Why our name changed

No doubt you noticed a new college name on the cover of Kaleidoscope. On July 1, 2010, the College of Arts & Sciences became the College of Humanities & Social Sciences. This is the first issue since the change, so an explanation is in order.

For more than two years, a new name for our college had been discussed, first by the Provost, then by a faculty committee, with input from various departments. Some wanted to keep “Arts & Sciences,” while others favored “Humanities & Social Sciences.” Still others offered additional alternatives. No name pleased everyone, and none accurately described the exciting variety of scholarship and creative activities pursued by our faculty. In the end, the Office of Academic Affairs recommended and the LSU System approved our new name, the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Our new name does not change who we are, rather it acknowledges changes in LSU’s structure that have occurred over the last seventy years. When created in 1908, LSU’s College of Arts & Sciences, like most such units across the country, included the departments that formed the academic core of the university—the arts, the humanities, the physical sciences and the social sciences. Three decades later, LSU undertook the first of several reorganizations. In 1938, Chemistry and Physics left to form their own college; in 1983, with the addition of four other science departments from our college, it became the College of Basic Sciences. Last year Mathematics joined that college, which has now been renamed the College of Science. Our college has not only lost most of the “science” components that commonly constitute a College of Arts & Sciences, but some of the traditional “arts” programs as well. In 1966, the Department of Fine Arts moved to what was then the School of Environmental Design (now Art and Design); in 1998, Theatre became part of a new College of Music and Dramatic Arts. The cumulative effect of seventy-two years of reorganization renders our old name far less descriptive of our constituent departments than is our new one.

LSU is not alone in having a College of Humanities & Social Sciences; Carnegie Mellon and North Carolina State, for example, have adopted that name. Our peers who continue to use the name “College of Arts & Sciences,” contain the types of science and art departments we no longer have. For academics at other institutions and most people outside of academia, who assume the College of Arts & Sciences would contain arts such as music and theater and sciences such as physics and biology, our old name confuses rather than identifies who we are. It has even confused some of our students when they first arrive at LSU. “College of Humanities & Social Sciences” makes it easier for them to know where to seek help and find an academic home.

The new name changes neither who we are nor what we do. The College continues to have the rich diversity of interests and scholarship it has always had—and that makes finding the perfect name for our college impossible. Some members of the College’s faculty are scientists and others artists, and their contributions will continue to be rightly acknowledged and their achievements justly celebrated.

Our College has been around since 1908, our social science disciplines for well over a century, and the humanities for millennia. We will survive a change in name. In the final analysis, we will be known not by our name but by the quality of our teaching and our scholarship. The College of Humanities & Social Sciences maintains its commitment to excellence in both.
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Kaleidoscope
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Return on investment?

Various magazines and groups have recently compared the cost of college tuition with the amount of a graduate’s life-time earnings to determine if college is a good investment. Others may not perform such calculations but still talk as if higher education’s value lies primarily—if not solely—in training for a career. To those of us in the humanities and social sciences who have a profound commitment to a liberal arts education and see college as an opportunity for students to gain a better sense of self and develop a deeper understanding of their world, such conceptions of education are unsettling. However, if we place the current debate into the history of higher education in America, we find reassurance.

In colonial America, colleges stressed a curriculum centered on the humanities with an emphasis on classical languages, rhetoric, history, and philosophy. Since churches often sponsored these colleges, developing a student’s morals and character became one of their central goals. In the early nineteenth century, American colleges continued to see the development of their students’ character as part of their responsibility and, in an increasingly democratic society, they added another goal, preparation for citizenship.

As society became more complex in the late nineteenth century, a new emphasis emerged in American higher education. Harvard University pioneered an elective system that replaced the classical curriculum, and professional education became more central as the modern research university emerged. By the early twentieth century, schools of business and engineering were established, but other parts of the university did not escape the new emphasis on professionalism. Even colleges or programs that specialized in the liberal arts were expected to provide “certification” of their students; colleges vouched for their graduates’ basic skills and preparation to become successful middle class professionals.

The complex social and economic environment in the late nineteenth century, in which people became increasingly aware of living in an interdependent society and feared that common sense and old explanations no longer sufficed, gave rise to the social sciences, disciplines that trained professionals with expertise in how societies and economies worked. These new professionals—economists, sociologists, psychologists, among others—became an important part of the modern research university, joining humanists in the search to understand the human condition and behavior as well as to analyze societies and cultures in the United States and around the world.

Our College was founded in 1908 as many of these trends culminated. Throughout its history, its faculty members have pursued such questions in their scholarship and teaching. We continue to believe that the study of the humanities and social sciences helps develop character and prepares students to be better citizens. These goals exist alongside a responsibility to graduate students prepared to pursue a career. In fact, we have long argued that our College’s emphasis on critical thinking and communication skills excels at preparing students for a wide variety of careers. Preparation in these fundamental skills is particularly valuable in an economy where our graduates may have several very different jobs in their lifetimes. We continue to add opportunities to improve their preparation, which is why we encourage students to pursue high quality internships, some of which are described in this issue.

Our College remains committed to preparing students to be better citizens and better people. We will continue to bring new ideas to the pursuit of a very old conception of what education is all about—transforming lives.

Gaines M. Foster
Dean
Crossing the Divide

Internships Connect the Classroom to the World Beyond

Internships are a powerful element in connecting college students to the texture and rhythms of the professional world. Like early apprenticeships, they enable young people to experience specific fields while allowing employers a glimpse at the work ethic, talent, and skills of potential hires. Internships help students confirm their career interests—or prompt them to hone their search. They play an important role in shaping students’ experiences and in feeding a pipeline of qualified problem-solvers into the world of work.

“We’re seeing internships expand both in terms of numbers and in fields we previously hadn’t seen before,” said Joan Gallagher, LSU Career Services associate director of student services. “There are a lot of good options for students in the humanities and social sciences.”

Gallagher adds that more LSU students are exploring internships earlier in their college experience, an important step in building a resume in a challenging economy. Moreover, a growing number of internships are paid. Results from the Career Services’ annual Work Experience survey in 2010 revealed that 51 percent of internships completed by College of Humanities & Social Sciences students were paid positions. Some students may also participate in multiple internships throughout their college experience.

“Students have so much to gain from a good internship,” said Gallagher. “It helps them confirm whether they’re headed in the right direction, grows their skill sets and develops a network of contacts in a field they find compelling. It can be a great launch pad for a career.”

In their own words, these current and former College of Humanities & Social Sciences students share how interning bridged the gap between the classroom and the world beyond.

Margaret Looney (on left)
Major: Journalism Minor: International Studies
Graduation Date: May 2010
Internship: United State Embassy, Paris, France
What she’s doing now: Intern, International Center for Journalists in Washington, D.C.

Paris Match
I zoomed past le Jardin des Tuileries (pictured above left) in an unmarked black SUV with a driver named Oscar. I’ve got a bag of thank you gifts to deliver from First Lady Michelle Obama. First stop: Musée du Louvre. This expedition was one of my first tasks as a summer intern with the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France.

Returning back to the embassy, I passed through the daily security check and headed upstairs to the Cultural Affairs office where I worked on educational and cultural programs promoting understanding between France and the U.S. Over the course of my internship, I wrote content for a now-launched website on Franco-American exchange, researched information for a film proposal, and worked high-profile events like the July 4 celebration at the ambassador’s residence.

My international studies minor proved indispensable throughout my summer abroad. Taking French as part of my curriculum’s foreign language requirements enabled me to speak fluently and build a better rapport with Foreign Service nationals. Through global diplomacy courses, I
learned the political jargon and knowledge to thrive in this climate.

My internship bridged the daunting divide between college life and what comes next. It was a chance to see how professional settings work and it helped me gain confidence in my ability to be a team player among adults. I have only one regret, and it’s not the weight gain from crêpes and baguettes! It’s missing President Obama and his family’s visit to the Embassy by just three days. Delivering thank you gifts around the city from the First Lady is as close as I’ll get for now.

Osmar Padilla
Major: Disaster Science and Management
Graduation Date: December 2013
What he’s doing now: LSU Student, Intern

Securing the Future
Of all the ways to be offered an interview, the last place you’d think of is Facebook. But one day while perusing the Facebook pages of local government agencies, I got a message from the Deputy Director of the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness asking if I was interested in interviewing for an internship. After a face-to-face interview, I was offered the position on the spot. It has turned out to be one of my greatest experiences.

I’m still interning with the office, where I do everything from administrative work to reviewing emergency/hazard mitigation plans and participating in Emergency Operations Center activations during emergencies. This occurred when Tropical Storm Lee hit in early September. From basic to specialized tasks, I am learning the field from the ground up. My boss has given me more and more responsibilities and duties along the way, and every day I discover more about this particular career path. Everything I’ve learned in my classes, such as emergency planning, human resource management, and weather analysis is applied hands-on through my work.

No matter what comes next in life, I know my experiences at the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will serve me well.

Logan Sacco (on right)
Major: Communication Studies
Graduation Date: May 2011
Internship: Baton Rouge General
What she’s doing now: Community Representative, American Cancer Society, Baton Rouge

Giving Her All
While a senior at LSU, I had the chance to volunteer at the Annual Gala for the Baton Rouge General Hospital. I loved the experience so much I contacted the event director to see how I could become more involved. The next thing I knew, I was interning at the Baton Rouge General Foundation.

Immediately, I knew fundraising was a great fit for me. I could use my creative skills in event coordinating, and I appreciated that I worked for an organization that raised money for a good cause. I was able to work with three amazing women who taught me the ins and outs of fundraising. They became my role models. I experienced a great work environment and was given important responsibilities, not just mindless tasks.

I assisted in the planning and execution of several events, including the Excellence in General Gala and the 18th Annual Father Daughter Sweetheart Dance. My biggest accomplishment was helping to plan “You, Me & BRG,” an employee giving campaign that raised more than $104,000 in 2010. I designed event themes that were implemented in the campaign on both of the General’s Baton Rouge campuses. All of the events I worked on helped raise money for the hospital.

My experience interning at the Baton Rouge General Foundation truly shaped my career path. I found my calling and learned many valuable skills. Today, I hold a professional position in fundraising, which I credit to the experience I gained through my internship.
John-Scott Thompson  
Major: Disaster Science and Management  
Graduation Date: May 2011  
Internship: Supporters of Intercontinental Humanitarian Projects  
What he’s doing now: Environmental Consultant, Shreveport

The Logistics of Hope
Arriving at a farm in rural Kenya, it hit me that I was about to live in a mud hut for the next three weeks. I now realized why we all stayed in a five-star hotel the night before in Nairobi. The comforts we were used to back home were nonexistent here. I embraced the moment because I knew living this way and researching logistics for the nonprofit medical organization, Supporters of Humanitarian Intercontinental Projects (SHIP), was going to be the greatest challenge I had ever embarked on.

Each day our group set out to rural villages in Kenya to provide medical assistance to those who lacked access to conventional care. My mission was to help this new organization better organize and track its distribution of medications and supplies. The year prior to this mission SHIP had been to the same areas, but with little experience in record-keeping, they had purchased and taken donations of any medicines and supplies they could get. They quickly realized the need to plan better in order to prevent waste and increase efficiency. I was invited to track inventory of the medicines needed.

Each day I served as the group’s pharmacist, handing out prescriptions while recording a patient’s age, sex, and diagnosis and the medicines he or she was given. When I returned to Baton Rouge, I began my research on logistics in disaster science and management and used this trip as my case study. I spent the next two months compiling the data I had recorded as a reference for a return to Kenya I’m planning in 2012.

My time in Kenya was unlike anything I had ever experienced. It was a tragedy to see people living in such poor conditions, but their upbeat attitudes and spirits stuck with me. Now I look back and realize that no matter how hard things seem there is joy to be found. My fellow volunteers and I took these lessons with us to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, another of my once-in-a-lifetime experiences in Africa.

Catherine Sens  
Major: Political Science  
Minor: History  
Graduation Date: May 2011  
Internship: Louisiana Supreme Court  
What she’s doing now: First-year law student, LSU Paul M. Hebert School of Law

Supreme Experience
I was fortunate enough to spend two summers at the Louisiana Supreme Court (LASC) in downtown New Orleans. The first summer I served as an intern in the Clerk’s Office, working closely with a deputy clerk on editing and updating the court’s filing rules before they were proposed to justices. It was such an inspiring environment to work in. The professionals around me were always willing to answer all of my questions.

Even before my internship, I knew I wanted to go to law school. But what I wasn’t aware of was how much I didn’t know about the law. It’s hard to quantify how much I gained over that summer learning terms and procedures and simply working in a legal environment.

My success as an intern led to a student worker position at the LASC the following summer. I was given greater responsibilities. Anytime someone filed a document they had to come through the Clerk’s Office. I worked with the clerks to make sure the filing precisely followed the court’s rules. When filings did comply, we prepared them for distribution throughout the court. Every day I walked the halls of a historic, French Quarter building that could make anyone — interns and student workers included — feel part of something important.

I took away a lot from the experience. Now in my first year of law school, I realize how much there is still to learn, but there’s no doubt I got a head start from my summers at the Louisiana Supreme Court.
By Maggie Heyn Richardson

French director Jean-Luc Godard’s 1960 film *Breathless* about a petty thief on the lam in Paris is a classic example of the cinematic genre known as French New Wave, the low-budget style defined by unrehearsed performances and the use of “jump cuts” that resemble cheap editing. Like other New Wave films, *Breathless* is influenced by Hollywood and Italian neorealism, but it also captures the spirit of guerilla filmmaking in France from the late fifties to the mid-sixties. It was a time when young artists with handheld cameras were determined to challenge traditional cinematography and film narrative.

It’s hard not to find parallels between the French New Wave and the current era of accessible technology—in which making a film is almost as easy as making a phone call. LSU students will have an opportunity to explore those and other connections in a new course under design by Ubaye Valley Associate Professor of French Studies Kevin Bongiorni and Associate Professor of Communication Studies Patricia Suchy. Both scholars are part of the interdisciplinary Film and Media Arts program and are proposing 2012-2013 classes that explore the New Wave’s techniques and cultural implications.

Bongiorni and Suchy taught similar courses in 2009 and 2010 that examined the work of Italian director Federico Fellini and included a trip to Italy where students visited relevant sites and made their own short films. This time, they hope to take students to Paris.

“Being able to study these films and go the places where they were shot creates an entirely different learning experience,” said Bongiorni. “To study a filmmaker in his own milieu adds a level of coherence that doesn’t exist otherwise.”

That sort of immersive, comprehensive approach to understanding film is typical of LSU’s Program for the Study of Film and Media Arts, established as an interdisciplinary minor by the College of Humanities & Social Sciences in 1996. The program has steadily grown in popularity. In response, Humanities & Social Sciences introduced a new opportunity for students to major in it as a concentration within the Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree. In December 2012, the Program in Film and Media Arts will graduate its first class of students with this major.
The FMA curriculum focuses heavily on theory and history, said Program Director and Professor of English James Catano.

“The program has grown into a comprehensive, tight course of study that gives students a large scale sense of the industry,” Catano said. “It’s not only a paraprofessional program. Our intention is to turn out students who have a sense of the whole spectrum of what constitutes film, a 130-year art form.”

Catano adds that preparing students in this manner will provide them a solid base, priming them for “above-the-line” positions in the industry like producing, directing, writing, editing, and cinematography.

The program began when LSU Philosophy Professor Gregory Schufreider realized that students who had discovered the university’s smattering of film classes wanted to know what to take next. Several scholars were offering film courses, including Schufreider, who began teaching his popular Philosophy and Film course in 1982. Schufreider and a graduate student compiled a list of available classes in film, television, and other media and undertook steps to create a minor. He served as the program’s first director.

Schufreider recalls discussing the program with LSU alum and Hollywood director Steven Soderbergh at a dinner party shortly after its creation. Soderbergh verified the importance of a program that focused on history and theory rather than technique.

“Soderbergh commented that students could always learn the mechanics of filmmaking, but that this kind of curriculum would feed their ability to do something more difficult — to generate ideas — and to understand the context for those ideas,” said Schufreider.

More than fifteen years later, the FMA program continues to spark interest among students, especially now as Louisiana has become the third most popular location for filmmaking in the United States, behind California and New York.

The curriculum includes the history of cinema, national and international cinemas, film genres, film and media theory, video art, screenwriting, media in popular culture, the rhetoric and aesthetics of visual communication, and digital video production. About 30 faculty members, most from the humanities and social sciences, comprise the program’s faculty.

**Sweet Life**

Catano says LSU’s FMA program stands out for its rich international film focus. In the last two years, for example, coursework has featured the study of Chinese and Russian cinema, Bollywood, and French, German, and Italian films and directors.

“Film is a global phenomenon with vast socio-cultural implications and connections,” said Catano. “There is nothing like it in terms of cultural exchange.”

Indeed, the Fellini Project directed by Bongiorni and Suchy revealed the threads between technique, historical context, and “place.”

Bongiorni had routinely taught a course on Italian film and culture. Three years ago he proposed an idea to Suchy about teaching a class on the work of Federico Fellini and taking students to Italy to see where the influential director worked.

Suchy, then the Film and Media Arts program director,
agreed. Soon after, they began planning a 10-day Spring Break trip to Italy that linked two of their courses. The students and professors began in Rimini, the coastal city on the Adriatic Sea and Fellini’s birthplace, where they visited sites featured in Fellini’s films like the Grand Hotel and the Fulgor Theatre.

Later that week in Rome, they visited other prominent Fellini sites, including the film studio Cinecittà, Piazza del Popolo, the Spanish Steps, the Colosseum, the Forum, St Peter’s basilica, and the Trevi Fountain, an indelible image in La Dolce Vita.

The students also worked in teams and shot footage in many of these locations. Back home, they completed their own films as their final class project. Bongiorni and Suchy offered the course again in 2010.

“It was a huge success,” said Bongiorni. “Once students begin to understand the influences behind films and the contexts in which they were made, it’s like they have a key for unlocking their secrets.”

Suchy says the FMA program was strengthened by its use of the physical space known as Studio 151.

Louisiana Story

It wasn’t the first hands-on project for FMA students. Suchy believes the program reached a new level in 2006 when students and faculty revisited the documentary film classic Louisiana Story (1949), the final film of director Robert Flaherty. The pioneering filmmaker is also known for Nanook of the North (1921) and Man of Aran (1934), but Louisiana Story is often seen as his most important work.

Funded by Standard Oil, the film depicts the oil industry’s arrival in Louisiana through the experience of the Cajun boy, J.C. Boudreaux. Flaherty scripted Boudreaux’s performance and asked him to enact stumbling upon drilling rigs while carrying out routine activities like fishing and boating. Thus, the film presents fascinating opportunities to explore the representation of Cajuns, the arts of mythmaking and docudrama, and the way in which Flaherty presented the collision of man and machine.

Suchy, Catano and French Studies Professor Adelaide Russo added another dimension to the study of the film when they teamed with international documentarian Rob Rombout on a project that enabled students to retrace the making of Louisiana Story in the field. Students visited sites where Flaherty filmed and created their own film in response to the original work.

Revisiting Flaherty’s Louisiana/Story was first screened in November 2006 in the LSU HopKins Black Box Theatre. Last year, writings and film excerpts from the project were accepted to the online journal, Southern Spaces, where they remain.

Intentional Space

Suchy says the FMA program was been further strengthened by its use of the physical space known as Studio 151.
Located in 151 Coates Hall, the studio includes audio-visual equipment for students from FMA and from the interdisciplinary program, Communication across the Curriculum (CxC).

The studio features a professional audio recording sound booth, a writing center, workstations for individual or group editing, and an extensive DVD library for faculty. It also includes audio-visual equipment available for student check-out, like camcorders, tri-pods, and flip cameras.

“The challenge with interdisciplinary programs is that they exist in the virtual realm,” Suchy said. “Having physical space has been very important.”

FMA students flock to the hub to edit digital films or work on group projects. Tuesdays are usually screening nights for film classes like Suchy’s Introduction to Film and others. A special topics class in spring 2011 on Bollywood met in the studio to watch influential Indian films, culminating in a festival night with Indian food and live performances.

A number of FMA students have successfully pursued careers in film or enrolled in graduate film programs. FMA graduate Mark Landry earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. His thesis film aired on the Independent Film Channel, and one of his scripts was recently accepted, or green-lighted, by Disney. Graduate Kenny Reynolds went on to earn an MFA from the University of New Orleans Department of Film, Theatre and Communication Arts.

Other FMA graduates have been busy working in Louisiana’s burgeoning film and media industry. Jordy Wax formed the Baton Rouge-based videography and equipment rental company Contrast Films. Kenny Benitez is a director and designer at Locke Bryan Productions in Houston. Erica Martin works for the Baton Rouge boutique live action studio, River Road Creative.

Meanwhile, faculty members have experienced an important by-product of the program as well: collaboration. Suchy says her own work has benefited from exposure to LSU scholars in disciplines like biology, where she recently found a surprising joint research opportunity.

“Working in an interdisciplinary program like this really makes you a citizen of the university,” said Suchy. “It’s one of the best experiences I’ve had teaching.”

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**Visual Impact**

The ethnographic documentary film *Brother Time*, directed by LSU Sociology Professor Wesley Shrum, is the gripping story of the violence that erupted after Kenya’s 2007 presidential election. Months of hostility between some of the country’s indigenous tribes over a land dispute resulted in the deaths of more than 1,500 Kenyans with many others injured or displaced. The film returns to sites of violence and explores the catastrophe through the experiences of former friends from competing ethnic groups, one a Kikuyi, the other, a Kalenjin.

After violence exploded in Kenya in 2007-2008, Shrum began plans to reveal the tragedy through ethnographic documentary, which combines high-quality filmmaking with traditional sociological research, like surveys, observations and interviews. The National Science Foundation’s Division of Political Science provided Shrum a grant to support on-the-ground research. The completed film explores the roots of Kenya’s ethnic discord in a provocative, but accessible manner.

*Brother Time* has been used stateside as a teaching tool. Now the film could serve a powerful humanitarian purpose as well. Audiences in Kenya who saw its rough cut commented on its potential to deter future violence. Shrum says plans are underway for *Brother Time* to be shown in Kenya in 2012 prior to the next election cycle.

The *Brother Time* project fused major components of Shrum’s scholarship. He has studied Kenya’s cultural landscape for the past 17 years and began using video-graphic methods in 2002. He is a co-founder of the Department of Sociology’s Video Ethnography Lab. Shrum has also spent the last six years documenting the impact of another catastrophe, Hurricane Katrina. A new film stemming from his Hurricane Katrina research, *Women of the Storm*, will chronicle a group of civic activists who are calling attention to the city’s ongoing challenges and to the restoration of the wetlands whose loss makes South Louisiana more vulnerable to hurricanes.

– Maggie Heyn Richardson and Chandler Rome
By Maggie Heyn Richardson

Some of their stories were heartbreaking. Others were hopeful. Different as the women who told them, they were consistently compelling and provocative. Louisiana women from diverse backgrounds shared their personal experiences about family, relationships, healthcare, sexuality, careers, and more in a landmark oral history project led by LSU Associate Professor of History Alecia P. Long.

Listening to Louisiana Women began in 2009 for the purpose of documenting how gender has affected the lives of Louisiana women from diverse backgrounds. Long and more than thirty of her undergraduate students interviewed women who ranged in age from 22 to 92. They asked subjects about issues like access to healthcare, reproduction, financial stability, work, and family. Many of the interviews will be housed at the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU.

Long received a $200,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to support the project, whose partners included the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, the Department of History, Women’s and Gender Studies, the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, the Louisiana State Museum, and Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast.

Long also organized the Listening to Louisiana Women Symposium, held in May 2011, to explore themes that emerged from the interviews. Community leaders, civic activists, healthcare advocates, and others attended the forum at the Louisiana State Museum. Political strategist and LSU alum Donna Brazile delivered the keynote address.

Long says the idea for the project first emerged when she attended a seminar through the LSU Center for Oral History.
for Community Engagement, Learning and Leadership (CCELL) on how to integrate service learning into teaching. Service learning affords teachers and students the opportunity to conduct research on projects that also benefit the community.

“I wanted to do something that helped a nonprofit organization,” said Long, whose major areas of research are Louisiana, New Orleans, and the intertwined histories of gender, race, and sexuality in the United States. Her course, History of Sex in the U.S., explores how sex is culturally constructed.

Long approached Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast about a project that would enable women to speak about issues like gender and access to healthcare. Long and Planned Parenthood Director of Public Affairs Julie Mickelberry believed it would reveal important information about women’s experiences that had been underreported or misunderstood.

“We asked, ‘how can we collect women’s stories in a meaningful way, and what subthemes would emerge in the process?’,” recalled Long.

She wondered how easy it would be to encourage women to speak frankly about issues considered taboo and said that it took time for women to volunteer to be interviewed. Gradually, they responded to Long’s announcements about the project, published in regional media outlets.

Throughout the planning and execution of Listening to Louisiana Women, Long invited students to be part of the project and learn more about oral history research methods. Students from Long’s History of Sex seminar helped develop interview questions and conduct interviews. They also extracted excerpts they considered useful for Planned Parenthood, the project’s community partner. Moreover, five Department of History graduate students assisted Long in administering the project, processing interviews, and planning the symposium.

The interviews generally took place in seminar rooms at LSU or in participants’ homes. Long, who undertook special training in oral history before launching the project, says she was committed to making participants comfortable.

“Our intention was to invite women to tell stories in their own way,” she said. Participants understood that the interviews were ultimately theirs, and would only be archived with their permission, said Long.

Stories emerged about domestic violence and the difficulty some women had in getting authorities to respond. Other women discussed the complexities of unplanned pregnancies. One subject recounted the experience of an out-of-wedlock pregnancy and her family’s reaction of shame. She was asked to relocate to an aunt’s house out of state.

Some women also discussed how a lack of formal education made them more economically vulnerable than men with the same level of schooling. If neither had attended college, men were usually better positioned to

T. Harry Williams, pictured above with Russell Long, who is in turn, holding a photograph of Huey Long.

T. Harry Williams wrote an award winning biography on Huey Long, using oral histories, that are housed in LSU Libraries.

T. Harry Williams and Russell Long. Russell B. Long Papers, Mss. 3700, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections

Telling Stories

The T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History

LSU Professor of History T. Harry Williams was a respected scholar best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Huey Long. He was also a pioneer in the use of oral history—his work on Long included taped interviews with many of the former governor’s supporters and opponents. Williams believed that such first-person accounts would help historians fill in gaps left by traditional methods of research.

“It’s no secret that I am a great believer in oral history,” Williams once said. “Trained researchers using a tape recorder ought to interview people to get the information that is in their heads and no place else.”

In 1991, the LSU Libraries Special Collections established the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History to record and preserve the oral history of the university and Louisiana. The Listening to Louisiana Women project interviews join dozens of collections compiled by the Center over the last 20 years. They document the perspectives of men and women representing diverse aspects of Louisiana history, including Acadian culture, folklore, race relations, civil rights, music, landscape architecture, natural disasters, politics, agriculture, and more.

The Center is also dedicated to promoting the practice of oral history by providing technical assistance to LSU students and faculty and to individuals and groups outside the university. It is housed at Hill Memorial Library on the LSU campus.
access higher paying trade positions. Educated women also discussed the ongoing challenge of pay inequity in Louisiana, said Long.

After the interview team completed each transcript, participants were invited to read them and strike any information that preferred to keep private. The interviews were donated to the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History with their permission.

The themes that emerged throughout the interviews were discussed in the day-long Listening to Louisiana Women Symposium.

“The Ford Foundation grant required that we engage in social dialogue about the project,” said Long. “Our goal was to get different people in conversation about these issues.”

The conference included a presentation by Tulane University Professor Beth Willinger, former executive director of the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, who discussed findings from her extensive research on the political, economic, and educational status of women and girls in Louisiana.

Three panel discussions followed Willinger’s comments. “How Can Oral History Help Transform Our Communities” explored the power of oral history in preserving the memories of everyday people for future historians. Panelists Jennifer Abraham Cramer, director of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, LSU School of Social Work Assistant Professor Elaine Maccio, environmental activist Peggy Frankland, and Long discussed how oral history can also bring stories to life for current students of history.

Another panel examined the topic, “Educating Young People about Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality: Priorities and Prospects.” Planned Parenthood’s Mickelberry, Raegan Carter Jones from the Louisiana Department of Education, and obstetrician-gynecologist Swati Shah discussed startling statistics related to the sexual health of Louisiana women. The state has the fifth highest rate of AIDS cases and the thirteenth highest rate of teen births in the U.S.

The final panel, “Creating Change for Louisiana Women: Past, Present & Future,” discussed the historic challenges women have faced in their professional endeavors and what the future portends for younger women. Panelists included McNeese State University Associate Professor of History Janet Allured, University of Southern Mississippi Associate Professor of History Pamela Tyler, Assistant Vice President of the firm R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates Mary Kathleen Coyle, and Kathleen Richard Callaghan, staff attorney with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Brazile concluded the symposium with a talk about her experiences as a woman successfully advancing in a male-dominant field and the tendency for women to ask for what they want less often than men.

“The caliber of participants was incredible,” said Long. “It added another dimension to our work.”

Listening to Louisiana Women interviews will continue through spring 2012.
**Focus On: Students**

**Undergraduates**

Senior **Laura Pignato** is a double major in psychology and sociology with a minor in political science. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta. Pignato originally planned to apply to law school, but will now pursue a PhD in criminology, a shift that occurred when she took Associate Professor Edward Shihadeh’s criminology course. Pignato was fascinated by how social structures impact crime and went on to score the highest grades of any student ever in the course. Criminology is one of the LSU Department of Sociology’s principal areas of research and Shihadeh is co-coordinator of the department’s Crime and Policy Evaluation Research Group (CAPER), which encourages interdisciplinary collaboration in the field. Pignato plans to apply to LSU for graduate school.

Senior **Jayd Buteau** is a history major and a native of Iberia Parish who recently transferred to LSU from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. Buteau plans to pursue a career in education and hopes to specialize in coordinating educational programs for museums and cultural institutions. She is president of the LSU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society for history majors. Under Buteau’s leadership and with assistance from faculty advisor Assistant Professor Carolyn Lewis, the Zeta Eta chapter has distinguished itself as one of the most active and successful in the state. Buteau is also a mentor for the Tiger Transition team, helping freshmen adjust to college life.

**Arquavious Gordon**, a history major from Sunflower, Mississippi, represented LSU on the College Week edition of *Wheel of Fortune* in May 2011. He reports that he was “ecstatic and nervous all at the same time,” but the nervousness did not seem to inhibit him. He won cash, a Mini Cooper and a trip to Hawaii. “It was most definitely a dream come true and is still very surreal,” Gordon said.

**Stephanie Elwood**, general studies major with a Women’s & Gender Studies minor, won the Sociologists for Women in Society 2010-2011 Undergraduate Social Action Award for a paper she wrote about her work with LSU student Marguerite Green on the Old South Baton Rouge Garden Project, which the two co-founded. The project helps residents of an historic African American neighborhood build community and increase fresh food supply through organic gardening.

**Sophomore political science major Anthony Myles** also had the opportunity to compete on *Wheel of Fortune* in August 2011. The show’s producers selected Myles after meeting him at auditions held at LSU earlier this year. Myles cannot reveal his winnings until his episode airs in January 2012, but he is proud to report that he wore purple and gold during the filming.

**Graduate Students**

**Andrea Berringer**, PhD candidate in political science with a Women’s & Gender Studies minor, served as associate editor for an issue of the *International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses* and published an essay in it as well. In 2010, Berringer attended the Summer Academy for the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security in Schloss Hohenkammer, Germany. She was an invited delegate to the June 2011 Nansen Conference, Climate Change and Displacement in the 21st Century, in Oslo, Norway. She also presented her work on climate change at the International Studies Association Annual Convention.
Graduate Students continued...

Christopher Gearhart, a PhD candidate in Communication Studies, was recognized for two Top Four Paper Awards at the 2011 National Communication Association Conference. He also earned a competitive dissertation stipend from the International Listening Association.

Monica Miller, PhD candidate in English and a graduate minor in Women’s & Gender Studies, wrote a guest blog about plagiarism for Inside Higher Ed’s “University of Venus” column. Miller presented papers at three conferences in 2011, including the College English Association Conference, the Mildred Haun Conference, and the Southern American Studies Association.

Le’Brian Patrick, a PhD candidate in sociology and a Women’s & Gender Studies graduate minor, was selected for the 2011 Charles Harrington Outstanding Graduate Student Award by the LSU Black Faculty and Staff Caucus.

English PhD candidate Martha Pitts, a graduate minor in Women’s and Gender Studies, was chosen for one of the 2011 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institutes. Pitts participated in “The Role of Place in African American Biography,” sponsored by Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Williams College, and the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail. The four-week institute examined recent research and scholarship on the experiences of African Americans in New England from colonial days to the early twentieth century.

Communication Studies PhD candidate Joe Rhodes guest-lectured at two theological seminaries in India, presented research on Reinhold Niebuhr’s prophetic pragmatism in Boston at the International Communication Association Conference and was asked to review J.P. Diggins’ Why Niebuhr Now? for The Quarterly Journal of Speech. He is presenting six papers at the 2011 National Communication Association Conference.

Communication Sciences and Disorders PhD candidate Jessica Richardson, a native speaker of Gullah Geechee, participated in a panel discussion entitled, “Geechee Connections—Where Have Our Traditions Gone?” at the 2011 Gullah Geechee Nation Music and Movement Festival in August. Gullah/Geechees living along the southeastern coast traveled from Atlanta to New Orleans and Donaldsonville, La. to reconnect with Geechees who had previously migrated there.
Focus On: Alumni

Free Spirit

LSU alum James Clifton de Brueys is believed to have passed away November 26, 2010, while traveling by boat between Arno Atoll and Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

De Brueys grew up in Kenner and attended Brother Martin High School in New Orleans before coming to LSU. He graduated in 2009 with an anthropology major and Spanish minor.

In the fall of 2010, de Brueys went to the Marshall Islands as a volunteer teacher with WorldTeach, an affiliate of the Center for International Development at Harvard University. He was assigned to Bikarej Elementary School on the Arno Atoll.

The unedited selections below are from letters de Brueys wrote home to his family and describe some of his experiences there. The words in brackets have been added for explanation.

**August 16, 2010**
[From Majuro on the main island during initial training]

It’s pretty cool here — great snorkeling and nice people. Bikarej has a population of 200, 60 kids at the school (which is only three rooms). I am teaching primarily English class, and I have 3 lagoons. And that is all I still know. All the WorldTeach people are cool, and all of us live in a non-A/C school building. I am learning the art of bucket showers — I use about 2 gallons. I am trying to get it lower. It’s so beautiful under this water. It’s so blue and crisp.

**August 20, 2010**

I have been on the Bikarej for only a few days...been busy helping clean and organize the school. It is a huge mess. Every day I walk through the jungle to go to my school (about 1 mile away) and am often met by chickens, pigs, and children (and today, rain). I do have plans for the school [to] repaint the outside, start a garden, create a mascot (The Fighting Pandanus?) [a tropical plant in the Pacific]. I will be teaching grade 7/8 from 8:30 — 10, and 4/5/6 from 1 — 2:30, everyday. We are trying to figure out where K/1 and 2/3 will go (hence “build” another classroom — put up a plywood wall?). I have a mama (Imita), a baba (Kyotok), tons of brothers and sisters, a cat, two dogs, five chickens, and a pig or two.

**August 27, 2010**

But it’s not all work here, my friends! Oh, no! The other day two of my brothers and I went on an adventure for clams. These things were gi-normous. You have to shuck with a machete. These kids are my, according to custom, brothers and sisters. Life here is so simple.
(I know what I’m about to say sounds like it’s from a cheesy movie). He (one of my babas) asked me, “Why do Americans carry guns? Why murder?” I just stared at him for a second and said, “I don’t know.” He said, “This is why I live here. Simple. Good. No murder.” Everyone here is so nice and giving. I am a part of their family.

**August 29, 2010**

I cannot wait ’til I get better at Marshallese so I can speak about things on a deeper level. Speaking slowly and on “surface level” for the last few weeks is becoming, honestly, annoying. Being relegated to “I ate a breadfruit last night. Yum.” is just not that stimulating…paradise is not always what it seems. There are, like anywhere, a lot of issues. If there weren’t, I would not be here, right?

**September 8, 2010**

I also teach an afterschool writing class twice a week, I start a “Life Outside of Bikarej” class on Fridays, and may start an adult class on Wednesdays. My island is beautiful. I can hear the ocean all the time. The ocean is so blue, the coral is awesome, and I eat like a king (which I did not expect). Lobster, fish, clam, crab, coconut crab, turtle, coconut, breadfruit, and pandanus. I mix my “hanging out” with my little brothers and sisters, my students, and a bunch of men ranging in ages 19 to 65. I have gone all over the island on “jambos” (walkabouts). The jungle is so awesome. It’s so lush, the browns and greens clashing in such a dark area. The canopy blocks out a lot of sun, making all of the lizards and spiders well hidden. Which is scary, cuz they are huge. I was the “guest of honor” at a Kemmem, a one year old birthday extravaganza. I got to sit next to the baby, which as we all know, I just love to do at all parties: I sit next to the baby. Culturally it’s the biggest thing besides a funeral. The one year celebration basically means “you survived, so you’ll probably make it here!”

**September 17, 2010**

I don’t miss too much like t.v. or certain foods (although a burger would be nice) or even liquor (although a beer with the burger would be nice). I really miss good conversation and the chums I would have it with. At the same time, I think about this stuff the most when I write letters. I get reminiscent at times, sure. But mostly I enjoy myself and appreciate how lucky I have been to get an opportunity like this.

**November 4, 2010**

Everything here is shared. It’s funny how I didn’t prepare myself for the truest sense of this word. Even the few things I brought to the Marshalls — my room is like a mystical palace. So my little siblings like to come in and explore all the goodies I possess. It’s really trying on my cultural upbringing. Not the sharing, but the constant proximity of everybody. The family sleeps on the floor, and I tell you they are on top of each other. And they don’t wake up from it. It is so weird not having privacy. I don’t think about it often, but there are times when I realize that even when I shower, half of me is still exposed. The good half, so don’t worry. Things are great, life is wonderful, teaching is tough but I am noticing some progress.

**November 18, 2010**

Going spear fishing on Saturday, reading, writing, and of course: Thinking! All the time! I have been, strangely enough, getting little pieces of alone time. I go get lost in the jungle or go to the lagoon and contemplate all the while (or sometimes, just exist in those places). When the light is just right, and I am in the jungle…the greens just explode, there are these gorgeous red flowers that juxtapose the greens and browns. And these beautiful white birds will often roost in the trees, ever watchful of their jungle. Or…sometimes. They are tasty too. I feel healthy. I feel happy. I have no worries (or, at least, none of the kind of worries I had back home). Ok, this is far enough. My hand hurts. I love you, and I’ll talk to you soon! Love, James (I’m fading away…) [James’s pen was running out of ink.]
Class Act

By Lindsay Newport

One of the greatest benefits of an education in the humanities and social sciences is the diversity of career options awaiting driven, curious students. Zack Mitchell is living proof. His experience as a history major led him to some unexpected places; first, to Kyrgyzstan, and later, back to his hometown, New Iberia, where he has become an award-winning teacher.

Mitchell says he majored in history at LSU because he liked stories. He perceived history as the story of humanity, a fascinating tale of cultures and people and their decisions. He had a deep appreciation for the discipline thanks to a few exceptional history teachers from his past, and he was motivated to learn more as an LSU undergraduate.

Mitchell completed his history degree in 2004 and was preparing to apply to law schools when he had a sudden change of heart. A man of strong faith, Mitchell followed his instincts and embarked upon a new path: education. He enrolled in LSU’s Holmes Program, graduate program in education, with the intention of following in the footsteps of the history teachers he had admired as a student, hoping to mimic their success with his own students someday.

While in graduate school, Mitchell attended a conference in conjunction with the LSU chapter of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship in which a speaker challenged attendees to include a year of service abroad in their post-graduation plans. Mitchell already felt compelled to teach overseas, so when the speaker cited a need for educators in Kyrgyzstan, Mitchell jumped at the opportunity.

“In that instant, I knew what I needed to do,” Mitchell recalls.

He completed a master’s degree in social studies secondary education in 2006 and traveled shortly thereafter to Bishkek, the Kyrgyzstan capital, to teach seventh through tenth grade social studies and physical education at Hope Academy. The school is a K-10 multinational, English-language school that uses American-based curricula to educate students from several nations, including Korea, Australia, Romania, Ecuador, Scotland, and Uganda.

Mitchell’s first days in Kyrgyzstan were tough. He had only one week before school to assemble lesson plans, gain a working knowledge of the Russian language, familiarize himself with his new city, acquire a taste for local cuisine, and acclimate to the intensely dry Central Asian weather. To complicate matters, Mitchell’s luggage was lost during his trip abroad, leaving him with only three days’ worth of clothing.

Mitchell refused to let these initial challenges diminish his enthusiasm. He focused on bonding with fellow Hope Academy staff members and quickly found them to be invaluable sources of guidance and support.
Mitchell also found his Hope Academy students to be a constant source of inspiration. A small group of young men who were interested in learning more about football approached Mitchell for help, and over time, he also had the opportunity to mentor them. “Several of the young men I worked with were new to Bishkek and had left behind friends, comforts, and family,” Mitchell said. “In the process of coaching them in football, I was also able to coach them in life.”

Mitchell found the experiences of one of his football players particularly stirring.

“One young man had lost his father the previous year,” Mitchell recalled. “Before I left to return to the United States, he tearfully said to me, ‘Mr. Mitchell, you don’t know what this year has meant to me.’ That’s all he could manage to say, but that said it all.”

“The small things I did and the time that I worked with him changed his life, and that’s an accomplishment I will never forget,” Mitchell said.

After spending nearly a year abroad, Mitchell returned to the United States and accepted a position teaching seventh grade American history in New Iberia, a post he still holds today. He considers himself to be a better teacher thanks to his time in Kyrgyzstan.

“It made me a more compassionate person and, therefore, a more compassionate teacher,” Mitchell said. “You never truly know what is going on in the life of your students, so a little compassion goes a long way.”

Mitchell’s experiences abroad also gave him valuable insight into the critical role that parents can play in the educational process. He found that parents in Kyrgyzstan believe that education is a privilege and are thus more involved in their children’s education than many parents in the U.S.

“The biggest difference between my work overseas and here in Louisiana is the strong bond between the parents and the school,” Mitchell said. “Parents [in Kyrgyzstan] were always keen to help and were so appreciative of every effort. In Louisiana, it is different. We are strengthening the bonds between schools and home, but there is a long way to go, and too often education and teachers are taken for granted.”

“It could have been much worse,” Mitchell said. “The staff at the school was a close-knit group, and they welcomed me with open arms and showed me the ropes. They even showed me where I could get a bacon cheeseburger! I couldn’t ask for better colleagues.”

Ceaselessly Venturing: LSU Alum Roselyn B. Boneno

When she wrote her dissertation acknowledgments, Roselyn B. Boneno used lines from Walt Whitman’s poem “A Noiseless Patient Spider” to exemplify the task of writing.

“When she wrote her dissertation acknowledgments, Roselyn B. Boneno used lines from Walt Whitman’s poem ‘A Noiseless Patient Spider’ to exemplify the task of writing.

“These lines also describe Boneno’s life. The common thread that forms the bridge, as Whitman’s reference implies, is education — education not only for Boneno, but as a means of inspiring a love for learning in all who have come under her tutelage. She frequently makes reference to the lack of high quality education as the core of the problems plaguing Louisiana. Boneno believes education gives the ultimate advantage, and she credits her maternal grandparents, parents and secondary school teachers as her primary motivators. From them, she learned that nothing is impossible and that no goal is out of reach if one has the desire and the access.”
When it comes to educational pursuits, Boneno has put in her time. She earned an undergraduate degree from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans and a Master of Arts from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Tex. As a member of the Catholic order, the Marianites of Holy Cross, Boneno began her career as a teacher.

Motivated by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to teach at the university level, she began doctoral studies at LSU. She says she selected LSU “because of its excellent history faculty and because it provided the opportunity to continue working as a secondary school administrator.”

To accomplish her goal and avoid placing a financial burden on her religious community, Boneno received a Governor’s Board of Supervisors Scholarship through the generosity of then board member Murphy J. “Mike” Foster. She also received an assistantship in the LSU Department of History after completing course work for her degree.

In 1986, she was awarded a PhD from LSU. Her dissertation, “A Study of Italian Immigrants in New Orleans, 1880-1910,” was inspired by her maternal grandparents, Antonio and Eleonora Bologna, first generation immigrants to the United States.

Whitman’s “venturing” took new meaning when Boneno decided to leave the religious community that she had been so proud to serve to pursue another career. As she was completing her dissertation in the early eighties, Boneno accepted a position in the insurance industry.

At the time, State Farm Insurance Company had begun hiring female college graduates as agents in Louisiana. Boneno’s first love was the classroom, but the chance to own her own business as one of the first women agents in Louisiana presented another rewarding opportunity.

Her career change did not diminish Boneno’s role as a teacher. Education was still part of her life, though this time it was in educating clients to understand the often complex scenarios before them. Never was this more evident than in 2005 when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita wreaked havoc on the Gulf Coast, New Orleans, and most of South Louisiana. Katrina destroyed Boneno’s office in New Orleans, forcing her to relocate to the suburbs. Heartbroken over the destruction of her hometown, she used her education and insurance industry experience not only to handle claims, but to comfort and console those who had lost everything.

Today Boneno is retired and living in Baton Rouge. She works part-time, assisting a local State Farm agent. The remainder of her time is spent working with organizations aimed at improving life in Louisiana communities. She is a member of her neighborhood homeowners association, takes continuing education courses, and indulges her love for music through her support of the New Orleans and Baton Rouge symphonies. She also chairs the LSU College of Humanities & Social Sciences Dean’s Advisory Council.

Since earning her doctorate, Boneno has been an invaluable supporter of the LSU Department of History, College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the university as a whole. In 2004, she established the Roselyn B. Boneno Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching in History, which encourages and rewards history faculty members who exhibit excellence in the classroom. Most recently, she pledged a significant portion of her estate as a planned gift to the university to establish the Roselyn Bologna Boneno Professorship in American History.

Boneno says her support of LSU isn’t an option. Rather, she believes it’s an important personal responsibility.

“For as long as I can remember, there existed the idea that whatever success one achieves, with that came the obligation to assist others,” she said. “I hope that more people will come to understand how much LSU needs every one of us to contribute to the university’s success by whatever means possible.”

Boneno’s gifts to LSU reflect her passion for learning. One might say that the university is a conduit through which she hopes to achieve her ultimate goal: improving education in Louisiana. Boneno considers this enormous task to be her response to Whitman’s call, *ceaselessly venturing till the bridge is formed.*

Dear H&SS family,

There has never been a better time to be a Tiger! As a third generation LSU student and Baton Rouge native, I am proud to say that I definitely Love Purple and Live Gold. Since 2008, I have had the privilege of working at LSU, at the Stephenson Entrepreneurship Institute in the E. J. Ourso College of Business. Now, I am delighted to come home to the college of my undergraduate years, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It is an exciting time here in H&SS as we continue to celebrate the diversity of interests of our students and the commitment to excellence of our faculty and staff. To continue to grow and succeed, we need your help! Please stay in touch with us so that we can keep you informed about our achievements and future goals. Send us your news and accomplishments as well as any information changes via email at hssnews@lsu.edu or postal mail at 132 Hodges Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. I look forward to meeting you and thank you in advance for your support.

Geaux Tigers!
Jill Roshto, Director of Development
Department News

Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Language Development and Disorders Laboratory in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders hosted Erica Roberson, a California native and an undergraduate at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, as part of LSU’s Predoctoral Scholars Institute. One of the objectives of the institute is to recruit academically stellar undergraduates from under-represented backgrounds to LSU in the hope they will consider LSU’s graduate programs. As part of Erica’s one-month stay at LSU, she completed a research project entitled “Differences in the Dialects of Black and White Children as Measured by Listener Judgments.”

The fall 2011 semester marked a new collaborative effort with the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and Pediatrics Health Care for Kids, an Atlanta-based company that delivers health services to medically complex and fragile children at its facilities. Pediatrics provides skilled professionals in nursing, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and respiratory care. LSU instructors Courtney Gonsoulin, M.S. CCC-SLP and Shannon Farho, M.A. CCC-SLP provide speech pathology services at the center where they also mentor and train COMD graduate students. This gives LSU graduate students experience in providing therapy in a multidisciplinary framework and enables them to collaborate with other medical paraprofessionals. They will also be responsible for implementing parent and staff education programs.

Communication Studies

Professor James Honeycutt (second from the right, with panel participants and James McCroskey, esteemed scholar in residence at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, back row on the right.) was honored at the spring Southern States Communication Association Convention in Little Rock on a special panel spotlighting the legacy of scholarship in intrapersonal communication and cognition. His fourth book, Scripts and Communication for Relationships (Cresskill) with co-author Suzette P. Bryan, was published this year.

Professor Renee Edwards presented her research on hurricane-related communication at the Coastal Community Resilience Team Meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) in Spanish Fort, Alabama. GOMA is a partnership by the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. Resilience of both human and physical systems to adapt and recover is one of its six priorities.

Assistant Professor Graham Bodie (above) received the Emerging Scholar Award in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences from LSU’s Office of Research and Economic Development as well as a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents to study listening as supportive communication.

English

Sharon Andrews has been awarded the 2011 Gulf-South Summit Award for Outstanding Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education.

Professor Kevin Cope has been named LSU’s 2011 Distinguished Research Master in the Humanities.

Associate Professor Brannon Costello published Howard Chaykin: Conversations (University Press of Mississippi, 2011).

Professional-in-Residence Zack Godshall was featured in a January 11 article in The Advocate, “BR Filmmaker goes to Sundance,” about his second consecutive invitation to the Sundance Film Festival, to show his film, Lord Byron.

Associate Professor Mari Kornhauser was singled out in the January issue of Baton Rouge’s 225 Magazine as one of the area’s 2011 People to Watch, partly for her recent invitation to join the writing team for David Simon and Eric Overmyer’s HBO series Treme.
Robert Penn Warren Professor John Lowe was keynote speaker for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference in Deland, FL, giving the talk “Backwoods Self-Reliance in 1933 and 1988: Rawlings’s South Moon Under and Tom Franklin’s Poachers.” He also gave an invited talk “Coyote Games: Trickster Discourse in Short Stories by Hughes, Menendez, and Gautraux” at the University of Angers, France, and was featured in a PBS documentary on Ernest Gaines.

David Madden (Professor Emeritus) and Kris Mecholsky (graduate student) have co-authored James M. Cain: Hard-boiled Mythmaker (Scarecrow Press, 2011).

Professor Michelle Massé has been elected to the board of directors of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society. She is also serving as Second Vice-President of MLA’s Age Studies Discussion Group and is incoming chair of the Women’s Caucus in the Modern Languages.

Professor Laura Mullen’s sixth book, Dark Archive, was published by the University of California Press in April. Poems from the collection were featured in the Academy of Women Poets’ Poem-a-Day site and Poetry Daily. A recording of a poem from her new collection was set to music by Jason Eckardt, performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble, and will be released by Mode Records in fall 2011. She has been elected to serve as the special delegate in Creative Writing for the Modern Language Association.

Associate Professor Solimar Otero’s Afro-Cuban Diasporas in the Atlantic World has been published by the University of Rochester Press in its History and Diaspora series.

Instructor Randolph Thomas won first place in the Blue Mesa Review fiction contest with his story “The Lost Arts,” due to appear in the next issue.

Instructor M.O. (Neal) Walsh has won the First Annual Louisiana Arts and Film Commission Screenwriting Contest for a short film adaptation of his story “The Freddies.” This is the first project undertaken by the Commission designed to incubate films made entirely in Louisiana.

Professor Sharon Aronofsky Weltman gave a plenary address entitled “’Tis an Idle Prejudice I Grant’: Representing Race in Pitt’s The String of Pearls” at the Politics, Performance, and Popular Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain Conference at the University of Lancaster, UK.

In March 2011, the LSU Board of Supervisors named William A. Read Professor of English J. Gerald “Jerry” Kennedy a Boyd Professor. Kennedy joins eleven other active Boyd Professors across the LSU campuses.

The Boyd Professorship is the highest professorial rank awarded by the LSU System and is given only to scholars who have attained national or international distinction for outstanding teaching, research, or other creative achievement. The LSU Board of Supervisors established the professorship in 1953, which is named for brothers David F. and Thomas D. Boyd, past presidents of LSU.

Kennedy received a PhD from Duke University and arrived at LSU in 1973. Over the course of his career, he has become an internationally acclaimed scholar of American literature, short fiction, literary nationalism, and modernism, publishing widely on Edgar Allan Poe, Ernest Hemingway, American expatriate writing, and other topics. The 14 books he has written or edited include Modern American Short Story Sequences (paperback, 2010), The Portable Edgar Allan Poe, ed. (2006), the Oxford Historical Guide to Edgar Allan Poe, ed. (2001), Imagining Paris: Exile, Writing, and American Identity (1993), and Poe, Death, and the Life of Writing (1987). He has published dozens of scholarly essays, reviews, and articles. Kennedy taught in France for one year at the Université de Lille as a Fulbright lecturer.

Because of the wide respect for his scholarship, Kennedy has been asked to serve as a consultant and commentator on several documentaries, including the Paris The Luminous Years: Towards The Making Of The Modern for PBS, Hemingway in Cuba for Florida Public Television, Poe’s Tales of Terror for The Learning Channel “Great Books” series, and The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe, for the A & E “Biography” series.

He has served as president and vice president of the Poe Studies Association and vice president and member of the board of directors of the Hemingway Foundation. He is a past recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship and the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. In 1981, he founded the LSU in Paris program, and in 1998 was named LSU Distinguished Research Master.

Kennedy is currently at work on his latest book, Writing America’s Narrative: Literary Nationalism in the Age of Poe.
Oliver Awarded Alumni Professorship for Excellence in Teaching

Professor of English Elisabeth L. “Lisi” Oliver was named Greater Houston Alumni Chapter Endowed Alumni Professor in 2011. The honor recognizes LSU tenured full professors who have reputations of excellence in instruction, especially in undergraduate teaching. A recipient of the Alumni Professorship also demonstrates an outstanding professional relationship with other faculty and staff members; a dedication to his or her academic field; and a record of active participation in areas of professor/student relations.

A well-known scholar of comparative law, medieval languages and linguistics, and opera libretti, Oliver earned a PhD from Harvard University in Linguistics and has been teaching at LSU since 1996. She has written and edited several journal articles and books that have contributed significantly to the understanding of medieval law and its social impact.

Oliver’s passion for her chosen field and her talent in the classroom have made it possible for a succession of diverse students to be inspired by challenging subject matter that features arcane languages and thousand-year-old texts. In 2010, Oliver earned a Tiger Athletic Foundation President’s Award, another university honor that recognizes teaching strengths.

Oliver is known for integrating historical, literary and linguistic evidence throughout her scholarship. Her most recent book, The Body Legal in Barbarian Law (University of Toronto Press, 2011) presents new findings about medieval law and its influence on early legal history. She received a significant grant from the National Institutes of Health (National Library of Medicine Division) to support completion of the manuscript.

Oliver’s The Beginnings of English Law (University of Toronto Press, 2002), is an influential work on the earliest laws from Anglo-Saxon England. The laws of Æthelbert of Kent (ca. 600), Hlothhere and Eadric (685), and Whtred (695) were the first Germanic laws written in the vernacular and show the new religion of Christianity’s growing influence on law and legal language.

Oliver wrote the chapter on Anglo-Saxon legal documents for the Cambridge History of Early Medieval English Literature. She is also one of two Americans and the only woman on the literary board of the Early English Laws Project, sponsored by the Institute for Historical and Cultural Research of Great Britain, an international collaboration to re-edit all the laws of Anglo-Saxon England.

She is currently at work on a new edition of the laws of Alfred the Great.

Associate Professor Sue Weinstein has been selected to receive the 2011 Brij Mohan Distinguished Professor Award, recognizing a faculty member who serves as a model for the community in demonstration of a commitment to peace, equality, and social justice.

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Associate Professor Emily Batinski has returned to full-time teaching and research after fifteen years as chair of the department.

Professor John D. Pizer, Professor of German, is now chair. Pizer recently published Imagining the Age of Goethe in German Literature, 1970-2010 (Camden House).

Associate Professor Alejandro Cortazar and Assistant Professor Rafael Orozco have co-edited Lenguaje, Arte y Revoluciones Ayer y Hoy: New approaches to Hispanic Linguistic, Literary and Cultural Studies, a selection of revised and expanded papers originally presented at LSU’s XXVII Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures.

Associate Professor Qiancheng Li has published Xiyou bu jiaozhu (A Supplement to the Journey to the West: An Annotated Critical Edition with Commentaries), as part of Kunlun Press’s prestigious Series on Eastern Culture.

A national committee chaired by Assistant Professor of Greek Wilfred E. Major in 2008 created the College Greek Exam, an annual test that uses national standards to assess nationwide college students in beginning Greek. Major is working to pilot an online version of the exam.

Assistant Professor of Arabic Mark Warner has been invited to participate in Middlebury College’s Clifford Symposium, which will examine the spring 2011 uprisings in the Middle East.

The LSU Classical Studies program along with its two related student clubs, Students for the Promotion of Antiquity and Eta Sigma Phi, initiated the Kwirky Classics Video Series during the spring 2011 semester. The series featured relatively short films and episodes from classic television shows that treat the ancient world in a peculiar way. They included a 1958 drive-in horror film about a murderous gladiator brought back to life by atomic waste; an episode of the original Star Trek television series, in which Kirk and crew match wits with the god Apollo; and, a You Are There episode in which the death of Socrates is covered by Walter Cronkite and CBS News.
Geography and Anthropology

R.J. Russell Professor in Geography and Anthropology Patrick Hesp earned the LSU Distinguished Faculty Award in April 2011. He is one of five at LSU to receive the award, which recognizes faculty members with sustained records of excellence in teaching, research, and service. Hesp was also awarded a visiting fellowship to the National Research Group for Coastal Environment issues (GNRAC - Gruppo Nazionale per la Ricerca sull’Ambiente Costiero) in Italy in summer 2011, where he delivered the course, “Dynamics, Geomorphology and Management of Coastal Dunes,” and researched coastal dunes in Sardinia and various Italian coastal sites. Hesp was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for fall 2011 to spend three months conducting a detailed drilling and dating program on two coastal barrier islands in southern Brazil.

Associate Professor Michael Leitner is part of a research team that was awarded a $2.1 million (USD) grant from the Austrian Science Fund to establish a doctoral college in Geographic Information (GI) Science at the University of Salzburg, Austria. The research team consists of nine professors from geography, geology, economics, and computer science. Leitner’s research focus is in GIScience and spatial crime analysis. The doctoral college also provides full funding for a bilateral exchange between LSU and the University of Salzburg’s GI-Science doctoral students for one semester. Earlier this year, Leitner also received a National Science Foundation grant of $28,628 to assist young scholars from the US to participate in the 25th International Cartographic Conference (ICC) in Paris, France in July 2011.

Lynne Carter, associate director of the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) in the Department of Geography and Anthropology and associate director of the Coastal Sustainability Studio at LSU, was one of 12 international experts named to the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA and will serve on its Climate Adaptation Experts Advisory Committee. ICLEI is the leading local government association addressing climate change and sustainability.

Doris Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Studies Heather McKillop is principal investigator on a National Science Foundation collaborative grant totaling $250,041 for a project entitled “Ancient Maya Wooden Architecture and the Salt Industry.” McKillop, a world expert on the ancient Maya, and her colleagues are investigating a massive salt industry in Paynes Creek National Park, Belize. The scientists are looking for evidence of how ancient Maya in inland cities obtained a regular supply of salt. McKillop will direct underwater excavations of the Paynes Creek salt works.

History

Manship Professor Andrew Burstein and Professor Nancy Isenberg have attracted significant attention for their 2011 book Madison and Jefferson (Random House). The authors were recently interviewed on the nationally broadcast radio program, The Burt Cohen Show, which explores politics and social issues.

Boyd Professor William J. Cooper is finishing his term as president of the Southern Historical Association. Cooper delivered his presidential address last November, a preview of his much-anticipated book on the onset of the Civil War.

Paul W. and Nancy W. Murrill Professor Paul Hoffman, at work on the history of LSU, was featured in the Louisiana Public Broadcasting documentary, “The Treasures of LSU.”

At the American Historical Association’s 2011 annual meeting, Professor Suzanne Marchand was awarded the George Mosse Prize for best book in European intellectual or cultural history in the previous year. Marchand’s German Orientalism in the Age of Empire: Religion, Race, and Scholarship, was published by Cambridge University Press.

The History Graduate Student Association held its second annual conference in March 2011, in which students presented original research and received feedback from peers. National and international scholars presented papers and Professor Thomas Sugrue of the University of Pennsylvania delivered the keynote address.

Philosophy and Religious Studies

Associate Professor of Religious Studies Paula Arai recently published Bringing Zen Home (University Press of Hawaii), which reveals and explains a previously unrecognized but important ritual life among Zen laywomen.

Professor of Philosophy Edward Hugh Henderson published a co-edited volume, C. S. Lewis and Friends: Faith and the Power of Imagination, which includes chapters on the use of imagination in theology through the fiction of C. S. Lewis, Dorothy L. Sayers, Charles Williams, J. R. R. Tolkien, Rose Macaulay, and Austin Farrer. Recognized as a prominent Farrer scholar, Henderson was quoted in “Acts
of God,” an article by Nick Paumgarten in the July 12 & 19, 2010 New Yorker. Paumgarten explored responsibility for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill and drew on the ideas of Farrer.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Michael Pasquier is one of 12 promising young scholars participating in the Young Scholars in American Religion program for the years 2010-12. This program is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, considered the nation’s premier research institute for the study of American religion. Pasquier was recently named editor of the online Journal of Southern Religion and published Fathers on the Frontier: French Missionaries and the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the United States, 1789-1870 (Oxford University Press). He also worked with a team of LSU professors on a study, “Measured Change: Tracking Transformations in Bayou Lafourche,” which was named the 2011 Place Research Award winner by the Environmental Design Research Association.

Sociology

Associate Professor Ed Shihadeh received an Atlas Grant to finish his new book, A World Apart: Violence and the New Latino Migration. The work examines recent Latino migrants and demonstrates that those who settled in new destinations are more vulnerable to violence and anti-Latino resentment than previous waves of migrants in traditional areas.

Associate Professors Troy Blanchard and Mark Schafer received a grant to study the impact of the oil and gas industry on the well-being of ethnic groups on the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coast.

Associate Professors Tim Slack and Troy Blanchard received funding from the BP Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative for a unique household survey drawn from South Louisiana communities affected by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This research effort provides a novel opportunity to assess the impacts of the catastrophe on the psychological, physical and economic well-being of residents in spill-affected communities.

Professor and Department Chair Wesley Shrum established a permanent archive of English-language performance art for future generations at the National Library of Scotland, filming three dozen shows annually at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Women’s and Gender Studies

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies Sarah Becker’s collaborative work on community resilience after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill received support during the 2010-2011 academic year from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. Becker’s work on economic development and community-based anti-crime coalitions was supported by the Louisiana State Board of Regents Economic Development Assistantship Program.

Associate Professor of Geography and WGS affiliate faculty member Dydia DeLyser was an associate producer for The Legend of Pancho Barnes, a documentary film on the life of aviation pioneer Florence Lowe “Pancho” Barnes. The film was awarded the 2011 LA Area Emmy Award in the Arts & Culture/History category at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood, California, on August 6, 2011.

Professor of French Studies and WGS affiliate faculty member Kate Jensen published Uneasy Possessions: The Mother-Daughter Dilemma in French Women’s Writings, 1671-1928 (Lexington Books, 2011).

Assistant Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies Benjamin Kahan has been awarded the Early Career Fellowship to the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh for the academic year 2011-2012. This fellowship is awarded to a scholar of “outstanding promise, at work on a major project in any area of the humanities or allied areas of inquiry.” Kahan will be in residence at the Center during fall 2011. Kahan was also offered an ATLAS grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents for his project, “Cellibacies, 1886-1969.” In 2010, Kahan held the Dorot Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Jewish Studies at the Harry Ransom Center of the University Texas at Austin, for his project “Sexual Emergencies: A History of Acquired Sexuality.”

Assistant Professor Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies Heather Ondercin’s paper, “The Changing Meaning of Being a Man or a Woman,” has been selected to receive the Marian Irish Award for the best paper in Women & Politics presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
Departments

Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC) • Communication Sciences & Disorders • Communication Studies • English • Foreign Languages & Literatures • French Studies • Geography & Anthropology • History • Military Science (Army ROTC) • Philosophy & Religious Studies • Political Science • Psychology • Sociology

Interdisciplinary & Intercollegiate Programs

African & African American Studies • Art History • Asian Studies • Chinese Culture & Commerce • Comparative Literature • Disaster Science & Management • Film & Media Arts • Geaux Teach! Humanities • General/Interdisciplinary Studies • International Studies • Jewish Studies • Interdepartmental Linguistics Program • Master of Arts in the Liberal Arts (MALA) • Women’s & Gender Studies

Deans

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Assistant Dean
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Bronwyn Lawrence

Computer & Equipment

Computer Manager
Mark Hovey
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Jill Roshto
Assistant Director of Development
Lindsay Newport
Webmaster
Sydney Nakashima

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Administrative Assistant
Tianna Powers
Administrative Coordinators
Michelle Perrine
Lois Edmonds
Student Services
Administrative Program Specialist
Ginger Martinez
Administrative Coordinator
Tanisha McGill
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 2011 commencement ceremony.