

# Happy 61st Anniversary Nicholls!

## INSIDE

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# NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Voilà! magazine makes 2009 appearance

The fall 2009 edition of *Voilà!*, the award-winning magazine of Nicholls State University, has been published and is on its way to readers on campus and around the region and state.

Published once each year with funding by the Nicholls Foundation, the Nicholls Alumni Federation and revenue from advertising sales, *Voilà!* showcases the university's people and its progress in a full-color magazine format. It is produced by the Office of University Relations, working closely with University Printing and Design Services.

The latest edition of *Voilà!* includes five feature stories written by Nicholls faculty and staff writers. The stories focus on aspects of the university's importance to the region's economy as well as its vital role in education and culture.

The cover story is a three-part examination of the part Nicholls plays in the sugar industry, long a mainstay of the regional economy. From its sponsorship of the summertime sugar institutes that have been ongoing for more than 30 years, to leading-edge research in deriving alternative fuels



Sugar production is a focus in the new issue of *Voilà!*. Cane fields around Thibodaux yield a valuable harvest every fall.

from the sugar cane plant, Nicholls continues to help ensure the viability of sugar production in Louisiana.

Other feature stories in the new issue of *Voilà!* tell about the university's dietetics and executive MBA programs, the weekly segments on HTV-10 featuring Nicholls faculty and staff, and the surprisingly varied assortment of performers, celebrities, artists and educators who have made personal appearances at Nicholls over the decades.

## Nurses from Nicholls dominate area workforce

A substantial portion of licensed registered nurses working in the Bayou Region received their degrees from Nicholls, according to data garnered from the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's 2009 Roster of Registered Nurses and the Nicholls Department of Nursing's Graduate Database.

The percentages of licensed registered nurses who earned an associate or bachelor's degree from Nicholls

appear by parish in the following table – along with totals:

Parish	Percentage	Totals
Lafourche	84%	684 / 817
Terrebonne	84%	782 / 934
St. Mary	59%	116 / 197
Assumption	58%	80 / 138
St. James	33%	47 / 144
St. Charles	17%	88 / 529
St. John	7%	22 / 304

"The Nicholls Department of Nursing certainly contributes to

the economic development and well being of the Bayou Region, as does the university as a whole," Dr. Sue Westbrook, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health, said. "These new figures verify that the number of Nicholls-educated, licensed registered nurses in our region is enormous."

The LSBN roster was published in spring 2009, with data through 2008.

## Enrollment continues to climb

More students are choosing Nicholls as their institution of choice for a four-year baccalaureate degree despite recent state budget cuts to higher education, which resulted in the elimination of five low-completer programs and two 2-year programs.

"The enrollment numbers are very encouraging," Dr. Stephen T. Hulbert, university president, said. "From the Bayou Region and beyond, we are welcoming more and more students of an increasingly high academic caliber. Their education is our primary mission, and while Nicholls is facing financial challenges, our commitment to protect and strengthen our academic core will always be paramount."

Nicholls enrollment statistics for fall 2009 indicate a 3.7-percent increase, or 255 students, from fall 2008 – bringing the total enrollment to 7,185. Graduate student enrollment increased by 5.8 percent. These increases continue a positive trend of steady, yearly growth at Nicholls since fall 2006, when enrollment totaled 6,804.

Prior to 2006, enrollment figures were slightly higher because Nicholls had not yet become a selective admissions university. In the last year of open admission, fall 2004, the enrollment was 7,482, and although higher admissions standards resulted in

See **Enrollment**, page 5

# BEHIND THE NAME

## Aquinas: a Catholic saint; Ponderosa: a house on TV

(Editor's Note: At the request of Inside, Dr. Alfred Delahaye, professor emeritus of journalism, has written a series of articles on how campus buildings got their names. The latest installment appears below.)



St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas and The Ponderosa have nothing in common and no relation to each other as names or as buildings except that both are on the Nicholls campus.

And then there was Meade Hall, which once was but is no more.

St. Thomas was a Catholic philosopher and theologian in the 13th century. The name Ponderosa, taken from the TV show *Bonanza* a half century ago, identifies the second oldest structure on the campus, today a storage building in the maintenance area. Meade Hall, never watertight during its 21 years as a dormitory, was named for a long-time member of the State Board of Education.

St. Thomas, the patron of Catholic universities and schools, was born in the Kingdom of Naples in 1225 or 1227 and died at Fossa Nuova in 1274. At the age of 5, he was sent to receive his first training from the Benedictine monks of Monte Cassino.

Later the boy was sent to the University of Naples, the abbot of Monte Cassino having told his father that a boy of such talents should not be left in obscurity. The future saint studied the natural sciences, logic, rhetoric, music, mathematics, geometry and astronomy.

He resolved to embrace the religious life and in the early 1240s received the habit of the Order of St. Dominic. His family conspired to destroy his vocation, and so he was confined in a fortress for almost two years. Ultimately he was released by being lowered in a basket into the

arms of the Dominicans.

Once he pronounced his vows, his superiors sent him to Rome where Pope Innocent IV forbade any further interference with his vocation. He next went to Paris and then to Cologne where a professor said Thomas' "bellowing in doctrine will one day resound throughout the world."

In Germany, France and Italy, he frequently preached sermons that were "forceful, redolent of piety, full of solid instruction, abounding in apt citations from the Scriptures." He received the degree of doctor of theology from the University of Paris, his theme being "The Majesty of Christ."

He spent the rest of his life praying, preaching, teaching, writing and journeying. He begged to be excused from accepting the archbishopric of Naples. Scholars say that had he accepted the post, *Summa Theologica* and other profound and famous works would not have been written.

After numerous miracles attested to his sanctity, Pope John XXII on July 18, 1323, canonized him. Centuries later, Pope Leo XIII declared him "the prince and master of all scholastic doctors," and in 1880 designated him patron of all Catholic universities, academies, colleges and schools throughout the world. His feast day is Jan. 28.

In contrast, nothing profound can be said of the 60-year-old Ponderosa. Once Nicholls opened in 1948, Dean Charles C. Elkins asked LSU for a temporary utility building, inasmuch as LSU planners had provided no storage space or showers. On Feb. 16, 1949, LSU entered a \$9,949 contract for a frame building directly behind Elkins Hall. Everyone began calling it The Little Gym.

When scholarship athletes began arriving a decade later, the structure was moved next to Shaver Gym as a makeshift athletics dormitory. The first occupants dubbed it The

Shack. Later athletes, fond of the hit TV western *Bonanza*, sardonically christened it The Ponderosa. On television, that was the home of the Cartwright father and sons. It was spacious and a bit lavish, and ponderosa pines grew outside.

Once conventional dormitory rooms became available to athletes, the structure was moved to the back of the campus and behind a maintenance building. Workmen continue to call it The Ponderosa and use it for storage. Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav caused the building to get two new roofs within four years.

Eleanor Hussey Meade, whose namesake dormitory was razed in fall 2008, was appointed to the State Board of Education in 1929. She served without interruption for three and a half decades. She was board vice president from 1938 to 1952 and became president in 1953, the year of her death.

She was born in Alabama but received her early education at Columbia Female Institute in Columbia, Tenn. She then earned a degree from George Foster Peabody Normal School in Nashville. She taught English at a high school in Abbeville and then served as assistant principal of a high school in Lucher.

In 1912 she moved to Cuba and lived there for 10 years, having married George P. Meade, who would become well known for research in sugar chemistry. While in Cuba, she taught English at the Presbyterian school in Cardenar. After leaving Cuba, she taught the Bible class at the Lucher Community Church for more than 30 years.

She was for 20 years a member of the Peabody College Board of Trustees. She was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also lent her support and patronage to New Orleans opera.

### Are you ready for some footballs?



At the request of the Manning family, the Manning Passing Academy donated 104 surplus footballs to Lafourche Parish public high schools on Thursday, Sept. 17. Pictured from left are Floyd Benoit, communications officer for the Lafourche Parish School Board; Blaine Degruise, secondary education supervisor for the school board; and Brandie Toups, Nicholls director of continuing education and Manning Passing Academy representative.

The academy is entering its sixth year at Nicholls and 15th overall, routinely attracting more than 1,000 high school prospects from around the world - including quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers and tight ends.

# FOCUS ON

## TOMMY PONSON, DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AND COORDINATOR OF STUDENT LIFE

### What is your hometown?

Gretna, La.

### How long have you lived in Thibodaux?

I've lived here since I came to Nicholls in 1998.

### What's your educational background?

After high school I went to the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now UL Lafayette) and Beacon University School of Theology. I earned a bachelor's in sociology and criminal justice from USL and bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from Beacon. I'm currently working on a doctoral degree in theology.

### Do you have hobbies?

I teach Sunday school, and I'm the director of music for my church. I'm strong in community service; I usually volunteer monthly with Habitat for Humanity, providing food for their workers. I am also a member of the Lafayette-based alumni chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club of New Orleans.

### Do you play any musical instruments?

Yes, I took formal piano lessons from grade school through high school. I played the saxophone in the West Jefferson High School marching band and the clarinet and tenor saxophone in the concert band.

### How long have you worked at Nicholls?

Since 1998. My first job here was judicial officer and assistant director of residential services. Part of the job responsibility was to be a live-in hall director, and I lived in Long Hall and later Millet-Zeringue.

### What brought you to Nicholls?

The judicial affairs position. Right out of college, I worked for the Louisiana Department of Corrections for 5 years, then I investigated child abuse for a number of years before I transferred to the adoption field.

### What are some of the most rewarding aspects of your job?

Overall, it's seeing students progress and move toward graduation – or just toward success in general.

*Is there a Nicholls faculty or staff member you'd like to know more about? If so, send an e-mail with the person's name to [renee.piper@nicholls.edu](mailto:renee.piper@nicholls.edu)*



## Energy and environment on agenda in New Orleans

The Louisiana Center for Women and Government, headquartered at Nicholls, will host a conference this week in New Orleans focusing on environmental and energy-related issues. The inaugural, three-day National Women's Leadership Summit is scheduled to kick off at the InterContinental Hotel on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Several nationally recognized women leaders will be on hand to address the conference and participate in panel discussions, including Donna Brazile, a weekly contributor and political com-

mentator on CNN's *The Situation Room* and *American Morning*. Brazile is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Washingtonian Magazine's 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C.; Essence Magazine's 50 Most Powerful Women in America; and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Award for Political Achievement.

Additional conference participants include CNN correspondent Susan Roesgen; U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski; U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu; former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blan-

co; First Lady of Louisiana Supriya Jindal; Janet Clark, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Marathon Oil; Melanie Kenderdine, associate director of strategic planning for MIT Energy Initiative; Neile Miller, director of the Office of Budget at the U.S. Department of Energy; Kathy Gardner, environmental and regulatory compliance director for BP; and Karen Florini, senior attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund.

Women governors and members of Congress nominated individual summit participants based on interest, leadership and expertise in the areas of energy, environment and natural resources. The program includes presentations by national experts in these fields and follows a public service

leadership model designed to enhance skills and foster relationships among leaders with similar concerns.

Established in 1991 and headquartered at Nicholls, the Louisiana Center for Women and Government encourages and promotes the leadership of women by providing resources and non-partisan support through educational workshops, training seminars and outreach programs. With more than 600 members from eight regions across Louisiana, the center promotes women in government and public service, acknowledges achievements of women and teaches all citizens about the importance of public service and responsible citizenship.

For additional information, call the center at Ext. 4770.

## Nominations open for Quality Achievement Awards

The Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services is seeking nominations for Quality Achievement Awards, recognizing division members who exert extra effort in their service to students – or to Nicholls as a whole.

Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, Sept. 30, in each of the following categories:

- Professional staff (classified or

unclassified, including nurses and admissions counselors)

- Office support staff (clerical and non-clerical office support)
- Operational support staff (police, housemothers, custodial staff, etc.)

For additional information on criteria, a listing of student affairs departments and nomination forms, call Ext. 4023.

## Interested in upcoming campus events?

Check out the following links:

Nicholls Home Page Calendar  
<http://www.nicholls.edu/calendar/month.php>

Academic Calendar  
[http://www.nicholls.edu/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.nicholls.edu/academic_calendar/)

Athletics Calendar  
<http://geauxcolonels.cstv.com/>

# Ameen Art Gallery showcases works by regional artist

An art exhibition titled “New Sculpture,” featuring work by regional artist Brad Bourgoyne, will be showcased in the Ameen Art Gallery until Oct. 2. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Born in Baton Rouge, Bourgoyne received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from LSU in 1993 and a Master of Fine Arts from the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut in 1995.

Originally trained in painting, and with a keen interest in the human figure, Bourgoyne works in traditional methods as well as new digital technologies to produce his three-dimensional work.

The exhibition includes work focusing on the human figure, ranging from painting and drawing to sculpture. Bourgoyne works with a variety of media, including graphite on paper, cast bronze and computer generated renderings.

Bourgoyne is scheduled to deliver a 45-minute lecture at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, in 210 Talbot Hall. A reception featuring the artist will follow the lecture in the Ameen Art Gallery, located in 200 Talbot Hall. Food and drink will be provided. The public is invited to attend both events.

Ameen Art Gallery is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## CAUGHT YOU WORKING! Employee Photo of the Week



Officer Michael Richard of University Police directs afternoon campus traffic onto Highway 1.

## Vaccinations to be offered Sept. 28-29

Nicholls has teamed with Maxim Health Systems to offer flu shots on campus. Faculty and staff who are at high risk of flu complications, live or work with high-risk individuals or simply want to reduce the chances of contracting the flu are encouraged to participate. The clinic will be held in the Bowie Room of the Bollinger Memorial Student Union from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, and 11

a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. The following shots will be offered:

- Flu – \$30
- Pneumonia – \$45
- Meningitis – \$130

This clinic is open to all faculty, staff, students and members of the community. Cash, checks and Medicare Part B will be accepted.

For additional information, call Ext. 2600.

## Nicholls opens new petroleum services lab



The American Association of Drilling Engineers Computer Simulation and Distance Education Lab, located in 401 Gouaux Hall, opened in fall 2009. Funded by an \$80,000 grant from AADE - as well as a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents - the lab enhances hands-on experience for petroleum services students through computer lab simulation exercises embedded into existing drilling, production and safety technology courses. Pictured is Michael Gautreaux, instructor of safety technology, lecturing in the new lab.

## Athletics Hall of Distinction to honor supporters

Pioneering members of the Nicholls football program and one of the most prominent supporters of Colonel athletics will make up the inaugural class of the Nicholls State University Athletics Hall of Distinction.

Local businessman Milo Meacham Jr. and the 1969 club football team will be introduced as the first Hall of Distinction members when the Colonel football team hosts Texas State on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Nominees, who need not have attended or graduated from Nicholls, must have distinguished themselves in service and leadership by playing an active role in supporting Nicholls athletics. Their service may have been a particular accomplishment or a sustained and exemplary record of service and support.

The 1969 Nicholls club football team will celebrate its 40th anniversary as the first inductees of the Hall of Distinction. Members of the team and their volunteer coaches were the first organized football program on the Nicholls campus and were instrumental in providing the fundraising, equipment procurement and promotional framework that would become the basis for the first Colonel varsity football program ten years later.

Meacham, who becomes the first individual member of the hall, will be honored for nearly 30 years of support for Colonel athletics. Meacham has endowed numerous scholarships and made significant gifts to the athletics department through the years. Meacham was also instrumental in the creation of the Colonel Quarters suites for football games at John L. Guidry Stadium – and, during his tenure as president of the Nicholls Foundation, he established the annual end-of-the-year awards banquets to honor the accomplishments of Colonel athletes both on and off the field.

### Enrollment, continued from page 1

an initial drop in enrollment, the marked increase in average ACT scores of first time freshman students can also be attributed to the new standards and other improvements at the university. Between fall 2004 and fall 2009, ACT scores of first time freshman students rose from 19.72 (with 53 percent having an ACT of at least 20) to 21.52 (with 75 percent having an ACT of at least 20), indicating an influx of students better prepared for university studies.

Moreover, 59 percent of first time freshman students in fall 2009 are Taylor Opportunity Scholarship (TOPS) recipients.

Another indicator of improved

academic commitment is participation in the Early Start Program (formerly the Dual Enrollment Program), which allows high school students to enroll simultaneously in university-level courses. Fall 2009 enrollment in the Early Start Program exceeds the fall 2008 enrollment by 45 students, for a total of 315.

Retention of first time freshman students increased as well, from 65.64 percent in fall 2008 to 66.4 percent in fall 2009 – a 0.76-percent boost. The retention of African American students increased 3 percent.

Nicholls students are also growing more diverse geographically. While Lafourche and Ter-

## New e-mail policy announced

Effective Thursday, Oct. 1, the Office of Computer Services will begin archiving GroupWise e-mail in accordance with La. R.S. 44:36, requiring agencies to maintain their records for three years from the date the record is made (unless required longer by statute).

*Specific policies follow:*

- GroupWise incoming and outgoing e-mail will be archived for three years.
- Items located in the inbox and cabinet folders will be archived after 14 days.
- Deleted e-mail will remain in trash for seven days and then be archived. Once archived, trashed e-mail will automatically be removed from the trash. Since users will not be able to delete their trash, mailboxes will not have size limits.
- All items located in the inbox and cabinet folders will be removed after six months and will only be accessible through the archive.

Faculty and staff with e-mail archived locally (on their computers) should enter a Helpdesk ticket at <https://csapps.nicholls.edu/helpdesk/>. The Office of Computer Services will then import the local archive to the central archive.

Users can access and retrieve messages from their archive by following the Archive link at the top of the GroupWise Web access page after logging in at <http://mail.nicholls.edu>.

Archived messages will be in their corresponding GroupWise locations. For example, if a message is located in the mailbox when it is archived, it will be located in the mailbox within the archive. If a message is located in the trash or cabinet folder, it will be located in the trash or corresponding cabinet folder within the archive.

Users will not be able to archive locally on the desktop, but e-mails and their attachments can be saved as Word documents in any folder the user wishes.

## Brazilian cellist to perform with faculty

The Department of Music invites the public to an evening of Brazilian music, featuring cellist Raíff Dantas Barreto, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Thibodaux on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Barreto will be accompanied by pianist Dr. Luciana Soares, assistant professor of music, and violinist James Alexander, adjunct instructor of music.

Born in the Brazilian state of

Paraíba, Barreto has served as principal cellist at the Municipal Theater of São Paulo since 2001. An active chamber musician and sought-after teacher, he has performed as a soloist with several Brazilian orchestras. He can be heard on numerous recordings as well, many of which reflect his interest in Brazilian music. Barreto performs on a custom-made cello called "O Alejadinho" – built by luthier Saulo Dantas-Barreto in 2007.

rebonne parishes continue to provide the bulk of enrollees – 3,717 – Nicholls is attracting more students from outside its immediate service area. Enrollment of out-of-state students, international students and state residents from beyond the surrounding eight parishes increased by 2.7 percent, 6.1 percent and

10.6 percent, respectively.

"However, the university is educating mostly Louisiana students," Larry Howell, associate provost, said. "More than 94 percent of Nicholls students are Louisiana residents who will mostly stay in Louisiana."

# Bienvenue! Au revoir!

- Nicholls welcomes the following new employees: **Melvin Harrison**, assistant director of the student union for student activities, who will begin Sept. 30, and **Stacy Pate**, research assistant for assessment and institutional research, who began Sept. 21.



## Nicholls Trivia Teaser

**"All Magma Herein" is an anagram for what Nicholls faculty member?**

Submit answers by e-mail to [graham.harvey@nicholls.edu](mailto:graham.harvey@nicholls.edu) or by telephone to Ext. 7059 by Monday, Sept. 28. Responders with the correct answer will be entered in a drawing for a gift certificate to be used at Sodexo's retail food vendors located on campus.

Congratulations to Carolyn Kern of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, who won the Sept. 11 Trivia Teaser. "Loggers Awoke" is an anagram for George Kaslow.

### September 23 Sudoku Puzzle

		9	5			7	8	
	5			3				9
	8		6					1
1			2		7			
		6		9		1		
			8		1			3
7					4		6	
2				8			3	
	4	5			6	8		

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Answer to this issue's puzzle will be published in the next issue.

### September 11 Sudoku Puzzle

7	3	9	5	6	4	8	1	2
5	2	4	3	8	1	9	7	6
1	8	6	9	2	7	3	4	5
2	6	7	4	9	8	1	5	3
3	5	8	7	1	6	2	9	4
9	4	1	2	5	3	6	8	7
4	9	5	8	3	2	7	6	1
8	1	2	6	7	5	4	3	9
6	7	3	1	4	9	5	2	8

Puzzle by websudoku.com

Have some university-related news that you would like to share with other faculty and staff members?

Send it to "Inside Nicholls" at [graham.harvey@nicholls.edu](mailto:graham.harvey@nicholls.edu).

"Inside Nicholls State University" is published by the Office of University Relations to inform university employees of administrative news, campus happenings, achievements and people associated with Nicholls State University. News items and calendar events should be sent via e-mail to [graham.harvey@nicholls.edu](mailto:graham.harvey@nicholls.edu), through campus mail to the Office of University Relations in 125 Elkins Hall or faxed to Ext. 4891. Contact the staff by telephone at Ext. 4143.

**Renee Piper**, Director of University Relations

**Tony Cook**, Assistant Director

**Graham Harvey**, Editor

**Tony Cook, Dr. Al Delahaye, Charlie Gillingham, Perry Lawless, Tancy McCart, Renee Piper and Bonnie Stagni**, Contributing Writers

**Jerad David**, Layout

**Misty McElroy**, Photojournalist

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