LSU Scholars Examine Modern Religion’s Impact on Louisiana Culture

and more
In the weeks after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a small committee formed to monitor LSU’s response to the crisis. Most of its members came from the scientific and technical departments of the university, and the discussion understandably focused on the problems in the ocean and along the coast. I joked, not without some truth, that I attended so that I could periodically raise my hand and offer, “We do research, too.” One day I added: “You folks look at the impact of the spill on fish and oysters; our faculty studies its impact on people and their communities.” My flippantly aside, that was exactly right. One study by Humanities & Social Sciences scholars, for example, found that the spill brought “real and substantial” impacts on the mental health of residents of the coast, research featured in a story posted on the CNN website.

When most people think of research they have in mind large federal grants, test tubes, and projects in the hard sciences, technology, or business. Few think of scholarship and creative activities in the humanities and social sciences. H&SS has steadily increased its research funding; it’s up almost 40 percent since 2008. Grants each year now exceed five million dollars, with funding coming from such prestigious sources as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. These statistics, though, do not begin to measure the importance of our faculty’s research or the role it plays in helping people and communities. That help can be direct and immediate. H&SS houses two climate centers that warn of imminent dangers and track long term trends. The FACES lab’s efforts in identifying human remains and compiling a DNA database to help with future identifications are rightly recognized and celebrated by the public. The Speech and Hearing Clinic not only trains new speech pathologists, it provides invaluable treatment for children with severe problems in speaking as well as people of all ages who have trouble communicating because of strokes or other illnesses. The Psychological Services Center trains graduate students in clinical and school psychology while providing a full range of mental health services, including testing and therapy, for a local population in need of such care.

Scholars in the departments of communication sciences and disorders, and psychology perform basic research that result in better diagnoses and treatments of a range of problems, including autism, schizophrenia, Parkinson’s disease, and drug addiction. Our psychologists also make significant contributions toward understanding the reliability of eyewitness testimony or how distractions such as cell phones undermine our ability to concentrate and remember.

Other faculty members in our college focus not on the individual but on the community. They study how information about hurricanes and other catastrophes are communicated, providing potentially lifesaving suggestions on how to warn people of the dangers posed in disasters.

Others explore what factors, such as the presence of strong religious communities, contribute to social resiliency after storms. Most recently, they have agreed to provide data and analysis for an innovative program to reduce crime in Baton Rouge. Our faculty members study what practices make state legislatures most effective, what environmental or cultural factors most often lead to crime and violence, which forms of international aid prove most effective, what conditions make it most likely for two nations to negotiate a peaceful resolution of their conflict.

In addition to scholarship that can lead to stronger communities and better public policy, H&SS scholars explore age old questions and new developments in the humanities and social sciences, such as the role of religion in society. An article elsewhere in this issue recounts the work of several faculty members who study religion in contemporary Louisiana. Others in the college look at the role of faith in a longer and broader context, exploring everything from the nature of religious pilgrimages in the Middle Ages to images of Jesus in Modern Britain. Still others study Biblical texts or seek to understand various traditions in Islam or other religions—essential knowledge in a world rife with religious tension.

As the world shrinks and becomes more interrelated, scholars in our college use various methods and types of sources to better understand life in many societies—from the ancient Maya to the overcrowded cities of modern Latin America. While some H&SS faculty members focus on cultures in other parts of the world, probably more conduct research on our own. They study everything from the thought and lives of America’s Founders to attitudes toward sexuality in the present. Their studies of literature and popular culture help readers or viewers approach novels or movies with new understanding and refined enjoyment. And, of course, our college also boasts writers, filmmakers, and directors of performances who, through their creative work, reveal the attitudes, problems and possibilities of the present even as they bring joy to people’s lives.

Yes, we do research, too, and the results are both useful today and important to our futures. Our research influences and is cited by our colleagues around the nation and the world, which bolsters LSU’s reputation. That increases the value of an LSU degree when students apply to graduate school or look for a job. Our research enhances our students’ classroom experience and helps better prepare them to be good citizens and live fuller lives. Most important, when people everywhere learn from the collective scholarship to which our faculty contributes, it enriches their lives, strengthens their communities, and makes the world a safer, better place.

— Gaines M. Foster
Dean
Features

The Weather Outside
College’s climatology program contributes significant weather research and prepares communities.

Going Global
New H&SS residential college helps students expand international awareness.

Great Questions
Scholars examine modern religion’s impact on Louisiana culture.

Champions of Hope
As autism rates rise, LSU’s exemplary School Psychology program prepares the next generation of practitioners.

On the Cover:
Leeville Cemetery, established in 1905 during a yellow fever epidemic.
Photograph by Michael Pasquier

Departments
Message from the Dean
12 Development
12 Welcome
13-15 Focus On: Alumni
16 Readers & Writers
17 Department News

kaleidoscope
Volume 8

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The Weather Outside
College’s Climatology Program Contributes Significant Research and Prepares Communities

In the summer of 2012, Louisiana farmers were frustrated.

Growers in the northern half of the state had faced months of drought conditions that had left their crops parched and their growing season shortened. Meanwhile, their counterparts in South Louisiana were weary of excessive rainfall and its impact on seeds, young plants, and vulnerable roots systems. Every week the agricultural community looked to the State Office of Climatology, part of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, for data and information that helped shape decision-making about when to harvest, what to plant next and other important issues.

Then, in late August, the weather stakes in Louisiana rose even higher. Tropical Storm Isaac loomed in the Gulf of Mexico, slowly selecting a path that eventually led straight to southeast Louisiana, an area rich in agriculture and home to the state’s billion dollar oil and gas and seafood industries. As it does during every major weather event, the Office of State Climatology helped prepare Louisiana communities for what to expect. It was no small affair. Upgraded to a hurricane, Isaac made landfall on August 28 near the mouth of the Mississippi River, and soon knocked out power for 47 percent of state residents. Its storm
surge caused major damage in coastal communities and its sustained and excessive rainfall caused serious inland flooding in the areas west of Lake Pontchartrain.

Led by State Climatologist and Geography & Anthropology Professor Barry Keim, the Office of State Climatology informs the public about Louisiana weather conditions through daily, weekly, monthly, and annual reports. It also archives data, which are available for worldwide research projects.

“It’s the focal point for weather for the state and includes applied research and public information,” said Keim, who gives about 200 media interviews a year.

The Office of State Climatology is the public face of the Department of Geography & Anthropology’s Climatology Program, but is not its only research program. Two others are at work as well, the Southern Regional Climate Center and the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program. These three intersecting programs attract significant outside funding and help leverage additional research grants.

The Climatology Program includes seven faculty members working on groundbreaking research in a wide range of areas from paleoclimatology and climate variability to extreme weather events and agricultural climatology. Louisiana’s unique combination of natural features, including the Mississippi River, the Gulf Coast and the frequency of weather events makes it a rich research laboratory for climatologists. Their work has powerful implications for planners, governments and other stakeholders. It also resonates within the international community of climate studies, especially in regions around the world with similar conditions.

“The LSU program rivals any climate program in the U.S.,” said Keim.

The Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC) is one of six regional climate centers across the country and is funded by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Its purpose is to collect, archive and analyze climate data for Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas and to make this information readily available to communities. The SRCC has been housed at LSU since 1989 and is currently directed by Kevin Robbins, who also chairs the Department of Geography & Anthropology.

The SRCC performs a number of important functions concerning climate studies, including compiling data on regional weather patterns and sharing this information with private industries and public institutions in order to enhance community planning and management decisions. The SRCC responds to climate information requests from the agricultural and seafood industries, policy planners and managers, shippers, soil and water conservationists, forensic meteorologists, natural resources and environmental managers, emergency managers, and many others.

LSU also houses the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP), part of NOAA’s national Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment program. Its purpose is to increase resiliency and preparedness for climate and weather extremes now and into the future. SCIPP is a collaboration between LSU and the University of Oklahoma and like the SRCC, it focuses on issues within Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

Underway now at a SCIPP is development of a database that catalogues for the first time the storm surge levels of worldwide hurricanes since 1880. Called SURGEDAT, the database stems from dissertation research by LSU Geography PhD candidate Hal Needham. The project originated with a study of storm surge activity along the Gulf Coast and has now expanded to include data from all over the world with the intention of creating a comprehensive global dataset. SURGEDAT has already revealed patterns in both storm surges and in the “return frequency” of hurricanes in the Gulf and in worldwide locations—information communities can use for responsible town planning and storm preparation. Moreover, the database will serve as a launch pad for further research.

“What all of our climatology programs do is foster solid, ongoing research; we bridge the gap between the academy and communities on issues concerning climate.”

—Barry Keim

“Barry Keim lectures in Biloxi on drought and rainfall patterns.

“This is really significant for other researchers,” said Keim. “We’re getting a lot of positive response from our colleagues around the world.”

SCIPP has also taken a leading role in informing communities in its six-state area about managing drought. With drought conditions crippling much of the region throughout 2011 and 2012, SCIPP supported regional workshops, held bi-weekly webinars and provided valuable information in state drought planning exercises.

“What all of our Climatology Programs do is foster solid, ongoing research,” said Keim. “And we bridge the gap between the academy and communities on issues concerning climate.”

—Barry Keim
Going Global

New H&SS Residential College Helps Students Expand International Awareness

LSU freshman Alix Flinders spent her first semester at college engaged in a typical line-up of activities. She met dozens of new friends, learned her way around campus, savored the trappings of a large SEC school, and adjusted to life away from home.

But as a member of the new Global Connections Residential College, Flinders has also been busy poring over world issues with other students in her residence hall. Driven by their shared interest in international affairs, Flinders and 93 others have chosen to spend their freshman year in a living-learning community whose mission is to advance global awareness. Together, they have attended special topics classes held in their residence hall, networked with international studies scholars, practiced language skills, and discussed current events such as the London Olympic games, the 2012 Middle East uprising, and the American elections.

“I love it,” said Flinders, 17. “It’s been great because I get to meet other students within the humanities who have all sorts of different career interests, but who are open-minded and want to know more about the world.”

A communication disorders major, Flinders grew up in England and moved to Louisiana as a teenager. She graduated from Northshore High School before enrolling at LSU and says Global Connections appealed to her because of her personal heritage and her desire to converse with students who share her interests and curiosities.

“Right after I heard about it, I was really excited, and I took steps to pursue it,” she said.

Global Connections provides a dynamic living and learning environment for both international and domestic incoming freshmen. Flinders’ fellow Global Connections participant Jamal Mickel, 18, is a Baton Rouge native who developed an interest in world affairs while in high school at Christian Life Academy in the Capital City. There, he got to know several international students who broadened his perspective. Mickel says the Global Connections Residential College has been a great way to learn about life beyond Louisiana.

“We’re always discussing something about politics and world events,” said Mickel, an international studies major. “I’d like to go to China to study abroad.”
Launched during the 2012-2013 academic year, the Global Connections Residential College is sponsored by the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and is part of a growing movement nationwide to create a small college atmosphere within a large university setting. LSU has a total of eight residential colleges, six of which were added in the last five years. Along with Global Connections, the residential colleges include agriculture, basic sciences, business, engineering, mass communication, and the interdisciplinary information technology. Additionally, Herget Residential College is an interdisciplinary program that provides students a smooth transition from high school to university. Many of its students will become part of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Rooted in the traditions of Oxford and Cambridge, residential colleges place students in smaller halls or houses where they live, study, relax, and eat together. Many American universities, including LSU, have looked to the model as a way to provide students with a rich, personal experience during their first year of college. In a residential college, students become fully engaged because they establish meaningful connections with fellow students, faculty members, and the community at large. Students enhance traditional academics with enrichment activities, networking, and special projects that bring the curriculum to life.

“Residential colleges are very important for larger universities,” said Robert Rohli, faculty director of the LSU Residential Colleges Program and a professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology. “They help us stay true to our mission and ensure students learn both in the classroom and through everyday experiences. They also build positive relationships between students and faculty because they create opportunities for quality interaction. The students who enroll in them tend to have higher grade point averages and better retention and graduation rates.”

Situated in the recently completed Residential College One South Hall near the Indian Mounds, Global Connections is the newest residential college at LSU. It seeks to better prepare students for life in an increasingly global society and to expand their opportunities to study abroad. The program helps students connect local issues with international ones, broadens their perspectives and encourages them to think beyond their comfort zones.

“Our goal is to increase awareness about the world among our students,” said Global Connections Residential College Rector and Associate Professor of History Meredith Veldman.

Global Connections also addresses an important issue at LSU. Despite the increased importance of global connectivity, only two percent of university’s undergraduate students participate in study abroad programs, says Veldman.

“Developing friendships and making connections now can make the world seem a lot smaller for both international and domestic students.”

Veldman says that the residential college also plans to tap the resource of LSU’s large community of international students.

“We see all kinds of possible interactions, from practicing language skills to casual discussions about culture,” said Veldman. “The students already has it,” says Veldman. “They come to the residential college with the desire to learn about perspectives that can be radically different from their own.”

Moreover, because the students know one another from the residence hall, they are more comfortable engaging in classroom discussions, says Horáček.

“They are a cohesive group,” he said. “They know one another already and because of that we are more apt to have a better class. It’s one of the great benefits of the residential college.”

Veldman routinely asks International Studies faculty members to lead regular casual “Cookies and Controversy” discussions with students on global issues in the residence hall’s living room. Horáček held a talk during the fall on the Olympics. It spanned how different countries approach different sports, how they believe athletes should be trained, and the politics of the medal count.

Veldman says Global Connections’ first-year recruitment surpassed expectations and she expects classes to add more participants in the future, including international students.

“We’re very encouraged by the program’s reception,” she said. “It’s going to continue to grow and evolve.”

The Global Connections Residential College is housed in LSU’s Residential College One complex.
The relationship between residents and water is tightly bound on Bayou Lafourche, and hurricanes are a harrowing, but routine part of life. Most locals have earned their living on the water, either by fishing or working offshore and the threat of hurricanes is embedded in the culture; the collective memory is laden with storms of the past. When a new hurricane takes aim, many Catholics in the area repeat the prayer, “Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.”

Sometimes this recitation takes place within the walls of a church. More often, it is part of a personal ritual. A rough-hewn shrimp boat pilot might murmur it on one last trawl before hunkering down before the storm hits. A nervous young mother may whisper it while passing her shrine to the Madonna, a common garden element here. Prayers to Mary as Our Lady of Prompt Succor are not only offered before a hurricane, but during and after one as well.

LSU Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Michael Pasquier wanted to know more about the role religion plays in organizing the lives of residents of one of the most culturally rich—and threatened—parts of the world. Hurricanes are just one challenge faced by the people of Bayou Lafourche, an isolated area settled by Acadians and other immigrant groups that lies far south of Baton Rouge and New Orleans and is disconnected from the better-known Acadiana region near Lafayette.

Bayou Lafourche is also in peril from coastal erosion and rising seas. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the state has lost about 1,900 square miles of land since 1932 and this part of the state has felt it sharply. Land loss is palpable; even middle-aged
residents can recall when tracts of land now under water were solid ground. Moreover, the local economy is inseparably linked to the sometimes volatile oil and gas industry. Residents experienced deep personal and economic losses after the 2012 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, but they continue to see the industry as one of their greatest economic assets.

Bayou Lafourche and its environs have long been examined by international geologists, engineers, economists and climatologists. In recent years, this has reached fever pitch as Hurricanes, Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav and Isaac and the oil spill caused billions in physical damage and economic loss and accelerated coastal erosion. Pasquier was intrigued by how local religious practices interact with this thorny backdrop.

“These issues raise very existential questions for the people who call this place home,” said Pasquier, author of Fathers on the Frontier: French Missionaries and the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the United States, 1789-1870 (Oxford University Press, 2010). “This is the job of the humanities: to put a human face on stories that are often monopolized by louder elements.”

The study of religion has always formed an important part of the humanities, and many H&SS faculty from a variety of disciplines, study religious beliefs and movements as well as religion’s influence on society. Social scientists in the College as well have recently made the exploration of the influence of religion on individuals and society a major aspect of their research. Sociologists Matthew Lee and Troy Blanchard have found patterns between prevailing religious cultures and crime rates and mortality. And adult developmental psychologist Katie Cherry is examining the role of both liturgical and non-liturgical worship among older residents after large-scale natural disasters. Their work is opening fresh territory in traditional scholarship.

**Mixed Blessings**

Pasquier wanted to know more about how religion and society on Bayou Lafourche have adjusted to the area’s dramatic changes in physical landscape and to its ongoing environmental threats. Moreover, he wanted students to participate in the research. In his course, “Introduction to the Study of Religion,” Pasquier formulated an oral history project that enabled students to learn more about “lived religion” in Bayou Lafourche by traveling to the area and conducting interviews with longtime residents. The purpose of the project was to examine what kinds of everyday beliefs and religious practices existed in the community and how they have evolved alongside environmental issues. He reached out to the nationally renowned T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU as a research partner.

While Pasquier instructed students on the region’s religious, social and environmental history, T. Harry Williams Center director Jennifer Abraham Cramer ensured they understood the goals and principles of qualitative research. They learned interviewing protocol and proper recording techniques. Pairs of students were each assigned one of twenty lifelong residents who had been recruited with help from the Bayou Lafourche Folklife and Heritage Museum. Student interviewers asked their subjects questions that concentrated on two major themes: religion and the environment.

The responses they elicited opened a window into the highly personal role of religion in communities in peril. In one example, a resident discussed his memories as a child of Hurricane Betsy in 1965. As his family sheltered-in-place in their home the subject stayed up all night listening to the pounding wind and rain, even throwing up in bed. But his fear rose dramatically when he saw the men in the house pray the Rosary.

“When women pray, it’s alright,” the subject said. “When men pray, you know something’s wrong…When my grandpa and the other men started praying, that was scary.”

In another example, residents told students about family cemeteries that had been absorbed by the bayou as a result of rising sea level.

“Something like that gives new meaning to the term ‘final resting place’ as we know it,” said Pasquier.

The twenty interviews are housed at the T. Harry Williams Center and will be included in the LSU Libraries Special Collections where they will be available to future researchers.

Pasquier continues to study the relationship between religion and the environment in Louisiana. Since completing the Bayou Lafourche Oral History Project, he has begun a documentary film with LSU Department of English Professional-in-Residence Zack Godshall on the community of Leeville, which sits in the crosshairs of coastal erosion. He has also begun a project with the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio that records the personal stories and experiences of Bayou Lafourche residents through kiosks placed throughout the community. It is supported by a National Endowment for the Arts grant.
“This is the job of the humanities: to put a human face on stories that are often monopolized by louder elements.”

—Michael Pasquier


**Religion and Mortality, Segregation and Violence**

For the Baby Boom generation of sociologists, religion was not considered a relevant research subject, but in the last few decades it has reemerged as a valuable element in examining social behavior. For example, notable research has taken place on the impact of personal religion on personal health and mortality.

Expanding well beyond this framework, two LSU sociologists have conducted quantitative research projects that show how religion influences the structure of communities, including their rates of violence, racial segregation and mortality and how these rates vary according to differences in religious denominations. Professor of Sociology and Associate Vice Chancellor, Office of Research and Economic Development Matthew Lee and Associate Professor of Sociology Troy Blanchard have opened the discussion on the relationship between denominational patterns, or religious ecology, and social conditions in given communities.

“Religion is an important scientific aspect of a community,” said Lee. “Every community in the U.S. has a church. We wanted to ask, ‘does it matter,’ and ‘if so, how?’”

In independent and joint research, Lee and Blanchard have found that patterns of religious organization suggest certain outcomes, not because of a failing of particular denominations or their practitioners but because of way the denomination relates to the rest of society.

In a recent study on religion and population health, Blanchard and his colleagues examined how mortality rates in communities across the U.S. compare to the dominant religious cultures there. Their study refrained from examining religion as a monolith and used new theoretical and methodological approaches to show how variations within religious traditions can impact overall public health.

Blanchard used county-level data from the National Center for Health Statistics and church and church congregation data to look for patterns, and found a strong association between the presence of conservative Protestantism and higher mortality rates.

Blanchard believes this stems from a focus on “otherworldliness” in conservative Protestantism. Congregations tend to prioritize preparation for the afterlife, and their routines are heavily centered on activities within the church community rather than the community at large. In contrast, mainline Protestantism and Catholicism feature more robust interactions with the larger society and its issues, shown over time in their establishment of social justice programs, nonprofit organizations and hospitals.

Lee’s research opens new discussion about how religion impacts the well-documented tolerance for violence in the southern United States. Generations of sociologists have examined the roots of the South’s tolerance for violence, but Lee moves the discussion forward by examining the influence of immigrant groups and their religious orientation. Specifically, he looks at the evolution of Scots-Irish immigrants, their historic tolerance for violence and their attraction to conservative evangelical groups established in the South at the time of their arrival. In these denominations, an eye-for-an-eye philosophy is a prevailing element. Rather than pin violence on poverty, as past bodies of research suggests, Lee opens the door for a nuanced study on how violence is impacted by the structures of society, including its dominant forms of religion.

**Katrina and Patterns of Worship**

LSU Department of Psychology Professor Katie Cherry was in the third and final year of a major research study on aging when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005 devastating communities and causing the death of more than 1,800 people. A month later, Hurricane Rita made landfall, evacuating hundreds of additional residents and causing billions in additional damage. While her interview subjects lived outside of the primary disaster zone, they were well aware of the magnitude of the events. Many also experienced secondary impacts, such as the arrival of evacuating family members at their homes.

As her interviews for the Louisiana Healthy Aging Study continued during the storm’s aftermath, Cherry noticed her subjects repeatedly mentioned their personal religious faith.

“I was intrigued. The material was incredibly rich and opened up so many more questions about how people were processing and coping,” she said. “I thought, ‘I need to measure this and learn more about it.’”

Cherry, a quantitative psychologist, says this was new territory for her. She wanted to develop the right research tools for examining highly personal faith-based interactions. She reached out to Loren D. Marks, Kathryn Norwood & Claude L. Fussell Alumni Association Departmental Professor in the LSU School of Social Work, for assistance in developing a methodology. The two are colleagues in the interdisciplinary LSU Life Course and Aging Center where Cherry serves as director.

Together, they worked on a chapter on the impact of religion across different ages after catastrophe in the 2009 book, *Lifespan Perspectives on Natural Disasters: Coping with Katrina, Rita and Other Storms*.

Cherry’s interviews revealed a wealth of perspectives within older residents observing the storms of 2005. Many were undaunted in their faith and regular ritual of prayer and gratitude. Some focused on the role of the church in helping communities recover. A few clung to atheism.

Their responses help shape a more robust picture of the impact of recent natural disasters. The project has inspired Cherry to continue related research in areas of the state directly affected by the storms.
Champions of Hope

As Autism Rates Rise, LSU’s Exemplary School Psychology Program Prepares the Next Generation of Practitioners

When licensed psychologist and LSU alumnus Brian Esteve sits down to work with a young child with autism, he knows the treatment path he selects will have an enormous influence on the child’s ability to function and communicate in the future. It is a tremendous responsibility. Parents cling to the hope that their children will break past the disorder’s stifling limitations, and children themselves want to be understood. But Esteve says he is prepared for the challenges each case presents because of the rigorous preparation he received in the LSU School Psychology doctoral program, one of the most respected programs in the country. It is known for its strong publication record, significant research, and real-world experience for its students.

“At a certain point in graduate school—when I was doing an internship in New Orleans—I realized that I had been trained in a way that many of my peers around the country were not,” said Esteve, who earned his PhD in 2009. “At LSU, we had the benefit of an incredible amount of responsibility and direct work with the kids.”

By then, Esteve had worked extensively with autistic children at the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation (BRSHF), a nonprofit located in close proximity to LSU with which the School Psychology program had created a model community-university partnership.

Designed by School Psychology Professor George Noell, the autism program began as a pilot in 2004. School Psychology graduate students bring multidisciplinary, leading edge treatment to children ages 18 months to 5 years. This includes three combined interventions, speech therapy, applied behavioral therapy and occupational therapy, a rare offering that gives children the best chance at

Brian Esteve, Ph.D., a 2009 graduate of the LSU School Psychology doctoral program, holds a one-on-one therapy session with an autistic child at the Baton Rouge Speech and Hearing Foundation.
success, says Noell. Families benefit from top-notch treatment and graduate students benefit from practical experience.

“By the time I was in my internship, I had worked with about 20 kids and my fellow interns from other programs might have only worked with one child,” said Esteve, now employed by BRSHF. “Those of us from LSU had been given a lot of responsibility and the opportunity to work on treatment plans, and it gave us a lot of confidence. We were looked at as leaders among the other students.”

Small and collegial, the LSU Department of Psychology’s School Psychology program is consistently listed in the top three programs of its kind nationwide for authorship of scientific studies demonstrating the significant research and scholarly publications that emerge from the program annually. Its two senior faculty members are among the most respected school psychologists in the nation: Professor Frank Gresham, a social behavioral expert who created the program and serves as section head, and Noell, who is also known for developing a nationally respected program for assessing the preparedness of new teachers.

Gresham initiated the School Psychology program in 1981, when LSU was the only school in the SEC without such a program. Its social value was clear. The discipline of School Psychology focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of children’s and adolescents’ behavioral and learning problems, particularly within the context of the institutional education setting. School psychologists are charged with ensuring that children with behavioral and learning issues succeed to the best of their abilities, and that educational institutions and public policy constantly improve.

Gresham says that about 75 percent of school psychology programs are located in colleges of education, but the LSU program’s association with the Department of Psychology provides graduates a notable advantage. Their training in school psychology includes preparation to sit for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

“Training in behavior analysis is incredibly important nationally,” said Gresham. “It’s mandated for work in many settings, including work with children with autism. We don’t have any unemployed grads.”

About half the students in the PhD program are from Louisiana, while others arrive from elsewhere around the U.S., drawn to work with Gresham, Noell and others in the department.

Gresham is co-author of the widely used Social Skills Improvement System—Rating Scales, Classwide Intervention Program and Intervention Guide, tools that address the social competence needs of children and adolescents. He is a past recipient of the American Psychological Association’s coveted Lightner Witmer Award, the annual honor given to a young school psychologist who has demonstrated remarkable scholarship, and the APA’s Senior Scientist Award for outstanding research contributions.

Gresham has received more than $12 million in federal research grants for investigating topics such as assessment and classification of learning disabilities, identification of emotional and behavioral disorders, school retention, reading interventions, and development of social skills interventions.

Noell is also a past recipient of the Lightner Witmer Award. He received the LSU Distinguished Faculty Award in 2005 and has spent the last decade focusing on two key areas: the development of practical assessment tools that identify effective treatments; and, the development of follow-up procedures that lead to implementation of treatment plans by children’s care providers. One of the biggest challenges in treatment, says Noell, is treatment integrity, or encouraging parents and teachers to actually carry out a treatment plan exactly.

“It’s very important that we increase treatment adherence,” said Noell. “We want to support families and teachers in a way that works.”

Noell also created and has monitored the Value-Added Teacher Preparation Assessment, an instrument used by the Louisiana Board of Regents to examine the effectiveness of teacher preparation among first and second year teachers and its impact on student achievement. It has been praised by national education advocates, including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Alumni like Esteve say the School Psychology program’s culture is distinctly encouraging. Gresham, Noell and the department’s other faculty members believe strongly in providing solid scholarship opportunities for graduate students. Most of Noell’s articles are published with students. Established graduate students are expected to support incoming graduate students. And all students are given the chance to gain practical experience.

BRSHF Executive Director Melissa Juneau says the partnership between the nonprofit and the LSU School Psychology program has dramatically improved the lives of her clients while providing a powerful research laboratory for a new generation of school psychologists.

“From the research conducted in our facility, we now know that the community is stronger when we’re able to work together, as we have done here,” said Juneau. “I look forward to more collaboration. Our ability to interact with the School Psychology program has been a huge asset.”

Professors George Noell and Frank Gresham of the LSU School Psychology program.

“This is a testament to how a nonprofit and a university can create an innovative program for the community that has also been very impactful,” said Juneau. “Six dissertation projects have been run through our facility in addition to a number of master theses. We hear all the time from former students who thought this was an incredible professional opportunity.”

The nonprofit is in the midst of a massive expansion and has raised more than $5 million toward a $7 million fundraising campaign to build a new 26,000 sq. ft. facility on the LSU South Campus. It will be renamed the Emerge Center for Communication, Behavior and Development and will continue to expand its work with the School Psychology program.

“The community is stronger when we’re able to work together, as we have done here,” said Juneau. “I look forward to more collaboration. Our ability to interact with the School Psychology program has been a huge asset.”

fall 2012 11
Dear H&SS Family,

In the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, our Development Team supports the mission of our faculty and students by developing relationships with our alumni and friends. Over the last year, our team has been honored to meet some of you here in Louisiana as well as across the U.S. to discuss ways to better engage you with our college and LSU.

Your involvement with the college is necessary to our continued success! Our vision is for the college to be the top choice for talented students looking for their place at LSU and to do that, we need your help.

Whether you are providing scholarships and internships for our students, helping graduates adjust to a new area or investing in our faculty, your support makes continued growth and improvements possible.

We hope that you will stay informed of the happenings and accomplishments in the college by reading our quarterly e-newsletter, or connecting with us through Facebook or Twitter. We are also hosting alumni events in various cities, so when we come to your area, please join us to network and hear the latest college updates.

Please reach out to us and let us know how to better communicate the H&SS message with you and the LSU community by emailing us at hssnews@lsu.edu and be sure to check out our website, hss.lsu.edu.

We hope to see you soon!

Jill Roshto, Emily Adams & Teal Plauché-Morris

Student Spotlight: H&SS Student Advocates Promote Programs and Recruit Students

LOVE PURPLE
LIVE GOLD
Where Passion Becomes Genius.

You may have seen this slogan on television commercials during sporting events or on billboards in cities around Louisiana and other Southern states. This recruiting campaign, unveiled by the LSU Office of Communications and University Relations in 2010, has been important in promoting the idea that excellence in one area, like sports, can be used to promote excellence in all. LSU students have embraced the mind set of promoting academic excellence at LSU not just our success in football and baseball.

We know that the best way to recruit great students and promote the outstanding diversity of our College is to have our H&SS students do the talking. The spring semester saw the creation of an exciting new student group, the Humanities & Social Sciences Advocates. This group of undergraduate students, supervised by Associate Dean Malcolm Richardson, is dedicated to promoting the programs, initiatives, history and social environment of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences. These enthusiastic student volunteers are passionate about their experience at LSU and especially in the College of H&SS and are giving generously of their time and energy to help recruit new students as well as act as a liaison to the Dean’s Office. The H&SS Advocates are participating in a variety of recruiting events such as Kickoff LSU and student orientations as well as campus events like Fall Fest and the Student Organization Fair. We are so excited to have our Advocates help us build an even stronger College of Humanities & Social Sciences. Please look for more about the H&SS Advocates and their accomplishments as this program grows.
Focus On: Alumni

Dudley Carter | Inspiring Minds

Alum Establishes Scholarship to Honor Professor

In the early seventies, a young female student from Franklinton, Louisiana, sat transfixed in the classroom of LSU Political Science Professor James Bolner. His energetic and clear teaching style opened a new world of thought and awareness for Dudley Rochelle, a gifted student from rural Washington Parish. She had been the state algebra champion in high school and had earned a scholarship to LSU to study mathematics. But after Bolner’s lectures about politics and the connections between people and their communities, she made a life-changing decision to major in political science.

Nearly 40 years later, Dudley Rochelle Carter credits Bolner for inspiring what became a successful career in labor law. In 2012, Carter and her husband Jeff endowed the James Bolner and Dudley Rochelle Carter Scholarship in Political Science to pave the way for future bright minds.

“My decisions in life had a lot to do with Professor Bolner,” said Carter. “He made such a difference. He went out of his way to encourage me, and he was such a personality—such a great teacher.”

In Carter’s senior year at LSU, Bolner encouraged her to apply to the country’s most prestigious law schools, including Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Michigan and the University of Virginia. He believed she would be accepted anywhere. Carter was stunned. She had always been an exceptional student and hailed from an encouraging, successful family, but she had never considered aiming as high as Bolner suggested.

Carter attended Yale Law School, and was one of only 25 women in her class. After graduation, she moved to Atlanta to join a sister who was living there, and surprised everyone when her first job was working pro bono at a legal aid clinic.

“It was just something I wanted to do for a little while,” Carter laughs. “There weren’t many jobs available then and I only knew about six women practicing law in Atlanta at the time.”

She later clerked for a judge, honing her skills and sharpening her interests. She was drawn to labor law, and ultimately started her own firm with a partner. Spanos & Rochelle functioned successfully for more than 10 years. Carter’s practice focused on helping businesses construct solid, internal labor policies that reduced the frequency of litigation. She developed a strong reputation in business and public policy circles.

Spanos & Rochelle was later bought by Littler Mendelson, the San Francisco-based megafirm specializing in labor issues. Carter continued to work for the firm in Atlanta for more than 17 years. A senior partner at Littler, she was held in high esteem by the law and business communities and earned extensive professional accolades.

Carter was a pioneer in diversity policy, and had testified before the U.S. Senate and appeared on CNN and National Public Radio. She wrote extensively about labor issues for professional publications. Atlanta Magazine named her among its annual list of Georgia Super Lawyers between 2004 and 2009. She was a member of the board of governors for the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at Georgia State University, and served on the boards of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation and the Georgia Board of Commissioners for Equal Opportunity.

Tragically, Carter was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s Disease in 2009 and retired that year. Jeff Carter transferred the contents of her office to their home to serve as memory triggers for her accomplishments and for the friends and colleagues she had met throughout her professional life. Jeff retired in 2012 to spend more time with his wife, and despite the challenges of her condition, they have traveled extensively. Recently, they have journeyed to Scotland, the Florida Panhandle, and Louisiana, which included a stop at the LSU campus. Despite more than three decades of life in Georgia, Carter says she has remained a die-hard Tiger.

“I have never stopped supporting LSU.”

The gift of education transforms lives. The LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences needs strong scholarship and fellowship programs to attract and retain the best and brightest students from Louisiana and beyond. Scholarships and fellowships support undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students by helping to supplement the costs of tuition, fees, books, and other expenses associated with attending LSU.

To find out more information about student scholarships and other giving options, please visit the Alumni & Friends portion of our website at hss.lsu.edu.
Max Zoghbi | Journeys of Discovery

The trip of a lifetime. So Max Zoghbi describes his 2,300 mile journey down the Mississippi River. Starting at its source in Minnesota near the Canadian border, Zoghbi and two friends kayaked for 61 exhausting days before landing in New Orleans.

Often traveling in silence and spread out along the river each in his craft, the three young men paddled from sun-up to sun-down sometimes for 13 hours straight. Every night, they slept outdoors, three to a two-man tent. “We would wake up each morning not knowing where we were going, knowing that we would have to find a new home that night, and learning how to live day by day,” recalls Zoghbi. With nothing else to distract him, Zoghbi says he connected with nature, God, and himself. It was grueling work, but Zoghbi says it taught him the importance of rejecting anxiety and learning to be content.

The idea for the trip came to Zoghbi while relaxing on the Mississippi River levee while he was a student at LSU. Later, he learned that two of his best friends from high school, who were students at the University of Mississippi, had resolved to undertake a similar project. When they shared their mutual plans, they knew the time was right. Zoghbi graduated in May 2011 and he and his friends began their river journey that summer. They undertook it not as a grand lark or a voyage of personal discovery, but as a mission tied to a greater purpose. They used the trip to bring attention to community causes dear to their hearts. His friends chose a homeless mission in Oxford, Mississippi, while Zoghbi selected the Gardere Christian Community School in Baton Rouge, a kindergarten through fourth grade academy for children in one of the city’s most troubled neighborhoods. The trip raised more than $21,000 for Gardere, funds that were used to pay for tuition for four of the school’s 31 students.

Back in Baton Rouge, Zoghbi visits the school every week. He is at work on a documentary film, Awake in the Current, that chronicles his trip down the Mississippi and that features stories about the students and their families.

Zoghbi’s documentary project is directly related to his experiences in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences. Like many H&SS alums, Zoghbi did not begin his studies in our college. A native of Baton Rouge and graduate of the Dunham School, he was a pre-med major first, but soon discovered medicine was not his calling. He wanted to connect with people and share his talents in a different way, and like others in his generation, he wanted to find his passion and change the world at the same time.

After a brief try at nutrition, he became a Psychology major and fell in love with the curriculum. He also minored in business because of a newfound interest in entrepreneurship. Through several classes, he discovered he had a talent for creating videos, once even making a noteworthy rap video in Arabic. His interest in the film arts helped him catch the attention of Professor of English James Catano, director of the College’s Film and Media Arts program. Catano recruited Zoghbi for an FMA seminar in which students produced videos about the College.

Zoghbi’s time at LSU turned out not only to spark his Mississippi River journey but to plant the seeds for a career he had never anticipated. In February 2012, Zoghbi and another friend from high school started a video production company. They bought some equipment and developed a business plan with help from the LSU Small Business Incubator. Zoghbi says he and his partner are learning as they go. “You learn a lot in college,” he explains, “but you also have to learn by doing.”

The company provides full-service video production. They make wedding videos, short films, corporate training videos, and videos that promote new products, particularly for technology startup companies. In 2013, Zoghbi will travel with a country music act to gather footage for a music video. He says he strives to make each project special, with its own spark and passion.

The film Zoghbi made in his FMA seminar began by communicating the message that it was alright to start college without knowing what you wanted to do or be, and that college, especially the humanities and social sciences, were catalysts for self-discovery. For Zoghbi, who sees life as vast and inspiring as the river itself, his experience at LSU was exactly that. ✿
Like many residents of St. Bernard Parish, Walt Leger saw his world change drastically after Hurricane Katrina. As a lifelong resident of St. Bernard, he had always been involved in his community and was focused on making a difference for those around him. After the loss of his childhood home, it only increased his desire to “do something.” He moved to the Irish Channel Area of New Orleans shortly following the storm and was soon approached by some friends and encouraged to run for State Representative. He entered the crowded race of eight candidates and was elected as the State Representative from District 91 in 2007 and was reelected in 2011, unopposed.

On January 9, 2012, Leger was elected unanimously by his colleagues to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives. Leger is now the second highest-ranking member of the legislature and presides over the entire membership of the House in the absence of the Speaker. He also serves ex-officio on all house committees and as a member of the House Appropriations Committee and The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

“I was extremely humbled and honored to be elected Speaker Pro Tem by my colleagues,” said Leger.

“I feel blessed to work in service with them for the people of my district and the state.”

LSU is a family tradition for the Legers. His parents, siblings, in-laws and fiancée are all Tigers. Leger had a lot of options coming out of high school and made a lot of college visits around the country, but was always comparing each school to LSU. “I just never found any place as welcoming or beautiful,” recalls Leger. After a great meeting with former Dean Karl Roider and an attractive scholarship offer from LSU, Leger made his decision to come to LSU, a decision that he has never regretted.

“LSU offers the opportunity to meet people from every corner of the state and beyond. Our Louisiana culture is so special and unique and the people that I met at LSU as well as the courses that I took really helped me to better understand our place in the country and the global community. I am now charged with setting policy for the state and the understanding I gained at LSU has been an enormous help.”

As a Political Science major at LSU, Leger always enjoyed studying Louisiana history and politics. “The Political Science department was so outstanding and I had so many great professors like Dr. Wayne Parent and Dr. Mark Gasiorowski. My studies in the Political Science program really brought the unique and colorful history of Louisiana politics to life for me. I enjoyed all of Dr. Parent’s classes, but my very favorite course was ‘Race, Film and Politics’ taught by Dr. Parent and Dr. Elsie Michie of the English Department. This exceptional course reached across so many lines and really made me think about topics that I had never seriously considered before. These courses have served me well in my work as both a lawyer and legislator.”

Leger’s practices law with his father in the firm, Leger and Shaw, which specializes in maritime law and personal injury. In his work as a legislator, Leger focuses on coastal restoration, hurricane preparedness, improving transportation, and, of course, education.

“LSU is in a difficult spot financially,” notes Leger, “But I still maintain that LSU and its attendant institutions are one of the most critically important entities in Louisiana because they drive economic development on a fundamental level. As a State Representative, I will always do my best to make sure that LSU reaches its full potential, even in tough times.”

In addition to his work in education, Leger is proud of his role in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, which was passed in this year’s legislative session and will guide the state’s coastal investments for the next fifty years. The plan is designed to protect the coast’s fragile ecology and ensure its continued economic prosperity.

Leger was also recently appointed by Governor Jindal to serve on the state Rail Commission and was elected chairman of the committee. The group will look at the ways to connect the economies of Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Leger believes that a rail system can make this dream a reality. “The economies of the two cities are simply not working together as many other regional areas of other Southern states,” he said. “We think if we can connect them via train we can change that.”

At only 34 years old, Leger is an LSU alumnus who is really making a difference in our state. His advice for undergraduates is to study hard but don’t forget to have fun. “LSU offers a one-of-a-kind experience, so take advantage of all that the campus has to offer. More than ever, LSU needs the financial support of our alumni, so we all need to step up and contribute whatever we can,” Leger said. “The academic reputation of LSU continues to improve along with the value of our degrees. I am proud to be a graduate of LSU and always try to represent the school with honor and integrity. I want to see all LSU graduates do the same.”

Walt Leger | Alum Embraces Public Service

fall 2012 15
Readers & Writers Marks 20th Anniversary

Twenty years ago, the College of Humanities & Social Sciences’ Department of English launched Readers & Writers, a donor supported literary reading series that has brought phenomenal national and international talent to the LSU and Baton Rouge communities. Dozens of acclaimed and award-winning visiting novelists, poets, playwrights, and performers have shared their works on campus and in venues across the city. They have also delivered workshops for students and networked with LSU scholars.

“Readers & Writers has bolstered the culture of literary arts in the Baton Rouge community and it has placed our students face-to-face with some of the top writers and performers in the country and around the world,” said Associate Professor of English Brannon Costello, who co-directs Readers & Writers with Assistant Professor of English Lara Glenum. “We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished over the last two decades, and are looking forward to growing the series in the future.”

To commemorate its anniversary throughout the 2012-2013 year, Readers & Writers is holding several key events in the fall and spring, including “Poetry & Regimes of Power” on February 28, in which nationally renowned poets Dawn Lundy and Cathy Park Hong explore the intersection of the private self and the global capitalist empire; and “South to the Future” on April 11, when authors Jack Butler and Randall Kenan read and discuss their works which blur the lines between southern literature, science fiction and magical realism. Both events will be held at the Baton Rouge Gallery.

For more information, please visit www.lsureadersandwriters.com.

SOME FEATURED WRITERS have included

1993-1994
Andrei Codrescu
Rick Blackwood
Reggie Young

1994-1995
David Madden
Valerie Martin
Enid Shomer
Doris Betts

1995-1996
Richard Ford
Moira Crone
Maria Van Daalen
W.D. Snodgrass
Kathleen Snodgrass
Frederick Turner
Leon Edell
Dave Smith
Elizabeth Dewberry

1996-1997
Ann Beattie
James Wilcox
Paula Gover

1997-1998
Jill McCorkle
Paul Muldoon
James Olney
Lisel Mueller
Andrea Barrett

1998-1999
Gloria Naylor
Tim Gautreaux
Ellen Douglas
Rodger Kamenetz
Brenda Marie Osbey
Elizabeth Gilbert

1999-2000
Barry Hannah
Richard Bausch
Connie Porter
John Wood
Mark Poirier
Samantha Lan Chang

2000-2001
Lee Smith
Hal Crowther
David Kirby
Barbara Hamby
James Gordon Bennett
Tillie Olsen
Michael Griffith

2001-2002
Yusef Komunyakaa
Ross Spears
Stephen Dobyns

2002-2003
Josephine Humphreys
William Jay Smith
Keith Waldrop
Rosmarie Waldrop
John Fulton

2003-2004
Charles Richard
Beth Courtney
John Ed Bradley
Billy Collins
Ernest Hill

2004-2005
Bret Lott
Laura Mullen
Laurie Lynn Drummond
Olympia Vernon
John Murray

2005-2006
Cleopatra Mathis
James Lee Burke
Bret Anthony Johnston

2007-2008
Chancellor Skidmore
Joseph Lease
David Shapiro
Mari Kornhauser
Bhanu Kapil
Myriam Chancy
Allan Gurganus

2009-2010
Lara Glenum
C.D. Wright
2009 ALL CITY All Star
Poetry Slam Team
Clarence Nero
Ethan Gilsdorf
David Kirby

2010-2011
Robert Antoni
M. NourbeSe Philip
Mei-meif Bersonbrugge
Tao Lin
Allen Wier
Panthea Reid

2011-2012
Martin Espada
Julie Kane
Baton Rouge Youth
Slam Team
Sue Weinstein
Jen Hofer
Ava Haymon
Kate Berheimer
Josh Russell
Michael Griffith
Department News

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Assistant Professor Yunjung Kim received an “R03” award from the National Institutes of Health–National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. This 3-year project, titled “The Same Dysarthria in Different Languages,” will lead to better understanding of the nature of neuromotor disorders and associated speech disturbances by taking a cross-language approach to Parkinson’s disease.

Communication Studies

Based on his groundbreaking research on listening and social support, Assistant Professor Graham Bodie was the invited keynote speaker for the annual conference of the International Listening Association.

Professor James Honeycutt was recognized as a 2011 LSU Rainmaker in the Senior Scholar Category in the area of Arts, Humanities, and Social or Behavioral Sciences in a ceremony on April 17, 2012. The award is one of two given by the University to full professors and recognizes their sustained excellence in research and significant contributions to their fields.

English

Professor Keith Sandiford has been awarded the 2012 Frantz Fanon Prize by the Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA) in recognition of his overall contribution to field of Caribbean thought.

Associate Professor Mari Kornhauser is a 2012 finalist for the prestigious PenUSA award in the teleplay category for her work on Treme, episode “Slip Away” (HBO). In April, she shared in the Peabody Award earned by the series.

Herbert Huey McElveen Professor Laura Mullen has been elected to serve as the special delegate in Creative Writing for the Modern Language Association. Her seventh book, Enduring Freedom, was released in August 2012 (Otis Books/Seismicity Editions). Her sixth book, Dark Archive, was published by the University of California Press in April 2011. Sound and Rhymes, the bilingual poetry journal from Hong Kong, has produced a special issue on her work.

Cambridge University Press has nominated Associate Professor Michelle Zerba’s work Doubt and Skepticism in Antiquity and the Renaissance for the René Wellek Prize, which is awarded by the American Comparative Literature Association to the best book of the year in the field of comparative literature.

Associate Professor Jacob Berman has published American Arabesque: Arabs and Islam in the Nineteenth Century Imaginary. It appears in New York University Press’ series America and the Long Nineteenth Century.

LSU San Diego II Alumni Professor Bill Demastes edited, compiled, and introduced the newly released Best American Short Plays 2010-2011 (Applause Theatrebooks).

Professor Emerita Moira Crone has published a novel about New Orleans in 2121, The Not Yet (UNO Press).

Boyd Professor J. Gerald Kennedy has received the SEC’s inaugural Faculty Achievement Award. He also served as advisory editor of the just-released Cambridge University Press publication, The Letters of Ernest Hemingway: Volume 1, 1907-1922 and continues in that capacity for volumes two and three.

Professor Jim Catano has co-produced a documentary, Revisiting Flaherty’s Louisiana Story, with Patricia Suchy, associate professor in Communication Studies and Adelaide Russo, professor of French and Director of the LSU San Diego II Alumni. Film & Media Arts students and faculty recreated a scene related to the filming of Louisiana Story.
of Comparative Literature, which has been accepted for streaming at folkstreams.net.

Associate Professor Brannon Costello recently published *Comics and the U.S. South* (U. Press of Mississippi), a collection of essays co-edited with Qiana Whitted.


Associate Professor Solimar Otero has been elected to the board of directors of the American Folklore Society. She has also won a fellowship from the Ruth Landis Memorial Research Fund to conduct research in Washington, D.C. and Cuba.

Screenwriter-in-Residence Zach Godshall’s current film, *Lord Byron*, has been released by the Sundance Institute and is available for free download on iTunes, Amazon, YouTube, and Hulu. Website: http://lordbyronfilm.com.

Assistant Professor Lauren Coats has received a second grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support her project, the journal *Archive*.

MacCurdy Distinguished Professor Jim Wilcox has received the Louisiana Center for the Book Louisiana Writer Award for 2011.

Professor Emeritus David Madden and Instructor Kris Mecholsky co-authored *James M. Cain: Hard-boiled Mythmaker* (Scarecrow Press).

Assistant Professor Carolyn Lewis has been awarded a coveted American Postdoctoral Fellowship by the American Association of University Women. She will use her time on leave to work on her second book, a study of the Chicago Maternity Center, an important institution in the development of 20th century social policy.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Assistant Professor of Spanish Dorota Heneghan received the 2012 Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award. The award recognizes faculty who have been selected by their colleges or schools as outstanding teachers.

French Studies

Gabrielle Muir Professor and Director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies Sylvie Dubois is one of 14 co-investigators from French, American, and Canadian universities who were awarded a collaborative initiative grant on the French language in North America “Le français à la mesure d’un continent: un patrimoine en partage” (“French in North America: A Shared Heritage”). This seven-year research project is funded by the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Assistant Professor Rosemary A. Peters edited *Criminal Papers: Reading Crime in the French Nineteenth Century*, which includes essays by several graduate students in French Studies and the English Department.

Geography and Anthropology

Associate Professor Andrew Sluyter has been awarded a fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies, or ACLS, for the 2012-2013 academic year. The ACLS is a private nonprofit association of 70 scholarly organizations founded in 1919. Sluyter studies the cultural and environmental history of the Atlantic world. He is currently finalizing a project on the role of blacks in the establishment of cattle ranching in the Americas, including Louisiana. That work will appear in his second book, due to be released later this year by Yale University Press.

History

Boyd Professor William Cooper was recently featured on C-SPAN’s “Lectures in History Series.” Cooper was filmed lecturing to his History of the Antebellum South class on the subject of the code of honor in the South. His recently-published book, *Now We Have the War Upon Us* (Knopf, 2012) has also been a featured selection of the History Book Club.
The nation’s oldest, most prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, has named Katheryn J., Lewis C., and Benjamin Price Professor of History Benjamin Franklin Martin as a book critic for the “Life of the Mind” program in The Key Reporter, PBK’s national publication for members. Martin is the first professor from LSU to be selected for this honor.

**Philosophy and Religious Studies**

**Philosophy**

Professor François Raffoul’s translation of Juan David Nasio, *Oedipus: The Most Crucial Concept in Psychoanalysis* (SUNY Press) was named by Choice: Reviews Online as one of the “Outstanding Academic Titles” for 2011. Raffoul was also invited to join the editorial board of the prestigious philosophy journal *Research in Phenomenology*.

In May 2012, Professor Ed Henderson retired after 46 years at LSU. Henderson’s research focused on the thought of Oxford theologian and philosopher Austin Farrer. In 1967, he co-founded the LSU Honors Division, which subsequently became the Honors College. Between 1979 to 2001, he served as chair of the Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies and was instrumental in establishing the Religious Studies program in 1980. He held the Jaak Seynaeve Enhanced Professorship in Christian Studies.

The Fifth Annual LSU Graduate Philosophy Conference was held on March 9-10, 2012, on the third floor of the Student Union. Twenty presenters from all over the world spoke on a variety of topics in philosophy. Keynote speakers were Professor L. A. Paul of UNC-Chapel Hill and Professor Levi Bryant of Collin College.

**Religious Studies**

Assistant Professor Michael Pasquier, in collaboration with LSU Landscape Architecture Assistant Professor Kristi Dykema and LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio Director Jeff Carney, received an Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the project “On Land/With Water: A Mobile Museum,” an exhibition based in the Mississippi Delta. The exhibition will include a design simulation station, audio listening/recording stations, and a geo-spatial visualization laboratory. Their related work was previously awarded the Great Places Research Award from the Environmental Design Research Association. Pasquier was also accepted for the NEH Advanced Institute on Spatial Narratives and Deep Maps, which was held in Indianapolis at the Virtual Center for Spatial Humanities from June 18 to 29, 2012.

Associate Professor Paula Arai’s second book, *Bringing Zen Home: The Healing Heart of Japanese Women’s Rituals*, was published by the University of Hawaii Press. Arai was invited to deliver the keynote address at the Symposium on Domestic Dharma at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California on September 22, 2012. Her paper was entitled “Poetry, Power, and Personal Buddhas: Lay Women’s Healing Practices in Contemporary Japan.”

Assistant Professor Stephen Finley appears in three episodes of the web series “Black Folk Don’t,” a series of documentary conversations about racial stereotypes.

**Political Science**

Associate Professor Jas Sullivan has published two books this year, *Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus*, coauthored with Jonathan Winburn of the University of Mississippi, and *African American Identity*, an edited collection of essays by such leading scholars as William E. Cross, Jr., Frank C. Worrell, and Vetta L. Sanders Thompson.

James C. Garand, the Emogine Pliner Distinguished Professor and R. Downs Poindexter Professor in the Department of Political Science, has been appointed to the International Advisory Board for the Online Portal for Social Science Education in Methodology (OPOSSEM). His two-year term runs from July 2012 to July 2014. OPOSSEM is an online repository and community to facilitate the sharing of various resources for teaching social science research methods among educators in secondary, undergraduate, and postgraduate settings.

**Psychology**

Assistant Professor Julie Buckner recently received a three year grant from the National Institutes of Health–National Institute of Drug Abuse to develop and test an integrated treatment for individuals suffering from both cannabis dependence and anxiety disorders. People with cannabis dependence are particularly vulnerable to anxiety disorders, and anxiety among patients in treatment for cannabis dependence makes the treatment less successful. Her goal is to test whether treating both disorders simultaneously will improve the outcome.
Associate Professor Alex Cohen was voted one of four “Faces of the Future” from the Society for Research in Psychopathology. Cohen was also accepted into the Early Career Reviewer program at the Center for Scientific Review at the National Institute of Mental Health.

**Sociology**

The Department of Sociology recently celebrated its 75th anniversary of granting its first PhD. Since then it has awarded nearly 250 doctorates, making it one of the leaders in advanced training for sociologists in the Deep South. These graduates have pursued successful careers in government, business, and education, influencing generations of undergraduates and graduate students.

Associate Professor Edward S. Shihadeh, along with Fahui Wang, professor of geography are part of a team that received a grant from the Department of Justice for a community-based violence prevention program. The project is called the Baton Rouge Area Violence Elimination (BRAVE) project and focuses on the city’s 70805 zip code.

Associate Professor Tim Slack was awarded the LSU Rainmaker Award for Research and Creative Activity in the emerging scholar category. The honor is the leading University award for outstanding early career research productivity, and only two such awards are granted by the University annually.

Chair of the Department Professor Wesley Shrum premiered his new documentary film, “Brother Time,” which explains the ethnic violence after the last Kenyan election and promotes a peaceful election in 2013. The film has been screened at six film festivals, both in the South and internationally. The full 54-minute film is available on YouTube at http://brothertimemovie.com.

**THE H&SS DEAN’S OFFICE**

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For more information about the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, please visit our website at hss.lsu.edu or email us at hss@lsu.edu.
LSU Chancellor Michael Martin (far right), Provost Jack Hamilton (far left), and Humanities & Social Sciences Dean Gaines Foster (second from left) with H&SS graduates who received University Medals at the spring 2012 commencement ceremony. **Medalists**: First Row (from left to right) Jennifer Oglesby, Jessica Thomas, Mallory Chatelain, Katelyn Wood, Erin Mann, Ryan Krewsky Second Row (from left to right) Taylor Joseph Aucoin, William Henry Dunkleman Jr., A’Dair Ragan Flynt, Courtney Broussard, Bryanna Zawondniak