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LSU FACULTY SENATE

Monthly Newsletter

March 31, 2012



President's Message

With the advent of the political season and the opening of the Louisiana Legislature, universities up, down, and across our marshy state go public. Lacking competition from football and situated in a media market that generates fewer distractions than do major metropolitan areas, universities and their troubles routinely grab front-page or top-of-the-hour placement in journalistic productions. Loud and colorful battles, whether against budget woes or recalcitrant lawmakers or consultants with reorganization plans, draw public attention to the big issues surrounding education but also distract public attention from the more subtle causes of university distress,

many of which emanate from within universities themselves.

Aristotle observes that courage is the first of virtues because its absence prevents the practice of all the others. It is difficult to perform philanthropy or to demonstrate grace while running in terror. Inversely, leadership with even a tiny bit of moxie creates its own tribes and supporters, for courage is surprisingly attractive. What Louisiana university leaders need to do—especially at those campuses that style themselves as statewide, national, research, or even Flagship institutions—is to begin stating clearly and directly and perhaps occasionally antagonistically precisely what it is that both universities as a whole and individual campuses are, do, and produce. Despite all the racket about role, scope, and mission statements, and despite all the clamor about Carnegie classifications, and despite all the quarreling with the Regents and the various Systems offices, we see precious little of such self-identification. Declaring a campus to be yet another among dozens or even hundreds of research or regional institutions dodges this challenge, making it seem that something has been said when only (borrowed) abstractions have been uttered. To date, not one Chancellor has taken the unconventional route of proclaiming that “yes, indeed we are officially a Master’s College and University with Medium Programs per the official taxonomy,” yet “however nice that may be, we here at Cypress Marsh Polytechnic are first of all aiming at creating an arts-and-sciences community for folks who live in the lowlands while we, proud duffers that we are, also advance sweet potato research in a way that is too concentrated for big schools.” Yes, every last institution in the land publishes a glitzy pamphlet showing how unique it is, but that standard approach to seeming non-standard is both *de rigueur* and at odds with the affirmation of what a given campus really is (rather than how it is classified or how it thinks it ought to be classified or perhaps what it thinks it wants in crude economic or political terms).

Another way to characterize the aforementioned problem is to suggest that universities and their masters in Louisiana suffer from what might be called “Neville Chamberlain Syndrome”: an acute desire to placate adversaries and to maintain calm no matter what the cost. The trouble with this strategy is that it invites stronger antagonism and, with that, even more compromises. Few institutions or systems in Louisiana include executives trained in history or the liberal arts, with the result that the timorousness of a Chamberlain is intensified by naivete and even a bit of social class envy or ambition. Rather than thinking about the history pertaining to Pepin the Short when dealing with our snarling governor or rather than regarding Dr. Johnson’s comments on the vanity of human wishes when chatting with the mid-level ensigns of industry who try to influence university governance, more than a few leaders get distracted and feel complimented by the press of prestigious flesh on their upscaling paws. Even more than money, what Louisiana higher education needs is vigorous if folksy leaders who not only cultivate donors but who are also not to improve their favorite plutocrats’ minds: to teach while fundraising or lobbying and thereby gradually change the mentality of our would-be betters in the capitol and the clubhouse.

Executive Searches Continue Roller Coaster Trajectory

The middle management at LSU A&M deserves accolades for attempting to keep the multitudinous executive searches currently underway on-track and within procedural bounds. On the “up” side is a directive emanating from the office of Vice-Provost Jane Cassidy explaining wise procedures for the appointment of an interim Dean in the College of Business and laying out scenarios by which a fair and open search will eventually yield a permanent chief for the mercantile tribe. The multi-step transition through an in-house interim Dean to a national search and onto a permanent appointment conforms not only with best practices but with wisdom. On the in-between if only slightly down side are the arrangements for the search for a permanent Dean of the new College of Human Sciences and Education. Good can be found in the fact that there is a committee and that this position will not become another recess appointment. Also laudable are the choices for membership on the committee, those members being pillars of the professional community. Not so laudable is the failure of the administration to include non-college members on the search committee. It has long been the position of the Faculty Senate that Dean-level appointments are of concern to the entire faculty because Deans play important decision-making roles on university-wide policy. In the past, the administration has recruited college-level support for its isolationist approach to committees by tapping into the academic equivalent of xenophobia, arguing that members of colleges dislike meddling from outsiders. Unfortunately, as the existence of a Dean’s Council demonstrates, college members are routinely affected by outsiders in Dean-level positions. The failure to recognize the integrity of the faculty community remains an obstacle to the advancement of the University and to interdisciplinary cooperation generally.

SU Faculty Raise \$10k for Defense Fund, Hire Attorney and Accountant

Oil prices may continue to rise, but the situation for faculty members at Southern University, an institution whose deficit is equal to one-half of one percent of Louisiana’s annual oil royalties (which, in turn, are a tiny fraction of the total oil economy) and which serves thirty-two percent of the black population, continues, if not to worsen, then to agitate faculty. One bright spot in the bitter story of a university under the economic equivalent of martial law is the attainment of the first fundraising goal for the Faculty Defense Committee and the retention of both an attorney and an accounting expert to work on this case. Under the leadership of durable Southern University Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi, the Southern Faculty Defense Committee has raised \$10,000.00, has retained the services of notable education attorney Jill Craft, and has recruited an accounting expert to determine whether there really is a financial emergency at the Southern campus.

Storm Blows Out Generators at LSUS

The senior set on our campuses may remember the furor that erupted when former President Bill Clinton shelled out several hundred dollars for a haircut on the airport tarmac while Air Force One revved its turbines at taxpayer expense. Now the balance that inevitably comes with the fullness of time has redirected coiffeur-driven prosperity to the noble goal of illuminating Shreveport. During a recent storm, generators on the LSU in Shreveport campus blew out, leaving a sizzling backup system to expire heroically while trying to save its magnetos. No sooner had the LSUS campus plunged into the gulf of night (and also into the email abyss, much to the chagrin of its disconnected faculty) than, according to Shreveport media outlet KSLA, the generous city of Longview, Texas dispatched two generators to help the Caddo campus bridge its way back into daylight. In Longview, higher education goes right to the very highest point of the body, the head, Longview being the home of both the *Texas Barber Institute* and another tonsorial institute, *Mane Concepts*. Perhaps the repair will feature *Samson* electrical products.

Faculty Governance Official’s Modest Investment in LAMR Already Paying Dividends

Always eager for full disclosure and transparency, the LSU Faculty Senate President would like to report a huge proportional gain on a one-share investment in Lamar Advertising, a company with deep penetration into the higher education policy business in both north and south Louisiana. Noting that contrarian investing often yields dividends and that Standard and Poor’s had rated this issue “high” with respect to “qualitative risk assessment” owing to “governance concerns related to the Reilly family’s voting control” and to “some governance factors” (Standard and Poor’s stock report for LAMR, reissued 24 March 2012), the non-risk-averse President decided to pony up \$27.57 for one share of LAMR. The share is now worth \$33.02, a 19.7% gain in less than three months. Which only shows that headway can be made against what the public sees as in-house dealing.

ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jason Soileau, Assistant Director, Planning, Design and Construction

For Jason Soileau, the Assistant Director for Planning, Design and Construction, belonging to the LSU community means working alongside people who have a passion for life and for everything that the Flagship institution stands for. "People bubble with excitement when they talk about this place," Soileau observes.

Soileau's job is as big as his title suggests. From a purely statistical perspective, Soileau maintains a database of all of the university's physical assets, including how much space is devoted to classroom usage, administrative offices, and the like. This data plugs into the formula that the Board of Regents uses to calculate how much funding LSU will receive each year. Likewise, the data feeds into the five year plan that the university provide the legislature. On top of this, Soileau also plays a role in over-



seeing the campus's sustainability plan that was implemented in response to student demands to make LSU a "green" university. In addition, Soileau has a hand in the project to digitize all of the plans and specifications throughout the university's 150-plus year history. Finally but certainly not least, Soileau is closely involved with master planning on LSU's campus. This last task includes ensuring that building projects comply with university and state regulations as well as playing a critical role in many of the building projects themselves.

The monumental responsibility that the Office of Planning, Design and Construction has been charged with have been made more challenging by the ongoing budget crisis. Soileau and his fellow design professionals have been forced at times to find

creative ways to fund projects, whether through securing grants or making the most of revenues generated by auxiliary units. Soileau mentions, for instance, that the installation of the some 1000 spaces for bicycles throughout the quad was primarily funded by the Office of Parking and Transportation.

Despite the challenges that the crisis presents, Soileau maintains a stoic, upbeat demeanor. He talks with some pride about some of his office's current projects. One of these is the Nicholson Gateway Development plan, which Soileau describes as an urban revitalization project that will include, among other things, improved pedestrian walk areas throughout the busy corridor. In addition, Soileau talks about the Campus Way Finding program, an initiative that has led to the installation of new signage in Tiger purple outside of buildings. The Office of Planning, Design and Construction is also working on 4-panel information kiosks that will be placed in strategic locations across campus, though Soileau is careful to point out that these directories will be installed three to five years down the road. A new drop off and pick up area is also planned for the lab school. And plans are in the works for Easy Streets II, which will include designated bike lanes. In many of these projects, the livelihood of LSU's student body is paramount: "priority falls on student safety," Soileau says succinctly.

"People bubble with excitement when they talk about this place."

As turns out to be the case among so many of the administrators who play a big part in the LSU community, Soileau has a strong connection to the university. Soileau received both his undergraduate degree in landscape architecture and an MPA with a minor in environmental management from LSU. A native of Baton Rouge, Soileau spent some time working in the private sector in Houston before returning to his roots, eventually landing a job as manager of landscape architecture in 2002. Like the majority of Tiger alumni, Soileau speaks very highly of the training he received at LSU, and connects his ability to look at the big picture when undertaking any project to his experiences as an undergrad: "they do a very good job of forcing you to get out, not just nationally but also internationally, to see what's happening in the world of landscape architecture."

Above all, Jason Soileau has a passion not just for the ensuring that the physical space of LSU's campus meets the needs of the community, but also for the people who make up that community and of the state as a whole: "there are very good hearted people here," he says sincerely.

CLCU Discusses Governor's Lack of Concern for, Uncertain Future of Higher Ed in Louisiana

The last day in February saw the annual convergence of the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities ("CLCU"), which continues to surge out of its moribund, dormant period and which bodes fair to become a major venue for interaction and collaboration among Louisiana's institutions. CLCU is unique among organizations in that it maintains a significant clientele among the upper echelon of campus and system administrators yet also welcomes anyone committed to the improvement of Louisiana higher education. Hosted this year by Southern University in Shreveport Chancellor Ray Belton, the annual consortium opened with a legislative panel featuring education-concerned legislators such as Steve Carter, Patricia Smith, and Thomas Carmody. Emceed by Council for a Better Louisiana ("CABL") chieftain Barry Erwin and co-hosted by Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates President James Robinson, the keynote panel included responsorial comment by ALFS Vice-President Kevin L. Cope. In unusually gingerly and occasionally pleasantly sarcastic commentary, the legislators noted that higher education had now slipped to fourth or fifth place on the governor's and the legislators' priority list and that dramatic reconfiguration of higher education was unlikely to occur this year. The wry Thomas Carmody jested that higher educational issues were not polling well and had therefore slipped off the governor's political radar screen. Ideologically eclectic, the panel took the edge off the sharpest debates now underway and indicated that the legislature approached higher education with greater sympathy and respect than might seem. The biggest shocker of the day came from Stan Jones, keynote speaker and President of Complete College America, who shattered an array of productivity myths by reporting that remediation programs deter rather than promote student success, that part-time students seldom graduate, that ethnicity and graduation rate remain correlated, and that excess credits continue to pile up, often at public expense. The full report, with the startling title *Time is the Enemy*, may be viewed [online](#). The day concluded with an appearance by Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell, who reviewed the bleak outlook that will await Louisianans if degree production is not increased or, more to the point, if jobs requiring higher education cannot be created in our state.

ALFS Vice-President Talks Higher Ed on Engster Show

Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope made a repeat appearance on Baton Rouge NPR affiliate WRKF on the popular morning talk and issues program, *The Jim Engster Show*. Cope shared with the urbane Engster a host of faculty views on issues spanning the higher education spectrum, tackling topics from the financing of higher education to restructuring and reorganizing to procurement to inter-campus relations. Listener calls addressed issues ranging from inventory control to student retention. Included in the show is a call from string bass virtuoso and educator Bill Grimes. Readers who would like to hear an online or podcast replay may visit the podcast page of the WRKF [web site](#), select the Engster show from the drop-down menus, and then listen to the broadcast for 27 February 2012.

LSU System Work Group to Reveal Options for North Louisiana

In a surprise move to shake up the debate concerning the future of north Louisiana college and university campuses, the LSU System Board of Supervisors issued a resolution approving the latest report, *The Northwest Louisiana Passage*, filed by the "Work Group on Organization and Collaboration," and empowered LSU System President John Lombardi and his staff to carry out the research, collaboration, and consultation mandated by that report for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of LSU System campuses and also of telling the full and true story about higher education organization. The LSU Board of Supervisors also went on the record as opposing the transfer of LSU in Shreveport to another higher education system. The resolution noted that currently circulating proposals regarding the merger of LSUS with other institutions had been promulgated with "proper, timely and detailed study." The resolution may be viewed online on page 346 of the March 16th minutes of the LSU [Board meeting](#).

North LA Faculty Protest Merger Proposals at March ALFS Meeting

Seldom do modern, secularized faculty take chapter and verse from Scripture, but the March meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates ("ALFS") evidenced borrowing from at least David and Goliath. ALFS delegates from statewide heard from north Louisiana faculty members who have experienced the disadvantaged, disenfranchised side of the battle to control campuses in Shreveport, Ruston, and nearby environs. Colleagues from three campuses north of Lea's Lunch Room expressed chagrin at the one-way character of the discussion, in which the chieftains of powerful business groups and their hired consultants pontificate to silent audiences. In response to the marginalization of faculty members from this "discussion" of the future of north Louisiana higher education, ALFS passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on legislation relating to the merger of LSUS with any other campus until a plan for the improvement of education opportunities for students and a complementary plan for protecting faculty rights have been developed. The full text of the resolution is available [online](#).



Southern University Faculty Senate Vice-President Thomas Miller

MOVIE REVIEW: Game Change (Jay Roach, 2012)

BY CARL FREEDMAN

I have chosen to review HBO's *GAME CHANGE* (written by Danny Strong and directed by Jay Roach, the same team that in 2008 produced *RECOUNT*, about the dispute over Florida's electoral votes in 2000) partly in order to make an important general point: that many of the best films these days, like most of the best dramatic series, are first seen on the premium cable channels, especially HBO. The monthly subscription cost is not, to be sure, a trivial sum for most people. But, if you compare it to the cost of tickets at your local movie theatre—not to mention the additional cost of snacks there and, sometimes, of parking your car as well—HBO is revealed to be one of the best bargains available in current cinematic art.

In one important respect, however, *GAME CHANGE* is not the clearest example of HBO's value. As intelligent political journalists of both left and right seem to be widely agreed (aside from the easily impressed Chris Matthews), the film is politically quite useless. It is based on the book of the same title by Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, generally regarded as the least intelligent and most trivial-minded book-length account of the 2008 presidential race. Yet the book does, at least, pay ample attention to the major political figures of the race. Of the three really interesting figures, Strong's screenplay, incredibly, almost totally ignores two—Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton—and largely ignores the third, John McCain. The main focus is on the relatively unimportant and absurdly over-discussed figure of Sarah Palin.

Inevitably, then, there has already been a good deal of mostly pointless discussion as to whether the film is pro- or anti-Palin. It is, as you might say, "fair and balanced." On the one hand, Palin is shown to be sometimes self-absorbed, potentially megalomaniacal, and—above all—an ignoramus of staggering proportions. She does not know what World War I and World War II were about, nor why North and South Korea are separate countries, nor that Britain is governed by a prime minister rather than by a monarch, nor what the Federal Reserve is; and she thinks that Saddam Hussein attacked the US on 9/11. On the other hand, she is also portrayed as, for the most part, a genuinely kind person who loves her family and who becomes sincerely overwhelmed by the situation in which she finds herself as McCain's running mate. The sneeringly sarcastic nastiness and anti-intellectualism that have always been integral to the real-life Palin's public self-presentation—for instance, in her acceptance speech at the 2008 Republican Convention—are air-brushed out of this portrait.

So the film, even more than the book on which it is based, fails to produce any significant insights about the 2008 contest; indeed, it hardly tries. Nonetheless, it is tremendously entertaining, partly because of the inherent drama of a presidential race, but mainly because of the superb dramatic skills of the major players. Julianne Moore's performance as Palin has gotten the most attention. Though this is not Moore at her very best—her Palin hardly equals her Yelena in *VANYA ON 42ND STREET* (Louis Malle, 1994) or her Amber Waves in *BOOGIE NIGHTS* (Paul Thomas Anderson, 1997)—even second-rank Julianne Moore is still excellent. There is a special difficulty in playing a current celebrity as well-known as Palin—how to keep acting from deteriorating into mere impersonation?—and Moore does the job as well as one can imagine almost any actress today doing. Interestingly, the film implicitly addresses this very problem in several scenes where Moore-as-Palin despairingly watches Tina Fey doing her satiric impersonations of Palin on *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*. One need not disparage Fey's own quite different talents in order to see that Moore is doing something far subtler and more complex.

Another highlight of *GAME CHANGE* is the always reliable Ed Harris's solid performance in the all too small role of John McCain. If the real-life Arizona senator has watched the film, he owes Harris a thank-you note; for he could hardly hope for a better representation of himself. Harris-as-McCain is convincingly, and almost unfailingly, smart, tough, and decent, with a kind of elfin charm that the real McCain sometimes displayed in the early 2000's but that had pretty much vanished from his public persona by 2008. Of the heavy pomposity with which McCain actually carried himself by the time he was nominated for president there is scarcely a trace.

But the brightest star of *GAME CHANGE* is without doubt Woody Harrelson, one of the most underrated actors of our time. Harrelson is one of those actors who sometimes seem capable of playing almost anyone: from a mild-mannered bartender in the sitcom *CHEERS* (where he broke into the big time), to a psychopathic murderer in *NATURAL BORN KILLERS* (Oliver Stone, 1994), to a basically admirable though unlovable pornographer in *THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT* (Milos Forman, 1996), to a loyal, rambunctious cowboy in *THE HI-LO COUNTRY* (Stephen Frears, 1998). Here he plays Steve Schmidt, an A-list political operative who manages the McCain campaign and the character from whose viewpoint the film is mostly constructed. Schmidt is primarily responsible for selecting Palin as McCain's running mate, and at first he is delighted to think that he has scored a major coup—a "game change" that just might enable a Republican to win the presidency in what looks to be a Democratic year. Though he attempts to maintain this positive outlook at various points as the campaign unfolds, frustration at dealing with the increasingly difficult Palin wears him down; and he gradually descends into a morass of depression and self-loathing. At the end, his chief regret is not so much that Palin, despite her ability to excite crazy enthusiasm among the hard-core Republican base, has almost certainly lost the ticket more votes than she has won for it; for, as Schmidt sees, the economic fundamentals of the year would have doomed McCain's presidential bid in any case. What seems truly to bother Schmidt is the guilty knowledge that he created a situation that, had the ticket actually won, would have placed only the health of a 72-year-old survivor of cancer and war injuries between the Oval Office and the terrifyingly unqualified Palin. Harrelson conveys Schmidt's changing, complex, and sometimes self-contradictory moods masterfully, creating a character worthy to stand beside Mickey Knox, Larry Flynt, and Big Boy Matson in his gallery of fine histrionic achievements. *GAME CHANGE*, indeed, is worth seeing for Harrelson's performance alone.

LSU to Award Lamar Heir Apparent with Honorary Degree

When it comes to the pursuit of honorary academic laurels, hard-working researchers may be best advised to continue resting thereupon. Major research and outstanding cultural contributions may abound in our age of international academic cooperation, but LSU A&M leaders, having sifted through the resumé of the learned, have demonstrated that the shortest route to an honorary degree is minimizing faculty input regarding the future of higher education. Armed with a nomination from Lamar Advertising Board of Directors member and LSU Provost John Hamilton, a concurring letter from Hamilton successor and Manship School Dean Jerry Cepoos, and endorsements from LSU Foundation Director Lee Griffin, congressional heavyweight Henson Moore, political enabler Donna Brazile, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and communications industrialist Cyril Vetter, but naked of corroborating testimony from academic personnel, LSU officialdom has pushed through an honorary degree for Lamar Advertising heir Sean Reilly. A record of the cozy conversation relating to this nomination may be seen by scrolling down to pages 331–345 of the March agenda for the LSU Board of Supervisors [meeting](#).

Jindal-Sponsored Ethics Workshop Case of the Pot Calling the Kettle Oiled

In a state where "grease my palm" are the magic words, it is not surprising to discover a case of the pot calling the kettle, if not black, then at least well-seasoned and oiled. From the regional campuses around Louisiana comes word that faculty are being lassoed into ethics workshops presided over by one of the Jindal administration's twenty-something experts who lectures and PowerPoints her way through Basic Morality 101. From the most junior member of a regime that has stuffed its piggybank with a ten-million dollar donor-extracted bankroll, humble professor and instructors must learn that "influencing action" in the legislature through economic leverage is equally naughty along with "nepotism," which, of course, is never encountered in Louisiana. One wonders how much this ethics tour costs and who is paying for it at the expense of which other public service or moral norm.

Book TV Showcases James Smith Noel Collection

During "Shreveport Weekend." Book TV, with its media-enhanced vans and more-than-usually erudite production staff, rolled into Shreveport early in the spring to produce, in tandem with American History TV, a pair of documentaries on the nearly big city at the top of the Red River. Among the highlights of the resulting documentary was [The James Smith Noel Collection](#) on the LSU in Shreveport campus, a formidable but sometimes overlooked assemblage of rare books from the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries for which occasional *Newsletter* columnist Robert C. Leitz III is the curator. The documentary may be viewed online via the [CSPAN video library](#). It includes diverting and informative comments from a number of north Louisiana faculty.



Secrets of the Policy Statements

Everyone has had the experience of looking at the little caller identification window on the cell phone or answering machine and deciding whether or not to pick up the receiver. That trick will never work in Ruston, where the vigilant Louisiana Tech administration has promulgated a policy on the proper use of voice mail. Among the prohibitions are an assortment of familiar strategems, including the aforementioned use of answering systems to screen calls or the sharing of voice mail access so as to share confidential information with other persons. Indeed, the policy provides unscrupulous users with a menu of naughty ideas, all thanks to prurient polytechnic imaginations. The LaTech policy also makes recommendations concerning outgoing voice messages, whether the suggestion that the message report "Who you are (just in case they don't know whose number they called)" (note the incorrect use of the plural "they" to avoid gendered singulars pronouns) or the stern warning that humor in an outgoing message may be perceived by some as an abuse of state resources (electrons are at a premium in Ruston). View the [policy](#) if you seek to bring your greeting to a high level of polytechnic purity.

GUEST COLUMN: “Be True to Your School”

By Robert C. Leitz III, Curator, The Noel Collection, LSU in Shreveport



Robert C. Leitz, III

In the beginning...

Just as the Beach Boys advocated defending one's school, I am unabashedly and quite subjectively presenting the facts in the most recent academic/political imbroglio between Louisiana Tech University (LTU) and Louisiana State University in Shreveport (LSUS), the institution with which I have been affiliated since 1973. The crux of the problem that has emerged between these universities is this: For as long as I can remember, Tech has sought entry into the large and lucrative academic market in Shreveport-Bossier City, the third largest population area in the state. While this crown jewel in the crown of North Louisiana has mostly eluded Tech, stuck in the small town of Ruston,

the time evidently seemed opportune to make a power play to acquire LSUS and all of its assets. The heavens may never again appear in such fortuitous political alignment—having the Tech administration, influential members of the Louisiana legislature, wealthy Tech alumni, and a majority of the Board of Regents all ready to wrest LSUS from the LSU System and to have it become a satellite campus of LTU. Were that not enough, a committee of local businesspersons—some of whom graduated from LSUS and had no expertise in higher education administration—took it upon themselves to secure the services of Eva Klein to provide for them an “independent” and “objective” analysis of LSUS, presumably to expose the university's weaknesses and have them remediated according to Klein's recommendations. One of Klein's recommendations was to merge (read “Tech take over”) the two schools. This, however, would primarily benefit LTU: Not only would LSUS have to sacrifice its identity with the major state university and be jettisoned from its system, but the Shreveport campus would have its affiliation shifted to the University of Louisiana system, a confederation of eight or so undistinguished campuses with mostly undistinguished programs. This includes Tech.

The conflict begins...

Once word of these doings was made open by proponents of the merger, spearheaded by Dr. Philip Rozeman, a local cardiologist and frequent chairman of local committees, the faculty at LSUS joined the fray to save our school with a vehemence that was unusual. The first of the faculty members, other than [Chancellor Vincent Marsala](#), to write on behalf of the status quo was the dean of the School of Business and Education. His emotional letter was widely distributed locally and achieved [statewide publication](#). On the LSUS campus, the inevitable internal dissention emerged. On the one hand, the majority of the faculty preferred to stay within the LSU system but with some changes to the role, scope and mission of the university which would allow us to develop graduate programs (especially doctoral ones). The faction advocating this also sought adequate financial support to assure that these programs would not be left to wither and die. It was this faction of the faculty which also identified problems with LTU's academic quality, revealed in the work performed at LSUS by [Tech transfer students](#). One point in the discussion that was acknowledged by both sides was that the LSU system had treated the Shreveport campus like a stepchild and that an alliance with Tech would not be any less lucrative than the current situation. The e-mails jammed the inboxes of faculty and staff. Those employees seldom heard from offered their ideas. Perhaps the most useful correspondence dealt with lists of pointed questions regarding the merger and its proponents. Specifically, the most recurring questions were “what's the plan for the merger?” and “why not make LSUS the main campus in the consortium?”. Depending on which side one favored, these were not always warmly received. As expected, the [Faculty Senate](#) and the [Staff Senate](#) at LSUS passed resolutions objecting to any merger, though their efficacy is in doubt.

And the winner is...

There is no winning, at least for LSUS. If it were allowed to continue under the LSU System, LSUS probably cannot expect to have its role, scope, and mission changed in any meaningful way to allow it to expand its course and degree programs. President John Lombardi hedged his answer regarding funding for LSUS at a recent forum at LSUS, causing disappointment among those who expected better treatment. In short, he promised nothing to indicate that change which will result in an increased number of students, unique course and degree offerings, and ample money for scholarships, academic programs, and salary increases. Meanwhile, Tech has nothing to lose and much to gain if the state legislature approves the merger. But for my school, this academic and political brou-ha-ha seems both unfair and downright scary.

LSU ORED Releases Booklet on Response to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

The *Newsletter* recently applauded the LSU Office of Research and Economic Development for its exquisitely well-produced annual report. Demonstrating once again that younger people have something to offer and that “retire-rehire” is not the only option for the demographically distorted power structure in Louisiana higher education, ORED has allowed the tireless Matthew Lee, with help from Ashley Berthelot and Holly Carruth, to create a splendid new booklet on the recent Deepwater horizon oil spill. Entitled *Responding to the Flow: Louisiana State University's Response to the Deepwater Horizon Drilling Disaster*, this lavishly illustrated mini-volume, which features well-chosen and historically significant photography of first, second, third, and fourth responders at work on the aforementioned unctuous calamity, offers a quick-reference summary of this sad story while also covering most every event within that tale and while providing just enough information to educate the intelligent layperson without slipping into pedantry. True, the title of the volume—*Responding to the Flow*—is something of a mixed metaphor, although the ambition to echo the idiom “going with the flow” indicates that, at long last, a bit of good-natured humor is creeping back into the moldy walls of the ORED office. Best of all is the fact that the volume uses clear white paper, bright colors, and a modern layout, saying goodbye (with luck, forever) to the “brown Pelican look” that has stuffed this state since Audubon hightailed it out of here with the migratory fowl. Congratulations, Matthew Lee, on a job well-done!

Librarian And LSUnited Founder Russo “Moves And Shakes”

The low-key approach that Louisiana higher education leaders have attempted to take toward the emerging faculty union movement proved a bit too quiet for efficacy as a much louder trumpet, the renowned publication *Library Journal*, names LSUnited founder Michael Russo as one of its “Movers and Shakers” and “Change Agents” for the year 2012. Russo garnered plaudits for his activism, his determination, and his quiet but firm leadership style, a style that has established him as a veritable hulking offensive lineman on the gridiron of academic policy. Commemorated in a [beautiful web page](#), Russo has brought honor to a campus where his demeanor draws affection while his words propagate tremors. Congratulations Mike!

LSU Faculty Senate Passes Attendance Requirement Resolution

Evidence is all but indisputable that class attendance increases both retention and graduation rates; opinion, which is not always wrong, affirms that participating in classroom discussions and other experiences contributes to the formation of an educated person and able citizen. Animated by these propositions and puzzled by a kind of persistent urban-academic myth that attendance was exempted from assessment, the LSU A&M Faculty Senate recently passed [Resolution 12-3](#), “Including Class Attendance Among Course Grading Criteria”. While the resolution stops short of recommending grading on the basis of attendance, it does affirm that attendance may be included in “academic considerations” that properly pertain to grading. Many Louisiana institutions encourage attendance-connected grading; now LSU A&M recognizes the importance of living an educated life as well as of accumulating credit hours.

LSU Administration Takes Santorum Out to the Ball Game

The dignity of honest research took another blow when LSU A&M found itself showcasing intelligent design advocate and evolution denier Rick Santorum. There being no evidence that this combined presidential candidate and anti-Darwinist purchased a ticket to the game, viewers of this spectacle could only conclude that someone in the LSU administration lent expertise, which has a value, to the arranging of the campaign appearance. Santorum certainly experienced more than a normal bleacher-bound fan's view. Despite professing that “he wasn't being political,” according to a [report](#) in the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, former baseball coach Skip Bertman nevertheless exercised privileges limited to high-ranking LSU personnel, squiring the presidential candidate and Garden-of-Eden enthusiast “to the batting cage behind the right field fence” where Santorum took batting practice, an experience that requires permission from someone upstairs. Perhaps Santorum's confidence that organisms never change has been demonstrated by the behavior of the top brass on the Flagship, a vessel clearly not headed to the evolution-rich Galapagos Islands but, rather, straight into the intellectual dugout.



Intelligent Design or Foul Ball?
Baseball and the Galapagos Lizard

Alexandria Summit Abounds with Action Plans



On March 17th the “Alexandria Summit” series continued with a joint meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative, and an array of faculty leaders from across Louisiana. New boots touched the ground as next-generation faculty governors such as Hugh Wilson from Grambling and David Szymanski from Louisiana Tech joined regulars such as Umbrella Policies Committee Chair Stephen Rushing, McNeese faculty encourager Janet Allured, and LSUA faculty activists Elisabeth Elder and Bernard Gallagher conferred with a wide array of Louisiana’s most committed professionals.

The program kicked off with a keynote address from HRM (Human Resources Management) expert and controversial retirement plan reformer A. G. Monaco, head of HRM at LSU A&M. Ever the challenger, A. G. critiqued the excessive humility of academic professionals, called for more intense engagement with the public with respect to explaining the value of what academic professionals do, set out models for the extraction of more revenue from auxiliary services, questioned the misguided egalitarianism that seeks to give equal raises to all groups, wondered aloud about the proliferation of non-academic jobs within higher education institutions, and scoured the “negative reward” for loyalty that expresses itself in salary compression and other economic anomalies. A. G.’s provocative talk raised eyebrows and cured naivete as issues from retirement to salary to benefits came under his fiercely quizzical glance.

Summit participants then heard from McNeese State University Faculty Senate Vice-President Janet Allured, who has lately found herself inadvertently drawn into a maelstrom of debate relating to the ferocious draft intellectual property policies being floated at University of Louisiana System campuses. Apparently serving as the bellwether for policy revisions across the University of Louisiana System, the proposed McNeese policy requires faculty to obtain system approval for each and every act of dissemination, including dissemination in routine scholarly publication (faculty members would be required to wait on a System attorney for approval for several months before releasing a journal article). The chilling revelations delivered by Allured spurred the summit participants to charge a committee with the development of an “umbrella” intellectual property policy by way of providing alternatives to the University of Louisiana policy and by way of arming colleagues before the battle comes to their campuses.

Two other major presentations ornamented a meeting with more topics than the small confines of a newsletter can contain. Up-and-coming governance star David Szymanski, Faculty Senate President at Louisiana Tech, awakened dormant enthusiasm with a dazzlingly illustrated presentation on “Proactive Steps in a Time of Strife.” Reminding colleagues that administrations are also off-balance in this time of economic and political upheaval, Szymanski enumerated dozens of seemingly small achievements by LaTech faculty governance that have made a material difference in campus life and in faculty morale and that have changed for the better the tone of faculty-administration relations. Conferees departed from Szymanski’s illuminating after-lunch keynote full of zest and ready to implement practical solutions to a host of challenges. Conferees also heard a real-time report from LSUS delegates Mary Jarzabek and Amy Erikson, who acquainted summit attendees with the heroic efforts made by LSU in Shreveport faculty members to get their voices heard in the loud controversy over the possible merger of that underappreciated campus amidst the bossy imposition of reorganization proposals by private interest groups. Thanks were given to Mary and to Amy for spearheading the campaign to remember that institutions are, in fact, made up of faculty members.

The next and year-climaxing “Alexandria Summit” is tentatively scheduled for May 12th. Watch the *Newsletter* for more information about this rapidly growing and increasingly influential faculty movement.

LSU Faculty Senate Pushes Reform Agenda

With its driving boots firmly on the “accelerate the administration” pedal, the LSU Faculty Senate has constituted three new panels to study reform legislation currently on the Faculty Senate docket. The panel action began with the first meeting of the Lab School work group, a hybrid panel comprised of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and a suite of rank-and-file faculty members who have expressed concerns about LSU’s K–12 offering. Joining the inaugural meeting were College of Education Dean Laura Lindsay and Lab School Director Wade Smith, who provided a history of the Lab School and dispensed a plethora of information. The panel will continue its deliberations by way of considering the merits of Faculty Senate [Resolution 12–5](#), “Explaining Responsibility for the Lab School”. Also newly constituted and about to begin meeting is the panel on the LSU Graduate School, which will look at an array of topics, including elections for the Graduate Council and the criteria for Graduate Faculty membership, with an eye toward implementing [Resolution 12–1](#), “Graduate Faculty Status: Confidence in Colleagues and their Credentials”, as well as a host of previous resolutions. Third, a new ad hoc committee has been created to study the merit of plus-minus and similar grading systems. The “plus-minus panel” will offer a report to the Faculty Senate by way of evaluating [Resolution 11–20](#), “A Plus and Minus Grading System for LSU”.

LIFESTYLE FEATURE

MY WAY AND THE HIGHWAY: REST AREAS AND RELATED “FACILITIES”

Way back in the fourteenth century, Geoffrey Chaucer noted that, with the ascendance of the zodiacal sign of Aries and the arrival of spring, “folks long to go on pilgrimages.” With the approach of Spring break and, with that, the imminence of summer vacation, cultivated Louisianans will take to the road in droves, hydrating and munching as they roll along and, with that, facing the inevitable physical necessities. Despite conducting huge volumes of traffic along its two major east-west interstate corridors, Louisiana, a thinly populated state, is surprisingly parsimonious with the erection of rest areas, with the result that recourse to the private sector must be made in about the same proportion as the ratio between state and private support for universities. With the decline of the pay toilet as an option, the old slogan “caveat emptor” may not apply, yet well-warned travelers will have more and happier options than those in the dark contentment of not-so-blissful ignorance. A review of the options on Louisiana’s major thoroughfares is thus in order. (to be continued on page 6)

Faculty Senate Assistants Unveil Index of Faculty Senate Legislation

One of the perennial troubles with faculty governance is its inability to prove perennial. Year in and year out, senates and similar faculty bodies pass resolutions and often elicit administrative consent yet equally often lose track of these accomplishments owing either to poor record-keeping or lack of finding aids. Due to its prolific record as a legislating body, the LSU Faculty Senate has set both a bad and a good example, creating an abundance of laws but allowing some of those to slip from memory. To solve this problem and to set a good example for faculty senates everywhere, LSU Faculty Senate assistants Greg Molchan and Jason Gu have created a thematic [legislative index](#) that will allow online users to search for legislation by the topics that various resolutions address. The index is heavily cross-referenced and multi-dimensional; users may access topics and resolutions from many different angles and at various levels of granularity. The index will be updated monthly during the school year shortly after each Faculty Senate meeting. Congratulations to Greg and Jason on a superior feat in the art of information science.

International Study Transfer Credit Challenges Resolved

In Louisiana as well as across the nation, students often accept risk when showing the pluck and drive to study abroad and thereby enlarge their cultural perspectives. Many institutions take a literal approach to formulae provided by professional organizations that base the number of credit hours transferred on a very strict interpretation of classroom contact hours. Occasionally, students who returned from study abroad and who believed they would receive full three-hour classroom credit allocations end up with some peculiar fraction of that allotment—say, 2.87 rather than 3.00 hours. Thanks to the initiatives of student advancement experts Kurt Keppler, David Kurpius, Marina Perreira, Guadalupe Lamadrid, and Harald Leder, this problem has now been resolved, with Faculty Senate President Kevin L. Cope inking the approval papers (on behalf of the faculty) early in March.

ALFS President Compiles Legislation List

Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (“ALFS”) President James Robinson has compiled two lists of legislation pertaining to higher education and education professionals. The first list, which is available [online](#), enumerates and annotates bills that bear on educational institutions, their management, their financing, their curricula, and their admissions standards. The second list, which is also posted [online](#), provides summary descriptions of bills that affect not only higher education *per se* but also the lives and fortunes of educators. This list branches into areas such as retirement programs, benefits, and facilities. Thanks to Jim Robinson for this formidable feat of research and analysis.

Best Dresser Runner-Up to Head Gulf Research Initiative

It has long been known that prophets seldom linger long among the people whom they lead, and so it is with sadness but also with congratulations that the *Newsletter* announces the elevation of Chuck Wilson to the position of Chief Science Officer for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative. Wilson, who for years provided the mucilage that, on a day-to-day basis, held together the most slippery of research universities, also garnered renown for finishing second in the January 2011 ranking of best-dressed men on the LSU A&M campus. We at the *Newsletter* are sure that Chuck will deploy his sartorial as well as intellectual aptitude as he navigates the uncharted intellectual waters over which he will soon become the master.

LIFESTYLE (continued)

Traveling with the sun from east to west along Interstate 10 remains an underrated experience, in part because the high speeds and occasionally dangerous volumes of traffic divert attention from the subtle variations that distribute themselves across the gigantic expanse of Acadiana. Water has always been key to the colorful Cajun experience, and so it is that, on entering Louisiana, the traveler encounters the first state-run rest area at mile marker 270. The impression given by this facility is at best nostalgic. Cramped, dark, sticky, and jammed full of trucks, it makes a poor competitor for the futuristic offering only a few miles back at the Mississippi Welcome Center near Stennis, where a giant replica of the Apollo-era lunar excursion model soars unexpectedly over visitors. Louisiana's first offering, alas, rather more recalls the moon cut into the old-fashioned out-house panel, but better prospects await only a few miles up the road. The voyager who prefers endurance to hand sanitizer is advised to delay his or her break until exit 182, where the whimsical Cajun Village of Sorrento, with its coffee shop as well as assorted mom-and-pop merchants, opens cleaner doors as well as a chance to visit with a pet alligator. Cobbled together form an assortment of semi-historic dwellings that were transported to a highway junction, this ersatz "village" has never quite concretized its identity, but it does offer a chance at discrete relief under the guise of souvenir-hunting.

Once in Baton Rouge, the best bet is a diversion at the College Drive exit, where the monolithic Marriott hotel, which, years ago, hosted no less than comedian Jackie Gleason during the filming of *The Hustler*, welcomes the discrete journeyer with a large parking lot and plenty of supplemental entrances. Those entrances open into large meeting room pre-event areas where an unsponsored "visit" may easily occur. Baton Rouge, however, can only serve as the staging area for the lunge into western Acadiana, where the first stop is surely the double, clover-leaf mega-rest-area at exit 121 in Butte La Rose. Whirling down and around the arcing exits, the visitor sweeps by separate areas for long-haul truckers and for ordinary automobile travelers. Restrooms here are spacious, although the choice of stainless steel fixtures creates a Spartan feel that clashes with the simulated Cajun cabin "look" of the installation. The first in the "next generation" of Louisiana rest areas, the Butte La Rose facility includes a pavilion showcasing not only tourist information but Louisiana natural history, including a robotic diorama in which racoons, squirrels, nutria, and occasional Cajuns seem to converse with the visitor—"occasionally" because the maintenance on the facility is poor, with the chatty creatures sometimes falling silent or, worse, endlessly repeating one or two phrases while the others plug their taxidermied ears. Free Community Coffee is available during limited—too limited—open hours. The staff is jolly and a community of semi-feral but well-fed, friendly, and carefully-supported friendly cats lives near the guard's car.



Monumental Welcome Sign at I-20 Welcome Center

Heading out on the last extension of the Evangeline expressway that is I-10, two commercial options await those who hesitated at Butte La Rose. The Race Trac gas stations at exit 109 (Breaux Bridge) and exit 80 (Crowley) offer their respective charms. The Breaux Bridge Race Trac, one of those super highway truck and car refueling platforms, scores about a B-minus in cleanliness—which, after all, is a whole lot better than an F—and offers a variety of quaint truck-related paraphernalia, including caps bearing slogans that will stimulate the adrenal glands of culturally sensitive academic people. The station at Crowley could qualify as a venue for a BBC reality show, being run by an Indian family that conducts its business rather more in the manner of one of those little London grocery spots than as would seem appropriate to a gigantic highway fueling facility in the empty nowhere of open America. The last chance on Interstate 10 comes up in Vinton, right before the Texas

border and just south of Delta Downs race track. Here, alas, the parting traveler suffers a disappointment as what looks like a large and welcoming facility turns out to be all facade, with only a small office and greeting space that seems never to be open and with poorly cleaned facilities along a shallow highway ramp. Best to head into Texas where, after all, everything is bigger.

The northward turn that begins in Lafayette and that diagonalizes its way up to Shreveport is not without its beauties. Along the well-engineered contours of Interstate 49, two rest areas receive more than honorable mention. Near exit 34, in St. Landry Parish, the ambler encounters a gigantic "recreation area" abounding in picnic tables and barbecue pits, none of which ever seem to be used but all of which seem to harken back to a day of greater optimism about America. The expansive installation, which even includes access to water sports (a questionable idea near a producer of sewage), contrasts with the restrooms themselves, which feature a hard rectangular design: sets of tile or even steel cubicles that surround steel fixtures and that open into communal, multi-spigot sinks. Perhaps the oddity value outweighs the misery induced. Further up the road, however, at exit 94, in Rapides Parish, just north of Alexandria, comes the hands-down winner in the rest area sweepstakes, a splendid new facility built in the last decade that features such decorator and museum elements as an ancient preserved Acadian tree that grows through the building in the manner of the olive tree that supports Odysseus's bed in Homer's epic *Odyssey*. Clean, fresh, and stimulating to the eye, the information and reception area commands respect among architectural critics. Wisely segregated are the adequate rest rooms, which hover in a satellite building to favorable hygienic effect and for easy access. The staff of the welcome center are always courteous and always eager to provide a free cup of coffee.

Official rest areas, however, are not the only options in the midsection of the state. Only a short drive away from I-49 is the campus of LSU in Alexandria, a surprisingly beautiful venue which offers spacious, modern, and clean restrooms in both its student center and its new multi-purpose building. Although it will probably never enter the derby, LSUA would surely win an award for the best overall restroom maintenance in the state.

Going up to the tip-top of the state, to Shreveport, both the public and the private sectors compete for the sitting laurels. Unfortunately, the welcome center that greets inbound eastward-moving traffic on I-20 suffers from the same problems as the sham rest area in Vinton on I-10. Far happier are two other options. Leaving I-49 at exit 199, which leads to the campus of LSU in Shreveport, migrants pass a midsize mall that includes a large Home Depot location. Unfortunately, "big box" stores often tolerate repellent, over-used restrooms, with Bed Bath and Beyond being the worst of the lot, but the south Shreveport Home Depot is an exception to this rule. A little further up the Bert Kouns loop but still within interstate range is the campus of LSU in Shreveport, where the elegant Noel Memorial Library provides what are surely the best public restrooms in the state, especially on the minimally used second and third floors. LSUA offers the best restrooms overall, but the luxurious Noel Library restrooms win in the best solo performance category.

The reviewer admits to being inadequately familiar with the rest areas and similar facilities on the far west extension of Interstate 20, heading into Mississippi, and so that review invites readers to submit their opinions. Meanwhile, happy—and relieved—traveling!

Southern Ejects, Strips Medical Benefits of Professor

The nurturing of marginalized persons seems to have disappeared from the mission of Southern University as the leadership of that semi-exigent institution has begun its selective, procedure-free purging of faculty. First to go was architecture professor John Delgado, who, after thirty-nine years of service to his institution, was ejected with a thirty-day notice and without medical benefits.

Guest Speaker John P. Leavey Talks Collective Bargaining at LSUnited Workshop

LSUnited continued its streak of public events and community engagement by hosting a talk by John P. Leavey, Vice-President of the United Faculty of Florida, the faculty union based in Gainesville. The session, which took place on February 27th, addressed the role and status of faculty unions at large, comprehensive, and research-intensive universities.

Tip of the Month: The Chocolate Fetish of Asheville, North Carolina

Despite centuries of practice and despite providing cocoa for most of the world, the Americas continue to lag behind old-world nations in the art of chocolate. True, one finds a chocolatier wannabe here or there, but careful inspection often shows that the offerings of these overblown truffle tramps originate in offsite factories or worse. American chocolate usually errs on the side of excessive sweetness and neglects the subtle tart and bitter undertones that distinguish European *Pralines*. Unexpectedly, out-of-the-way Asheville, North Carolina has produced a top-notch chocolate foundry that, better, will ship its products during the temperate times of the year. That chocolate artisan is no less than *The Chocolate Fetish*, which offers a full and altogether wonderful range of French- and German-style truffles, plantation cru chocolate, and assorted seasonal specialties. Especially laudable is the texture of the truffle filling, which remains completely free of grainy irregularities and which captures the aromatic qualities of the various infusions that fill these savory spheres. Be sure to try the "Ecstasy" and "America's Best" truffle lines, which are well worth their money. Or visit the chocolate Fetish in its unprepossessing storefront in Asheville, which could easily pass, at first glance, as a shoe repair shop but which you will leave walking on air!

JUST LISTEN TO YOURSELF 2012 EVENT FEATURES 12 LA POETS

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the State Library of Louisiana's Center for the Book will hold its second Just Listen to Yourself event. The program will be held at the State Library, Wednesday, April 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Louisiana Poet Laureate Julie Kane.

The lunchtime program is free and open to the public. Attendees may bring their lunch and come and go as their schedules allow. The State Library of Louisiana is wheelchair accessible. To learn more about the program and presenting poets, visit www.state.lib.la.us.

April 14th, Spanish Town Walking Tour

Examine the architecture of colorful Spanish Town, Baton Rouge's oldest neighborhood.

Tours begin at 9 a.m. at the Capitol Park Museum, 660 N. 4th St. Walks may be cancelled for inclement weather. Patrons are advised to dress comfortably for the 45-minute tours. All walks are free and open to the public.

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

Vigilante Women in Contemporary American Fiction

by Alison Graham-Bertolini, PhD
American Literature Readings in the 21st Century, Palgrave Macmillan Press
<http://us.macmillan.com/vigilantewomenincontemporaryamericanfiction> or
www.vigilantewomen.com

Vigilante Women in Contemporary American Fiction, by Dr. Alison Graham-Bertolini, examines acts of retaliation and vengeance by heroines who have been wronged. The book was published in September, 2011 by Palgrave Macmillan Press. Graham-Bertolini, who received her doctorate from LSU in 2009, says that the book demonstrates how the theme of female vengeance in fiction promotes equality and justice for real women in American society. *Vigilante Women in American Fiction* (ISBN: 0230110908) is available through major online retailers such as Amazon [<http://www.amazon.com>]. Further information can be found online at <http://www.vigilantewomen.com/>, or at the Palgrave Website. [<http://us.macmillan.com/vigilantewomenincontemporary-americanfiction>]



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2012. LAE CALLS FOR MASS PROTEST AT THE CAPITOL!

Today, the Senate Committee on Education reported HB 974 (Teacher Bill) and HB 976 (Voucher/Charter Expansion) favorably. These bills will now move to the full Senate for debate. The debate on HB 974 and HB 976 is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4th, 2012.

"THE SENATE SLIP PROTEST"

Here's your chance to show your visual PROTEST for House Bills 974 & 976!

Step 1: [Click here](#) to download the PDF of the Senate Chamber Message Slip.

Step 2: Click the following link to figure out who your senator is: <http://legis.la.gov/district/zipcode.asp>

Step 3: [Click here](#) to view the attached Senate Chamber Seating chart and place the "Chamber Door" location the blank provided at the top right hand corner of the message slip.

**It is CRUCIAL for you to also include the same "Chamber Door" location in the body of your email as this will help us in the sorting/printing process.

Step 4: Fill out the remaining highlighted fields on the PDF form, including your name, your senator's name, and a personal message. *Please note all of the information entered with the exception of any personal messages, will duplicate on both forms.

Step 5: When you are finished, click Submit (top right hand corner of screen) to return your data. You can also save the PDF on your desktop and attach it to an email: send this email to ashlev.davis@lae.org.

Mission Im(possible): Jesús Moroles 'Tears' Granite at the LSU Museum of Art

The LSU Museum of Art will present the exhibition *Tearing Granite: Jesús Moroles* from January 22 through April 29, 2012. The exhibition features over thirty-five free-standing and wall-mounted granite sculptures, as well as maquettes made in paper and paper pulp, by the internationally acclaimed, Texas-based artist Jesús Moroles.

The LSU Museum of Art is located on the fifth floor of the Shaw Center for the Arts downtown. For more information about the museum's exhibitions and programs, visit our website www.lsumoa.com or contact the museum at 225-389-7200, Facebook, "LSU Museum of Art", and Twitter, @LSUMuseumofArt.



"Lunch With the League"

Save the Date (April 18th) to accommodate the leaders in the retirement discussion. The day has been moved to **WEDNESDAY * April 18, 2012.**

Topic: "The Facts, The Fiction, Political Myth, and the Financial Impact of the Public Retirement Systems": an OPEN discussion of the Public Retirement Systems in Louisiana.

Advance Tickets can be purchased on line today at www.lwvbr.org.

General Admission: \$25.00

LWVBR Members receive a 20% discount

Reservations are required to guarantee seating and may be made by credit card by clicking on "Pay Here", which includes a \$2 convenience fee.

You may also make reservations by sending your Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, and E-mail address to LWVBR@LWVBR.ORG or by calling the League Voice Mail at (225) 334-9999 or (225) 927-2255. Your Reservation confirmation will be e-mailed to you.

Payment at the door is by cash and check only.

Published by [The LSU Faculty Senate](#)

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

