

# THE UNIVERSITY OF New Orleans

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF UNO

Fall 2007



**26** **Birds of Orleans**  
*In the World of the Birds of  
New Orleans, Strange  
Things Are Occurring*

**20** **Freighter Repo Man**

**34** **UNO Cartoons**

**38** **Basketball Season  
Looking Solid**



# IRELAND

*in the West Country*

**MAY 1-8, 2008**

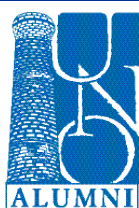
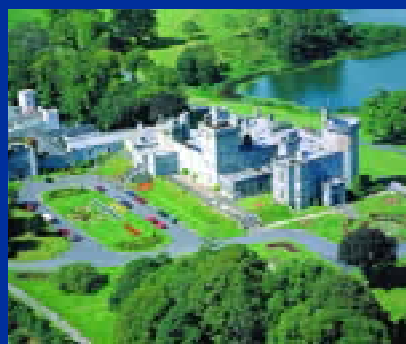
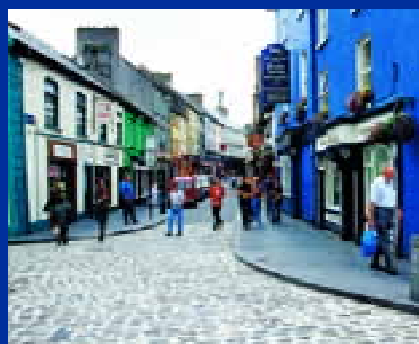
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During the day, admire the stark beauty of the Burren's limestone fields, a haven to many species of flora and fauna. Listen to the waves of the Atlantic Ocean crash against the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher. Wander through prehistoric stone fortresses. Attend a lecture by an expert from the Clare Heritage Centre about the Famine of 1845-49 and its impact on Irish emigration. No trip to Ireland would be complete without experiencing the Irish pastime of storytelling. Spend time with an Irish storyteller, who will share with you secrets on the art of storytelling as well as a few yarns. County Clare has long been known as a hub for traditional Irish music and dancing. At night, the towns and villages of this county come alive! Throughout the county, you can find musicians playing lively Irish music in pubs nearly every night of the week. You'll likely make new friends as you enjoy the music and maybe even try dancing!



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## Dear UNO Alumni and Friends,

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Just over a year ago, I put together a team to revisit, reconstruct and in some cases update the University's Strategic Plan. The strategic planning team chaired by Dr. Scott Whittenburg, was very broad and included University administrators, faculty, students, alumni and community representatives. Additionally, members were added as resources and experts in specific areas such as Athletics, Marketing and Student Recruitment. My

charge to the group was to set the course of this institution for the next several years. These individuals worked diligently over the course of the 2006-2007 academic year to complete the plan.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to each individual who contributed to this extensive document, a true working document, and a plan that clearly outlines the steps needed to achieve ongoing success for our students and ultimately for the institution.

The strategic plan outlines strategies to improve graduation and retention rates, strategies to enhance and revitalize campus life for our students; and following Katrina, to bring UNO athletics back to meet all NCAA Division 1 requirements.

We will be working to recruit students nationally and internationally by emphasizing our outstanding academic programs of distinction. As we work toward these goals, success in recruitment efforts will positively augment the dynamics of our campus community with an even more diverse and culturally rich student body.

We look forward to establishing a full Honors College and to bringing back a popular National Merit Scholars Program, achievable with the continued and loyal support of you, our alumni and friends.

Though I have mentioned only a few of our goals and strategies, the plan sets goals for improvements in resources and support available to our outstanding faculty and staff, and resources for campus facilities and international educational programming.

The strategic plan is lofty and the UNO community is committed to seeing it through. This plan will require participation from our entire University family...students, faculty, staff and alumni. As we set forth on implementation, a major key to our success will be to generate additional funding both through private contributions and state and federal resources.

As we approach the end of this calendar year, please add your commitment to the bright future of The University of New Orleans and consider making a generous contribution to your University.

The administration, faculty and staff wish you and yours a Holiday Season filled with joy and peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy P. Ryan  
Chancellor



Features

**Birds of Orleans**  
*Strange Things Are Occurring*



**Repo Man**



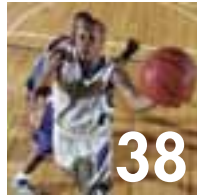
*A Life of Adventure*

**UNO Cartoons**



*Library Collection*

**UNO Basketball**  
*Looking Solid*



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Articles represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of anyone but the authors. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be submitted via e-mail or typewritten and signed. Letters must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity.

To inquire about alumni events or to join the UNO International Alumni Association, contact:  
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# Events

## BEACH CLEAN-UP



The UNO International Alumni Association sponsored a volunteer sweep of Pontchartrain Beach and Lakeshore Drive on Saturday, August 25. The teams picked up dozens of bags of garbage from the beach and surrounding area.

## UPWARD BOUND

UNO Upward Bound students dodged the raindrops on a July morning to help out at the Musicians Village, a new residential community being built by Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans Ninth Ward neighborhood.



Shan'tra Henry, left, and Alyson Nicholas team up to haul a box of supplies at the Habitat for Humanity Musicians Village.

Julien Raymond, Jamie Johnson, Nathaniel Burton, Keira Garrison, Ariane Bowie and Raven Armant spread dirt in front of a home in the Habitat for Humanity Musicians Village

## WELCOME WEEK 2007

**Meet the Dean** – Dr. Russell Trahan, dean of the UNO College of Engineering, welcomes students, faculty and staff at The Coffee House That Engineering Built.



**Fresh Fest** – A representative of the Student Activities Council visits with a fellow student during Welcome Week 2007.

**Join the Circle** – Krystle Chatman, right, treasurer of Circle K talks about club activities with a visitor to Fresh Fest.



**Balancing Act** – A student finds another function for his skateboard at the College of Liberal Arts Welcome Week barbecue.

**Sweet Treat** – Student Rebecca Finney dives into a colorful, cool treat at the Snowballs with SAC event on August 20 at Welcome Week 2007.



**Back to School with a Splash** – Jumpstart New Orleans at UNO team leader Leighann Delatte works in the yard at the UNO Children's Center. Jumpstart New Orleans at UNO Corps members prepared the play yard for the 2007-2008 school year then socialized with a mid-day barbecue during Welcome Week 2007.

## UNO INDIAN STUDENTS SHARE THEIR STORIES



Anirudh Mohan Paduru, left, a master's electrical engineering student, and Avishek Ghosh, right, a junior business administration major, were among UNO students from India interviewed and filmed on October 18 for the U.S. Department of Commerce Electronic Education Fair in India. The interviews with the UNO students, along with Indian students from several U.S. universities, will be broadcast throughout India to encourage more scholars to study here.

# Events

## ALUMNI BOARD PARTY 2007



Party-goers enjoyed music performed by UNO Jazz Studies students and delicious dishes prepared by Saffron Caterers at the annual Alumni Board Celebration on September 8. The annual gathering unites UNO International Alumni Association Board members with University administrators for fellowship and camaraderie.

**A** Sonja Nagy and Ted Stacey with College of Engineering Dean Russell Trahan and wife, Lynette.

**B** Zack Bergeron, Scott Sanchez, Cheryl Champagne and Ingrid Abud

**C** Chancellor Tim Ryan, from left, with J. Richard "Rick" Gruber, director of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Sharon Gruber, vice chancellor for advancement; Terry Verigan and Barry and Theresa LeBlanc.

**D** Terry Verigan, president of the UNO International Alumni Association, swings to the sounds with his wife, Kathy Higgins.



## SEN. MARY LANDRIEU'S HOPE & RECOVERY SUMMIT

The University of New Orleans marked the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's arrival by hosting Senator Mary Landrieu's Hope & Recovery Summit on August 27.

Those who attended represented a cross section of the community. Students, parents with young children, scholars, community activists, public officials and presidential candidates were among those who filled the halls of the Lindy C. Boggs Conference Center to participate in or listen to discussions on recovery related topics.

The event resulted in a large amount of positive publicity for the University. Event stories were published in nationwide newspapers and Web sites, and coverage was seen on network and cable news shows for weeks afterward.



**A** The panel discussions on education, pictured with Senator Landrieu and Chancellor Tim Ryan, included, from left, Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University and Louisiana Recovery Authority chairman; Dr. Joseph "T Joe" Savoie, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education; and Dr. Victor Ukpolo, chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans.

**B** Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-New Orleans)

**C** Chancellor Tim Ryan shares a laugh with CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien, left, and friend and UNO alumna Kim Bondy.

**D** Senator Landrieu's parents Verna and former New Orleans Mayor Moon Landrieu.

**E** UNO friend and attorney Walter J. Leger, a former member of the UNO Business Higher Education Council, with Chancellor Tim Ryan.

**F** Rep. Maxine Waters (D-California) visits with other participants at the Summit.

**G** UNO College of Education and Human Development Dean Jim Meza was among panelist on the session on kindergarten through 12th grade education.

**H** Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas.

**I** The party candidates will not be selected for months, but these two summit spectators have gotten a head start on campaigning for their candidate.

**J** Lenny Kapowki, left, with Chancellor Tim Ryan.

**K** Republican presidential candidate and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee.

**L** Republican presidential candidate and Congressman Duncan Hunter of California.

**M** Senator Landrieu greets the Rev. Al Sharpton.

**N** Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York

**O** Democratic presidential candidate and former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina.

# Events

## ALUMNI CRAWFISH BOIL—HOUSTON



*The Ross family visits with Stanley Straughter, right.*



*Troy Walker, Greg Gaspard and Rolf Jewel enjoy the camaraderie.*



*Bill, Alan and Mary Hymel helped make it a family affair.*



*Colleen and Kenny Ulrich, right, visit with Colleen's parents, Susan and Gary Burghardt.*

## ALUMNI CRAWFISH BOIL—DALLAS

*Z-henjing Guns, from left, visits with Eileen Guo and Margaret Guo.*



*Dramors “Jimmy” Abbott.*

*Eddie and Leo Dasley, from left, and Karen and Kevin Rooney are all smiles.*



## ALUMNI CRAWFISH BOIL—ATLANTA

*Mike and Susan Ganucheau, left, visit with Gill and Wendy Fenerty.*



*Tommy Walpole, from left, Jill Bankston and Monique Gaudin Gardner, director of Alumni Affairs, welcome guests.*

*Joe Smith and Tyisha Piper.*



# THE UNIVERSITY of NEW ORLEANS

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Each ring symbolically captures the uniqueness of The University of New Orleans. The anchor symbolizes our history as being founded on a Naval Air Station and how the University serves as an anchor to the City. Today, the UNO International Alumni Association resides in the Homer L. Hitt Alumni and Visitors Center, a much-needed, long-awaited, on-campus presence for alumni. The historic smokestack of the Alumni Center is a symbol of remembering the past while embracing the future. In 1965, the University adopted the colors of silver and blue and the name "Privateers"—seafaring warriors sailing the seas in league with a sovereign state. As Privateers, we wear the symbol of the sword with pride for our athletic teams and to represent the Privateer in all of us. The fleur-de-lis represents the symbol of our city and signifies life, light and perfection. The fleur-de-lis now also represents the rebirth of our communities and our unshakable spirit following the worst natural disaster in America's history, Hurricane Katrina.

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## UNO College of Education Reopens Gentilly Terrace Elementary

Public education has returned to the Gentilly Terrace neighborhood, thanks to the efforts of the UNO College of Education and Human Development, the Capital One-UNO Charter Network and the Recovery School District. Gentilly Terrace Elementary School reopened on September 10th, for the first time since it was closed after Hurricane Katrina.

“This opening is significant as it helps fulfill the university’s mission of returning quality education to the Gentilly neighborhood,” said James Meza, Jr., Dean of the University of New Orleans College of Education and Human Development.

Gentilly Terrace Elementary, located at 4720 Painters Street, is operated as a University Partnership Model between the University of New Orleans and the Recovery School District (RSD). Under the partnership model, UNO hires the principal, teachers and support staff who are responsible for the educational plan and day-to-day management of the school. The RSD is responsible for student registration, facility operations and maintenance. Gentilly Terrace has an open admissions policy. It is configured as pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, with an enrollment of 350 students. The school’s principal is Jonathan C. Williams and the assistant principal is Valerie Perez.

In addition to Gentilly Terrace Elementary, the Capital One-UNO Charter Network operates Pierre Capdau-UNO Charter School, Medard Nelson-UNO Charter School and Pierre Capdau-UNO Early College High School. The charter school network also supports Benjamin Franklin High School and Edward Hynes Charter School in an advisory capacity.✿



## UNO, Mayfield, New Orleans Jazz Orchestra form partnership

New Orleans trumpeter and composer Irvin Mayfield is broadening the scope of his commitment to the rejuvenation of the city by becoming the University of New Orleans' Jazz Artist-in-Residence. His appointment launches an innovative new partnership between the UNO Jazz Studies program and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra (NOJO). The announcement of the partnership and the introduction of Mayfield as a new Jazz Studies faculty member was made in true New Orleans-style – complete with live music from UNO students, faculty and NOJO members on Friday, October 12.

“The University of New Orleans has one of the premier jazz studies programs in the world,” said UNO Chancellor Tim Ryan. “Over the years, the program has included faculty members such as eminent jazz greats Ellis Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Harold Battiste and Steve Masakowski. To add to that tradition, we are extremely proud to name Irvin Mayfield as Jazz Artist-in-Residence at the University of New Orleans. As a young jazz giant and musical ambassador, Irvin will add yet another dimension to our outstanding faculty. UNO students are the ultimate beneficiaries, however. Where else can a student, who loves jazz, have the opportunity to learn and play with a faculty member of this talent and renown?”

Irvin Mayfield highlighted the partnership with a five-point plan to be instituted over the next five years. First is the creation of University of New Orleans Jazz Orchestra (UNOJO), composed primarily of UNO students. It will serve as a training space as well as a work force development space for musicians who are not enrolled in the UNO jazz program. The second step will be the creation of a Saturday Music School, which will serve as a feeder school for young musicians. The next component will be the development of a master's competition in the New Orleans style of play. The fourth component will establish the New Orleans Jazz Consortium, an annual three-day retreat uniting colleges, businesses, organizations, and individuals with the common goal of promoting jazz. The final piece of the plan is to create a world-class program that also will commission original pieces. As Mayfield put it, “commissioning new works is what can put you on the map.”

“UNO's Jazz Studies program is one of the best,” said Susan Krantz, dean of the UNO College of Liberal Arts. “With Irvin Mayfield and the NOJO joining it, jazz at UNO will be sure to reach even greater heights. We're delighted that he's coming home to his alma mater.”

—Sarah Bergez



Troy Davis, from left, Jamelle Williams, Leon Brown, UNO alumnus Khari Lee and Ed Peterson entertain guests at the reception.




Steve Masakowski, right, Coca-Cola Chair in Jazz Studies, greets Ronald S. Markham, president and chief executive officer, and Irvin Mayfield.

Composer and trumpeter Irvin Mayfield, UNO's new Jazz Artist-in-Residence, could not resist temptation. Despite the cast on his arm following wrist surgery, he joined the band at the reception for the announcement of the UNO-NOJO partnership.




## CORRECTION:

In the Summer 2007 issue of the UNO Magazine, the story 'How to Make a Nationally Renowned Film Program in 5 Easy Steps' incorrectly stated that Harlan Shaw was the Chair of the Drama and Communications Department at the time the Film Program was started. The Chair at the time was actually Gus Staub. Staub was with the university from its earliest days and was crucial to the development not only of the Film Program, but of the Drama and Communications Department as well. Originally, this department was part of the English Department. A few years before he left UNO, Staub worked with George Wood to begin the fledgling Film Program. Staub was key to the birth of UNO's nationally recognized film program.


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## James Logan Fifth Dean of College of Business Administration



When James W. Logan became the fifth dean of The University of New Orleans College of Business Administration on Sunday, July 1, he was already well on his way to achieving his goals. He has spent several weeks meeting with community and business leaders to listen to their needs during this period of rebuilding and plans to work toward fulfilling

them. "It is important to make sure that we are listening to the community and business leaders as we move forward," noted Logan.

Recruitment of students, faculty and staff members is one of Logan's immediate goals. "We want to become a college of choice for students who desire a quality education," he said.

"Most importantly, we are making the changes needed to ensure that the student who graduates from the College can immediately add value to the organization that hires them," Logan said.

The College has lost some faculty members since Hurricane Katrina, so Logan will set out to attract additional educators as well as staff personnel.

"Jim Logan comes to his position as dean of the College of Business Administration with enthusiastic support from his colleagues who almost unanimously encouraged him to accept the reins of leadership," said Provost Rick Barton. "Chancellor Tim Ryan and I have great confidence in Jim and

look forward to working with him in the days and years ahead."

Logan, a professor of strategic management at UNO since 1988, most recently served as executive associate dean of the College. During his tenure at the University, he has worked to establish such academic programs as the Master of Science in Health Care, the Executive MBA programs of which he was director, the Master of Science in Engineering Management, and the concentration in technology management in the Master of Business Administration programs. He also serves as chairman of the UNO Research and Technology Park advisory committee.

Prior to entering academia, Dean Logan was an officer in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command. He worked as an industrial and customer application engineer for ITT Corporation, and owned and operated three different entrepreneurial ventures. Before becoming involved in the administration of the UNO College of Business Administration, he consulted with a variety of organizations on health care, strategic planning, and technology management. He is a senior member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Logan has published numerous articles, proceedings, and book chapters primarily dealing with technology management and decision-making in turbulent and negative environments. He is a past president of the Southwest Academy of Management.

Logan holds bachelor's and doctorate degrees from Louisiana State University and a master's degree from Texas Christian University. He is married to the former Ann Michele Bergeron and they have two children. ♣



## Jumpstart Read for the Record

Jumpstart New Orleans at UNO led the metro-wide charge on September 20 to break a Guinness World Record, and that's no bull! Well, there was a little bull involved – a character named Ferdinand.

The new world record for the number of adults reading the same story to children on the same day was set with the event which featured the storybook *The Story of Ferdinand*, the tale of a young bull who is rather stubborn when it comes to bullfighting.

Louisiana is among the three states reporting the most participation to date, along with Texas and California. The count so far indicates that more than 258,000 children participated in 1,900 events nationwide. More than 100,000 copies of *The Story of Ferdinand* were donated to children in low-income communities.

Volunteers locally read to preschool students at the Children's Center on The University of New Orleans Lakefront Campus, as well as to hundreds more at New Orleans Public Library branches and elementary and preschools in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. The local effort was led by Katherine Alpert, site manager of Jumpstart UNO.

The previous world record was set by Jumpstart's Read for the Record event in 2006 with the story *The Little Engine That Could*.

For more information on Jumpstart New Orleans at UNO, visit <http://www.orgs.uno.edu/jumpstart> or contact Alpert at (504) 280-3987 or [keclemen@uno.edu](mailto:keclemen@uno.edu).



Sarah Bergez, UNO assistant director of marketing, shares the tale with Chad Welsh, from left, Wendy Duan and Jasper Koelbel.



All eyes and ears were turned to volunteer reader Gail Newchurch of Freeport McMoRan. Pictured, from left, are students Sully Parent, Rosa Jackman-Kegel and Noel Celestine.



UNO Children's Center staff member Ruby Webb and students Raymond Sutton, left, and Ramaj Waiters are all smiles as they listen to UNO Jumpstart Corps member Kimberly Haisch.



Student Chase Beams, left, checks out his Read for the Record sticker as volunteer Anna Williamson of Freeport McMoRan reads. At right is student Logan Tarantino.



Volunteer Henry Alpert presents Read for the Record 2007 stickers to students Sarah Carter, from left, Alex Johnson and Benjamin Myers after reading Ferdinand with them.



UNO Jumpstart Corps member Audrey Donald with Ariana Castellon, left, and Angelique Harris.

# FACULTY Focus

## MUSIC

**Dr. Frankie J. Kelly** spent the summer in Prague with UNO's Study Abroad Program. Dr. Kelly served as Academic Director and worked closely with Program Director, Mary Hicks, to increase UNO's diplomatic ties to the city by visiting schools, attending concerts, and building bonds with American Embassy Personnel as well as with teachers and allies interested in the UNO-Prague connection.

## FINE ARTS

**Doyle Gertjansen**, Fine Arts Professor, was one of twelve New Orleans artists selected for an exhibition in New York entitled "Katrina Kaleidoscope", sponsored by Lord & Taylor and organized through the New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center.

## ENGINEERING

**Dr. Rasheed Azzam**, Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering was a plenary speaker at the International Conference on Spectroscopic Ellipsometry in Stockholm, Sweden this summer. He also participated in the Doha Forum for Democracy, Development and Free Trade in Doha Qatar at the request of the Ambassador of Qatar to the United States this past spring.

**Dr. Norma Mattei** was elected to the ASCE Region 5 Board of Governors.

**Dr. Bhaskar Kura**, Professor, promoted sustainability in engineering education and research through international efforts that include teaching a one-week

course (jointly with the University of Technology, Delft professors) on Sustainability. As well, Kura served as the respondent at the final Spill Response Experience Coordination Action roundtable conference on Oil Spill Management Project, which was funded by the European Commission, (FP2003-Transport-3, 6.2 Sustainable Surface Transport) held in Madrid, Spain on June 1st, 2007. He also recently taught a Design for Sustainability Course in Prague, Czech Republic.

**Dr. David Hui**, Professor, has received four honorary doctorates: two from Ukraine, one from Italy, and one from Vietnam. Dr. Hui has also participated as the keynote speaker for the recent Nano Thailand Conference. He is also editor of many books and serves on several editorial boards.

## FILM, THEATRE & COMMUNICATIONS

**David Hoover**, Director of the Performance Program, was awarded the UNO Alumni Association's Award for Excellence in Research recently. With multiple credits for UNO productions, Hoover has also directed Alec Baldwin, Elizabeth Ashley, John Goodman, Stephanie Zimbalist, Eli Wallach, and Anne Jackson. He has worked at prestigious theatres throughout the country and internationally has been an adjudicator in London, lectured at the Universite de Sorbonne in Paris and has taught extensively in Italy and Mexico. David received an Artist Fellowship award from the Louisiana Division of the Arts; the first award of its kind made to a director.

**Debra Daniel**, Undergraduate Coordinator, Director of Publicity and Teacher in the FTCA department, received the UNO Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching. She presently teaches Oral Communications. She has taught Discussion and Debate and developed a course for her department titled *Cultural Diversity on Film and Stage*.

**David Sullivan's** animation "BOOM" is part of Independent Exposure 2007, a touring festival juried by Hal Hartley. His interactive piece "ReSpore NOLA" is currently in the curated show "New Art, New Media, New Orleans".

## EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. James Meza**, Dean of the college, is the Principal Investigator of two grants totaling over \$2M from the Louisiana Board of Regents and the U.S. Department of Education. These funds will support improved educational opportunities at the charter schools operated by the college. Specific improvements in instruction include a focus on positive behavior support, enhanced family partnerships, and the use of current instructional materials in urban classrooms.

**Dr. Richard Speaker** and **Dr. Yvelyne Germain-McCarthy** received over \$200,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents to fund the Meaningful Mathematics through Modeling (M3) project. The project develops the capacity of teams of teachers and administrators to create and sustain reformed mathematics instruction.

**Dr. Paulette Thomas** serves as the Principal Investigator of over \$2M in contracts from local school districts to support the implementation of the Response to Intervention – Pupil Assistance Model (PAM). The focus of the program is on the provision of professional development and technical assistance in a variety of assessment related activities, including Curriculum-Based Measurement, progress monitoring of behavior, behavior and academic assessment and monitoring, and intervention monitoring.

**Dr. William Sharpton** from UNO serves as the Principal Investigator and worked collaboratively with Xavier University and the Recovery School District (RSD) to secure a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The federal funding will support enrollment of teachers recently hired by public schools within the city of New Orleans in graduate certification programs.

**Dr. Linda Flynn-Wilson**, Associate Professor, presented research conducted with families of young children with autism at the International Division for Early Childhood conference this fall. The investigation identified the support needs of families of newly diagnosed young children with autism.

**Dr. April Bedford** has published two book chapters, an article in *Language Arts*, and an article in the *Dragon Lode*. At this time, she has an edited book, two book chapters, and an article in *Book Links* in press. In 2006-2007, she served as President of the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association and is a Board member of

the Children's Literature Assembly. Dr. Bedford is currently the co-editor of the *Journal of Children's Literature* and the Chair of Notable Books for a Global Society, a national children's book award presented by the International Reading Association.

**Dr. P. Sheehan McHugh** published one article in *Childhood Education* and made five presentations at National/International Conferences of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the American Education Research Association, the Oxford Roundtable, and the Hawaii International Education Conference.

**Dr. Darlene Morgan Brown**, UNO alumna and Director of the UNO Charter Schools, was honored at "The Global Summit for a Better Tomorrow," held at United Nations in New York City. The Summit represented some of the world's most influential and accomplished leaders in the arena of women's empowerment. The program addressed three major areas of interest affecting women today: healthcare, education, and economic empowerment.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Dr. John Kiefer** was an invited speaker at a conference jointly organized by the U.S. Department of Defense and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Kiefer was also an invited speaker at FEMA's annual Higher Education Conference in Emmitsburg, MD in June. Dr. Kiefer spoke about "From Lessons Learned to Lessons Taught: Implications for Homeland Security Programs Post-

Katrina" to an audience of about 200 faculty representing hazard, disaster, emergency management and homeland security programs around the country. Professor Kiefer was elected to the Executive Board of the Southeastern Conference of Public Administration (SECoPA). Dr. Kiefer also serves on the Executive Board of the Section on Crisis and Emergency Management for the American Society for Public Administration.

**Dr. Robert S. Montjoy**, Research Professor, testified at a Congressional subcommittee hearing on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. He was also invited to edit a symposium on election administration for the journal *Public Administration Review*.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

**Dr. Jeffrey Ehrenreich**, Anthropology Professor, had his photograph of Allison "Tootie" Montana, former Chief of Yellow Pocahontas Hunters, selected for the poster and publicity materials for the documentary "Tootie's Last Suit," directed by Lisa Katzman. The film, which explores Mardi Gras Indian culture through Mr. Montana's life, premiered in August and has been making the rounds of film festivals.

## Nepal Students Find UNO

by Sarah Bergez (BA '01)



Nepali students at the recent UNO "World Cup" soccer tournament.

Out of state and international enrollment at UNO is headed in the right direction. Out of state students increased by 26% between the Fall of 2006 and 2007 and international students increased by 4% in that same period. In those numbers are countless stories of how and why students choose UNO for their studies. One of those emerges from Nepal, a nation of only 27 million people wedged between India and Tibet along the Himalayan Mountains. In 2004, UNO had no students from Nepal. In 2005 and 2006 UNO had one graduate student. This year that number jumped to 20 students. Two graduate students, one upperclassman and 17 freshmen. In terms of international undergraduate students, only Honduras and Ecuador have larger numbers. How did UNO become a destination for Nepali students?

Word of mouth, coverage of Katrina and a healthy dose of scholarship offerings seem to be the answers.

Ishwor Aryal, a 28 year-old graduate student from Katmandu noted, "Katrina helped familiarize potential students with New Orleans." Since New

Orleans has always been an internationally recognized city, most of the students were somewhat familiar with New Orleans, but the heightened attention received in the aftermath of Katrina may have put it on the front of some people's minds. "Katrina was all over the news stories in Nepal," noted Puja Upadhyay.

With a little knowledge of the city in hand, social networking helped significantly. Sugan Singh, a freshman in International Studies said that the word of mouth information from his friends helped him migrate toward UNO. Upadhyay, a 19-year-old freshman studying engineering agreed, "I knew of some others that were planning on coming here."

Then came Facebook. A few searches on Facebook helped to bring these students together as their plans were developing. According to Suad Esmail from the Office of International Students and Scholars

Nepal's  
national  
flag



(OISS) this is not uncommon at all. "International students coming a long way from home want to connect with others from similar cultures in order to avoid feelings of isolation," she said.

Of course, friends and connections can only get one so far. After some serious searching on the UNO website and applying for scholarships, the decision becomes easier. Aryal has traveled and studied in the United States since 2001 and just recently came to UNO to get a masters degree in computer science. While he too was intrigued by New Orleans, it was UNO that awarded him the most in scholarship funds. He said that since he has been in the United States many of his decisions to move, travel and study were based where he could get the best deal.

Jorge Franco, Assistant Director for International Admissions, recalls getting a message from a guidance counselor in Nepal last year. “She noted that there were some students interested in studying here, so I sent her some information and pointed her to the website listing of our scholarship opportunities,” he said. Soon thereafter, the applications came in and the population surge was on its way.

When the students were asked about culture shock and the adjustment to their new home, the answers came as no surprise. Just like any other freshman, Upadhyay said the main thing she misses is the food back home. Nischal Basnet, a 19-year-old electrical engineer freshman said that he misses his guitar. Fortunately, the music scene in New Orleans has helped ease the feeling for him. “I really love the music here, blues and jazz is everywhere.” Singh said that friends and family were at the top of his list of things he missed. But, they all agreed that with modern technology there is no problem communicating with friends and family in Nepal.

All of the students agreed that the assistance from the university’s OISS was a big help. By aiding the



*Scene from Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital.*

students to make the transition and acclimate to their new environment as well as handling many of the tedious things that need to be done to study abroad, OISS has helped bring these students together and quickly give them a sense of community.

With the now much larger community of Nepali students here on campus, the students are enjoying their time in New Orleans and certainly are happy to help each other adjust.♣



*The OISS organized a trip to Wal-Mart to help the new students get ready for living in New Orleans.*



# FREIGHTER REPO MAN

# Hardberger

by Mike Rivault

*Author, teacher, entrepreneur, crop duster, pilot, freighter captain, port captain, lawyer, ocean-going freighter repo-man and now the subject of a Hollywood movie – that’s UNO graduate Max Hardberger’s life in brief. His adventures were featured in a Los Angeles Times story last spring, and his tales not only caught the attention of the UNO Magazine staff, but of writers and producers in New York and Hollywood. While his life certainly reads like a Hollywood movie, it had a much simpler start. That’s where we begin.*

## A Burgeoning Adventurer

Growing up in Thibodeaux, Louisiana, Florian Max Hardberger, Jr., the son of a biology professor, always had a taste for adventure. He was a licensed aircraft pilot at 16 and he spent his summers working offshore and on support vessels to satisfy his love of the sea.

After initially choosing Nichols State for his college education, he transferred to the almost 10-year old UNO looking for something a bit different. With no on-campus living facilities, Hardberger chose to move to the gritty French Quarter in the heart of the city, “to experience true urban living,” as he puts it. “That was the heyday of the Quarter, and I lived in the middle of it all with a bunch of other UNO students and friends,” said Hardberger, “Those UNO years were great.” Two years later he graduated with a degree in English.

Soon after graduation, Hurricane Camille hit and gave him one of his first entrepreneurial opportunities. Hardberger decided to remove fallen trees from businesses and homes in the Slidell area in a small business venture with a friend. “I had a 62 Bel Air and I hauled trees in pieces in the trunk of

that car. Completely ruined it,” noted Hardberger. But that start would launch him into one of his first careers, teaching high school English at Mandeville High. “One of the guys, who we removed some trees for, asked me if I knew of any UNO graduates who finished in English. I said, ‘Yeah, me.’ So I came back to New Orleans and packed up to work in Mandeville,” said Hardberger.



*Hardberger sailing on Lake Pontchartrain as a UNO student.*

After his first short stint as a teacher he was accepted into the University of Iowa’s Writer’s Workshop and earned his Master’s of Fine Arts in creative writing. He returned to teaching for a short time, but soon traveled to South and Central America to work in the oil and shipping industries. Then he returned to the States for another short stint in education to teach high school history in Slidell, and then it was back to Central and South

America. When the oil industry took a huge downturn Hardberger once again returned to work in Louisiana.

“Crop dusting,” said Hardberger, “was a good job. I also did nightly check runs when banks used to have to send checks to the central bank every night. I even

flew around some bodies that they didn't want to transport long distances in hearses." But the company he was crop dusting for in Breaux Bridge closed in the middle of the growing season and he found himself "with nothing to do," always a jumping off point for Hardberger.

"I also had a ship captain's license, so I went to Miami to see if I could get some work," Hardberger explained. This was when Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) was ousted as ruler of Haiti in a revolution. His ouster quickly produced a more liberal Haitian trade policy, subsequently leading to an increase in the shipping business. "There were lots of Haitians with ships in Miami, and not enough captains to go around," stated Hardberger. There he found a job that would most define his life, a freighter captain.

Hardberger stated, "Most people don't realize what really goes on in the world of international shipping." It is a rough and tumble world where

piracy still exists and as Hardberger put it, "International waters can be worse than the Wild West." His years as a freighter captain taught him a great deal about getting goods from one point to the other and led him to a new series of adventures.

### First Freighter Repossession

In 1991 Hardberger was drawn into an intriguing international shipping incident. He was assigned his first "ship extraction," another way of saying, "ship repo." As a port captain for Morgan Price & Company, Hardberger managed two freighters, one of them, the Patric M. But he found himself handling more than the ships, he found himself in an old-world drama.

"An infamous 'Caribbean Pirate' tried to steal my ship (the Patric M)," stated Hardberger. Modern day pirates can seize small to mid-size freighters by simply bribing local officials in some foreign countries. "Sometimes, justice is as simple as who is the higher bidder," noted Hardberger. The Patric M was



*Typical tramp steamer unloading in Haiti.*





*Freighter in the Caribbean sunset.*

chartered by a Peruvian company, which was owned by a pirate, to carry a load of steel to a Venezuelan port. This was a port where the pirate knew he could control the judiciary.

Ships charter to carry cargo to the highest bidder and someone who intends to steal a ship can simply offer a higher dollar amount for a ship owner's services. In this case the company that chartered the *Patric M* refused to pay once the cargo was delivered. The refusal to pay set off legal wrangling in a grey area of the law.

According to international maritime law, a vessel owner can seal the cargo and hold it, if the chartering company refuses to pay for its transport. Morgan Price ordered the captain to close the cargo holds and refuse to allow discharge operations. Expecting this, the pirate bribed a Venezuelan official to detain the ship in port. The pirate intended to operate the vessel, unload the cargo and register it in his company's name. He had the Venezuelan military board the ship to gain control of it. They boarded, put a machine gun to the head of the captain and forced him to open the cargo hold. The captain and chief engineer were then arrested and detained in jail. The crew remained on the vessel without a captain. This is when Hardberger stepped in

Realizing he could not remove the ship without the captain and chief engineer, Hardberger convinced

the Venezuelan officials to release them and put them on house arrest in a local hotel. Once there, he spoke privately to the two men about his plans to extricate the ship. The captain, fearing for his life, declined to participate. The engineer agreed. Later, he and Hardberger slipped out of the hotel through the laundry room. Later one evening the two had to sneak under a rail fence that had enough space to slide through. They had to sneak past stevedores overlooking the freight yard by crawling in the shadow of the rail tracks and had to edge their way to the ship behind shipping containers, hiding in doorways and anywhere a shadow protected them.

The ship's gangplank was unguarded so Hardberger and the engineer walked aboard and found the first mate. He agreed to the plan and helped gather the rest of the crew and solicit their cooperation. Once they all agreed to the plan, things moved fast. That night the crew chopped through the ship's dock lines. "We couldn't send a crew member to remove them from the moorings or they'd be left behind. So we chopped them off at the ship," explained Hardberger.

At that point, the most difficult and dangerous part of the extrication still remained. To sail a massive ship at night out of a port past a naval base, past a Coast Guard station, out into open waters without drawing any attention is no easy task. "We had to



Max on the Baie de Port-au-Prince.

operate at 'dead slow ahead,' so if sighted, anyone could catch us and board," said Hardberger.

Steering a ship without a tug would draw the attention of anyone who had any knowledge about the port. "We made it out past the 12 mile limit, but Venezuelan officials did contact Interpol, the international police agency, who immediately locked the ship off from all international ports. The ship was supposed to stop in Aruba and drop off Hardberger, but if they attempted this, the ship might be seized again and members of the crew, and Hardberger, arrested. Hardberger steered the ship to Haiti to hide for a time.

"Once we were banned from docking anywhere I knew we had to change the ship's identity," stated Hardberger. Haiti was the perfect choice to take care of this. He knew he could work with the local population to keep quiet about the ship's presence while they went about changing the identity of the Patric M. This required grinding down the ship's name and identification numbers, repainting the entire ship, copying all documents to reflect the change and ensure no traces remained of its original name and registration.

"I brought the ship to a very remote port where the nearest police station was a two-day walk. And we had barbeques almost daily and made sure to give away lots of Calairin, the local hardcore moonshine of choice," stated Hardberger. Three weeks later the ship, with its newly christened identity sailed away and home to its rightful owner.

This was Hardberger's first venture into ship extraction. An account of the Patric M extraction

was featured in an article in Florida Shipper Magazine titled "Commando Action Saves Ship" in 1991. After the appearance of the article he started getting calls to do extractions for other companies. As it turns out, there were no other experts in freighter extraction and Hardberger had a new business.

To illustrate how easy it is for a ship's owner to find itself in this predicament, Hardberger described a time when it happened to him. He was captain of a ship carrying wastepaper. It was heavily listing starboard and the only solution was to drop some of the huge paper bales into the sea.

"So we lost a few bales of waste paper, something with no significant value," said Hardberger. "Once we were in port in the Dominican Republic, the company that chartered us seized the ship under



Miragoane viewed from Max's property.

local authority based on the fact that we 'lost' some cargo." While Hardberger likely could have gotten himself out safely, the crew had no way to get out. Since they were not U.S. citizens, they were beholden to the local authorities and could be jailed or just abandoned. Hardberger only had one recourse, "So I made the decision to take the ship. The government sent a Navy vessel to chase us, but we were able to hide from radar in a heavy thunderstorm."

Since then Hardberger has done over a dozen physical extractions, but it's not his first choice, "that is our last resort." In 2001, Hardberger and his business partner, Michael Bono, formed Vessel Extractions, LLC, or 'VessEx', which specializes in ship repossessions. "Clients with valuable ships stuck in bad places risk losing them unless decisive action is taken," stated Bono, "which is where we come in." They generally first try using local



*Max with workers on his property in Miragoane.*

contacts and negotiations when attempting to free a ship and employ physical extraction as a last resort. Bono and Hardberger are both attorneys that specialize in maritime law. In a twist of fate, Hardberger taught Bono high school world history in Slidell in the 80s. While Hardberger was learning his craft at sea, Bono became a maritime attorney who specialized in ship mortgage foreclosures. The two reconnected after nearly two decades and formed VessEx.

## **'My Second Home'**

Throughout his life Hardberger has spent a great deal of time in Haiti and has fallen in love with the place and its people. "Despite what the media latches onto, Haiti is very peaceful," stated Hardberger, "and the people are so wonderful and happy despite desperate poverty."

He explained that with virtually no effective law or government, there is no choice but to take the law into your own hands if necessary. "Something Americans need to think about before they pass judgment on these kind of places, is what would you do if you were wronged and there was absolutely no place to turn? You have to deal with it yourself." This being the case, he noted, it is amazing that the people are as resilient and peaceful as they are.

Hardberger, recently, created a new company, Nippes Development Co. S.A., to operate a previously

abandoned Reynolds ore facility in Miragoane, Haiti. It was given the mandate to rid Haitian waters of abandoned ships by turning them into scrap and selling the materials. Miragoane and its people are close to Hardberger's heart and a large portion of his time these days is spent in Haiti working to develop greater economic opportunities for its people.

## **Hollywood Calling**

Hollywood came calling after Hardberger was featured in the L.A. Times. The story resulted in a barrage of calls from Hollywood agents and producers. His international shipping repossession adventures are now being made into a feature film by one of Hollywood's top producers, Frank Marshall, of the Indiana Jones and Jason Bourne movies.

But his life hasn't stopped there. He's also begun writing an autobiography with David Fisher, author of over 50 books, 15 of which have been on the New York Times Bestseller list. He is in discussions with a major cable network company regarding a reality TV series, featuring him operating a freighter.

The past few months have been a whirlwind of activity for Hardberger and the world will soon learn a great deal more about him. However, the unassuming down-to-earth adventurer seems to take it all in stride. His life had been one adventure after the next, and this shows that there is no sign of that slowing down.✿



# THE BIRDS OF ORLEANS

by Mike Rivault

In the world of the birds of New Orleans, strange things are occurring.

Dr. Peter Yaukey, Professor of Geography, is studying the resident land bird population of New Orleans in the post-Katrina environment and has found that, “Really odd things are happening.”

Resident land birds are just that – birds that make New Orleans home. These are not migratory birds or water birds. These are the birds that inhabit our back yards and neighborhoods: sparrows, mockingbirds, starlings, doves, blue jays, and



cardinals. As would be expected, the storm and the flood had an enormous impact on this bird population.

Birds could have been killed by the storm or by the environmental stresses that followed; birds could have also left the area all together. Those that did make it through the storm and flood had to face nearly a complete loss of available food sources. “By the time I could get back to town and do my regular bird

survey, the population had decreased by 68%. It is possible though, that this was not the low point. This was in mid-October of 2005. The population could have already started recovering by then,” said Yaukey.

Yaukey relies on several sources to gather his data. The first is walking a survey route that he has tracked three times a year since 1994. He walks a specific route and makes visible and audible observations on bird species. Year after year before the storm, the changes were statistically minor, but that first October after Katrina, the changes were immense.

He also uses the Christmas Bird Count, done under the direction and guidance of the National Audubon Society. While this program is national and international in scope, it has been tracking sites around the New Orleans area and along the Gulf Coast for years. This data has also been beneficial to understanding the impact of the hurricane and to back up his own research.

According to Yaukey, one of the most interesting findings in his study was that all species suffered significant population loss. In other hurricane studies different species of birds saw significantly different effects. However, while different species did see different effects, the across the board nature of the loss was stunning.

“The conservation literature out there has well established the idea that a species has to have the ability to survive a catastrophic event in some way to be viable in the long term, but because these types of events are so rare there is just not a great deal of study on actual post catastrophe impacts,” said Yaukey. Considering that all species saw loss, it is just about anyone’s guess as to why some species faired better than others.

## Inconsistent Recovery

While nearly every species has seen an increase in population since the first measurements, some have seen better rates of recovery than others.

# Bird Study

Mockingbirds and starlings seem to have made the best recovery. Sparrows, one of the most common resident land birds, are still at just below 50% of their pre-storm levels. Most notable perhaps is that cardinals are almost entirely gone from the suburban residential flood areas.

“It is still so strange to be able to walk through miles of neighborhoods and not see a cardinal and sometimes not see a sparrow. That is just plain eerie,” said Yaukey. Much as with the immediate post storm drop in population, the differentiation in recovery is also a mystery. Yaukey noted “We are seeing things that have a reason, but we can’t yet understand it.”

## Busy Summers

The summer of 2006 brought good news in that bird reproduction was up significantly with a far greater success rate than pre-storm levels, at least for mockingbirds on the UNO campus. There were more birds surviving and able to leave the nest. All throughout Gentilly and Lakeview, young birds seemed numerous. This was a very positive sign that recovery was quickly underway. However, by the late fall of 2006, almost the entire population boom was gone.

“We are left to question what happened. Did they die before full maturity? Did they leave the city? Is there something environmental that caused this? More questions than answers,” said Yaukey noting that the signs of hope were quickly dashed.

Dr. Yaukey has a class every other spring semester that tracks birds on campus, specifically, mockingbirds. From the 2007 class, he has learned that 2007 has been just as productive in reproduction as was 2006. “It remains to be seen whether the same disappearance will occur by the winter,” he notes.

Before the storm there were a good number of active mockingbird nests, but rarely did those nests fledge a bird. Most likely, something was eating the fledglings. This scenario virtually stopped after the storm. Now many nesting pairs are producing three broods in a

season. One very real possibility is that there are less house cats, both on the UNO campus and in the New Orleans neighborhoods at large. House cats are a potent predator to resident birds. “It’s only logical that a large number of cats died in the storm or the flood, and with a lower human population, there is a lower cat population,” stated Yaukey. He and his students also suspect that more mature male mockingbirds could be actively reproducing, but are unable to find a mate, and that this may be an indication of an even larger potential population.

## Odd Things and Mysteries

Katrina brought devastation to New Orleans in so many ways. The one thing mentioned time and time again by people as they returned in the first days and weeks after the storm was the silence. No song-birds, no singing. The birds of New Orleans took a big hit, but are certainly on the path to recovery. But along that long and likely winding path are many turns and twists. Large numbers of unmated male birds, huge successes in reproduction, extreme population losses, disparate recovery rates among species and still very few cardinals are some of these turns and twists. The birds will return to New Orleans over time and Dr. Peter Yaukey will be watching how and when that happens.✿



Yaukey's class making observations on the levee.

## Perimeter Road Construction Nearing Completion

By Mike Rivault

A project that has been on the UNO drawing board since well before Katrina, is now part of the construction boom on campus. Planning for the perimeter road project began nearly a decade ago. The goal was to convert a large part of the remaining gravel parking areas to hard surface; reconstruct Levee Road; and alleviate drainage problems in the northern part of the campus. Katrina delayed the plan's implementation and post-storm construction costs shrunk the scope of the project a bit, however, the good news is the project will be completed by the end of the year.

"We are well on our way to completing the entire project ahead of time," said Joel Chatelain, Vice Chancellor for Campus Services. Begun in May, the project had an original completion date of February 23, 2008, but should be completed before Christmas. "We've been fortunate to have speedy completion of this project, especially considering its scope," noted Chatelain.

Once completed, the northern campus will be better joined to the rest of campus. Levee Road from Milneburg to the Campus Police office will allow for better traffic flow. The parking lots between Kirschman Hall and the Alumni Center as well as the parking lots between the Alumni Center and Campus Police will be paved with better drainage and additional green spaces. A brick walkway will be constructed between the Alumni Center and Kirschman Hall to better facilitate foot traffic. The old Building 16 warehouse will be demolished to clear space for a potential new campus physical plant. Finally, the portion of Harwood Drive that runs adjacent to Kirschman Hall will be permanently closed to through traffic providing for added parking and safer pedestrian traffic.

"With the addition of the Recreation and Fitness Center, Kirschman Hall, the Alumni Center and the Credit Union in the past several years, the growth of traffic in the northern part of campus has put a strain on the roads and parking. This will certainly make the northern part of campus more student and visitor friendly," concluded Chatelain. ♣



## Creole Creamery Making Its Place in the Sweets Market

By Sarah Bergez (LA '01)



*Bergeron outside the shop.*

### ICE CREAM DESTINY

When David Bergeron heard that several Swensen's ice cream parlors were closing, he purchased their equipment with a mission in mind. Ice cream was something he knew. His first job was at a Swensen's and that started what would become a kind of destiny. Now, that he had the equipment, Bergeron needed the perfect location. He stored the equipment and looked for just the right spot to open his shop. Soon, lightning struck. The old McKenzie's on Prytania was available. Bergeron said that he knew immediately that this was the place, "There are eight schools within walking distance, as well as a thriving residential neighborhood surrounding it. I prefer this environment to a strip mall, which would give a different feel to the shop. This location gives me a sense of community."

In addition to the location, the building itself adds to the ambience of an ice cream parlor. The front of the building and the iconic neon McKenzie's sign that illuminates his doorway are on the National Historic Register. Can you get more New Orleans than that?

Bergeron also found immediate support from the community. Prior to his interest in the shop, there were rumors that a fast food chicken chain would be calling it home. Needless to say, the independent minded neighborhood welcomed a locally owned ice cream shop with open arms.

### UNO EXPERIENCE

Bergeron knew even before college that he wanted to own his own business. He attended The University of New Orleans after graduating from Brother Martin High School. In 1996 he graduated from UNO with his bachelors degree in marketing. When asked about his university experience he replied that there was a focus on teaching real, functional information and knowledge. "Although it was 14 years ago, I still remember Dr. Tarun Mukherjee's explanations of future value of money, present value of money and annuities. And you know what - you really do need to know that stuff. The whole experience of UNO helped me prepare for the day that Creole Creamery opened its doors." Dr Mukherjee responded, "I am thrilled that 14 years later David finds what he learned in my class useful. I remember him to be exceptionally bright, hardworking, and full of energy. He had all the attributes of a successful entrepreneur in the making."

### GETTING THE WORD OUT

As a student of marketing, he understands that marketing is not just about having a large advertising budget and he doesn't use traditional marketing tactics. He takes a grass roots approach. He donates to many community events and participates in several school functions regularly. He knows that his neighbors and community are his clients, so being a part of the community is the best marketing a small business like his can do. He sees his customers as his most valuable asset - so much so that the faces of customers are hard to miss. There is a 'Wall of Fame' where pictures of local kids are featured like celebrities.

Bergeron has set up his store to be a place that is inviting for kids, families, students and really just about anyone to hang out and enjoy his sweet



concoctions. “Ice cream customers are the best. Everyone is in a good mood, after all, they are here for dessert,” David said in describing his clientele.

After Katrina, Creole Creamery was one of the first businesses to open its doors, drawing attention from the neighborhood, local media and the national media alike. Creole Creamery was mentioned on CNN multiple times and chosen as backdrop for local stations when taping news broadcasts.

### NO BORING FLAVORS HERE

The Creole Creamery is known for its unique array of flavors. Flavors like Cookie Monster, Red Velvet Cake, and I Scream Fudge adorn the popular menu. But every now and then they stumble upon a flavor that doesn’t catch on – such as Lemon, Butter and Garlic. Although, he actually had a customer who simmered it down and put it on pasta. Only in New Orleans. When asked about personal favorites, it’s no surprise that Black and Gold Crunch is currently top of the list.

Creole Creamery even has its own version of the fabled “96er” of steakhouses. It is called the Tchoupitoulas. It consists of eight scoops of ice cream with eight toppings plus cherries, whipped cream, sprinkles and wafers – a daunting sight. The reward is that if the customer eats the entire Tchoupitoulas in one sitting – with no help – his or her name is put on a plaque with all the other patrons that have successfully finished it. David claims only 5 percent – 10 percent of all people who attempt this act against nature succeed. “No one is

supposed to eat that much ice cream in one sitting” he says with a smile. In fact, he noted that he has had to actually clean up after people who can’t keep it all down on several occasions. Yes, it’s true, there is such a thing as “too much of a good thing”.

If you are like most people, you can’t eat ice cream every day. But when your fancy is tickled, this place is truly an uptown New Orleans neighborhood experience worth checking out. You will never be disappointed by the selection of flavors. The atmosphere is inviting and all are welcome. You may even end up with your name on the wall.♣



Flavors to delight.



The “Wall of Fame.”

## New Student Housing Opens

By Amanda Davis-Hoskins

It's such a welcoming environment. That is one's first impression upon entering either of UNO's two new residence halls: Pontchartrain Hall North and Pontchartrain Hall South. Students and visitors are greeted by cheerful interior design, comfortable furnishings, friendly staff and flowers. These personal touches are what create the ambient sense of home and community in the new buildings, and they were necessities for Will Peneguy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Services, and Mike Brauning, Director of the Department of Student Housing.

"We paid a lot of attention to the atmosphere in both of the halls. We wanted to form a living and learning environment that was focused on student outcomes—if we can provide for their residence needs, they can concentrate on their academic performance," said Peneguy. To that end, Peneguy and his staff partnered with an outside contractor to

conduct a market study of current and potential students to determine what would be their ideal residence environment. Pontchartrain Hall North and South are the realization of that ideal.

The buildings have different atmospheres, with contrasting designs and different features in each structure. Game rooms, study areas, wireless internet, cable, kitchens, and convenience stores along with security features such as cameras, card access and a police substation all serve to create an enjoyable, functional community for students.

The creature comforts do not end with the shared facilities. Each resident has a fully-furnished, private bedroom in a suite or a private room with lofty nine foot ceilings, built in closets and a bathroom in each suite. These amenities, along with reasonable per semester residence fees make Pontchartrain Hall



North and South an affordable, comfortable option for students who do not want the expense or hassle of off-campus living.

Peneguy and Brauningner take great pride in the facilities and in the initiative it took to complete them. As the first major new construction anywhere in New Orleans since the storm, the halls' completion demonstrates UNO's strength and resilience. Funded through The University of New Orleans Foundation, the project will be paid for by self-generated revenue from the university's auxiliary services. Financing was scheduled for the same week Hurricane Katrina impacted the campus. "The Chancellor and the Provost had the vision to push for the new residence halls and maintain the high commitment to student services. They stepped up and provided clear leadership. Also, never underestimate how important staff work is in getting something like this accomplished. Everyone in the Campus Services division should take pride in these buildings. Their work, pre-and post-Katrina, enabled this result," said Peneguy.

The decision to continue the project was wise-- Pontchartrain Hall North is currently at full capacity, and Pontchartrain Hall South, open less than one month at press time, is at half capacity. Both buildings will likely be fully occupied in 2008. But it is not just the quality of the facilities that draw students to reside on campus, it is also the work of Brauningner and his staff, who take great care to focus on students and make them feel at home. When asked what about the halls they were most proud of, Peneguy said, "I think we're most proud of the students' reaction. It has been so positive. We focus on student outcomes, on supporting the students with good facilities and services so they can achieve, and so their reaction is the reward for us."

Pontchartrain Hall North and South will welcome local students ready to live on their own and serve as a great recruiting draw for out-of-town, out-of-state and international students.✿



# Highlights

## Library Collection – UNO Cartoons

by Johanna Schindler

Some who peruse his editorial illustrations might suspect that John Churchill Chase kept a crystal ball at his side as he penned his creative cartoons in the 1960s and 1970s. Often, the names have changed but the issues today are, oh, so familiar.

Chase studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, working under the tutelage of Chicago Tribune cartoonist Frank King. In the 1950s he began chronicling the Crescent City for the New Orleans Item. He worked there until 1964, when WDSU-TV hired him as the first televised editorial cartoonist in the country.

Airing editorial cartoons was the brainchild of Bill Monroe, then news director at WDSU-TV. Retired newsman Alec Gifford recalls that station owner Edgar B. Stern, Jr. “eagerly signed on to the idea.”

The Chase cartoons were “an aspect of that image that WDSU created early on to set itself apart,” remarked Gifford, who retired from WDSU last year after a 50-year career as a broadcast reporter and anchor.

A collection of editorial cartoons in UNO’s Earl K. Long Library documents many of the issues facing the University through the decades. The UNO cartoons cover three topics: the University’s successful attempt to transform itself from LSUNO to UNO, the friction for a time between UNO founding chancellor Homer L. Hitt and the LSU Board of Supervisors, and the quandary of dividing the state’s higher education budget among Louisiana public universities.

Most of the works in the UNO collection were created by Chase, and many include his renowned character, The Little Man, or as Chase described him “Mr. Common Peepul.” The diminutive character often carried a ballot conveniently tucked in his pocket.

Many of Chase’s cartoons on WDSU-TV were animated the old-fashioned way. They were drawn on moving panels and were slid apart by off-camera personnel to create the desired effect.



A John Chase WDSU-TV cartoon, aired January 18, 1973, depicts the LSU System as a nesting hen which has hatched an LSUNO Privateer.



Another hand-animated WDSU-TV color editorial cartoon by John Chase which aired on WDSU-TV on July 21, 1965, illustrated the conflict between Chancellor Hitt and the LSU Board of Supervisors. The saw moved to make it appear that Hitt was walking the gangplank. The cartoon is inscribed: “Best wishes to the main in the picture! From his friend – John Chase.”



An earlier John Chase cartoon with the mother hen theme, which aired on WDSU-TV on June 18, 1968, is personally inscribed: "For my friend Homer Hitt . . . Hope you solo soon!"



This color editorial cartoon by John Chase broadcast by WDSU-TV on March 4, 1970 is among several personally inscribed to Chancellor Homer L. Hitt.



Another depicts UNO as the belle of the ball being greeted by Father New Orleans after changing her name. The little man, known as Many People of New Orleans, was a regular character in Chase's cartoons. It was published by the Clarion Herald, the Archdiocese of New Orleans publication, on February 7, 1974.



A black-and-white editorial cartoon by Larry Bartlett printed on the front page of The Times-Picayune on March 27, 1978, depicted UNO as Cinderella sweeping up the change at the feet of her plump and richly attired sister institutions, LSU, Southern University and the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

# Highlights

In one image, two tigers facing in opposite directions seem trapped in a tug-of-war until the panels were moved to reveal that the cats' tails have knotted together. The caption reads: "Knotty Problem."

In 1967, *Television Quarterly* described Chase's work as "this imaginative approach for getting New Orleans citizens involved in the world in which they must think and act." Whether the cartoons made any difference would be hard to measure, but the colorful characters did have a way of grabbing viewers' attention.

Chase, who died in 1986, left behind his many illustrations, including a mural depicting the city's history of on the wall of the New Orleans Public Library main branch on Loyola Avenue. He penned what many consider the definitive book on New Orleans thoroughfares, titled "Frenchmen, Desire, Good Children and Other Streets."

Chase also seems to have influenced a later local cartoonist. A work in the collection, a black-and-white editorial cartoon, penned by Larry Bartlett and printed on the front page of *The Times-Picayune* on March 27, 1978, seems to pick up on Chase's belle of the ball

theme. It pictures UNO as Cinderella sweeping up the change at the feet of her sister institutions.

That same argument over which university gets a bigger slice of the state's budgetary pie remains an issue today almost 30 years later. ♣



A black-and-white cartoon by John Chase aired by WDSU-TV on February 18, 1965, featured LSUNO as an oversized tiger cub being pushed in a baby carriage by an LSU tiger mother.



Several of the editorial cartoons John Chase created for WDSU-TV were animated the old-fashioned way. When this cartoon aired on May 8, 1965, people standing off camera slid the side panels to make it appear that the LSUNO tiger and the LSU tiger involved in a game of tug-of-war.

# 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS AT FIFTY YEARS

### *Sustaining Fifty Years of Excellence in Higher Education, Research and Community Service* FACILITATE A VISION

For the past fifty years, The University of New Orleans has held a special place in the New Orleans community. Its opening in 1958 ushered in many "firsts." UNO's debut marked the advent of public higher education in the New Orleans metropolitan area and the first racially integrated public university in the South. For the first time, a wide audience in Southeast Louisiana had access to a full range of academic opportunities. UNO became an avenue to higher education for many first generation college graduates.

From its roots as a liberal arts college in 1958 to its current status as the urban research university of the State of Louisiana and the only public research university in the New Orleans metropolitan area, UNO continues the tradition of providing an outstanding educational experience to its students while serving New Orleans and the region. Standing on the threshold of its fiftieth anniversary, The University of New Orleans is setting a course to continue its role as a great and engaged urban research university while playing a leadership role in the revitalization of New Orleans and the region.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

For the last fifty years, The University of New Orleans has been a place where students are prepared to become the next generation of leaders. UNO reaches out regionally, nationally and internationally to find and cultivate talented students. In celebration of its fiftieth anniversary in September 2008, The University of New Orleans is establishing the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarship Fund. This fund will help position the University for another fifty years of excellence in higher education.

Through a gift to the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarship Fund, you will help . . .

### FUTURE UNO STUDENTS

The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarship Fund is an investment in the future. It will touch the lives of future UNO students by giving them the opportunity to achieve their academic aspirations and continue the tradition of excellence set by their predecessors. By strengthening the connection between students and their schools, scholarships also help today's beneficiaries to become tomorrow's benefactors.

*For more information on the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarship Fund, please contact Marcelle C. Highstreet, Associate Vice Chancellor for Development, at 504.280.6068.*

As UNO charts its future in a major city challenged with on-going recovery efforts, demographic shifts, and diminished regional populations, student recruitment is a major priority and challenge. The 50th Anniversary Commemorative Scholarship Fund will enhance UNO's ability to attract gifted students from within Louisiana and from across the nation. It will be one of the University's most formidable recruiting tools, helping to facilitate UNO's vision of being a great and engaged urban research university that attracts a diverse and talented student body.

### RESHAPE A COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Beyond the immediate impact on students and the university, scholarships are an essential element of changing our city and country. With diverse, talented student bodies, universities produce well-educated, critical-thinking and engaged graduates who are prepared to meet the challenges and needs of their professions and their communities. UNO students and graduates are a vital part of the revitalization efforts and the region's future prosperity.

### MAKING A GIFT TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

❖ To make a gift by check, checks should be made out to The University of New Orleans Foundation and mailed to:

The University of New Orleans  
Office of Advancement - Development  
Homer L. Hitt Alumni & Visitors Center  
2000 Lakeshore Dr.  
New Orleans, LA 70148

❖ To make a gift with stock or a credit card, call the Development Office at 504.280.6068 for more information.

❖ Gifts of \$5,000 or more may be pledged over a period of three to five years.

❖ With a gift of \$25,000 or more, a donor may name a scholarship within the fund.

❖ Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized in a 50th Anniversary Scholarship brochure.





# BASKETBALL SEASON LOOKING SOLID

By Rob Broussard

Change has, unfortunately, been the norm for the University of New Orleans basketball program during recent years. Following the abrupt resignation of former coach Buzz Williams, the Privateers will begin 2007-08 with their third head coach since 2005-06. But the third time appears to be the charm. UNO will debut first-year head coach Joe Pasternack this season, and the New Orleans product appears to be here for the long haul.

“New Orleans is home for me,” Pasternack says. “This is a job I have always wanted, and I feel so fortunate to have this opportunity.”

Pasternack will have the opportunity to hit the ground running this season, as he is armed with a plethora of experience and – more importantly – starters returning. UNO returns four starters among the five letter winners returning, and all four are seniors with a combined 10 years experience on the Lakefront.

The Privateers feature a handful of talented guards led by Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year Bo McCalebb. A 2006-07 honorable mention AP All-America selection, McCalebb is coming off one of the best seasons in UNO history. The senior finished sixth in the nation in scoring (25 points per game) and was the only player in the league to be ranked in the top 10 in scoring, rebounding and assists. He has tallied 1,937 career points – tying him for fifth in the Sun Belt record books – and is just 383 points shy of becoming the Sun Belt’s all-time leading scorer.



*Parlow shoots a three pointer.*

Another returnee, joining McCalebb, is James Parlow, who led the Sun Belt with more than three 3-point field goals made per game. The senior, who averaged 12.9 points per game last year, hit 85 treys despite missing the first four games with a sprained ankle.

Also returning is senior point guard Shaun Reynolds, who started all 31 games last year despite not signing with UNO until August. The Little Rock,

# Athletics



*Privateers in action.*



*McCaleb puts in another.*

Arkansas, native finished fifth in the Sun Belt with 107 assists and also showed some scoring prowess by notching five games of 20 points or more.

Joining the trio of returnees in the backcourt are newcomers Tracey Worley and Kechan Myers. Worley, who sat out last season due to NCAA transfer rules, practiced with the Privateers last year and showed a lot of promise. Myers is considered a solid point guard who comes to UNO from Arkansas-Fort Smith.

Where UNO struggled last season was in the frontcourt, and the Privateers will need to bolster

that area this season. Seniors Ben Elias and Asrangue Souleymane return, as the tandem combined to average 6.8 rebounds and two blocked shots last season. Souleymane is scheduled to return following the fall semester. The Privateers went overseas to try to add some depth, bringing in 6-10 freshman Jaroslav Tyrna from the Czech Republic.

Another newcomer who could make a quick impact is local product Kyndall Dykes – an athletic transfer from Navarro College.

The biggest loss UNO will have to overcome from last season is Jamie McNeilly. McNeilly, who played three seasons at UNO, finished second on the team with 15.1 points per game and shot 40 percent from 3-point range. But the Privateers will also miss his leadership off the floor.

Though the last few years have been filled with transition, the Privateers seem to have the changes behind them. The youthful Pasternack is doing nothing but moving forward. “UNO is a storied program and I grew up watching some of their best teams when (current USC coach) Tim Floyd and Tic Price were here,” Pasternack said. “I remember seeing the Lakefront Arena packed, and there is no reason why we will not be able to accomplish that again.”♣

## Randy Horner Named Head Swimming Coach at The University of New Orleans

By Marcelle Highstreet (LA '82, '83, GR '86)

A native of Canton, Missouri, Randy Horner is enthusiastically assuming his duties as the head swimming coach at The University of New Orleans. Horner brings years of experience in virtually every level of competitive swimming to UNO. Immediately prior to coming to New Orleans, he spent nine years at Missouri State, most recently as the Associate Head Coach. Under long-time head coach Jack Steck, Horner coached the Missouri State swimming teams to an impressive nine Missouri Valley Conference Championship titles in men's and women's swimming.

The University of New Orleans and its location in the city of New Orleans are attractive to Horner. The head coach position at UNO fulfills Horner's long-time dream of leading his own swimming program. He is looking forward to developing the fledgling women's swimming program while adding a new men's program. Starting with the Division I required minimum of eleven swimmers, Horner plans to double



*Randy Horner*

the size of the women's swimming team by next year.

The opportunity to start a men's swimming team was irresistible to Horner. He is a long-time advocate of preserving men's collegiate swimming, a sport that has been in decline nationally. The



# Athletics

2008-2009 year will mark the advent of men's swimming at UNO, making UNO the first Division I school to add a men's swimming program in thirty years. Ultimately, Horner's goal is to coach the women's and men's teams to conference championships.

Student athletes under Horner will quickly learn his priorities. While committed to establishing an outstanding swimming program, Horner is even more committed to ensuring that his student athletes achieve their primary purpose - earning their degrees. Horner sees swimming as "an avenue for student athletes to access their college education."

As he builds the swimming program, Horner knows that his biggest challenge will be recruiting students to a city still in recovery mode, and more specifically "overcoming the parents' concerns about sending their children to New Orleans." With time, Horner believes this will improve and communication will be the key. According to Horner, "I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of something new - a new athletic program in a city undergoing a renewal. Good things are happening in New Orleans and we need to let the world know." With his experience, commitment, and optimism, Horner is one of the good things happening in New Orleans at The University of New Orleans. ♣



*Laps for the women's team.*

## Forman Leads Volleyball Team To Solid Start

By Jason Plotkin

Jozsef Forman has made his mark during his first year as the head of the University of New Orleans volleyball program. Bringing ample experience from assistant coaching stops at Mississippi State University (MSU) and Baylor University, it has not taken long for the Hungarian native to make an impact both on his players and the community.

Forman wants his program to extend beyond UNO into the community. "After the games, we have had clinics with groups like the Girl Scouts and our players have shared their passion of the sport by showing the girls how to play volleyball," said Forman. "Through our volleyball mini-camps, we would like to

build our relationships with the local high school and middle school teams and give a hand in helping the coaches on how to teach the sport."

Outreaching to the youth and coaches of the greater New Orleans area is just part of the equation. Forman has also worked to reach into the community as well. In an effort to raise awareness and money for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, UNO joined over 60 schools in a national fundraiser. The team acquired pledges per digs in a special "Dig for the Cure" volleyball match against Louisiana-Monroe.



*Forman giving mid-game direction.*

Forman's ultimate goal is to build support for the team. While he credits the marketing and promotions wing of the athletic department and Blue Krewe for their support, he has worked to involve the student body, "Our students that play intramural volleyball help us with line judging and come to help out during practice," said Forman. "The students feel this is their team, not just one team, but the university's team."

In building this university's team, Forman feels he can use the city as a starting point in conversations to attract prospective players to the university. "New Orleans is loved by the world and we can recruit to the University of New Orleans because of how special the city is with diversity and culture," said Forman. "In Europe, we know about New Orleans and the music, it is a famous town and I was happy that I was given the opportunity to come here."

Along with working towards success on the floor, Forman feels academics are a critical part of his program. While at MSU, outside of improving drastically on the court, the volleyball team put up impressive numbers in the classroom with a 3.48 GPA. The academic success has continued at UNO,

where two players were nominated for COSIDA All-Academic honors this season. They were: Jaci Bayley, a junior setter, who carries a 3.61 GPA while majoring in Human Performances and Health Promotions and sophomore outside hitter Lindsey Loyd, with a 3.41 in Secondary Education.

With the focus on academics, Forman would like to recruit two or three Louisiana players for 2008 that excelled in the classroom in high school. Additionally, he would like to use his background to bring in foreign players. "First, we want to recruit kids who love to be here and who like to study," said Forman. "They must want to have goals to meet in the future, but the main concern is for them to have an active interest in academics."

Forman has been very happy with the support his team has received since coming to campus and it really makes a difference for the team. "We have had a lot of people who have come to the matches and cheered our team on, making for a great atmosphere," said Forman. "The conference has improved a lot over the last two years and makes for some very good competition, so it is critical to have the support at home matches as it can give our team a few points each time out."

With the increased fan support, the team has produced strong results this season as they competed amongst the top tier of the Sun Belt's West Division. The Privateers have been led by a trio of attackers averaging over three kills per match in Loyd, junior outside hitter Dobrilla Kovacevic, and senior outside hitter Lindsey Boler.

Bayley added athletic success to her academic resume, by moving into third place in the UNO record book for career assists, when she collected 54 against Troy early in the season.

The future is bright for Forman's squad and with the 2007 season nearing a close and preparations for the 2008 season underway, the Privateers will continue to build with a goal of being ranked one of the top programs in the Sun Belt conference. ♣

## Letter from the President



November 1, 2007

Dear Fellow Graduates of UNO:

With this publication, the fourth issue of the University of New Orleans Official Magazine since the levees failed following Hurricane Katrina, we mark another major milestone toward the recovery of our university and community.

Like most of the population of New Orleans, UNO's faculty, staff, and students evacuated to all parts of the United States. Chancellor Tim Ryan was determined from the first hours after the storm to come back and, ultimately, to restructure UNO stronger than ever. Through his brilliant leadership and the courage of our faculty and staff, UNO reopened its doors at the Jefferson Campus on October 10, 2005, and taught approximately 7,000 students in the fall term in sites located from New Orleans to Baton Rouge. UNO was able to return to the lakefront campus for the Spring 2006 semester and has conducted regular classes since then.

The most astounding milestone in the year ahead is the fact we will celebrate UNO's 50th anniversary. With some 70,000 degrees granted since the initial graduating class of 118 in 1962, our university has become one of the major cultural, social, economic, and intellectual assets of the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. I say "astounding" because I can remember celebrating the 10th anniversary as an undergraduate. As I have heard so many elders say, "I can't believe the time has gone by so quickly."

During my years at UNO, I married the love of my life, Kathy Jeannette Higgins, a fellow student whom I met on a rainy afternoon in the Liberal Arts Building courtyard. Our wedding reception was held in the ballroom of the Student Activity Center, and the wedding cake baked by "The German Baker," the master of pastries and all things baked on our campus. After years of searching, we still have not found anyone who can tell us his name.

UNO was the first public university in the South to integrate its campus. We protested against the Vietnam War and mourned the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy. Few may remember that Senator Kennedy's presidential campaign had scheduled a keynote address on our campus; he was murdered just prior to the engagement. I still have one of the hand-lettered signs that were posted all over the university cancelling the engagement.

Despite lacking the same level of financial support enjoyed by many of the other state supported universities of Louisiana, UNO has become one of the great public institutions of the nation.

Please take time to come home to UNO this year. Let your alumni association know how we can help to make your visit special. Even more than that, join the association and give us some of your time and resources to help assure the future of the undergraduates to come.

Sincerely,

Terrence Verigan (ED '71)  
2007-2008 President

The UNO International Alumni Association

# 1960s

**Dr. Henry R. Hermann (BS '61)** is the author of nearly 100 scientific publications, 13 books, nine book chapters, and numerous magazine articles in the field of Biology. Hermann is regarded as a world-authority on the venom apparatus of stinging insects and social behavior. He retired in 1964 to Ft. Myers, Florida. Hermann's most recent non-fiction book, entitled "Enjoying the Native American-Style Flute," was published in 2004 by Naturegraph Publishers in California. His forthcoming novel, called "Beginnings," about a scientist who reanimates the brain of a 200,000-year-old caveman and receives a story about his life in a primeval African forest, will appear through Archebooks Publishers.

**Emery E. Dyer (BS '62)** married Carolyn Green Dyer and they have two sons, Emery III and Herbert. Dyer retired in 2000 after 25 years of service as V. P. of Radiofone. He currently sits on the UNO International Alumni Association 2007 Board of Directors.

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# 1970s

**Margaret Loesch-Stimpson (GR '70)** is currently CO-CEO of the The Hatchery LLC, a Los Angeles-based kids and family entertainment company. For her accomplishments in entertainment industry she holds four Emmy Awards, a George Foster Peabody Awards and a Chair Award from the Caucus of Television Producers, Writers, and Directors. She is credited with developing, producing and /or launching several kid friendly programs such as, G.I. Joe, Might Morphin Power Rangers, and My Little Pony. Loesch also completed her sixth movie, "RL Stine's The Haunting Hour."

**Ron Brisbi (BA '73)** has become a Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) by the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and InPro Corporation. This is a nationally recognized credential that demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and activities involved in good construction. Brisbi is a district Sales Manager

with InPro. He covers the 18-state Central Division running from North Dakota southeast to Florida. Starting as a territory manager in 1977, Brisbi's career has included positions of increasing territory size and sales management. For 14 years, he was a sales executive and regional sales manager in the plumbing products division of Kohler Co., a worldwide leader in kitchen and bath products, furniture, engines and generators, and golf and resort destinations.

**Edward "Rocky" Kolb (BS '73)** former Alumnus of the Year, has been named the Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor from the Enrico Fermi Institute and the University of Chicago. Kolb is a Professor in Astronomy & Astrophysics and his major research interest is the application of particle physics to cosmology and astrophysics. Over the course of his career, Kolb has won a number of awards and honors. In 2002, he was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Previously, he was a Deputy Group Leader in the Theoretical Division of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Kolb has held visiting positions at a number of institutions, including the University of California, Santa Barbara and the University of Michigan.

**Catherine Leonard (ED '73)** was named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Alfred T. Bonnabel High School in Kenner, where she has worked for 34 years. Leonard said to help inspire students enjoy math she uses everyday examples.

**Sheldon Epstein (GR '76)** recently retired as principal of Mariposa Elementary School and a Palmdale School District trustee for Los Angeles Country schools. Epstein has worked in education for 36 years. He has also been active in his community and served in the California National Guard.

**Georges M. Legrand (BS '76)** is a founding member of Mouldoux, Bland, Legrand & Brackett, LLC. He was recognized by New Orleans City Business as one of the Region's Outstanding Lawyers and received the Leadership In Law Award. Legrand and his wife, Andrea, reside in Metairie with their 4 children.

**Laura Moore (GR '76)** formerly a principal, worked in the Jefferson Parish school system for 29 years. Moore was recently honored as Honorary Lifetime Member of the Gulf Coast Newcomers Club. She became president of the organization after Katrina and was honored for her dedication and credited for reviving the club.

**Jean F. Person (LA '76, GR '79)** has been recognized as the Greek Woman of the Year by the Greater New Orleans Alumnae Panhellenic. Person was nominated by her sorority's alumnae chapter, Delta Zeta, and she is the first to receive this award. She was a co-chair for the Silver Blue Gala in 2006 and holds her position once again for the 2007 Silver Blue Gala.

# 1980s

**Dr. Tanya Clemons (BA '80)** joined Pfizer as Vice President and Chief Talent Officer in November as a member of the Human Resources Leadership Team and Pfizer's Senior Management Team. In this role, she will lead the company's senior executive talent development, global people development and succession processes with emphasis on identification, retention, and development of executive level incumbent, replacement and high potential individuals. Dr. Clemons is currently the corporate Vice President for People and Organization Capability at Microsoft where she is responsible for leadership development, talent management, employee learning and training, organization development, and enterprise-wide change initiatives. Prior to joining Microsoft, she held leadership roles at IBM, Georgia-Pacific and Anheuser-Busch.

**Greg Grillo (EN '83, GR '89)** has been named director of Entergy's Continuous Improvement program in utility operations ECI, reporting directly to Gary Taylor, utility operations group president. Grillo most recently has served as Entergy Arkansas' Director of Distribution Operations, a job he has held for five years. During his 23 years at Entergy, Grillo has held positions in engineering, distribution planning, system meter reading, revenue protection and load research. He has worked for both electric and gas operations and for three of the five utility companies. He also worked for Entergy's London Electricity company for two years.

**Kevin Martin (SC '84)** is a management consultant with over 11 years in greater China. As President of innovASIA Consulting, he spent the last five years in China's northeast region working with both companies and governments active in revitalizing the region. Prior to launching innovASIA Consulting, Martin was based in Hong Kong, where he served as Director of Operations for the Asian Consulting Group, with responsibility for all projects in Asia. He also co-founded

B2Bcast, an Internet-based business webcasting company in Singapore.

**Patrick E. Scheuermann (EN '86)** was recently named the new Associate Director at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center located in Hancock County, Mississippi. He previously held the position of Chief Operating Officer of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Scheuermann's received NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal for leading recovery efforts at Michoud following Hurricane Katrina. He also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001 from The UNO International Alumni Association.

**Paul Frechou (ED '84, GR '87)** has been named as Assistant to the Associate Director of Bands at Southeastern Louisiana University. He will direct Southeastern's Spirit of the Southland marching band and other athletic bands. Before joining the department of music, Frechou directed the marching band, concert band, and jazz band at Mandeville High School.

**Cathy M. Green (BA '87)** has been named Chief Financial Officer for OrthoSynetics, largest provider of business services to orthodontic and dental practices worldwide. Green will be responsible for the company's financial and accounting areas.

**Tracey Burke Kirsch (BA '89)** is the President of Electromedical Products International, Inc. a small woman-owned corporation which was established in 1981. The company successfully negotiated Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contract with the US Government. The contract is to provide their Alpha-Stim technology to the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense. Their prescription Alpha-Stim technology is cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration as a cranial electrotherapy stimulator and microcurrent stimulator for the indications of anxiety, insomnia, depression and pain control. They are focusing their effort with the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense using their technology to treat post traumatic stress disorders and combat operational stress in our veterans and active military.

**Natalie A. Lartigue (ED '89)** was among 24 regional finalists for state Teacher of the Year. She is a seventh-grade science teacher at Belle Chasse Middle School. Lartigue has received numerous honors in her teaching career, but the most recent was being selected to participate in the Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Flights Discovery Program. She and other teachers from New Orleans and Mississippi conducted experiments while in zero gravity to test Newton's Laws of Motion. Lartigue will take videos of the experiments back to her classroom.



## 1990s

**Harry F. Watters (GR '90)** held a solo performance at the Ginger Roger Craterian Theater for the American Band College Directors Band. Watters is a member of the United States Army Brass Quintet in Washington D.C. and serves with Army Blues Jazz Ensemble. He has performed with a number of famous musicians such as Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, and James Moody. Watters has held other solo positions in numerous symphonies and orchestras.

**Roberto E. Diaz del Valle (BA '93)** was appointed Assistant to the Chancellor at the University of New Orleans and Director of Diversity Affairs. He was the former Director of New Student Orientation, was also an Associate Director of Admissions, an Academic Counselor, and an Admissions Counselor and Recruiter for the University of New Orleans. He has been a member of the UNO Community for over 18 years. Del Valle he has served on numerous task forces and committees, including the Student Judicial Committee and the UNO Diversity Cabinet. Since 1999, he served as the District Director of the Greater New Orleans Literary Rally Association and is a Board member of the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair, Inc. Del Valle was an Assistant Vice President of the former Century Bank in New Orleans.

**Polly Boudreaux (GR '94)** was named St. Bernard Business and professional Women's Club's woman of the year. Boudreaux began her career as a high school French and biology teacher in the St. Bernard Parish school system. She is being honored because of her volunteering efforts. Boudreaux helped raise money and recruited volunteers to build the children's play ground at Torres Park.

**Emily W. Thompson (BA '95)** is Assistant Director of the online MBA program at Arizona State University (ASU) and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Educational Technology. After receiving her M.Ed. in 1998, Thompson planned and implemented the first online degree program offered at ASU. Thompson's first scholarly article is due to be published in late 2007 in Distance Education, a Routledge publication.

**Brian Gallagher (BA '96)** serves on the Society of Louisiana CPAs' (LCPA) first-ever Young CPA (YCPA) Board. Gallagher is an audit manager with Silva and Associates in Mandeville. He represents the association's Northshore chapter. The charter LCPA YCPA Board will serve 2007-2009.

**Kathleen Oqueli McGraw (BS '96)** is the founding partner of Kathleen McGraw, LCSW & Associates, LLC, a firm which provides mental health, mediation, facilitation, and personal coaching services to individuals and families in the Metropolitan New Orleans area. McGraw is a Public Health Professional and has a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Tulane University Medical Center's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and has a Master of Social Work (MSW) from Tulane University's School of Social Work. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in social work from Tulane University. She has co-authored the book 101 Great Ways to Improve Your Life, Volume 2 with John Grey - Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, Jack Canfield - Chicken Soup for the Soul, Richard Carlson - Don't Sweat the Small Stuff, and many other leading experts

**Benjamin "Clay" Moise, III (BA '93, '94, GR '97)** was honored as 2007 Alumnus of the Year of The University of New Orleans College of Business Administration at the college's spring honors convocation. Moise is Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning for Textron Marine & Land Systems.

**William C. Pack (GR '98)** was awarded a Modern-Day Technology Leadership Award in February 2007 at the Black Engineer of the Year Award conference in Baltimore, MD.

**Mary Jane Anderson (GR '99, PhD '02)** was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and granted tenure at Augusta State University. Augusta State University is in the University System of Georgia and is a public institution located in the second largest city in Georgia.

**Baodong Liu (PhD '99)** received the honor of the TRISS Endowed Fellowship from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. This award is an awarded endowed professorship for outstanding research and engagement in community services. Liu has generated nearly \$30,000 in grants or contracts for his projects. He has an extensive list of published work, including text published by McGraw Hill and entries in the International Encyclopedia of Science.

## 2000s

**Dr. Kenneth St. Charles (GR '88, PhD '02)** was named Vice President of Institutional Advancement for Xavier University of Louisiana. St. Charles, who came to Xavier in 2005, previously served the University as Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. Before that, St. Charles served eight years as the Area Development Director for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) New Orleans Office. His previous positions included Senior Development Officer at Loyola University, Alumni Affairs Director at St. Augustine High School and positions in human resources and finance at Entergy Corporation. He is also a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, where he has been an active member for the past twenty-four years.

**Bill Boasberg (GR '02)** has been named Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at The Mirage. Boasberg joined MGM MIRAGE in 2005 after extensive experience in the financial world, serving most recently as Vice President and CFO at New York-New York. He is also a licensed CPA s. Boasberg will report to Scott Sibella, President and COO at The Mirage.

**Veleaka Jordan (BA '02)** was appointed as The University of New Orleans Director of Equal Employment Opportunity. Jordan is a member of the Human Resource Management Association, New Orleans Chapter, American Management Association, Corporate Leadership Council and the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) through which she has attained her PHR certification. She brings several years of progressive Human Resource Management experience in the areas of EEO compliance, affirmative action planning, employee relations, administering diversity training/initiatives and a strong record of achievement and commitment to excellence.

**Christopher Baker (GS '03)** received a Master of Arts in Teaching from Louisiana Tech on May 19, 2007. Baker was a member of Pi Lambda Theta International Honor Society.

## ALUMNI NOTICES AND INFORMATION:

## OUT OF STATE ALUMNI:

Are you interested in staying connected with your alma mater? Want to meet people from Louisiana or UNO that live in your area? Would you like to help with student recruitment? Contact the following Chapter presidents for more information. If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 1-800-488-2956 or e-mail us at [alumni@uno.edu](mailto:alumni@uno.edu)

**Austin Chapter**

**Contact: Marion Martin** at  
[martinm@gmail.com](mailto:martinm@gmail.com)

**Atlanta Chapter**

**Contact: Jennifer Greene** at  
[jennerfergreene@yahoo.com](mailto:jennerfergreene@yahoo.com)

**Chicago Chapter**

**Contact: Denese Neu** at  
[d.m.neu@att.net](mailto:d.m.neu@att.net)

**Dallas Chapter**

**Contact: Martin S. Sher** at  
[hedna2@aol.com](mailto:hedna2@aol.com)

**Denver Chapter**

**Contact: Joseph Cruse** at  
[joecruse@gmail.com](mailto:joecruse@gmail.com)

**Jacksonville Florida Chapter**

This chapter is just getting started and is looking for new members to help out.

**Contact Stephen Schuller**  
[sschuller@dorseyco.com](mailto:sschuller@dorseyco.com)

**Jamaica Chapter**

**Contact: Prudence Simpson**  
[pruidi@cwjamaica.com](mailto:pruidi@cwjamaica.com)

**New York**

This Chapter is looking for members in the Northeast area.

**Contact: Monique Gardner**  
[alumni@uno.edu](mailto:alumni@uno.edu)

**Puerto Rico**

**Contact: Monique Gardner**  
[alumni@uno.edu](mailto:alumni@uno.edu)

**San Diego Chapter**

**Contact: David Vaz**  
[dcvaz@sbcglobo.net](mailto:dcvaz@sbcglobo.net)

**South Florida Chapter**

**Contact: Ed Kennedy** at  
[Ekennedyjr@aol.com](mailto:Ekennedyjr@aol.com)

**Washington, D. C. Chapter**

Chapter members hold an Alumni Mardi Gras Brunch each year to coincide with the Washington Mardi Gras festivities.

**Contact: Andrea "Andi" Holston**  
[andiholston@comcast.net](mailto:andiholston@comcast.net)

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