyes of Baton Rouge to European pizzas, to wood firing, and to offbeat ingredients. It remains what might be called the granddaddy of the best: a rival for winning Rotolo’s with, on the one hand, the greater heritage of European kitchen savvy but also the threat of decline with age. LPK seems to be making a rejuvenation move—and, given the excellence of its offerings, we wish it well!

Merry Christmas, and may Santa place a pepperoni sausage in your stocking.

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LSU Information Technology Services invites faculty to participate in TechPawLooza 2012. TechPawLooza is designed to highlight the ways in which technology is utilized to enable research, teaching & learning, and civic engagement. LSU ITS needs faculty willing to showcase their efforts.

Examples of last year’s presentations may be found online at <http://sites.google.com/site/techpawlooza12/home-1/fav-staff>. This year’s faculty participants will be given a table on the Ballroom floor from which to showcase the ways the incorporate technology. Faculty will be able to choose either a one or two hour time slot between the hours of 10am-2pm, depending upon which fits their schedule, for example: 10am-12pm, or 1pm-2pm. Participants are more than welcome to present with a colleague. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Hala Esmail via email at hemail@lsu.edu.

LSU Number 6 in “Top Campus Weather” Poll

Those who have had more than enough humidity in their lives were tickled to see that LSU rose to the number six position, between #5 Michigan State and #7 University of Hawaii Manoa, in the “Top Campus Weather” competition on [The Weather Channel web site](#). The evaluation of the weather seems to hinge primarily on Tiger Stadium announcer Dan Bourne’s famous locution that the chance of rain in “Death Valley” is “Never” (probably LSU’s most famous faulty sentence).

OGB Hikes Medical Rates

Some stories need only be reported in the form of a question, so great is the jeopardy that they imply. Could it be an accident that, despite having a \$588,000,000.00 surplus, the Office of Group Benefits should hike its rates for medical insurance plans even while the executive branch of the Louisiana government is working to sell the OGB to campaign contributors?

Tip of the Month

Those who thought that the study of economics, “the dismal science,” would be something less than trendy or exciting should take a gander at the [latest economics hip-hop video](#) in which eccentric economist Russ Roberts contrasts the economic theories of spender John Marnard Keynes and saver F. A. Hayek via a splendidly produced rap review filled with urban imagery. The video has been followed up with [another production](#) rendering of the same debate in the context of a surreal world that vacillates between a courtroom and a prize fight. Rather than spending money during the holidays, think about gifting friends and colleagues with this amusing video about spending!



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Southern University Faculty Defense Fund Committee was created on November 16 in response to the administration’s declaration of financial exigency and to challenge the legality of that declaration. All contributions are tax deductible.

Checks should be made out to ‘Faculty Defense Committee’. All donations can be mailed to Professor Sudhir Trivedi, 2800 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.



MUSEUM WALKING TOURS UNCOVER THE HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE

The Capitol Park Museum is hosting downtown Baton Rouge walking tours on Nov. 12 and Dec. 10. A museum curator is leading the tours which highlight landmarks in Capitol Park and the historic Spanish Town neighborhood. Tours begin at 9 a.m. at the Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. 4th St. Walks may be cancelled for inclement weather. Patrons are advised to dress comfortably for the 45-minute tours. All walks are free and open to the public. The fall tours will include the following:

Architecture (Dec. 10): Examine the architecture of colorful Spanish Town, Baton Rouge's oldest neighborhood.

Street parking is available and free on Saturdays. The museum is free and wheelchair accessible.

For more information, contact

Louisiana State Museum
660 N. Fourth St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225/ 219-0726
225/ 219-0728 fax
LSMBR.info@crt.la.gov



[F]or more than forty years, Mignon Faget has designed wearable works of art celebrating the history, culture, and natural beauty of her native Louisiana. This exhibition recognizes her life's work, exploring her creations and her creative process. The display features hundreds of items, including jewelry, textiles, prints, drawings, and glassware, as well as one-of-a-kind pieces rarely seen publicly.

MIGNON FAGET *A Life in Art and Design*

[AN EXHIBITION]

Organized by The Historic New Orleans Collection



November 17, 2011 – February 25, 2012

The Louisiana State Museum on Capitol Park presents

MIGNON FAGET *A Life in Art and Design*

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Published by [The LSU Faculty Senate](#)

Questions? Comments? Email gmolch1@tigers.lsu.edu or ngu1@tigers.lsu.edu

