



August/September 2005

Events

Summer Commencement

August 11

Academic Convocation

August 19

Classes begin

August 22

Fall Fest

September 2

Labor Day holiday

(No classes scheduled;
University offices closed)

September 5

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Desk of Chancellor Sean O'Keefe

What's new @ LSU

The University garnered national and international attention with the discovery of an ivory-billed woodpecker—a species believed by to be extinct since the 1930s or 1940s. A seven-month search in southeast Arkansas by LSU ornithologist Van Remsen and a team of researchers resulted in the landmark find.

Five undergraduate members of LSU's student chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) brought home top honors—first-place trophy, prize money, and software—in IEEE's Region 5 Robotics Contest for the second year in a row. The team faced university teams from several states, including Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and Illinois.

LSU's Louisiana Business & Technology Center is the recipient of two new honors: the 2005 National Incubator of the Year Award from the National Business Incubation Association and the 2005 Governor's Lantern Award for "... promoting economic development in Louisiana."

The School of the Coast & Environment's new Shell Coastal Environmental Modeling Laboratory, or Shell CEML, will allow LSU scientists to research innovative and efficient techniques of coastal restoration that can be used in Louisiana, across the United States, and throughout the world. The lab was made possible by a \$300,000 grant from Shell.

Receive LSU news every week through LSU Wire, a free e-mail that provides updates about University news and events. To register, look for the LSU Wire link on LSU's homepage, www.lsu.edu.

Dear Friend:

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) is now in its second year, and our incoming freshmen are reading *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Kidder. This shared reading experience is open to all members of the LSU and Baton Rouge communities. I invite you to join us on this educational journey. The author and subject will share their stories on August 19 at Academic Convocation, which will be broadcast live on public access channel Metro21. I hope some of you will pick up the book and tune into the presentation.

Higher admission standards and performance requirements have “raised the bar” for LSU students, and they have met the challenge. Likewise, we are responding to their higher expectations for quality. We have changed the way our academic programs are judged and, through stringent review, established a benchmark for distinction, as evidenced by the designation of seven departments—biological sciences, chemistry, English, mass communication, mathematics, music, and physics—as Foundations of Excellence. Such periodic review and assessment of the National Flagship Agenda makes our journey to pre-eminence even more valuable to our students and the state.

Sincerely,



Sean O'Keefe
Chancellor

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