



Newspaper, yearbook move is heart of new student-media center project



Above is an artist's rendering of the entrance of the news student media center which will be located on the first floor of Talbot Hall across the

lobby from the Bob Blaizer Television Studio and adjacent to the offices of faculty advisers

by **Shaun Breaux and Sam Gruenig**

After three years of negotiations, Nicholls has official plans to spend close to \$500,000 to renovate space for student media in Talbot Hall to create better content across platforms with better cost efficiency.

Since 1996 *La Pirogue* and *The Nicholls Worth* were located in the former Army ROTC building across from the softball field. This created communication problems with other student media platforms and academic faculty in Talbot.

In Spring 2018 students voted 1,220-607 to consolidate funding for existing student media (including the newspaper, KNSU-FM radio and the yearbook). In Summer 2018 the platforms created the Colonel Media

Group, which serves as a hub for all student media outlets, to more easily share expenses and resources.

Dr. James Stewart, MACO Department head, said the improvements should be a tremendous boost to all student media outlets, the academic program and the campus-wide community.

He explained that the student media staffers will be able to work more closely with one another, as happens in the professional workplace. They will also be positioned to produce improved content across all platforms.

He said this development has the possibility of attracting more students to the academic program because of increased visibility

of student media.

The initiative began during the administration of President Bruce Murphy when the decision was made to discontinue the Communicative Disorders degree plan. Upon learning that the space housing the program would become available, the MACO faculty prepared an 86-page proposal, including supporting documents, for creating the new media center.

"We had been appealing to the administration for years to let us relocate Student Publications into Talbot," Stewart said. "It just made sense to us, but it never seemed to be the right time."

Stewart added that the proposal never got much traction until Dr. Jay Clune became



Photo by James Stewart

Joe Galloway (left), a UPI correspondent during the Vietnam War and co-author of the book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young," chats with re-

porter Shawn Breaux (right) and U.S. Army veteran Bobby Marcello following Galloway's November presentation in the Mary and Al Danos Theater.

ECHOES OF BATTLE

War correspondent, book writer helps audiences remember

by *Shawn Breaux and University Marketing and Communications*

Joseph Galloway, co-author of "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young" told an audience of about 50 in the Mary and Al Danos Theater Nov. 30 that helping people remember those who died in battle is among his primary responsibilities as a combat journalist.

Angel Flood, an Interdisciplinary Studies senior who was taking a MACO course, organized the event as part of a class project.

Galloway spent much of his time on stage discussing his role as a UPI reporter in the battle of Vietnam's I Drang Valley 53 years before.

He explained that the experience began when he held back as other reporters at an event were moving off in search of other stories.

As a group of soldiers began to board a helicopter, Galloway was told that if he was

crazy enough get aboard, he could travel with the troops.

"All I had to do then was hide out from the other reporters," Galloway said. "They got to ride out to find a hot meal and a cool bunk, and I got a ride on the Huey Helicopter into the pages of history."

He would later recount the battle between troops of the U.S. 7th Calvary and the North Vietnamese Army in the book "We Were Soldiers Once," which he co-wrote with retired Army Lt. Gen. Harold G. "Hal" Moore, one of the commanders of U.S. forces in fight.

The book would become a 2010 film starring Mel Gibson.

Though a civilian at the time, Galloway would receive the Bronze Star for valor in 1998 for carrying a badly wounded man to safety while under heavy enemy fire during the 1965 fight.

The man died a few days later in a medic

camp.

Galloway said he has met with members of the soldier's family over the years. He said they sit, they talk, they laugh, they cry.

These are the memories that survivors carry from a battlefield no matter what their job was, Galloway said.

He added that his writing partner thought that maybe some of the burden of those memories might be lifted writing the book.

"It did not happen that way, and it wasn't meant to," Galloway said.

"We realized in the end is that we're supposed to remember," he said. "It is our duty to carry the memory of those who died all around us. As long as we remember them, they are not really dead."

He said it was his duty to tell the stories of these men, and he will continue to try his best to do that until his last breath.



Student Awards

Four MACO student received special recognition at the College of Arts and Sciences May awards ceremony. Pictured from left are Victor Billiot, who received the Bonnie Toups Wells Feature Writing Award; Shaun Breaux, who won the Clarence Doucet Reporting Award; and Timothy Ricks, who received the Department's Al Delahaye Award as the outstanding graduate. Chloe Collins was named to both the Nicholls Hall of Fame and Colonel Leaders and Scholars. In April Breaux and Payton Suire

Dr. Bickam named Kopenhagen Fellow

Dr. Shanience Bickham, an assistant professor of Mass Communication who joined the faculty in Fall 2017, has been accepted as a 2019 Kopenhagen Fellow with the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Women Faculty Moving Forward Workshop to be held in Toronto, Canada, Aug. 6.



The seventh annual workshop, sponsored by EJMC Commission on the Status of Women, the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University and the AEJMC Council of Affiliates, is designed to help junior women faculty members move forward in their careers.

MACO alumni earn awards in LPA, LSWA contests

"The (Houma) Courier/ The (Thibodaux) Daily Comet" reported that three Mass Communication graduates this spring received awards at the Louisiana Press Association Better Newspaper Competition and the Louisiana Sports Writers Association's annual awards ceremony as members of their sports staffs.

Kelly McElroy (Fall 2003) received third-

place awards in the LAP's Best Sports Story and Best Sport Column, while Chris Singleton (Fall 2006) Took third in Best Sport Story and Best Sport5s Photo.

In the LSWA competition McElroy earned third in the Prep Writer category, Brent St. Germain (Spring 1993)garnered third in the Outdoors category.

The LPA named "The Daily Comet" the

best newspaper in it division, which include "The Advocate" and "The Times-Picayune," while lauding it with more than three dozen prizes, including first place for General Excellence.

The combines sports staffs also the Best Section, Division II (circulation below 30,000) award and placed second in the sweepstakes category.

95 attend MACO high-school media workwhop

Ninety-five students attended the Mass Communication Department's Oct 17 media workshop Oct. 17, to learn from professionals about the Mass Communication business.

Workshop sessions included topics on multimedia production, yearbook design and interviewing.

Participants also received a tour of Talbot Hall.

"Through the workshop we've learned a lot," Tristan Boudreaux from H.L. Bourgeois said. "I've definitely learned how to fix our captions, our interviews, and everything, talking to people last year was really hard and I got a new perspective on how to interview people this year."



Photo by James Stewart

Pictured at right are Dr. Linda Martin and Ms. Marnya Forbes as they hand amaterials to the attendees.

Aluma named CEO for Girl Scouts of Louisiana East in January

Press release from Girl Scouts Louisiana East

Girl Scouts Louisiana East named Rebecca Pennington (Spring 1986) as its Chief Executive Officer, following a national search. She replaced Jackie Alexander who retired at the end of 2018.

“Dr. Pennington comes to Girl Scouts with many years of experience in non-profit management, fundraising, and community engagement,” said Dr. Lyndia Jones, council board chair. “We are excited to welcome her and are eagerly anticipating this new chapter in the council’s life.”

Pennington most recently served as the Senior Director of Walk MS for the South Central Region of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, where she also served as Vice President of Walk MS and Emerging Events and Vice-President of Development for its Louisiana office. She has a consistent record of increasing revenue while serving in senior fund raising positions, with extensive experience in all areas of fundraising and public relations, particularly capital campaigns, the cultivation and solicitation of major gifts, annual and planned giving, and brand management.

Prior to joining the MS Society, Pennington worked in higher education for more than 22 years, managing capital campaigns for Nicholls State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Nunez Community College, as well as implementing and coordinating institutional and athletic brand images for Nicholls State. She has taught master’s level public relations classes as an adjunct professor at Southeastern and mass communications classes as an associate professor at Nicholls State.

She earned a a Master of Journalism from Louisiana State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Mass Communication with a concentration in Public Relations and minor in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds the designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive and has also served on numerous not-for-profit boards of directors.



Stewart takes over presidential posts for national, organizations

James Stewart, the Nicholls department head, was elected Nicholls Faculty Senate president in May and is scheduled to be sworn in as president of the national Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication at its meeting in Toronto, Canada, in August.



The ASJMC represents college-level journalism and mass communication programs and has about 190 member schools.

As president he will advance ASJMC Initiatives and coordinate efforts with other national mass communication organizations, such as the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Board of Directors. He will also lead planning for the organizations 2020 workshop in New Orleans.

Stewart was first elected to the ASJMC leadership ladder in 2017, moving from vice president to president elect. He served as editor of the association’s magazine “Insights,” from 2008 until 2017.

This will be his second year on the Nicholls Faculty Senate

CENTER, continued from page 1

president in January 2018 and among his earliest actions approved the concept.

Under the existing plan, part of the space formerly occupied by COM-D will be used to create a first-floor art gallery just off the Talbot lobby.

The remaining space will be used to create a student media center, including a centralized newsroom, a conference room, a photography studio, office space, an advertising office, a public relations office, managers’ offices and storage.

The University has already spent \$84,000 for asbestos abatement in the area. In order for the space to be usable, Phase One of the project required that the space be gutted and the asbestos removed, Talbot having been built in 1970.

Phase Two of the project, scheduled for completion by August and estimated to cost \$75,000, will make the space safe for student occupancy during the run-up to Phase Three.

Stewart explained that this phase will mean getting walls up and basic lighting to

move Student Publications into Talbot Hall with the rest of the Colonel Media Group.

Phase Three will be transform the area into a high-tech convergence media center with upgrades to all aspects of the physical plant. This stage will cost about \$340,000.

About half of this money will come from existing University funds and the remainder from donors.

This does two things, Stewart said – it cuts the costs down for the university and creates an atmosphere of people giving back to the university.

“The reality of the world we live in is that public universities can no longer depend on state dollars for everything, and we’re going to have to raise more of these funds,” he explained.

Terry Braud, vice president of Finance and Administration, said, “We’re entering the first steps of the fundraising process. It will be a very modern and practical space for student media.”

Braud added, “We have identified po-

tential alumni and folks who have expressed interest in bringing those dollars to put them into play.

“As money comes in from donors we’ll build out the space and vision,” he said.

The University hired the Houma architectural firm Craig C. Hebert in to provide artist’s renderings of the proposed renovations.

Stewart said that the vision for Phase Three will make for a “really a beautiful space.”

This phase also includes new furniture and up-to-date equipment to complete the sleek new design. This cost is projected to be about \$53,000.

Stewart said the addition of the shared newsroom will do many things for students. He said, “That’s the world our students will be entering, so it’s better educationally for those who work with the student media.”

“We believe that if we can do this, the student media, academics and the campus community as a whole are going to benefit,” Stewart said.

What Maco Alumni Are Doing

CHRISTOPHER ARCENEUX (Spring 1977) retired in March 2018 after 20 years in oilfield sales with Baker Hughes. In August he kayaked 31 miles around the island Manhattan, occasionally encountering strong tides and high waves during the 12-hour adventure organized and sponsored by Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club for about 200 kayakers. The Arceneux's son Cameron is a junior in urban development at the University of Texas at Dallas. When not hiking and traveling the country, the Arceneuxs live at 2422 Brookdale Drive, Kingwood, Texas 77339.

JOHN GRAVOIS (Fall 1980) in November joined the Arlington, Texas, firm of PartnerComm as a communication consultant. He was previously a Houston Chronicle political editor, having been hired for what the newspaper expected to be an expansion when it was expected to buy the Austin daily newspaper, but it was outbid by Gatehouse, which owns the Houma Courier and the Daily Comet. PartnerComm is a privately owned communication consulting company that specializes in human resources communication for employees (everything from annual open enrollment reports to websites to wall signs and graphic emails). Gravois conceives ideas and proposals and writes and edits. The veteran newspaperman, who covered the Bush 41 and Clinton White Houses, no longer has odd work hours and a long commute; he commutes only six miles from his home at 1200 Crown Drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063. For the past 37 years he has sponsored the Doucet Reporting Award.

MARK PLAISANCE (Spring 1983) in March stepped down as Lafourche Parish's chief public defender after four years of service in order to return to a full-time, private legal practice. In 2015 Plaisance successfully argued *Henry Montgomery v. State of Louisiana* before the U. S. Supreme Court, winning a 6-3 vote.

SUZANNE SMONEAUX WATTS (Spring 1983) and Larry Howell married in April 2017 at MacDonell Children's Home in Houma. She worked as a Lafourche high school English teacher for 20 years, and he retired in 2014 as executive vice president of Nicholls. They live in Acadia Plantation in Thibodaux. She currently works part-time as a writing coach for the Virtual Academy of Lafourche, is the mother of four adult children and has five grandchildren. She started JOTS

Birthdays, a non-profit that serves foster children living in group homes or shelters. In addition, she is a member of the MacDonell Children's Home Board and the Lafourche Juvenile Justice Facility Commission in Thibodaux.

BRENT ST. GERMAIN (Spring 1993) joined the firm of CHAND in Mathews as technical editor; the company produces manuals for the military and Coast Guard. He had been with the Houma and Thibodaux daily newspapers for 24 years, 11 as sports editor. His final column began on Page One in the Sept. 26 issue of the Daily Comet along with a picture of him standing next to a New Orleans Saints helmet and the Vince Lombardi Trophy following a Feb. 3 press conference for Super Bowl XLIV. He has "a wife, Janelle, and two dogs."

ANGIE PITRE PELLEGRIN (Spring 1995) was promoted to dean of Student Services at Fletcher Technical Community College in October. In 2017, she received the Athena Award for Leadership Among Women from the Women's Business Alliance of the Bayou Region; and she was a graduate of the LCTCS Louisiana Leadership Academy. In 2018, she was named the ACT Postsecondary Champion for the State of Louisiana. She is the owner of Empowerment Services and a licensed therapist and motivational speaker, corporate course designer and trainer. This year she travelled to Albania and Montenegro, where she visited family. Her favorite past time by far is visiting with her children and grandson, Lincoln Kearney, a precious 2-year old who loves dinosaurs and can already recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

KELLY LUSCO MERGES (Fall 1996) began the master's program in education at UNC Charlotte in Fall 2018. Most recently, she's been awarded the University of North Carolina System Staff Assembly Scholarship and the Charlotte Mothers of Multiples Educational Scholarship.

CORY MELANCON HAIK (Spring 2000) has joined the staff of Vice Media as chief digital officer to lead the company's global internet operations. She is headquartered in Brooklyn, New York.

COOPER COLLINS (Spring 2002) serves as CEO of Fortis BioPharma and the Managing Partner and CIO of MagnaSci

Venture funds including advisory roles to many pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. He is a founder of Pernix Therapeutics Holdings, a specialty pharmaceutical company primarily focused on the sales, marketing, manufacturing and development of branded, generic and over-the-counter products. Collins lives in the Houston area with his wife, Stacey, and their two children.

KELLY McELROY (Fall 2003) was named sports editor of The (Houma) Courier and (Thibodaux) Daily Comet in September. McElroy joined The Courier sports staff in later 2001 as a part-time writer before being promoted to a full-time position on the staff in 2003. The sports staffs at The Courier and the Daily Comet would combine in 2006. He was named the Class II Prep Writer of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association for his work in 2010 and in 2017 and has also won numerous Louisiana Press Association and Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press Media Editors awards over his 18-year career.

KYLE CARRIER (Spring 2008) works as a technical writer for CHAND, a company owned by Bollinger Shipyards. He also works part time as a sports stringer for the Houma Courier and Daily Comet newspapers. Married in 2012 to fellow Nicholls alumna Stacie Mumphrey Carrier. They have one child, Ryleigh.

BRIDGET MIRE (Spring 2013) in April moved to Wenatchee, Wash., to accept a job as a reporter for The Wenatchee World after three years with "The (Houma) Courier" and "The (Thibodaux) Daily Comet". She covers local government and state politics. She received the 2018 Louisiana Press Association's Gibbs Adam's Award for Best Investigative Reporting for covering the fatal shooting of a local man by a Louisiana State Trooper.

SHELBY KING (Fall 2017) began working with the Arc of St Charles as its community relations and media specialist in Summer 2018. The Arc provides support and services for people with disabilities, including vocational training, day programs and in-home care.

CLAIRE BROUSSARD (Spring 2018) joined KLFY-TV News 10 in Lafayette as an operations technician in programming in September.

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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