

NEWS BRIEFS

LSU anthropologists assisted in recovery of Columbia

LSU forensic anthropologists Mary Manhein and Ginesse Listi were two of three forensic anthropologists in the U.S. who participated in the recovery effort of the seven Columbia astronauts after the space shuttle disintegrated over Texas and Louisiana on February 1.

The anthropologists, joined by a forensic pathologist and a forensic dentist, spent six days covering thousands of acres in the Hemphill, Texas, area during their search for the fallen heroes.

LSU partners with three other universities to create program

LSU's School of Library & Information Science is teaming up with Auburn University and the Universities of South Carolina and Kentucky to create a specialized program in archives management. Beginning in fall 2003, students from all four universities will participate in the class via compressed video in real time.

LSU engineer receives NSF grant for nanoscale research

LSU chemical engineer Elizabeth Podlaha and her multidisciplinary team of LSU researchers are developing ways to make microdevices more effective and ultimately create a new industry for nanoscale technology. The National Science Foundation is sponsoring the group, known as a Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team (NIRT), in a collaborative effort to combine synergistic science and engineering research in the areas of nanoscale science and technology.

Broadway veterans and the state help bring the "Louisiana Purchase" to life in Baton Rouge

As part of the yearlong, statewide Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Celebration, LSU's Swine Palace is currently running Irving Berlin's Broadway musical, "Louisiana Purchase," with direction from two highly acclaimed Broadway veterans and a state grant.



Andre Chapoy (l to r), Molly Buchmann, Ralph Sims, and Sarah Jane Johnson, are taking part in Swine Palace's production of "Louisiana Purchase."

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism awarded Swine Palace Productions a \$25,000 grant to promote and

"It has been an intriguing project so far."

DOM RUGGIERO
Director, "Louisiana Purchase"

produce the 1940s musical as an official event of the celebration commemorating the 200th anniversary of the United States' purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803. Dom Ruggiero and F. Wade Russo, both veterans of Broadway, worked side by side to revise and update the script to more accurately reflect Louisiana.

"'Louisiana Purchase' is one of the few musicals where the Berlin music was written for the show," says Ruggiero.

Written in the late 1930s, the original "Louisiana Purchase" opened in 1940 and quickly became Broadway's top-

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Summer Stipend program awards announced

The Council on Research has announced its 2003 Summer Stipend Program award recipients. The \$5,000 award each faculty researcher receives will allow them to spend a portion of their summer term in research activity. Wide in variety, the proposals ranged from the examination of women's roles in Mardi Gras to how religion affects the family.

Examining women's roles in Mardi Gras traditions in rural areas of Louisiana, English Assistant Professor Carolyn Ware's summer stipend will allow her to complete a chapter of her new book, *Reading the Rules Backward: Cajun Women in Mardi Gras*. Ware has observed the Mardi Gras traditions in Basile and Tee Mamou, Louisiana, for the past 15 years.

"I've watched the roles of women during the Mardi Gras celebration go from participant to leader, and the impact and change it has on their lives outside of Mardi Gras is of great importance," says Ware.

From masking and "running" Mardi Gras with the Tee Mamou women to interviews and photographs, Ware is discovering that by taking a more active role in the deep, culturally entrenched Mardi Gras celebration, women are gaining more opportunities and alternatives in their day-to-day lives.

Studying the processes of the impacts religion can have on families is the main summer priority for Loren Marks, an assistant professor in the School of Human Ecology. By analyzing interviews from 24 highly religious parents and conducting an additional 20 interviews,

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Improving Louisiana child welfare

Social Work project focuses on additional training and research for social workers

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act allocates federal funds to state social services agencies for the enhancement of child welfare programs by funding training and research for child welfare workers.

LSU's School of Social Work, with its \$756,000 piece of the Title IV-E pie from the Louisiana Office of Community Services (OCS), is using part of the money to provide financial assistance to current social work students, several of whom are experienced professionals, for their work toward master's degrees. Research is also being funded to determine how maltreatment affects a child's social and emotional well-being and development.

"Child welfare workers are faced with enormous decisions when determining what future services a maltreated child must take. The most basic of these is whether a child should be removed from the home to be placed in foster care and, subsequently, if and when the child should be returned home or adopted," says Tim Page, associate professor of social work. "Our research is adding to the existing body of knowledge we have on child development and, through direct trainings we plan to provide, will allow child welfare workers to make more informed decisions on a child's welfare."

One method of how Page and other social workers determine the effects of maltreatment on children is by engaging them in a laboratory-based, semi-structured storytelling protocol. From the stories maltreated children tell, researchers can assess a child's emotions and their perceptions of the behavior of family and friends.

OCS is currently seeking certification for its child welfare programs from the Council on Accreditation, the national organization that accredits the social work programs of state and local agencies. Simultaneously, OCS is undergoing a routine federal review of its entire child welfare services system, which will include the portion of the Title IV-E funds allocated to schools of social work. Later this year, federal evaluators will be visiting LSU's School of Social Work, which has been preparing for accreditation for the past two years.

"Accreditation would certainly be a great indication of the quality and high level of professionalism of OCS," says Linda Lee, director of program development for the School of Social Work. "Accreditation could also provide more political clout when seeking more funds to protect our children."

Only three states--Illinois, Kentucky and Oklahoma--have accredited social services agencies.

For more information on child welfare in Louisiana or general social work concerns, visit the Louisiana Office of Community Services Web site at www.dss.state.la.us/offocs. Additional resources are available at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Web site, www.hhs.gov.

New Cancer Treatment Unit opens



Paula Garvey Manship, donor (front, center), cuts the ribbon on the new Cancer Treatment Unit at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Manship is joined behind the ribbon by (l to r): Dennis McCurnin, director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital & Clinics; David Senior, head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences; Nadine Carter Russell, donor; Dean Mike Groves, School of Veterinary Medicine; Tutta Vetter, donor; Neal Mauldin, veterinary oncologist; Glenn Mauldin, veterinary oncologist; Laura Lindsay, interim provost, Office of Academic Affairs; and Cyril Vetter, donor.

LSU Researcher investigating breast cancer link to chemicals

Department of Environmental Studies Assistant Professor Albert Cunningham is investigating the possible link between the incidence of breast cancer among women and the many chemicals we can be exposed to every day.

Less than half of all breast cancer incidences can be attributed to well known risk factors and interest in identifying environmental causes for the disease has increased over the years. Industrial chemicals, especially those with estrogenic properties known as xenoestrogens, such as PCB and pesticides, have been implicated as causative agents for breast cancer.

"There are approximately 80,000 industrial and household chemicals we can come into contact with every day, most of which have not been tested for their ability to induce long-term health effects including cancer," says Cunningham.

Cunningham is using computer modeling to accurately identify possible carcinogens and the likelihood that some untested chemicals are cancer-causing and hazardous. Cunningham says that new products are tested rigorously before being sent out for public use and that his work is focusing on older, untested chemicals.

Cunningham's research is being funded by the U.S. Army through a \$428,000 grant and will be complete in spring 2005.

Under the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), consumers are entitled to know what chemicals are produced and released in their area. Visit www.epa.gov for more information.

"Louisiana Purchase," continued from cover

grossing attraction at the time. Berlin's musical details a scandalous affair widely known as the "second Louisiana Purchase" set in the 1930s.

"Swine Palace is bringing back the magic of this Broadway hit thanks in large part to the support of the Rogers and Hammerstein Theatre Library who gave us permission to update the script for this important bicentennial production," says Michael Tick, chair of the LSU Department of Theatre and artistic director of Swine Palace Productions.

The spectacular tongue-in-cheek musical transports audiences into the comical story of Senator Loganberry's investigation of the questionable dealings of the Louisiana Purchasing Company. Actors, singers, and dancers from New York and Louisiana collaborated in the musical to celebrate Louisiana politics of the 1930s, complete with a Mardi Gras ball.

"Louisiana Purchase" will run through April 13 at the Reilly Theatre on LSU's campus. For ticket information, visit www.swinepalace.org, or call 225/578-3527.

Council on Research welcomes new leadership and members

The Council on Research welcomes its recently elected leadership and appointed members as a new year of research goes into full throttle at LSU.

Tryfon Charalampopoulos, Ted and Esther Walker professor of Mechanical Engineering, was elected chairman and will serve until December 2003. His research deals primarily with combustion, heat and mass transfer, aerosol dynamics, optical diagnostics, and combustion synthesis of materials.

Donald Deis, Ernst & Young Distinguished professor, was elected vice chairman and will serve until December 2003. His research focuses on audit quality and economics, and research methodology.

Physics & Astronomy Professor Michael Cherry was selected to represent the physical sciences and will serve until December 2005. His research interests are in space science and particle astrophysics.

Sylvie Dubois, professor of French Studies and director of the LSU Cajun & Creole English Research Program, was selected to represent the humanities and will serve until December 2003. Her research interests are sociolinguistics, and Cajun French and English.

Psychology Professor Janet McDonald was selected to represent the social sciences and will serve until December 2005. Her research interests are in the field of psycholinguistics; specifically first and second language acquisition, bilingualism, and language comprehension.

Summer Stipend Awards, continued from cover

Marks hopes to better understand how religious beliefs, practices and communities affect families.

"Research shows that different dimensions of religious experience can profoundly affect marriage, parent-child relationships and individual development," says Marks. "Yet, we still know almost nothing of the whys, hows and processes that are at work in the religion and family interface."

At the end of the summer, Marks plans to publish his findings in an academic journal and present them at a national conference.

For more information on the CoR Summer Stipend Program, visit www.research.lsu.edu. Here is a complete list of the 2003 awardees:

Frank Anselmo <i>French Studies</i>	Loren D. Marks <i>Human Ecology</i>
Moises Arce <i>Political Science</i>	John Mastrogianakos <i>Foreign Languages & Literatures</i>
Stephen A. Banning <i>Mass Communication</i>	Charles D. McAllister <i>Industrial & Manufacturing Systems Engineering</i>
Patricia M. Boge <i>Architecture</i>	Dorel Moldovan <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
Blaise A. Bourdin <i>Mathematics</i>	W. Todd Monroe <i>Biological & Agricultural Engineering</i>
Elena Castro <i>Foreign Languages & Literatures</i>	Suresh Moorthy <i>Civil & Environmental Engineering</i>
Renita Coleman <i>Mass Communication</i>	Patricia O'Neill <i>Music</i>
Robert L. Cook <i>Chemistry</i>	Kevin Risk <i>Landscape Architecture</i>
Ronald L. Daigle <i>Accounting</i>	John Rodrigue <i>History</i>
Oliver T. Dasbach <i>Mathematics</i>	Robert Silverman <i>Art</i>
Maribel Dietz <i>History</i>	Tiwanna M. Simpson <i>History</i>
Susan A. Dumais <i>Sociology</i>	Edward Smith <i>Art</i>
Emily Elliot <i>Psychology</i>	Phillip Sprunger <i>Physics & Astronomy</i>
Jannette Frandsen <i>Civil & Environmental Engineering</i>	Jim Sullivan <i>Architecture</i>
Dante Fratta <i>Civil & Environmental Engineering</i>	Kurt Svoboda <i>Biological Sciences</i>
Yvonne Fuentes <i>Foreign Languages & Literatures</i>	Cameron G. Thies <i>Political Science</i>
Craig M. Hart <i>Biological Sciences</i>	Jonathan Tomkin <i>Geology & Geophysics</i>
Jan M. Hondzinski <i>Kinesiology</i>	Georgiana Tuuri <i>Human Ecology</i>
Andrea L. Houston <i>Information Systems & Decision Sciences</i>	Carolyn E. Ware <i>English</i>
Luis Lehner <i>Physics & Astronomy</i>	Edward White <i>English</i>
Qiancheng Li <i>Foreign Languages & Literatures</i>	Denis H. Wu <i>Mass Communication</i>
Xigen Li <i>Mass Communication</i>	

Faculty Awards, Honors & Distinctions

Doris Carver, Research & Graduate Studies and Computer Science, has been elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has also been named editor-in-chief of *IEEE Computer*.

Jay Edwards, Geography & Anthropology, received the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities "2003 Humanities Book of the Year" award for his role in editing the bilingual book *Plantations by the River*.

Christine Kooi, History, has been named a fellow-in-residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study for fall 2003.

Luis Lehner, Physics & Astronomy, was awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship.

Marc Levitan, Civil and Environmental Engineering and LSU Hurricane Center, was appointed to the Technical Oversight Committee for the HAZUS Hurricane Model.

Kevin Mossholder, Management, is serving as president of the Southern Management Association for 2002-2003.

Beth Paskoff, Library & Information Science, received the 2002 Distinguished Alumna award from the School of Information Science and Policy at the University of Albany in New York.

Jorge Pullin, Physics & Astronomy, was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society.

Vijay Singh, Civil & Environmental Engineering, has been awarded the 2002 Aridlands Hydraulic Engineering Prize by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

LSU RESEARCH is published quarterly by the Louisiana State University Office of Research & Graduate Studies, 130 David F. Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. Call us at 225/578-5833 or e-mail at research@lsu.edu.
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LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Research & Graduate Studies
130 David F. Boyd Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

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