Forever LSU: Jerry and Nancy Dumas Make a Transformational Gift
Dear Alumni and Friends of Arts & Sciences,

We hope that you and your family are doing well after the challenges this fall has presented. Louisiana was hit by two hurricanes, and then the whole country was hit by a financial crisis. Hurricane Gustav caused damage and disruptions at LSU. Over 350 trees fell down on campus, while LSU facilities served as emergency medical shelters. But the Tiger Spirit prevailed and after four days, faculty and students were back in the classrooms.

This fall, the College of Arts & Sciences hired 49 outstanding new faculty. These new faculty come with degrees from the very best programs in the nation, and most of them have research publications in the top journals in their disciplines. Some of our new faculty arrive with grants from federal agencies, and others have been hired through the financing afforded by federal grants. During the past year, the faculty of the College received over 150 extramural grants with combined budgets of over $8 million. One of our new assistant professors is a specialist in American Religions who received a Visiting Scholar fellowship at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. Created by America’s founding fathers, this academic society is 228 years old. Its Fellows include 160 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners. Last year the academy received 245 applications for 10 positions. Our new assistant professor won one of those ten. Wouldn’t you like to come to LSU to take a class with this faculty member? This is just one of the many outstanding professors who joined Arts & Sciences this fall.

And LSU’s increasing excellence is being widely recognized. For the first time LSU was ranked in the first quartile by US News and World Report and the total number of entering freshman students increased by 548 over the 2007 number. The average ACT score also increased and the percent of students returning for the fall of their second year (one-year retention rate) increased from 84.7% to 85.4% for all students and increased from 80.8% to 84.8% for African American students. These one-year retention rates are the highest ever at LSU.

As you can see from our lead article, the support of our alumni and friends is also on the rise. At this time, the College of Arts & Sciences has raised over $10 million as part of the LSU Forever Campaign. As alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff continue to support the college, we will reach even higher levels of excellence.

With best wishes,

Guillermo Ferreyra, Dean
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a special note from the editor:

As an alum or donor to the LSU College of Arts & Sciences, you are very important to us. Please help us keep in touch with you by sending your updated contact information, including e-mail address, to bmacon@lsu.edu. Also if you know other alums who would like to receive the magazine, please ask them to send us their contact information. We look forward to hearing from you.
February 1, 1921 - May 25, 2008

The most significant factor in LSU’s greatness as an institution is its people. The university has had its share of accomplished, outstanding faculty, staff, and students throughout its history. Even among these, Otis B. Wheeler stood tall. Serving LSU in a variety of capacities from English professor to acting chancellor, Wheeler epitomized the spirit and high standards to which top scholars aspire. He took the university’s mission to heart, with a dedication to teaching, scholarship, research, and service that was unsurpassed.

Wheeler arrived at LSU in 1952 after having served twice with the U.S. Army (1942-1946 and 1951-1952) and having received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1951. He taught in the English department, and his first wife, Doris, who died in 1988, was an LSU librarian. Besides teaching, Wheeler served for several years as associate dean of the Graduate School and then, for a short time, as department chair, before being selected to be the vice chancellor for academic affairs in fall 1974. In 1964, he and Thomas Kirby, who was serving as the chair of English at the time, had been instrumental in reviving The Southern.

Otis Wheeler (left) and his friend and colleague Robert W. Heck worked together to produce Religious Architecture in Louisiana, published by LSU Press in 1995.
Review and in the appointment of Lewis P. Simpson as the first editor, and Donald Stanford as the co-editor, of the journal. After seven years in the office of academic affairs, in January 1981, Wheeler accepted the position of acting chancellor, replacing Chancellor Paul C. Murrill. He retired in June 1981, after nearly thirty years at LSU.

In retirement, Wheeler devoted much of his time and energy to photography. He had a great talent with a camera and enjoyed developing and printing his photographs in his own darkroom at home. He specialized in architectural photography, particularly church architecture. One of his very good friends was renowned LSU architecture professor Robert W. Heck. He and Heck collaborated for several years, traveling together around Louisiana, working on Religious Architecture in Louisiana, which was published by LSU Press in 1995. Then he and his second wife, history professor Anne C. Loveland, married in 1991, took on another ambitious project. They set out to produce a book that examines, in text and photographic images, the rise of evangelical megachurches—those churches that host more than 2,000 congregants in their services. The result was From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History, published by the University of Missouri Press in 2003.

Wheeler’s many talents and depth of intellect inspired his students, his colleagues, those fortunate ones whom he counted as friends, and even many of us who never had the opportunity to know him well. His death in May 2008 was a loss for all of us, but his memory and inspiration live on. Smiley Anders, a columnist for the Baton Rouge Advocate and a former student in one of Wheeler’s many freshman English courses, wrote a touching tribute to Wheeler that we reprint here with permission from the newspaper’s publisher.

Why I’m Not Bagging Groceries

By Smiley Anders

Baton Rouge Advocate

Published: May 28, 2008

When I read of the death of Dr. Otis Wheeler, I recalled his role in getting me into this crazy business, and regretted that I had never thanked him for steering me into a job I’ve loved for so many years.

When he was a young instructor at LSU, I was a student in his freshman English class. At that time my work experience consisted of bagging groceries—not my long-term career goal.

All I knew was that I wanted a job that didn’t involve math, or even arithmetic.

Dr. Wheeler, a creative teacher, had us write essays, profiles, short stories etc., in almost every class. He also gave us an extensive reading list, and encouraged us to read as many books from it as we could.

When I remarked to him one day after class that I enjoyed writing, he recommended one of the books on his list: Newspaper Days by H.L. Mencken.

Mencken wrote of his time on a Baltimore newspaper in the early 1900s, and he made it sound like a free pass to the circus. He was a marvelous prose stylist, and he hooked me in the first few pages.

After that book, I never wanted to do anything but write for a newspaper.

I realize I’m a little late, but thanks, Dr. Wheeler.
Many outstanding faculty members have left enduring memories at LSU. One such person whose memory lives on in the minds of his colleagues, friends, and former students is T. Harry Williams. An outstanding teacher, researcher, speaker, and writer, Williams remains an example of the standard of excellence for which LSU faculty, staff, and students strive.

An outstanding teacher and researcher, Williams was a Boyd Professor, the highest rank among LSU faculty. Even beyond the halls of LSU, however, Williams’ reputation as a world-class historian resounds nearly forty years after his death. A man with rare talent and verve, he achieved the almost impossible in 1969 by winning both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in the same year for his biography of Huey Long.

Like Long, Williams, according to former colleagues, was a charismatic and commanding figure, and students clamored to get into his classes. “He was quite a performer,” Professor Bill Cooper recently explained. “Harry believed in making the material interesting. His seminar on the Civil War was by far his largest class.” This particular class was so popular, local residents would register for the course to hear Williams lecture.

Cooper first met Williams when he arrived at LSU to interview for a position in the History Department in 1968. His major professor at Johns Hopkins University, David Donald, was a friend of Williams, so Cooper was already familiar with Williams’ academic reputation. “He liked to encourage junior faculty,” Cooper recalls. “But he was very aware of his own position. He joked that he was THE Harry Williams.”

Another colleague, Paul E. Hoffman, remembers being warned by peers before he took a faculty position in the LSU History Department that “T. Harry Williams devours assistant professors for lunch.” Hoffman, cautious but not intimidated, discovered to his relief that Williams was quite amiable—though junior faculty were made to understand that they were not in his league.

One of Cooper’s most vivid memories of Williams is of the “Bull Pen.” A large open space on one end of Allen Hall served as an anteroom for a circle of senior faculty offices at the head of the inner hallway. This open space, dubbed the “Bull Pen” and furnished with a conference table and chairs, was the frequent site of boisterous debates and discussions among faculty and graduate students that often had nothing to do with academics. Williams presided over many of these sessions. “Harry was gregarious and loved jokes,” Cooper remembers.

Mary Frey Eaton recently explained, “Certain qualities are necessary to be a good teacher, and one of the
most important is ‘ham.’ Harry was one of the best because he was full of ‘ham’—he was almost more than you could stand!”

Eaton, the daughter of campus icon Fred Frey who served a variety of capacities at LSU from 1916 onward, was born on the old LSU campus in 1924. She remembers both Harry Williams and Estelle (Stell) Skolfield Lore, who married Williams in 1952 after working with Williams on several of his books. Eaton recalls that her father considered Estelle, who began teaching at LSU in 1938 in the English department, to be an excellent teacher. Estelle first worked with Harry on his book on Abraham Lincoln in the early 1940s, typing the final draft of the manuscript. The pair continued to work together and began dating, but, according to Eaton’s recollection, Estelle refused to marry him until Mai Frances, Estelle’s daughter from her first marriage, had married.

“Harry had a wonderful sense of humor,” Eaton recalled. “He used to say he was trying his best to get Mai Frances married off so Stell would finally marry him.”

Williams’ sense of humor was matched only by the uncompromising standards of excellence that he set for himself and his students. Though he entertained them in the classroom, he expected his students also to perform well. He demanded—and commanded—their attention and held them to his high expectations.

Williams, the author or editor of more than fifteen books—including two that were published after his death—considered himself to be a “narrative historian.” He wrote to reach general readers, just as he spoke to reach a general audience in his performances in the classroom and in countless invited lectures worldwide. Besides writing and speaking on historical topics, Williams was also a leader in his academic field, serving as President of the Southern Historical Association (1958-1959) and President of the Organization of American Historians (1972-1973). He was a renowned Civil War history scholar long before he became famous for his work on Huey Long.

Williams’ most celebrated book, *Huey Long*, established a new standard, having been produced through a series of taped interviews, which were meticulously transcribed by Estelle Williams. This method allowed him to collect and store his research over a number of years. Of this method, Williams once said, “It’s no secret that I am a great believer in oral history. Trained researchers using a tape recorder ought to interview people to get the information that is in their heads and no place else.”

After Williams’ death in 1979, the LSU Board of Supervisors established the T. Harry Williams Scholarship fund and the T. Harry Williams Chair Professorship in American History. Another fitting tribute to Williams was the creation in 1991 of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU. Today, the Center, part of LSU Libraries, houses more than 3,000 interviews that have been collected since the Center’s inception. Staff at the Center also work with faculty, training interviewers and instructing students in service learning classes on equipment and interviewing techniques.

Bryan Landry, Director of Development for the LSU College of Arts & Sciences, recalls that, when he was an undergraduate, Williams was well known as one of the foremost historians of the twentieth century. “T. Harry Williams was one of the most heralded and accomplished faculty members in LSU history,” Landry says. “His national reputation as a scholar in his field and his affiliation with LSU still bring academic prestige to the university.”
In a very short time, the Chinese Culture and Commerce Program at LSU has made impressive progress. Fahui Wang arrived on campus in August 2007 to direct the fledgling program, joining at the same time the faculty of the Department of Geography & Anthropology. Professor Wang had as one of his primary objectives to establish an exchange program with Tongji University, which is located in Shanghai. Dean Guillermo Ferreyra’s visits to Tongji in 2005 and 2006 paved the way for this initiative, developing connections and friendships with faculty and administrators there, particularly with Peiming Lu, Dean Ferreyra’s counterpart at Tongji. In Baton Rouge, Wang has been working with LSU’s International Development Office to formalize the agreement between LSU and the Chinese university. Moreover, he coordinates the campus-wide program, working in concert with Professor Ye-Sho Chen, who directs the E. J. Ourso College of Business’s Modern Chinese Commerce and Culture Initiative, and several other faculty in colleges campuswide.

The program began in earnest with a faculty exchange in spring and summer 2007 when LSU Professor Angeletta Gourdine visited China and maintained a weekly blog for LSU students that provided an in-depth account of Chinese culture, scenes, and daily life from a Western perspective. In further developments, two members of the faculty of Tongji’s College of Foreign Languages visited LSU in spring 2008. One taught courses on Chinese culture, film, and literature in the Honors College and English. These two faculty members, Robin Hu and Alice Wei, very quickly adapted to the United States and particularly to South Louisiana culture. As the first two exchange faculty from Tongji, they set a high standard for the program and taught their LSU students about China not only through film and literature, but by sharing their own day-to-day experiences.

Wei recently shared these thoughts on her visit to the United States:

“The trip to America is a great treasure both to me and to my students at Tongji, with whom I share what I have seen, heard, experienced, and learned in America. We have read many books about American society and American life. Now we have had the opportunity to learn the real world and how it functions. Everyone has a ‘cave’ of one’s own, which originates from family, educational, and regional backgrounds, the people with whom one associates, books one reads...and thus tends to understand the world from this limited perspective instead of understanding it as it is.

“In this globalizing world, peoples with different ideas and cultures are becoming more tolerant with each other as the rates of exchange and interactions increase. Only by full exposure to different cultures will one enjoy a broadened horizon and not be narrow-minded. So this Educational & Cultural Exchange program promotes the mutual understanding and friendship and will benefit both sides a great deal.

“This has been truly an opportunity of a lifetime and an eye-opening experience for me to go to America, which enables me to have a better understanding of American culture, American values, and American people. And I am greatly touched by the warmth and hospitality of the students, teachers, staff members, associate deans and the dean of College of Arts & Sciences. I will cherish the memory forever.”

The program now has at least four students who intend to take advantage of the program’s academic minor. One of those students, senior Worth Wray, summed up his reasons for taking part in the program recently:

“With a population of over 1.3 billion people and average annualized economic growth in excess of 9.4% for the past twenty eight years, The People’s Republic of China is not only the world’s largest developing market, it is also the fastest growing economy in human history. Chinese citizens now make up roughly 20% of the world’s population and their growing competitiveness is changing the very contours of the global economy. Leveraging China’s competitive advantages is now essential to success in nearly any market, whether it is in East Asia, Western Europe, or the United States of America. LSU’s Modern Chinese
Commerce and Culture Initiative has given me a marketable edge by enabling me to refine my understanding of high-context cultures and complex developing economies. For these reasons, I believe that choosing the CCC minor was one of the best decisions of my college career.

Other students will be spending a semester in China as participants in the exchange with Tongji University. One of those students, Tel Rouse, from Morse, Louisiana, explained recently why he is looking forward to his year abroad:

"Since I was a child, I have always loved discovering new things and learning. I grew up in a very small community with virtually no diversity whatsoever, so coming to LSU has been a great change for me. I decided that I wanted to learn more about other cultures, and having had a great interest in Chinese cinema, I chose to minor in Chinese. I am now in my third semester of Mandarin, and even though I am a biological engineering major, Chinese is my favorite class.

"I was fortunate enough to be selected to attend the Gateway to China Program hosted by the Honors College this past summer, where we were given the opportunity to visit several universities and historical sites throughout China for about two-and-a-half weeks. I quickly fell in love with China and promised myself that I would definitely come back.

"I feel that China will be playing a big role in shaping the world’s future, and I want to be part of a generation that bridges the gap between the East and the West and begin cooperate on a grand scale as never before. My main interest of research as a biological engineer is alternative energies, a lucrative area of interest for both the United States and China. I hope to work with both nations to solve major issues that lie ahead. This program will benefit me in many ways. I am studying abroad in China to improve my written and spoken Chinese. It’s a fact that there’s nothing better for learning a language than immersing yourself in it, and that’s what I intend to do.

"That’s not the only reason, however. If I plan on working in Chinese research labs and businesses, it’s not just enough to simply understand their language. From my experiences in China, I want to gain a different perspective on economics, business management, and even political views by taking various courses taught by professionals in the field. In doing so, I will broaden my views beyond just a U.S. perspective, which in my opinion, will make me a much better globalized engineer."

Tongji University has several strong programs that will benefit LSU students as they spend their year abroad. Founded in 1907 as Tongji German Medical School by German physician Erich Paulun, the school then became Tongji Medical and Engineering School in 1912. Formally established as a university in 1923, Tongji is well respected for its strong architecture, engineering and medical programs and, because of its background, a highly esteemed German language program.

The strength and vitality of this multidimensional, multi-disciplinary program at LSU and the corresponding collaboration and collegial spirit between LSU and Tongji University bode well for the program’s future and its value to both institutions.
When Jerry and Nancy Dumas decided to give their gift to the College of Arts & Sciences and other LSU units, they did so with a great deal of forethought. Their multimillion-dollar gift, one of the largest in the history of the LSU College of Arts & Sciences, and the largest to the college so far during the Forever LSU campaign, has varied components: a $1.2 million gift for an endowed chair in political science, with an $800,000 Board of Regents match; a $360,000 contribution for an endowed chemistry professorship in Basic Sciences, with a $240,000 Board of Regents match; a $250,000 scholarship fund for student athletes to be administered by the Tiger Athletic Foundation (TAF); a $100,000 Aerospace Studies/Air Force ROTC scholarship; and $90,000 in support of the College of Arts & Sciences as a whole through the dean’s Excellence Fund. The matches for the original $2 million gift bring the total impact for LSU to $3 million.

Each of these components represents a facet of Jerry Dumas’s life, career, and personal philosophy: His four years on the LSU football team; his brother’s 30-year career in the United States Air Force; his own career in providing drilling fluids and other chemicals to the oil industry; his fascination with politics and the political process; and, finally, his love of learning and appreciation for the educational opportunities that LSU afforded him.

Jerry Dumas’s story is itself fascinating, and the stories he tells of growing up in Louisiana and going on to play football at LSU are as entertaining as they are uplifting. The son of a production foreman with Royal Dutch Shell, Jerry Dumas, Sr., was born in Kilgore, Texas, in 1935. Four years later, his brother, Charles, was born. When the family moved to Southwest Louisiana, the two brothers discovered a true sportsman’s-and young boys’-paradise. “We fished and hunted and hung around the boats on the canals,” Dumas explained. “It was a Huck Finn kind of life, and we made the most of it.”

In 1953, the Dumas family was living in Jennings, Louisiana, where Jerry played football, basketball, and track for the local high school and worked part time at a gas station, when he “decided” to go to LSU. “I pretty much always knew I wanted to go to LSU, but one day I was pumping gas for this fellow, and he asked me if I liked to play football. I said, ‘Yes sir, I do.’ He turned out to be Rock Reed, a backfield coach at LSU. He said, ‘Good. You’re coming to LSU.’ I said, ‘Well, I need to talk to my folks.’ He said, ‘I’ve already talked to them, and your bags are packed. You’re coming to LSU.’ I got in the car, and we drove to Crowley [Louisiana] to pick up another player, Paul Zigler, and then we drove all the way to Baton Rouge. That was how I came to play football at LSU.”
At the time, Gus Tinsley was the head football coach, but Paul Dietzel arrived for the 1955 season. Other members of the team while Dumas was at LSU included Harry Hodges, who was one of his roommates, Jimmy Taylor and Don Scully. The scholarship that he and Nancy Dumas established through TAF honors another teammate, I.W. “Red” Brodnax, who played fullback for LSU and was voted Most Valuable Player by his teammates on LSU’s 1958 National Championship team. Several of Dumas’s teammates-including Taylor and Brodnax-later played professionally.

When Dumas arrived at LSU in 1953, he moved into Broussard Hall, the athletic dormitory, and was introduced to the cafeteria there. Dumas recalled recently, “I had never eaten so well in my life—we had steaks every night. I thought I was in heaven.”

Dumas quickly discovered, however, that his football commitment to LSU was not all about eating well. He remembers the “two-a-days,” the early morning and late afternoon practices during the football season in which players were never allowed to take off their helmets or walk while they were on the field. “We ran or practiced plays, and we didn’t stop unless the coach wanted to tell us something,” Dumas explained. “We had to be on the field at 6:30 am every day, and we woke up to ‘Tiger Rag’ every morning. I got to the point that I hated that song!”

Another rude awakening came at the end of his first semester, when his grades revealed Jerry’s less-than-stellar performance in his academic coursework. Dumas recalled, “I didn’t do so well that first semester, and I was placed on academic probation. The coach took me aside and told me that if I wanted to play football, I had better bring my grades up. He very quickly instilled in me an appreciation for education. The next semester, my grades improved—I made sure of that.”

Dumas went on to play for three more seasons, even playing in his sophomore year with an injured shoulder (“I just wore a lot of extra padding. I looked like the Hunchback of Notre Dame out on the field.”). In that same year, he married but had to live in the athletic dormitory because athletes were not allowed to live off-campus. After completing his eligibility as a player and working to balance his personal life and academic career, and only six hours short of graduating, he left the university to support his new family.

**Life After Football**

After leaving LSU, Jerry eventually went to work for Hughes Tool Company. Through hard work, he rose through the company ranks, eventually becoming group division president of the company. In 1982, his supervisor at Hughes Tool suggested that he should be in line for the position of corporate president. The supervisor warned him that the board of directors would never select him for the position unless he went back to finish his university degree. Dumas promptly visited the admissions office at LSU and found that, instead of the six hours he needed in 1957, changes in his course of study would require him to complete 20 hours to graduate. Far from backing away from the additional hours, Dumas enrolled in both regular and correspondence courses and made the journey every week from Houston to Baton Rouge to attend class and finish the 20 hours. In 1984, at the age of 49, he graduated with a degree in general studies with a concentration in natural science.

Always seeking to fill gaps in his knowledge, Dumas left Hughes Tool Company shortly after he graduated to take a position with Merrill Lynch. He explained, “I didn’t understand finance as well as I wanted, and the position with Merrill Lynch gave me the opportunity to learn.”

In 1999, Dumas and a group of investors acquired control of a small oilfield services firm, Flotek Industries, which was headquartered in Canada and traded as a “penny stock” on the Vancouver stock exchange. He incorporated the company in Delaware, and the firm began its existence as an “over-the-counter” stock. Today Flotek is on the New York Stock Exchange and has an enterprise value of $600 million.

**Nancy Dumas’s Influence**

The position at Merrill Lynch also literally introduced him to another life-changing opportunity: Dumas met Nancy Lagow, who would later become his wife, while he was working for the company. Having earned a bachelor’s degree in Social Science with a minor in child psychology from Southern Methodist University and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin, Nancy had already had a successful career in the oil industry and had joined Merrill Lynch as a consultant in 1988. “She’s my greatest inspiration, the best thing that has ever happened to me,” he said of his wife of seventeen years.

Nancy also has a history of charitable giving herself, and she is a founding member and current president of the board of directors of the Dora Tes Basileas Foundation, a private family foundation that supports Christian communities. This group assists Christian organizations in a variety of projects, including a new one that provides assistance to homeless women and their children.

Jerry Dumas had always intended to bequeath a gift to the college but decided that he would rather see the benefits garnered by his gift while he could still enjoy them. Nancy Dumas’s influence helped in making that decision: “This story could not be told without including her,” Jerry stressed. “She is as much a part of this as I am.”
The LSU Department of Political Science already has a reputation for excellence, and its scholarly credentials will soon be enhanced further by the addition of the Dumas gift of an endowed chair. The Jerry and Nancy Dumas Endowed Chair in the Institutions of American Government will generate scholarship focusing on the institutions of United States government. Study of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government is fundamental to furthering our understanding of our own evolving political system and will benefit both the academic community and our larger society.

Department Chair James Stoner recently explained, “One of the most exciting things about the Dumas Chair in political science is that it is in an area of specific need in the department. The Department of Political Science currently has top faculty whose specialties range from political theory to the study of political behavior. This new position will serve as a bridge to connect the various approaches and subfields in the discipline and will give LSU a significant edge in recruiting both top undergraduates and graduate students.”

During its 100 years at LSU, the department has historically attracted brilliant faculty who have, in turn, brought LSU and the department international acclaim. One such example is the work of Eric Voegelin, one of a number of émigré scholars during the 1940s and 1950s who were instrumental in developing and fine tuning the study of political theory in the United States.

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Gift to Political Science Funds Endowed Chair

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Focus On: Undergraduate Students

Emily Carty, Senior
Major: International Studies & Spanish Minor: Political Science Hometown: Arvada, Colorado

Emily Carty's degree concentrations are in Latin America and global diplomacy. She is currently a member of the Spanish Club as well as the Spanish Honors Fraternity (Sigma Delta Pi) and will be graduating after three years. Encouraged by her family to have a broad perspective of the world, she has traveled to various countries, including Spain, France, England, Mexico, Canada, and throughout Eastern Europe. While these trips helped to guide her to desire an international-related career, it was her study abroad experience with the LSU Summer in Argentina Program that has impacted her the most. Her work with the Latino population in Denver and as a summer camp counselor for Concordia Language Villages led her to choose the program there. “I can’t express the gratitude I have to both the university and the Study Abroad Office for the opportunity to study in Argentina. I learned more than I ever expected to, not just in terms of scholastic gains, but also for the deeper understanding and appreciation that I have for not only the people and culture of Argentina, but the need to experience other ways of life through a first-hand perspective.” Emily plans to travel after graduation to Mexico and Kenya and to return to Argentina to live and work, either pursuing a career in education or International Relations.

Stephen Dale, Senior
Major: History/Secondary Education  Major: Political Science  Hometown: Kenner, Louisiana

Stephen will graduate this December from the LSU College of Arts & Sciences with a bachelor's degree in History/Secondary Education and a minor in Political Science. He spent his final semester student teaching at Robert E. Lee High School where he taught 11th grade American History. Beginning in the Spring 2009 semester, he will begin work on a master's degree in the Department of Kinesiology’s Sports Management program. Stephen spends much of his time outside of the classroom coaching basketball at the laboratory school on the LSU campus, University High School. Aside from teaching and coaching, Stephen enjoys attending LSU athletic events and passionately following his two hometown teams, the New Orleans Saints and Hornets. He is a 2004 graduate of Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, LA.

Kaylah Lalonde, Senior
Major: Communication Sciences & Disorders  Hometown: Cecilia, Louisiana

Kaylah Lalonde is a Ronald E. McNair Research Scholar and member of Assistant Professor Brittan Barker’s Spoken Language Processing lab. She is currently working on her honors thesis in collaboration with Barker and Instructor Wendy Jumonville, M.A. CCC-A. Her thesis, which examines the effect of listening training on children with auditory processing deficits, has received over $10,000 in funding to date. Kaylah will present her progress at the annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in Chicago this semester. She was one of five students nationally who were recently awarded a Students Preparing for Academic and Research Careers Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation. She also serves as senior liaison of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association, LSU chapter. Kaylah plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and Disorders and serve her community as a researcher and educator.
Lindsay E. Meyer, Ph.D. Candidate  
Program: Communication Sciences & Disorders  
Hometown: Washington D.C.

Lindsay is a doctoral student in the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders (COMD). She earned her B.A. in Elementary Education from Millsaps College and her M.Ed. from Southern University. She is the manager of Assistant Professor Brittan Barker’s Spoken Language Processing Laboratory in COMD and is currently working on a research project investigating the effects of accent on story comprehension in toddlers. Along with another doctoral student, Lindsay has initiated COMD’s first graduate student forum. Recently, Lindsay was accepted to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Minority Student Leadership Program. After obtaining her doctoral degree, Lindsay would like to teach at a major university.

E. Cory Sills, Ph.D. candidate  
Program: Geography (Anthrogeography Concentration) Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

After graduating with a degree in anthropology from University of Texas at Austin, Cory was a consulting archaeologist in Texas before deciding to return to school for graduate studies in Maya archaeology. She earned her M.A. in Anthropology in 2007 with a thesis based on her work on a project to map ancient Maya wooden architecture below the seafloor in Belize, which was directed by William G. Haag Professor of Archaeology Heather McKillop. Working for the State of Louisiana Division of Archaeology, she worked in historic preservation related to consulting archaeology. Her Ph.D. area is in anthrogeography, and she holds a graduate assistantship as part of the Underwater Maya project. She is currently teaching one course at LSU and developing her dissertation project and was awarded a Robert C. West Field Grant for preliminary Ph.D. fieldwork. Cory is an Associate Member of Sigma Xi and a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

Teresa Wilson, Master’s degree candidate (anticipated graduation in Spring 2009)  
Program: Anthropology Hometown: Lake Havasu City, AZ

Teresa Wilson received her B.A. in anthropology from Northern Arizona University before coming to LSU. She is studying forensic anthropology under the direction of Mary Manhein, the director of the LSU FACES Laboratory. She is currently completing her Master’s thesis that tests a new way of determining age at death by examining the mineral composition of bone and teeth. Teresa has a graduate assistantship with the FACES Lab that includes giving presentations about forensic anthropology to local schools and organizations, as well as working on the dental aspects of forensic cold cases. She plans to obtain her Ph.D. in forensic anthropology, to teach at the university level, and to become a practicing forensic anthropologist.

Margaret Wrenn, Master’s program  
Program: Anthropology Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Margaret is a first-year graduate student working with Heather McKillop in the area of Dendrochronology, the study of woody plants. She also works as a teaching assistant for Latin and Greek classes at the Runnels School in Baton Rouge. Having graduated in summer 2008 with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Classical Studies from LSU, she was awarded the Arts & Sciences outstanding senior award for both outstanding academic achievement and involvement in several activities both on campus and in the greater Baton Rouge community. Margaret is a founding member of the new LSU club, Students for the Promotion of Antiquities and served as its president last year. Since 2004, she has been a Louisiana Junior Classical League Graphic Arts Chairperson and has assisted with the yearly convention for Latin students statewide. She has also traveled extensively and, as an undergraduate, was awarded the LSU study abroad scholarship to study in Ireland. She has worked as a volunteer delivering Meals on Wheels to the elderly living in the areas surrounding LSU. Margaret also sang in the LSU women’s choir and plays the piano and the harp.
The reach of faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences frequently extends beyond their classrooms and students, offices and colleagues; their influence often spans entire oceans. French Studies Professor Adelaide Russo is a prime example of someone who not only inspires undergraduates and graduates at LSU, but who also has captured the attention and imagination of the French art and literary communities.

In November 2007, Russo received the prestigious Prix Debruss-Gas-Forestier from the Académie des Beaux-Arts (Institut de France) for her latest book Le Peintre comme modèle: Du Surréalisme à l’Extrême contemporain. Her work illuminates motifs about the relationship between poetry and art criticism in the surrealist movement. She has also been awarded an Board of Regents ATLAS grant to complete work on another book tentatively titled Michel Deguy's Perspicacity: A Poet's Moral Paradox in which she takes the reader into the world of one of France’s most philosophical contemporary “writers of poems.”

For Russo, French lessons began in elementary school, and she developed a lifelong love of the language. By high school, she was taking advanced courses in French, and when she entered Sweet Briar College, one of the premier liberal arts schools in the U.S., she was already fluent in the language. Though her declared major was English literature, a program abroad in France in her junior year convinced her to change her career path. She took her comprehensives in French and was accepted into the graduate program in French and Romance Philology at Columbia.

While she was in graduate school, she worked as the assistant to the “University Seminar” on Literary Theory organized by renowned literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said. Among its participants were such luminaries as Jacques Derrida and Harold Bloom. She was also a founding member of the editorial board of Semiotext(e), a journal developed by Sylvère Lotringer that had just come into existence when she arrived in 1974. She played a significant role in issues devoted to Georges Bataille and to contemporary French psychoanalytic theory. These experiences allowed her to witness some of the major debates in the international literary world of the 1970s in the midst of the field’s rising stars.

John Erickson, the first chair of the LSU Department of French & Italian, hired Russo because of her experience with Semiotext(e) to be the assistant editor of L’Esprit Créateur. Her editorial activities continue today with the journal Pleine Marge, which has just celebrated its 22nd year. In the December 2007 issue, Russo edited a 70-page anthology on Louisiana Francophone poetry and prose.

When Russo joined the faculty at LSU in 1981, Robert Penn Warren, the father of one of her school mates, wrote her a letter of encouragement in which he shared some of his experiences at LSU in the mid-1940s. Russo had visited Louisiana on two previous occasions during which she discovered Alexandria, Avery Island, Lafayette and especially New Orleans. She was fascinated by the idea of teaching for a brief period in the only region of the U.S. in which many of the residents still speak French as a first language. That curiosity has evolved into a love for Louisiana, its people, and its culture.

An extension of her curiosity and love for French language and culture is Russo’s involvement with the Belgian Francophone Literature and Culture in North America research center at LSU, which is one of only two in the nation. She collaborates with one of her former students, Fabrice Leroy, who is now at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and with Jean-Pierre Bertrand at the Université de Liège to bring speakers to Louisiana through the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles. Speakers in 2007 and 2008 included Belgian Ambassador Dominque Struye de Sweilandt and internationally acclaimed semiotician Jacques Dubois. In 2005, Russo and her colleagues also published a volume of essays on Belgian bande dessinée (comics...
and graphic novels) in the journal *Etudes Francophones*.

Russo also brings her unique perspectives to the LSU Women’s and Gender Studies Program. A founding member of the faculty in WGS, Russo organized a support group of women faculty in 1988 called “Women in the Humanities.” This group was a precursor to the WGS Program, and several of its members joined the faculty of WGS. Russo was an early member of the WGS executive committee, now called the Coordinating Council, and has served on the council twice since then. She has taught core WGS courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level and, with fellow French Studies faculty Lucie Brind’Amour and Kate Jensen, has developed four WGS graduate level courses.

While Russo remains intrigued with Louisiana, she brings a cosmopolitan flair to her classes, her writing, and her research that transcends regional—and even national—boundaries. She has never lost touch with the language, culture, and style that first motivated her to pursue French studies as a way of life. Her love for the Surrealist movement, particularly the art and poetry that the movement inspired, has endured throughout her career, and her enthusiasm for the genre and for French language and culture in general continues to excite new generations of students at LSU.
Women’s and Gender Studies at LSU: 
Teaching the Meaning of the F-word

When Emma, a recent LSU graduate, decided to take a Women’s and Gender Studies course in her final semester, her first reaction to her teacher’s question about who in the class identified herself as a feminist was a resounding, indignant, “Not me!” Emma says of that reaction, “I had only negative images of feminism and the people who called themselves feminists before I took the class. But I discovered that those negative views had nothing to do with reality. I still may not call myself a feminist, but I’m not afraid of the term any more.”

“Emma’s reaction is very common,” current Women’s and Gender Studies Program Director Michelle Massé said recently. “It’s the F-word. Many students come into our courses with misconceptions about what a feminist is, but we go through a checklist: Do you believe in equality for women? Do you believe in equal pay for women? Do you believe that women should be active in their communities? Do you believe that people should be civil to one another even if they disagree philosophically? Then-Surprise!-you may be a feminist.”

Generating lively discussions, sharing knowledge and information, and becoming engaged in the community outside the boundaries of the campus are all cornerstones of the university experience, and the LSU Women’s and Gender Studies Program is one unit that takes these foundations of higher education to heart. The program is relatively young, established in 1991, but the students in WGS are some of the most active on campus, participating in activities and events not only on campus, but also in the community.

Many WGS courses and those cross-listed with WGS include service learning components, requiring students to participate in community-oriented projects, such as a recent class that set up a media and computer room at a local shelter for women and children.

“Activism is an important part of the mission of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program,” Massé stressed. “Community projects help our students understand the world and themselves a little better. What WGS offers to our students is that what they learn in these courses really matters in the world. Our goal is to produce graduates who exhibit independence, courage, integrity, patience, and kindness.”

Besides serving as the current director of WGS, Massé was also the founding force behind the creation of the program. In the mid-1980s, other states’ flagship universities had already established WGS programs, and Louisiana was one of only two states in the nation that had not yet created such a program. Massé was hired specifically because of her background in women’s studies, and she recalls that, when she first arrived on campus, she frequently received phone calls from area residents, colleagues, and staff, asking for her help with a number of women’s issues, including many with which she had no experience.

“That’s when I realized that there was an enormous need and interest at LSU and in the community for a program that addresses women’s and gender issues,” Massé explained.

Massé was awarded grants in 1991 and 1994 through the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to develop and conduct month-long programs to work with faculty members from all over the LSU campus. These faculty studied feminist theory and pedagogy, learned from each other to become familiar with each other’s disciplines, and outlined the framework for the new WGS undergraduate minor in 1991 and the undergraduate major in 1994.

“We taught ourselves to teach the courses,” added another former WGS director, Margaret Parker, who is now an Associate Dean in the LSU College of Arts & Sciences. “In those days, we were all very active in working on women’s issues in the community, but few
of us had ever had formal instruction in women’s studies or feminist theory.”

Along the way, LSU added two more faculty with experience in women’s and gender studies: Robin Roberts and Emily Toth. Both joined the English department in the late 1980s and are still active members of WGS.

Massé expressed a mixture of pride, pleasure, and awe at what this handful of dedicated faculty were able to accomplish on a very small budget. “We were a do-it-yourself operation, and we did our share of the campus equivalent of ‘dumpster diving’ for office furnishings. The staff volunteered their time to do basic tasks, such as making copies.”

Parker remembers that space for the unit started with the Women’s Studies Alcove on the second floor of Allen Hall. The alcove consisted of a bookshelf and a small sitting area. Today the unit occupies a suite of offices in Himes Hall and employs a part-time office manager and a graduate assistant.

Other changes have occurred in the unit’s nearly seventeen years on campus. Massé recalls that the unit met with some resistance in its early years, and the WGS sign outside the office had to be replaced four times because of vandalism. Fortunately, attitudes have changed through the years, and the curriculum and its students, though not universally understood, have gained respect campuswide. Parker remembers that one of her colleagues volunteered hours of his time in the mid-1990s to help her create the unit’s website, which is maintained today in grand style by graduate assistant Jessica Ketcham Weber. The program also achieved another goal when the graduate minor won university approval in 2007.

Perhaps one of the most exciting signs of progress in the program is the addition of four new half-time faculty positions in WGS. In fall 2007, Challen Nicklen and Heather Ondercin (Political Science), Dana Berkowitz (Sociology), and Kristen Hogan (English) became the program’s first faculty for whom WGS responsibilities represent 49% of their time. These new faculty bring with them experience from WGS programs at other universities, as some of the criteria for selecting them were scholarship in WGS, affiliation with a WGS program at another university, and WGS teaching experience.

The implementation of these criteria in selecting WGS faculty also inspired Rita Culross, the immediate past director of the program, to suggest that LSU graduate students should gain experience in research and teaching in WGS as part of their education at LSU. This experience would give LSU students more options when they enter the academic job market. One way that the program encourages the graduate students in the program to get this experience is through its annual Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference. The conference, hosted at LSU, gives WGS students an opportunity to present their research and teaching experiences. The program also encourages students to participate in conferences and workshops outside of LSU, and offers funding for these opportunities.

In August 2008, the WGS Program hosted a presentation by Jane Henrici, a Study Director of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research working on women’s status after Katrina. Shown left to right are Henrici’s colleagues Angela Carlberg and Ariana Curtis, Henrici, and Elizabeth Domangue, a graduate minor in Kinesiology who has worked in the post-Katrina Renaissance Village.
students from around the U.S. opportunities to meet and present their work among their peers. The recent 11th annual conference in March 2008 featured the theme “Crossing Boundaries, Transcending Borders.” The conference, which is arranged by the faculty member in charge of programs for the WGS Coordinating Council, is a tribute to the quality and involvement of the program’s faculty, staff, and students.

Another way students in WSG have an opportunity to gain experience is through work with the program itself or with individual faculty members. For example, Ann Simon, WGS’s first Program Coordinator, received her MFA at LSU and then went on to pursue doctoral work in the Department of Rhetoric at the University of California at Berkeley before her untimely death in 1993. Her dissertation was directed by Judith Butler, one of the most prestigious scholars in the field of Gender Studies. The Ann Simon Outstanding Gender Studies Dissertation Award, funded by the Simon family, is awarded annually to continue the tradition of scholarly excellence that Ann exemplified.

Culross believes that WGS students, both undergraduates and graduate students, are some of the finest at LSU. “The level of discussion in the classes is always outstanding,” she commented. “The classes tend to be small, and the students are eager to be involved and engaged.”

Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, who served as WGS director from 2005 to 2007 recently commented on how her affiliation with LSU WGS affected her: “I found my experiences teaching WGS courses as being among the most meaningful during my time at LSU. Students pushed me in hundreds of ways to make our teaching and learning more relevant, and to dig deeper into the subjects that matter for women and men. I found a tremendous amount of energy and respect in my interactions with students in WGS classes.”

One of Culross’ fondest recollections of her time as WGS director occurred in early 2008 when, by coincidence, she telephoned the university from which she received one of her degrees. The father of a student who had recently graduated with a degree in WGS was the person who answered the call. “He noticed my title as director of WGS at LSU and thanked me for the quality of education his daughter had received,” Culross recalled. “It was the neatest experience of my year.”

In addition to Massé, Parker, Ropers-Huilman, and Culross, Petra Hendry, who is a professor in the LSU College of Education, has also served as a director of WGS. Two other integral members of the unit who served as directors have since left LSU: Dena Goodman is now with the University of Michigan, and Jill Suitor is with Purdue University.

Massé and the former directors all agree that publicizing the program and convincing students that a WGS degree can be worthwhile are important for the future of WGS at LSU. Several steps have already been taken toward that end. For example, Culross initiated an outreach to the community outside the campus by establishing a “Friends” group, and the faculty will continue to cultivate the relationships that develop through this circle of Friends. They hope that this group can be instrumental in creating student internships, enhancing communications with others beyond LSU, and developing a mentoring network in the local community.

Meanwhile, Massé remains awed by the colleagues and students who have made her vision for Women’s and Gender Studies at LSU become a vibrant reality. “We come from nearly every college on campus—you could say we are the core of LSU. The collective depth, passion, and intelligence of the faculty, staff, and students are remarkable.”
Daphne Cain: Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty Member Brings Social Work Vision

Lagniappe: Louisiana’s tradition of “a little extra gift” certainly applies to the LSU Women’s and Gender Studies interdisciplinary faculty structure. Professors from every college on campus participate in the program and give this College of Arts & Sciences unit the gifts of their expertise, dedication, and knowledge. One of these multitasking, multidimensional faculty members is Daphne Cain, an associate professor in the LSU School of Social Work. Cain has served on the WGS Coordinating Council for the past three years and is the chair of the Awards and Publicity committee.

Coming to LSU in 2001 from The University of Tennessee graduate program and with an undergraduate minor in Women’s and Gender Studies from North Carolina State University, where she received her undergraduate degree, Cain served first as an instructor while she completed her dissertation and then became an assistant professor in 2002. One of the first things she did when she arrived at LSU was to join the faculty of the Women’s and Gender Studies program.

“I took a ‘Women in Fiction’ course while I was an undergraduate at North Carolina State University, and the course changed my life,” Cain recalled. “I knew that I wanted to work with disadvantaged populations, and this course gave me the direction I needed and allowed me to explore the ideas in my head that I didn’t know there were words for. When I began working at LSU, I immediately looked for the Women’s and Gender Studies program.”

Recently promoted to associate professor, Cain is very excited about the possibilities that lie ahead in her research, some of which were prompted by her work with refugees from Hurricane Katrina. Approached by a social work practitioner from the Baton Rouge area, Cain began her work immediately after Hurricane Katrina, offering intervention to families living in Renaissance Village, a FEMA trailer community that was established in North Baton Rouge after the storm.

She and her colleague, Carol Plummer—who is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work and also a member of the WGS faculty—along with several of the area’s public schools to provide parent and caregiver support to survivors of Katrina. Their work earned them a grant through the Daughters of Penelope, a philanthropic society affiliated with the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association and the AmeriCares Foundation, that gave her group the financial support they needed.

Cain has also recently teamed with Rick Weil, an associate professor in LSU’s Department of Sociology, and faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi to study the significant role that churches played in responding to the needs of residents in post-Katrina Louisiana and Mississippi.

In the first phase of their research, the group discovered through a survey that a large number of evacuees turned first to their churches and pastors before seeking help from governmental agencies. Additionally, churches identified services they provided that impacted families in the immediate aftermath of Katrina. Currently, the group is surveying churches in the New Orleans area regarding service provision during the rebuilding process. Churches provided a strong and essential network of support for many people affected by Katrina. The downside of this network in some instances is the emotional and psychological toll on the pastors who provided this support. One suggestion among many that the researchers have been considering is to provide training for pastors to prepare them for future crises.

This research has provided important first steps in evaluating social networks and their effectiveness following major disasters like Katrina, but Cain sees more work ahead.

“For some people, the crisis is still going on,” Cain explained. “It’s amazing to me that it’s been more than three years since Katrina hit Louisiana. We still see anniversary effects of the hurricane on anyone who went through the storm. We see more stress-related deaths, more hospital admissions, more suicides than usual in the days leading up to and surrounding August 29.” She believes that the definition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder will change with more research on Katrina survivors. Symptoms of PTSD typically diminish
Dear A&S Alumni and Friends,

Every new academic year brings renewed energy, vitality, and surprises to the campus here at Louisiana State University. LSU was tested as we were confronted with hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Even more than in 2005, our beautiful and beloved campus was physically battered (particularly by Gustav), and our students, faculty, alumni, and friends all across south Louisiana and southeast Texas were left hurting. As in the not so distant past, LSU provided the model of leadership for our community and all of Louisiana. The PMAC was transformed into an acute medical care facility. Scores of volunteers from our campus community provided aid for those in the most dire circumstances. The Office of Residential Life sheltered and fed more than 3000 students who remained in on-campus housing during the storms. Maintenance personnel cleaned and restored the campus so that we could return to our primary missions of teaching and research in less than one week. On top of all this serious work, all of the LSU community managed to maintain our trademark hospitality towards visitors and welcomed our extended family back to campus for a couple of football games. All in all, not a bad start for this year.

The leadership, dedication to a cause greater than oneself, and jubilant spirit I outlined above are hallmarks of LSU. These are some of the qualities that make up our character as an institution and as a community, and they make us unique among American universities. They are our legacy connecting us with our past, and they are the most important treasure we will pass along to future Tigers.

In this issue, we highlight the extraordinary generosity of Jerry and Nancy Dumas. As you will read, this $2 million gift to the Forever LSU campaign will have a $3 million impact across several parts of the university including establishing a chair in Political Science and an endowed scholarship program for cadets in Air Force ROTC. We are extremely grateful to Jerry and Nancy, and we are equally thankful to all of you who support us with your gifts each year. Many of our A&S alumni give of their time, their talents, and their treasure. We benefit tremendously from your many investments in the College of Arts & Sciences. Each of you is vitally important to LSU’s overall success.

As we prepare to send this issue to press, all of us are experiencing what can euphemistically be termed a “slight downturn” in the stock markets, and I suspect that many of us are experiencing some degree of fear regarding our economic circumstances. Let me reiterate that, especially in this economic climate, we deeply appreciate your continued support of LSU and the College of Arts & Sciences. Be assured that we will always be good stewards of your resources and the investments you make in the university.

We hope to see you on campus soon. Please contact us when you are in town so that we can extend to you some legendary LSU hospitality.
New faculty with fresh perspectives help keep the university vibrant. Students become more engaged in classroom discussions when their professors offer them points of view that they may never before have considered, and research takes on national and international intellectual issues. One example of a fresh new voice in the College of Arts & Sciences is Heather Ondercin, who holds joint appointments in the Political Science Department and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Ondercin joined the faculty at LSU in fall 2007, coming to the university from Penn State, and she continues her long-term study of the impact changes in the social definition of gender have on political processes in the United States.

"The changing social definitions of gender," Ondercin explains, "reflect what it means to be a man or a woman in society at a particular point in time. For example, in the 1950s the archetype for women was Donna Reed by the 1990s women had Hillary Clinton and Madonna. Women experience conflicting roles and expectations because of the changes in society, which in turn redefines what it means to be a woman. We can also think of similar examples with men."

How these changing roles and expectations affect the political process, specifically the partisan attachments of men and women, is of particular interest to Ondercin. "In the 1950s, women were more likely to consider themselves Republicans and men were more likely to consider themselves Democrats." Ondercin explains "Today it is the opposite, women are more likely to identify with the Democratic Party and men are more likely to identify with the Republican Party."

What has caused men and women to flip their allegiance to the political parties is the central question in Ondercin work. "My research shows that as the social definition of gender evolves women have been more attracted to the Democratic Party, while men have been more attracted to the Republican Party, forming what is referred to as the gender gap in partisanship. This is likely a result of women being attracted to the social welfare programs endorsed by the Democratic Party."

How does this research apply to Louisiana? Ondercin is currently working on a project to investigate the public opinions of women in the South. She cites as an example that women in the South have traditionally tended to affiliate with the Democratic Party more often than with the Republican Party. Despite recent shifts among voters in general in the South, women have remained more likely to vote Democratic than Republican.

Besides her research, Ondercin is also teaching several courses, including one, "Gender and American Politics" (Political Science 4028), that is cross listed with the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. She is very excited about her students and their engagement in the classroom.

"I'm delighted by the diversity of opinions and backgrounds and political ideologies of LSU students. They're highly motivated and have no difficulty expressing their views. We've had great discussions in class. We sometimes became so involved in the conversation that none of us wanted to leave when class was over."

"It's also exciting to be part of the growth in the Women's and Gender Studies Program," Ondercin continued. "Many of us who are new can offer topics that were never offered before and can help enhance the program."

Those of us in Arts & Sciences are equally excited to have new faculty like Heather Ondercin who bring fresh views and important humanities research to LSU.
Outstanding Faculty College-wide

At the annual awards event of The LSU Centers for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in May, several faculty members from Arts & Sciences won recognition for their outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and service. Rodger Kamenetz, Professor of English, and Heather McKillop, William G. Haag Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Geography & Anthropology, received LSU Distinguished Faculty Awards. Carl Freedman, Professor of English, was presented the LSU Foundation Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award. The H. M. “Hub” Cotton Award for Faculty Excellence went to Phoebe Rouse, whose work with the new mathematics lab was featured in the spring issue of Kaleidoscope. Maribel Dietz, Associate Professor of History, and Wilfred E. Major, who teaches Classical languages and literature in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, both received the BP Awards for Undergraduate Teaching. Patrick Hesp, R.J. Russell Professor in the Department of Geography & Anthropology, was presented the LSU Alumni Association Faculty Excellence Award. The Alumni Association Teaching Assistant Award went to Jennifer Ellis West, a graduate assistant in English. Three faculty members affiliated with A&S departments were recognized with the Tiger Athletic Foundation Teaching Award: Kevin H. Grobman, Psychology; Katherine Renee Henninger, English; and William C. Rowe, Geography & Anthropology.

In addition, Eldon Birthwright, African & African-American studies; Rita Culross, Women’s and Gender Studies; Amy Fannin, Communication Studies; Alecia Long, History; Andrea Morris, Foreign Languages and Literatures; and Janet Norris, Communication Sciences & Disorders were each awarded Service-Learning Faculty Scholars grants through the LSU Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership (CCELL). These grants, according to a recent statement from CCELL, “encourage experiential education and ‘hands-on’ learning that benefits the community.” These faculty members will use the grants to engage their students in projects within the community that broaden the LSU students’ experiences while providing service to their community partners.

We congratulate these faculty members for their excellent service to students, the university, and the College of Arts & Sciences.

Communication Sciences & Disorders

The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders is proud to announce the recent hiring of audiologist Kim LeBlanc. LeBlanc received her MA from LSU in 1995 and for the past thirteen years has worked as a clinician for various ENT offices and hospitals in the Baton Rouge area. Her areas of expertise are in hearing testing, hearing aid dispensing and management, and balance testing.

LeBlanc’s primary responsibilities at LSU involve supervision of undergraduates who are enrolled in clinical practica. With her supervision, these undergraduates diagnose hearing loss and develop treatment plans for new patients. These treatment plans can include hearing aids, amplification systems for the classroom or work setting, referral for cochlear implants when severe to profound sensorineural loss is detected, and referral for other types of medical interventions in the case of disease. For patients with diagnosed losses or fluctuating hearing (as is often the case for children with chronic ear infections), LSU undergraduates provide monitoring and management. LeBlanc’s clinical supervision also extends beyond LSU’s campus when she and her students conduct weekly speech, language, and hearing screenings at various preschools and elementary schools.

With her help, the department has also re-energized the Hearing Aid Foundation Account. This account is funded by donations from faculty, alumni, and the general community. Its mission is to provide hearing aids to individuals who do not have the resources to purchase the equipment. Everlyne Wosula, an international student from Kenya, Africa, recently benefited from this program. Everlyne is pursuing a Ph.D. in plant pathology at LSU. She was referred to the clinic by the Office of Students with Disabilities because of her difficulties hearing. A hearing test conducted this fall within the clinic revealed a significant hearing loss in each ear. Wosula reported having this loss since she was a young child; however, her family did not have the resources to fit her with hearing aids. Recent donations to the Hearing Aid Foundation Account have been made by faculty from the Departments of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology. These donations allowed LeBlanc to purchase two high-quality hearing aids for Wosula.

Communication Studies

Two new faculty joined the department in 2008. Assistant Professor Graham Bodie (Ph.D., Purdue University) teaches and conducts research in listening and information processing. Instructor Ashley Jones-Bodie (M.A., Auburn University) is completing her Ph.D. at Purdue with an emphasis on organizational rhetoric.
Professor James Honeycutt published four book chapters in edited volumes dealing with imagined interactions and mental interaction. In addition, he co-authored two journal articles in the *Journal of Intercultural Communication* and the *Southern Communication Journal* that included a team of doctoral students: Khaled Nasser, Christopher Mapp, Joy Banner, and Betty Dupont. They reported on the emotional aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Additionally, he edited a volume, *Imagine that: Studies in imagined interaction* for Hampton Press. He is an author or co-author of five papers for the 2008 National Communication Association Convention in San Diego and the co-recipient of a 2008 NCA "Top 4" paper award.


Assistant Professor Tracy Stephenson Shaffer published two essays in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*: "Mapping Mediatization in *The Life and Times of King Kong*" and "On the Haunting of Performance Studies" (with Benjamin D. Powell). She received a $3000 grant to bring *Flight*, a performance by New Orleans-based theatre companies Mondo Bizarro and ArtSpot Productions, to the HopKins Black Box. Reelz Channel interviewed her as a "horror expert" for their show *Spotlight*.

Assistant Professor Stephanie Houston Gray edited a special issue of the *American Communication Journal* on Art and Science in an Experimental Age. LSU recognized her with the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi Award for outstanding research by a junior faculty member.

Assistant Professor Graham Bodie published articles about supportive messages, health marketing, and listening in *Communication Yearbook*, *Health Marketing Quarterly*, and the *International Journal of Listening*.

Renee Edwards, Professor and Chair, published an entry on "Information processing: Self-concept" in the new *International Encyclopedia of Communication*.

Communication Studies Graduate Student Accomplishments: Andrée Betancourt was awarded the 2008-2009 LSU Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship (this makes the fourth year running that a CMST student has received this award.) She directed a show in the Black Box Theatre and presented five papers at NCA and other conferences. Gretchen Stein Rhodes gave two presentations of her one-woman show. Pavica Sheldon presented six convention papers and published two articles in the *Journal of Media Psychology* and the *Journal of Intercultural Communication*. Five students won Top Student Paper Awards in their divisions from the Southern States Communication Association: Rya Butterfield, Danielle McGeough, Pavica Juric, Crystal Lane Swift, and Khaled Nasser.

**Comparative Literature**

The Comparative Literature program has been selected to host the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southern Comparative Literature Association. The three-day conference, with approximately 250 attendees, will take place at LSU in October 2010.

**English**

Mari Kornhauser, associate professor and director of the screenwriting program, organized a visit to LSU for eight eighth-grade students at Henry C. Schaumberg Elementary School, an East New Orleans Recovery District school in the spring. These students, members of a literacy group they named "The Freedom Writers Club," wrote several chapters of a novel, *504 Boyz Go to College*, about their vision of the life of LSU freshmen.

Also, Kornhauser’s award-winning micro budget film, *Kitchen Privileges* (aka *Housebound*) was released on DVD for the first time in the United States in late August.

In May, Michelle Massé presented "Old Stories: Gothic Aging in Dickens’s *Great Expectations* and Wilder’s *Sunset Boulevard*" at the Narrative conference in Austin, Texas. She has also been invited to be part of a roundtable in late December for this year’s MLA Presidential Forum on "Teaching the University."

Also in May, doctoral graduate Lisa A. Costello received the LSU Distinguished Dissertation Award, which is granted annually by the graduate school after a competitive review process, recognizing exceptional scholarship in two broad areas: arts, humanities and social sciences, and engineering, science and technology.

In June, MacCurdy Distinguished Professor of English Andrei Codrescu received a Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Bucharest. On hand for the presentation also was Joseph Kronick, who participated with Codrescu and others in a conference on "Writing the Self: Modes of Self-Portrayal in the Cultural Text," at the University of Bucharest, June 6-8. Codrescu delivered the keynote address, "Adding Life, Erasing the Record: Translating and Constructing Identity." Codrescu’s new book of poetry, *Jealous Witness: New Poems*, has just been published by Coffee House Press, with an included CD of the New Orleans Klezmer AllStars.
"Into the Maelstrom" based on a cycle of Katrina-inspired poems in the book.

Also in June, Professor John Lowe traveled to Paris to attend the Richard Wright Centennial Conference, where he gave a paper, "Richard Wright and the CircumCaribbean." He also participated in a memorial roundtable for Wright's biographer, Michel Fabre of the Sorbonne. The next week, Lowe presented "Migrations of the Heart: Claude McKay's Banana Bottom" at the MESEA (Multi-Ethnic Studies of Europe and the Americas) conference in Leiden, The Netherlands. In early July, Lowe was guest scholar for "Jump at the Sun: Zora Neale Hurston's Eatonville Roots," an NEH and Florida Humanities Council summer institute for teachers at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida. Also, MELUS (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States) recently named Lowe as the recipient of the 2008 MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to the field of Ethnic American Literature. The award will be presented at a ceremony to be held at the 2008 Modern Language Association Convention in San Francisco in December. Prior winners of this award have included Eric Sundquist of UCLA, Werner Sollors of Harvard, and Thadious Davis of the University of Pennsylvania.

Graduate student Penelope Dane’s MFA thesis, submitted as two novels-in-progress, made the semi-finals and the finals of the Faulkner competition. One of her poems made the semi-finals as well.

The latest issue of the journal Atlantic Studies (Vol.5, No.1), which is edited by William Boelhower, the Robert Thomas and Rita Wetta Thomas Professor of English, features a new long poem titled "History" by Brenda Marie Osbey. The poem is a revisiting of the Middle Passage and consciously shadows the earlier poem by Robert Hayden titled "The Middle Passage." Also, Boelhower has just published "The Rise of the New Atlantic Studies Matrix," in American Literary History (Vol. 20, Numbers 1-2), Spring/Summer 2008.

In September, Professor Moira Crone was informed that she had won the 2008 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction, awarded by the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Previous recipients include Cormac McCarthy, Dorothy Allison, Lee Smith, and Barry Hannah. The official presentation of the award will take place in spring 2009.

Pat McGee’s new book Theory and the Common from Marx to Badiou (his seventh) is set to be published by Palgrave Macmillan. His sixth book, From Shane to Kill Bill has just been reprinted. McGee is the Herbert Huey McElveen Professor of English.
Andrea Morris, Assistant Professor of Spanish, co-edited Celebrations and Connections in Hispanic Literature, a collection of articles based on papers delivered at the 25th Conference of Hispanic Languages and Literatures.

- Sylvia Parsons, Assistant Professor of Classical Languages, is a Mellon Fellow at the Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. She is conducting research on the theory and practice of fiction in 11th and 12th century Latin poetry.

- Joseph Ricapito, Professor of Spanish and Italian, has published his second book of poetry, Second Wave.

- John Pizer, professor and interim chair of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department in spring 2008, attended the semi-annual conference of the International Herder Society in Jena, Germany in August. He presented a paper titled "Herder und die Fabeltheorien Hegels und Jakob Grimms" (Herder and the Fable Theories of Hegel and Jakob Grimm) that will appear, in expanded form, in a volume of essays, entitled Herder und seine Wirkung (Herder and His Influence), to appear in 2010 from publisher Synchron Verlag.

French Studies

LSU has instituted a new academic exchange agreement, for students as well as faculty, with the University of Liege in Liege, Belgium. The effort to establish this exchange was spearheaded by Adelaide Russo, Professor of French and Comparative Literature.

Professor Jeff Humphries has recently published Katrina, Mon Amour (Paris: Editions du Seuil), an autobiographical account of his experiences in New Orleans and Central Louisiana during and after Hurricane Katrina. Professor Alexandre Leupin recently published Les Entretiens de Baton Rouge avec Edouard Glissant, a set of interviews with world-renowned novelist Edouard Glissant, recorded during the period in which Glissant was a Professor of French at LSU.

Center for French & Francophone Studies

Once again, the Center for French & Francophone Studies (CFFS) sponsored the all-night fund-raising event "Une nuit blanche à Baton Rouge," a night of French films, food, and culture. This year’s festival, held on Friday, March 14, at Baton Rouge’s Manship Theatre in the Shaw Center for the Arts, included the screening of four films: La Grande Séduction (Seducing Dr. Lewis); Indigènes (Days of Glory); Jules et Jim (Jules and Jim); and Paris, je t’aime (Paris, I Love You). One of the most attended cultural events sponsored by the CFFS, the next Night of French Cinema will be held once again at the Manship Theater on Friday, February 13, 2009.

The LSU Office of Research & Economic Development has appointed Sylvie Dubois, Gabrielle Muir Professor in French Studies and former Chair of the Department of French Studies, as Director of the Center for French & Francophone Studies. The CFFS serves the function of an interdisciplinary organization through which scholars can collaborate across their disciplinary boundaries. Professor Dubois’ goal is to develop coherent and original research programs on Louisiana and the French-speaking world, to stimulate the production of interdisciplinary scholarship by providing research funds to support the work of LSU scholars, and to generate supplementary funds from French-speaking countries and international agencies for the new CFFS initiative programs. The CFFS also acts as a liaison to two international funding agencies: the French-Speaking University Agency (Association Universitaire de la Francophonie) and the International Organization of la Francophonie (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie), both headquartered in Paris.

Geography & Anthropology

A group from Geography and Anthropology-Jacqueline Mills, Michael Leitner, John Pine, Barrett Kennedy and Andrew Curtis-were awarded the 2007 Meredith F. Burrill Award by the Association of American Geographers. This prestigious award honors the group’s post-response phase to Katrina and the support and research stemming from the LSU GIS Clearinghouse Cooperative located in CADGIS.

Michael Leitner was recently named editor of Cartography and Geographic Information Science (CaGIS), one of the premier journals in the field.

Boyd Professor Emeritus Jesse Walker is the 2008 recipient of the Royal Geographic Society’s Patron’s Medal for the encouragement, development and promotion of coastal geomorphology. Other notable past winners include Robert McClure for his discovery of the Northwest Passage, Capt. Robert Scott for services as leader of the National Antarctic Expedition, and Sir Edmund Hillary for Himalayan exploration.

R.J. Russell Professor Patrick Hesp, Ph.D. student Amanda Evans, Graziela Miot da Silva, Remote sensing surveys have identified high probability areas, such as this one in the Gulf of Mexico, with the potential to be prehistoric sites.

Geography faculty and graduate students have access to equipment, such as this wind tunnel, in their research on prehistoric archaeological features.
who is a geologist and oceanographer at Nicholls State University, and Associate Professor Barry Keim have been awarded $344,000 from the Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service (MMS) for a project entitled "Examining and Testing Potential Prehistoric Archaeological Features on the Gulf of Mexico, Offshore Continental Shelf." This project will evaluate whether previously identified "sites" actually represent preserved prehistoric archaeological deposits by conducting a series of high resolution marine geophysical surveys, collecting sediment cores, and carrying out detailed geomorphological and sedimentological analyses. As part of the study the researchers also hope to determine the degree of past and future disturbance to the sites by storms and hurricanes and will carry out seafloor mapping, set up a monitoring system at the sites, and conduct an analyses of long term climatological and oceanographic records. The project will also ultimately contribute to a better methodology for identifying prehistoric sites on the Gulf of Mexico offshore continental shelf.

Russell Fielding, doctoral student in the Department of Geography & Anthropology at Louisiana State University was invited to speak at, and to participate in, the 5th Open Assembly of the Northern Research Forum in September 2008 as a NRF Young Researcher. One of the main objectives of the NRF is to fund the participation of young researchers from the circumpolar north in the NRF Open Meetings alongside more senior research experts, officials and professionals. The young researchers are expected to deliver formal presentations based on their own research, serve as rapporteurs, evaluate presentations and discussions of all sessions conducted, and present their findings during a final Summary Session as well as in the published proceedings.

**History**

The department welcomes five new members this year. Andrew Burstein is the inaugural holder of the Charles Phelps Manship, Jr., Chair. Professor Burstein has published six books on early America, including most recently *The Original Knickerbocker: The Life of Washington Irving and Jefferson’s Secrets: Death and Desire at Monticello*, and has appeared frequently on "Book TV" and other national television and radio programs. Also joining the Department as a full professor is Nancy G. Isenberg, another specialist in early America but who also works in women's history. Her most recent book, *Fallen Founder: The Life of Aaron Burr*, was nominated for a Los Angeles Times Book Award. William Worger, who comes to LSU from the University of California at Los Angeles to be the Dean of the Graduate School, will also be a Professor of History. His research has focused on the social, cultural, and economic history of Africa, in particular South Africa.

The department is also excited to have two new junior members. Carolyn Herbst Lewis, another specialist in U. S. women's history, comes to the department after graduate work at the University of California. Santa Barbara, and works on attitudes toward sexuality within the medical community after World War II. Louise E. Walker, a specialist in modern Latin America, completed her graduate work at Yale University and works on the formation of the middle class in Mexico after 1968.

David Culbert has found a new forum for his scholarship—an essay that accompanies the digitally-restored DVD *Jus* Suess. His long essay puts this notorious antisemitic film of the Third Reich in historical context, telling the story of its production and original Europe-wide reception.

Rand Dotson, Senior Editor at the LSU Press who also teaches in the department, published *Roanoke, Virginia, 1882-1912: The Magic City.*

Last fall, Paul E. Hoffman delivered a keynote address at a conference, "The Spanish Constitution in the Independence of the United States," held at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery in conjunction with the opening of one of its exhibits.

Paul F. Paskoff published *Troubled Waters: Steamboat Disasters, River Improvements, and American Public Policy, 1821-1860.* He was also awarded an ATLAS Grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents to complete work on another book, a quantitative examination of various issues surrounding the Civil War.

Reza Pirbhai also received an ATLAS Grant to complete work on a book "Intoxication and Sobriety: Islam in a South Asian Context," which traces the intellectual history of Muslims in the region through the transition from indigenous rulership and colonial rule to independence.

**Jewish Studies**

Rodger Kamenetz, Ethel and Lea Sternberg Honors Professor in Honors College, 2007-2008, as well as Professor of English, Creative Writing, and the Founding Director of Jewish Studies at LSU, conducted a two-part interview with Oprah Winfrey about his book *The History of Last Night’s Dream: Discovering the Hidden Path to the Soul.* It aired the week of August 18 and August 25 on XM Radio as part of Winfrey’s “Soul Series.”

**Linguistics**

Candice Scott (Linguistics undergraduate minor) has had an abstract accepted to present a paper at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Hugh Buckingham (Professor, Communication Sciences & Disorders and Program in Linguistics) served as chair of the program committee for this year’s 46th international meeting of the Academy of Aphasia, held in Turku, Finland, Oct 19-21. The Academy of Aphasia is an international society composed of neurologists, computer scientists, psychologists, speech pathologists, neuroscientists, cognitive scientists, and linguists.

Associate Professor Lisi Oliver was awarded a subvention grant from the Centre for Medieval Studies at University of Toronto to support publication of her book *The Body Legal in Barbarian Law* by
University of Toronto Press. Oliver has also been named to the Literary Board of the Early English Laws Project, an international collaboration supported by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain.

Mathematics

The LSU Department of Mathematics has added several new faculty this year. New Associate Professor Milen Yakimov is a 2001 Berkeley graduate with interests in Integrable Systems, Representation Theory, and Poisson Geometry. He was formerly at the University of California Santa Barbara and Cornell University and was a Sloan fellow and a Clay Liftoff fellow. Two new assistant professors have joined the department: Phuc Cong Nguyen is a 2006 graduate from the University of Missouri and was a research assistant professor at Purdue. His main interest is PDEs with either an applied or geometric and harmonic analysis flavor. Among his recent work is an upcoming jointly authored *Annals of Mathematics* paper. Hongchao Zhang is a 2006 graduate from the University of Florida program in Applied Mathematics. He was an IMA Industrial postdoc, and his interests are Nonlinear Programming and its Applications. He joins the department on a joint appointment with the Center for Computation and Technology (CCT).

The department recently received a $3.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation’s Division of Mathematics to attract students and postdoctoral assistants to the study of mathematics as a career. Part of the NSF’s VIGRE (Vertical Integration of Research and Education) program, LSU’s grant will include developing a model for incorporating undergraduate research into the mathematics department. The LSU model uses "research crews" made up of faculty, postdoctoral associates, undergraduates, and graduate students. New postdoctoral assistants added through this grant are Chris Bremer, who is graduating from the University of Chicago as a student of Spencer Bloch, performing research in number theory; and Mark Bilinski, who is graduating from Georgia Tech and is a student of Xingxing Yu, performing research in graph theory.

Military Science

The Army ROTC program commissioned thirteen officers on May 15, 2008. These officers have moved on to their careers in the Army with jobs varying from aviation to engineering, and from infantry to transportation, working at posts all over the nation and the world.

In summer 2008, the Military Science Department sent twenty-two cadets to the Army’s Leadership, Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) in Ft. Lewis, Washington. Over 5,000 Army ROTC cadets from all over the nation attend this 33-day course after their junior year. The course incorporates a wide range of mentally and physically demanding events designed to develop and evaluate leadership ability. Overall LDAC scores are published using a three letter ranking system: E for exceeds expectations, S for satisfactory, and N for non satisfactory. Four of our cadets received an overall ranking of an E, which is highly competitive. Seven of our cadets received the Recondo badge, which is an award given to cadets who pass all events at LDAC with a 90% score or higher. Only 15% of cadets nationwide earn the Recondo badge.

Also, this summer several cadets attended a variety of training events. The cadets went to Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) where they took part in internships through which they shadowed Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and worked with them for about a month at different Army posts. The cadets participated in internships at Ft. Irwin, California; Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; and Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. The department also sent one cadet to an Army Medical CTLT at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, and one cadet to an Engineering internship at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Finally, a number of cadets attended Army schools. Three cadets went to Airborne School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where they learned how to properly exit military aircraft while in flight and land with the use of the T10 Delta parachute. Three cadets went to Air Assault School with the National Guard at Camp Rilea, Oregon, where they learned how to properly load and unload U.S. Army helicopters in flight and on the ground. One cadet was sent to Sapper School. The Sapper Leader Course trains selected combat engineer unit leaders in leadership skills, combat engineer and infantry battle drills, and the specialized engineer and infantry techniques required to perform as members of an Engineer Battalion. Finally, one cadet was sent to China as part of the cultural emergence program that encourages cadets to learn about other countries and their cultures.

This fall 28 incoming freshmen to Army ROTC received four-year scholarships. These recipients must meet the Army’s “SAL” (scholar, athlete, and leader) criteria in order to receive a scholarship. Our Army ROTC program is one of the largest in the nation. The battalion now consists of 13 cadres and 152 cadets with satellite programs at University of Louisiana at Lafayette, McNeese State University, and Southeastern Louisiana University.

Philosophy & Religious Studies

Associate Professor Paula Arai, in the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, has received an ATLAS grant to finish writing her book *Healing Zen: Japanese Buddhist Women’s Rituals of Transformation*. This ethnographic study opens up a window on the dynamics of Zen on the ground, a realm of Zen that has been hidden from view and far from the non-dualistic philosophical ideals and rigorous meditation regimen more commonly associated with Zen. It uncovers a “Domestic Zen” that thrives in the home and centers on healing, places where the messiness, fears, and vulnerabilities of life are welcomed. A Zen paradigm of healing focuses on “home-made” rituals that facilitate experiencing one’s interrelatedness to all in the universe and accepting the present moment with gratitude and as an opportunity to be compassionate. The primary field research in Japan was funded by a Fulbright Grant and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship.
The Department of Political Science welcomes seven new faculty members: Regina Lawrence arrived in fall 2007 and holds a joint appointment with the Manship School of Mass Communication. Johanna Dunaway received her Ph.D. from Rice University; Rosanne Scholl graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Chris Weber received his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University; and Michael Xenos’ Ph.D. is from the University of Washington. These four arrived at LSU in fall 2008 and also hold joint appointments with the Manship School of Mass Communication. Also arriving in fall 2008 were Dustin Howes and Laura Moyer. Howes received his Ph.D. from North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Moyer graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

Several faculty members have published books or major articles this year. Assistant Professor Rod Abouharb and co-author David Cingranelli have a new book out from Cambridge University Press titled *Harsh Medicine: Structural Adjustment & Human Rights*. Professor and department chair Jim Stoner and co-author Samuel Gregg have written a new book entitled *Rethinking Business Management: Examining the Foundations of Business Education* published by The Witherspoon Institute. Michael Xenos has co-written two articles, including one in the *Handbook of Internet Politics*. Dustin Howes, Kevin Mulcahy, and Jim Stoner have all written chapters in new books published in 2008.

In March 2008, George Noell received the Margaret M. Neely Award from the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation. This award is presented for outstanding volunteer service. Noell received the award for his work to make effective psychological treatments available to children with language disabilities generally and Autism in particular in Baton Rouge over the last decade. This award has been made only a few times in the Foundation’s 40 year history.

Robert Mathews, professor of psychology and founder and head of the department of psychology’s cognition and development Ph.D. program, was named Distinguished Research Master in May 2008. This honor is in recognition of his career achievements and decades of outstanding research. Mathews is currently the chair of the psychology department and co-director of the Office of Applied Cognition. He specializes in the phenomenon of implicit learning, or the acquisition of knowledge through experience without conscious intent to learn. Among other implications, Mathews’ research proves that implicit learning can be consciously accessed; that it can be generalized to new situations; and that it can be more effective in some situations than explicit learning.

Matthew Lee, promoted recently to the rank of full professor, has been selected to be the program co-chair for the Southern Sociological Society annual meetings for 2009.

David J. Kriskovich Distinguished Professor Joachim Singelmann has been elected president of the Rural Sociological Society.

Assistant Professor Dana Berkowitz has been awarded the 2008 Outstanding Research Paper Award by the Feminism and Family Studies Section of the National Council on Family Relations.

Susan Dumais was recently promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure.

Professor Wes Shrum will serve as the Society for Social Studies of Science representative to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Section on History and Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering from 2008-2011.

The department has two new assistant professors this fall:

- Sarah Becker (Ph.D. U Mass-Amherst) is a ethnographer who studies crime. Some of her special interests include community-based anti-crime movements, gender and crime, and popular sentiments about crime. Her appointment is a joint one with Women’s and Gender Studies).
- Justine Tinkler (Ph.D. Stanford) is interested in micro-level processes that create and reinforce race and gender inequality in institutions. She is especially interested in the ways that laws designed to reduce harassment and promote equality threaten widely-held cultural beliefs, group privileges, and the patterns of interaction between groups.

Among the several new grants awarded to our faculty in the recent past is one to Assistant Professor Tim Slack. He has been awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to explore the relationship between county-level socio-demographic characteristics and participation in the federal government’s Food Stamp Program.
From July 2007 through June 2008, the following donors contributed directly to the LSU College of Arts & Sciences through their gifts.
Forever LSU: The Campaign for Louisiana State University presents a unique opportunity for the University family to create a positive, permanent change that will make LSU a top-tier public institution. With help, the whispers of LSU’s past will unite into a thunderous roar that surely will be heard across our great nation.

Visit www.foreverlsu.org to learn more.
Twelve graduating students in the LSU College of Arts & Sciences received the University Medal at the spring 2008 commencement. Pictured with the students are Acting Chancellor William Jenkins (front row, left) and Dean Guillermo Ferreyra (front row, right).