



LSU J-School to induct Delahaye in Hall of Fame

Dr. Alfred Delahaye, Nicholls professor emeritus of journalism, will be inducted into the LSU Manship School of Mass Communication Hall of Fame in September.

The 1946 Port Allen High School graduate was the founding president of the LSU Journalism Alumni Association in the early 1950s. He holds 1949 and 1951 B.A and M.A. journalism degrees from LSU and a 1970 Ph.D. from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

He was the sole reporter for the Franklinton Era-Leader from 1949 to 1950.

During the Korean War he was designated a "Combat Correspondent," but served stateside. He then spent four years as managing editor of the Houma Courier and the Terrebonne Press. He joined the Nicholls faculty in 1957 as instructor of journalism and director of publications and public information. He soon established the Nicholls Hall of Fame and the Nicholls Alumni Federation.

In the 1970s he became founding president of the Nicholls chapter of the national honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. He also began a 17-year stint as co-editor of the bibliography section of Journalism Quarterly. He served for five years as an officer of the Nicholls Faculty Senate, which he helped to organize.



In 1974 he founded what is today the nationally accredited Department of Mass Communication. In 1983 he was formally recognized as a Distinguished Service Professor. After his retirement in 1990, he continued as an adjunct instructor and departmental volunteer for 25 years and published a two-volume history of Nicholls State University.

In the late 2000s, Nicholls awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Former professor dies at age 50



Dr. Joye Gordon, whose primary focus at Nicholls was public relations from January 1995

to August 2000 when she left for Kansas State University, died in Manhattan, Kan., on March 7. She was 50 years old. Her survivors include two daughters.

At a memorial service on campus, she was cited as "one of the nation's leading scholars on risk communication," which concerns mostly health and public safety. She led the Kansas public relations instructional program from introductory to graduate levels. She was adept at securing large research grants.

A few days after Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav, she, another faculty member and several graduate students lived in a huge RV in the driveway and in the home of Dr. Alfred Delahaye so they could spend several days interviewing dozens of hurricane victims in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes.

Dr. Gordon was a 1987 Nicholls graduate in finance. Her advanced degrees were earned at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1990 and Purdue University in 1999.

Ken Wells is a journalist and novelist who grew up in Cajun country on the banks of Bayou Black, La., about fifty miles southwest of New Orleans. His father was a part-time alligator hunter and snake collector and full-time payroll clerk for a local sugar mill; his mother a homemaker and gumbo chef extraordinaire. Second of six sons, Wells began his writing career as a 19-year-old college dropout covering car wrecks and gator sightings for his semiweekly hometown paper, the Houma Courier. He returned to college and earned an English degree in 1971 from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., where he also served as student body president in his senior year. Wells was named the Courier's managing editor in 1973, a position he held until 1975, when he left the bayous for the University of Missouri School of Journalism, graduating with honors from the master's program in 1977. He taught at Missouri for a year, then spent four years as a reporter for the Miami Herald. In 1982, his final year at the Herald, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for a series on how a multibillion-dollar drainage system serving agribusiness was helping to decimate parts of the Everglades.

Wells joined The Wall Street Journal that same year in its San Francisco bureau and roamed the West covering stories as disparate as polygamy in Utah and the Exxon Valdez Alaska oil spill, and contributing regularly to the paper's popular Page One "middle column" feature. He moved to The Journal's London bureau in 1990, in time to help out with the paper's reportage of the first Persian Gulf War. He also traveled widely in Africa and wrote extensively about South Africa's transition to a nonracial democracy. In 1993, he joined the paper's Page One staff in New York as a writer and editor, eventually running a team of reporters that wrote exclusively for the front page. Two of his writers won Pulitzer Prizes. Wells also won the American Society of Newspaper Editors distinguished headline-writing award in 1994.

Ken left the paper in October 2006 after 24 years to help launch Portfolio, the Conde Nast effort at publishing a glossy national business magazine, serving as a senior editor and writer. He joined Bloomberg News in January 2009 after Portfolio folded, a victim of the Great Recession. He spent six-and-a-half years at Bloomberg as a writer and editor in various capacities before leaving in August 2015 to spend time at his lakeside cabin near Sullivan, Me, and begin work on a project dear to his heart -- a social and cultural history of gumbo. He is under contract to W.W. Norton & Co. of New York to deliver the book this November and it will be published in 2017.

Wells' literary commitment to his bayou home runs deep. He is the author of five well-received novels of Cajun Louisiana published by Random House: *Meely LaBauve*, *Junior's Leg*, *Logan's Storm* (collectively known as the *Catahoula Bayou Trilogy*), and *Crawfish Mountain*, a picaresque tale of political skullduggery and Big Oil



Ken Wells, who studied journalism at Nicholls in the 1960 and served as SGA president, spoke to about 50 students in La Bijou Theater in April. Wells, who was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing and worked for the Wall Street Journal for about 25 years, told the audience, that journalism still plays a vital role in American society. Wells was in the area researching his seventh book, this one on gumbo.

shenanigans in the Louisiana wetlands. His fifth novel, a young-adult book titled *Rascal, a Dog and His Boy*, was published by Random House's Knopf Young Adult imprint in 2010. He is also editor of two anthologies of Journal Page One "middle column" stories, *Floating Off the Page* and *Herd on the Street*, published by Free Press.

In 2004, Simon & Schuster published his first nonfiction narrative, *Travels with Barley: The Quest for the Perfect Beer Joint*, a travelogue through the nation's \$75 billion beer industry. *The Good Pirates of the Forgotten Bayous*, which grew out his reporting on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina reporting for The Journal, was published by Yale University Press in 2008 and won the Harry Chapin Book Award. Yale published a paperback version of the *Pirates* to coincide with the tenth anniversary of Katrina's landfall in August 2015.

Wells has previously served on the faculty of the annual Faulkner Society Words and Music Festival in New Orleans, and has been a frequent lecturer at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference sponsored by the University of North Texas School of Journalism. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Ken's literary and journalistic accomplishments were rewarded in 2009 by an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, Nicholls State, and induction as a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting the same year.

Ken recently relocated from Manhattan to Chicago, where he splits his time between his gumbo travels, the city and a lovely little summer lakeside cabin in the wilds of Maine. He is an avid fisherman, jogger, hiker and photographer and when he's not writing books continues his search for the Perfect Beer Joint. He also dabbles in blues and jazz guitar and songwriting and cooks a mean Cajun gumbo.

Tennessee Ph.D. joins MACO faculty



Dr. Linda Martin of Thibodaux was employed, effective with the fall 2016 semester, as an assistant professor of mass communication. She fills the position created by the retirement last year of Felicia LeDuff Harry. Her primary responsibility will be teaching

and co-ordinating public relations courses.

She earned her doctorate in 1994 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She received her M.S. degree in 1984 at the University of Denver and her B.S in 1982 at LSU-Shreveport.

She coordinated speech communication studies at

Louisiana Tech at Ruston, starting in 2004, and was an associate professor of speech at Tech until August 2006. As early as 2003, she was associated with the LSU Health Sciences department of Family Medicine.

For about 20 years she was associated with LSU-Shreveport and held various titles, including professor of communication and acting director of general studies. She also taught courses in marketing and management.

She has published articles in research journals and has served on major university committees concerning marketing, research and accreditation.

She has taught graduate classes ranging from power and persuasion” to strategic marketing and public relations. And she has taught undergraduates courses varying from advertising, communications case study to mass media in society and communication research methods.

Nicholls alumni win AP, LPA awards

Kelly McElroy, fall 2003, was a second-place winner in May when Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press Media Editors Awards were presented. He was recognized in the sports enterprise/feature category in the circulation division in which the Courier competed. The feature was identified as “No One Fights Alone: Vandy Football Player Fights Alone.”

Two MACO alumni won second places competing as Daily Comet journalists in a different category because Comet circulation is less than that of the Courier. The entry of Bridget Mire, spring 2013, was identified as “Public/Community Service: Juvenile Detention.” That of Brent St. Germain, spring

1993, was identified as “Spot Sports: Freshman Suffers Head Injury During Practice.”

Several MACO alumni were third-place winners.

McElroy also placed second in the Best Sport column division of the Louisiana Press Association’s competition.

Chris Singleton, spring 2006, earned first place in the LPA’s Best Sports Column competition.

Brent St. Germain, Spring 1993, placed third in the Best Headline division, and Bridget Mire, Spring 2013, shared second place with another staffer in Best Investigative Reporting.

Four receive awards at A&S banquet



The Department recognized four students at the College of Arts and Sciences Awards Banquet April 20. Adam Doucet, a public relations major from Galliano, received the Dr. Alfred Delahaye Award as the outstanding MACO graduate. Besty Davis of Thibodaux was named the outstanding journalism graduate, and Stuart Percle was named the outstanding public relations graduate. Ana Pizzolio, of Brazil received the Clarence Doucet Reporting Award. The Department also presented Davis with the Bonnie Toups Wells Feature Writing contest award.

Award winners from the 2016 Arts & Sciences banquet are from left Ana Pizzolio, Adam Doucet, Stuart Percl and Betsy Davis.



TV equipment finest in Louisiana colleges

Once the fall semester begins, Nicholls will have the finest state-of-the-art television equipment and facilities of any university in the state, Lance Arnold, assistant professor of mass communication, reports. He said that is because the equipment is the newest and the latest. Modest improvements have been made to radio station KNSU.

Arnold expects everything to be completed by the start of the fall semester or soon thereafter.

TV and radio improvements are costing \$800,000, but the overall cost of all major renovations to Talbot Hall is \$9.6 million, with \$1.5 million donated by the late Al Danos of Larose and the rest coming from state capital outlay funds.

Space devoted to television has been reconfigured and Arnold's office reduced in size. The control room has not been relocated.

To make the green-screen virtual studio operational, a Tri-Caster computer, the necessary software, lighting

and cameras have been added. Also available will be an additional graphics computer. The control room will include teleprompting computers.

The control room has been wired through fiber to all athletic venues on campus and will serve as the hub for all campus productions to be streamed online or aired on Charter Cable.

The student lab will have 17 top-of-the-line MacPro computers that will be used for editing, scripting, graphics and other tasks needed in video production. A new sound room will also house a MacPro computer along with new audio recording and processing equipment.

KNSU received five new Apple Macs along with a new audio console. The station also received equipment enabling it to be used as an interview studio. All computers at KNSU-TV and KNSU radio will be linked through a new server housed in 107 Talbot Hall. The station interior has been painted an off-white.

INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION



By David Bernard



When I started in journalism, it was pretty simple. I worked in a newsroom with editors, reporters, photographers and designers. Today, I work in a print lab with editors/designers, embedded editors (embeditors), content providers, curators and videographers.

Newsroom bustle and discussion has been replaced by e-mails, instant messages and Internet updates. The disconnect widens as traditional newspapers increase their focus on digital content.

My transition began in May 2012 when Advance Publications, the owner of The Times-Picayune, announced it was cutting print production to three days a week. It was an experiment that drew angry reader backlash and was being watched and scrutinized nationally.

Cutting production also meant cutting staff. Anxious days followed the announcement as we waited to find out who would be let go and who would go forward with the new company.

I watched people who had worked at The Times-Picayune for most of their adult lives lose their jobs. Survivor's guilt grew as I worked next to people who had lost their jobs but remained at the paper until the week the three-day, home delivery publication began. They continued to put out quality newspapers as their days were winding down.

We had been through furloughs and buyouts, but it wasn't enough to stem the tide of dwindling revenue and readership. "Do less with more" became management's mantra.

The days of news stories getting two – sometimes three – reads were over. The traditional copy desk hierarchy

of rim and slot positions ended. Copy flowed from digital editors to curators, who assigned stories to editors and designers.

No one was sure exactly how it was going to work with the digital operations (assignment editors, reporters and photographers) moving into a separate building. Our mindset on the print side was that we knew how to put out a newspaper. Digital content providers supplied the copy, and we put it on the page in much the same way as we always have.

The divide, I think, has brought more changes for reporters and photographers. They no longer simply cover a story or sporting event and write for the next day's deadline. The Internet requires pretty close to real-time storytelling. Updates from meetings or games are tweeted or posted as they happen.

It's not enough to get interviews or photos. Videos and photo galleries accompany almost every story. As more media companies become focused on digital content, the competitiveness has shifted from print to online.

Now their futures are counted in clicks, shares and comments.

More changes took place as everyone tried to figure out the best way to manage a website and a newspaper and remain relevant and profitable.

The Times-Picayune went back to a seven-day publication schedule in 2013 but kept home delivery at three days. Suddenly, a staff retained for a three-day schedule had to put out a product seven days a week.

With staff additions, things settled into a manageable routine. Then came the announcement in 2015 that the copy desks of The Times-Picayune, The Birmingham News, The Huntsville Times and The Mobile Press-Register were going to merge into one regional hub under the name Advance Southeast

Media. The Alabama papers continue to publish only three days a week. It's nothing new. Gannett has hubs around the country, and even the local Daily Comet and Courier copy design is done at a hub in Austin, Texas.

More anxiety followed as a decision where to place the hub had to be made. It was certain more jobs would be lost in the merger. It also meant more job losses as the printing and production facility was moved to Mobile.

We were relieved when New Orleans was chosen as the site of the print lab and we moved from the iconic Time-Picayune building to the East Jefferson Bureau building in Metairie in January.

We receive copy from embedded editors at each newspaper's digital operations office. Embedded editors work with content providers and decide copy for each page of the paper – from the A section to sports and living. Wire content is left up to the wire editor for the night.

The print lab pages are divided up by curators. Coy editors who had never touched a page before, were suddenly thrown into the world of layout and design. Editors/designers now work on any number of newspapers, all meeting different deadlines. There are nights when I don't touch a Times-Picayune page.

Yet, no matter the changes or the titles, the objective are still the same – put out the best paper you can and meet deadline.

As we continue to figure out the best way to remain a viable business, we expect more changes. Hopefully print remains relevant in those changes.

David Bernard is a 1984 graduate. He began as a sports writer at the Daily Comet in Thibodaux in 1986 and has worked at the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News and The Times-Picayune. He is an editor/designer with Advance Media Southeast in Metairie.

What MACO Alumni Are Doing

CHRIS THAYER, spring 1982, has been since 2000 an independent consultant for Nikken of Irvine, Calif., best known for magnetic energy to improve health. He also manages his wife's family medicine practice; she is Dr. Karen Dantin, who graduated from Nicholls in 1980. They are the parents of two daughters in their mid-20s, Lucia, who will graduate in psychology from Southeastern in 2017, and Arianna, who graduated in psychology in May 2016 from UNO. (In his spare time, Thayer is a beekeeper.)

DAVID BERNARD, spring 1984, is still a New Orleans newspaperman despite many recent changes. He is no longer officially employed by the Times-Picayune, no longer works out of the now-closed Picayune building and is no longer a copyeditor. His "new" company is called Advance Southeast Media, he is an editor/designer, and he works four days a week out of a bureau in Metairie just off I-10. He works on multiple papers: The Times-Picayune, the Huntsville (Ala.) Times, the Birmingham News and the Mobile Press Register. One paper has a deadline of 8:30 p.m., another of 9:15 and the other two of 10:30 and 11:15. His e-mail address is dbbernard@hotmail.com.

BOB CHARLET, spring 1985, in December moved from Honolulu to become president and publisher of The Houston Business Journal, one of 43 journals owned by American City Business Journals based in Charlotte, N.C. He oversees a staff of 36, including 12 in the newsroom. Previously he held the same title in Honolulu for seven years at Pacific Business News. For seven years before that he was based in Los Angeles where he ran a global publishing group for Canon Communications, his title being North American Group Sales Director. For seven years before that he was owner and publisher of TRAVELHOT of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. From 1987 to 1997 he was advertising manager for the Times-Picayune. Address: 5444 Westheimer, Suite 1700, Houston, TX 77056

DANA LOPEZ COLEMAN, fall 1990, completed her doctorate in May in mass communication at the University of Southern Mississippi. In 1996 she earned an M.B.A. degree in executive leadership at William Carey University. Since 2012 she has been busy with legal communication and organizational consulting for the City of Hattiesburg Municipal Court. She taught mass communication and journalism at the University of Southern Mississippi from 2007 to 2012 and at William Carey University from 2004 to 2007. Her broad experience includes marketing, advertising, communication management, personnel training, public relations, additional teaching, consulting and even speech instruction. Her three children live in Hattiesburg: Casey Daniel, 20; Kyle Henry, 18, and Connor Dawn, 17. Her address is dalcoleman@yahoo.com.

CORY MELANCON HAIK, spring 2000, in December joined the staff of Mic as chief strategy officer. Before joining Mic, a start-up media company for college-educated millennials, she spent five years digitally pioneering at the Washington Post. According to Internet reports, she has a passion for creative development of cutting edge story telling. The company, headquartered in New York, was founded in 2011 but took on the name Mic in 2014. It reaches 19 million unique monthly visitors and covers serious issues important to users between the ages of 18 and 34. She lives in Washington, D.C.

ERIC J. NAQUIN, spring 2002, since 2007 has been employed by L-3 Communications as an Integrated Logistics Support Engineer in New Orleans. The company is based in Camden, NJ, and specializes in the design, development and production of integrated communication systems supporting space, ground, air and naval operations. He specializes in reliability-centered maintenance philosophy and maintenance planning. Technical writing practices, such as, proposal writing, supply/support development, and maintenance procedural writing are included in his

daily assignments. He has been married for 13 years to Sadie Naquin (a fall 2001 NSU graduate in education), and has 13-year-old son, Owen, and 8-year-old daughter, Olivia.

JUAN NATHAN, spring 2003, works in the financial services industry as a private client banker for Chase Bank. He is also licensed by FINRS with my NASD Series 7 and Series 66 licenses. E has a seven-year-old son named Nicholas.

CHELSEA RAINEY, spring 2010, on Feb. 22, is a Louisiana Department of Insurance public information officer working in downtown Baton Rouge in a building behind the Capitol.

SARAH THIBODEAUX, spring 2011, has been with Trinity Healthcare Staffing Group in Florence, SC for two years. She is now in the IT Department where she is helping develop and write an entire new system that to be used company wide and will eventually sell to other staffing firms. She spends weekends kayaking and hiking in the Carolina mountains with her fiancé.

KAMI ELLENDER, spring 2013, has been working for The Walt Disney Company since August 2013. She began as an attractions hostess at Pirates of the Caribbean and Jungle Cruise, then moved to a position where she focused on graphic design and editing. After working in a number of others areas, in February she accepted a position as a Public Affairs Support Specialist for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts. Her team produces research documents and media recaps for different areas of the company. She lives in Orlando,

HARMONY HAMILTON, spring 2015, is part of National Audubon Society's Walker Communications Fellowship program, which places fellows across cities, including New York, San Francisco and New Orleans, to work on storytelling and content development. She is based in New Orleans working to develop stories and other content relevant to Audubon's core strategies.

What's new?

Please clip and mail to Department of Mass Communication
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or email james.stewart@nicholls.edu

We, and your fellow alumni, would like to know what's new. Please let us hear about address changes, promotions, new jobs, awards and any other news which you may wish to share. In addition to news about you, we also invite your suggestions and recommendations as to how we might improve. We particularly want to report marriages and births.

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