

Full Circle

SLI alum reunites with fellow hero

By CRISTINA PROAÑO

Sunday, May 9, 2000 Jeff De Blanc, '47, sat in a small boat skimming through a bay on the Island of Vella la Vella, one of a string of tropical islands that make up the Solomon Islands. His destination: the tiny village of Dovele.

- Fifty-seven years had passed since De Blanc, Louisiana's last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient, was in this remote spot in the South Pacific. He was a young Marine pilot then, serving his country during World War II.

When De Blanc arrived at the village on this balmy afternoon, he was greeted by about 30 islanders and tourists. He pointed to an elderly man, dressed in khaki shorts and a white t-shirt, who was among the welcoming group.

"That's Ati—the man who saved my life!" De Blanc, 80, exclaimed.

He and the 95-year-old Ati embraced. Then De Blanc stepped back and, standing tall, gave a sharp Marine salute. Ati raised his thin arm and touched his outstretched hand to his wrinkled forehead, returning the gesture of respect.

De Blanc thanked Ati for saving his life so long ago. The islander then handed his American friend a *bahika*, a smooth and perfect donut-shaped coin made of fossilized clamshell.

The *bahika*, Ati explained through an interpreter, has such value that it links people's spirits.

"He told me that he gave me the *bahika* to bind our families after our deaths," De Blanc said. "Even though we will die, our

families will be tied."

The pair spent the next three hours reminiscing about the event that brought them together.

January 31, 1943

ON DEC. 8, 1941, THE UNITED STATES declared war on Japan, one day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, killing 2,300 Americans.

Now, two years later, former Southwestern Louisiana Institute student Jeff De Blanc was captain of U.S. Marine Corps Fighting Squadron 112.

At 3 p.m., he and seven fellow pilots were called to escort 12 dive bombers whose mission was to attack the *Toa Maru*, a Japanese ship carrying tanks and ammunition. It was headed toward Guadalcanal Island about 250 miles away.

De Blanc, 15 days shy of his 22nd birthday, flew a Grumman Wildcat, a



Jeff De Blanc, left, greets Ati Lodukulo, who rescued him during World War II. The SLI grad presented Ati with \$800 and promised additional aid for a village project through the Battle of Guadalcanal and Solomon Island Foundation Inc.



Jeff De Blanc, shown in the foreground, was captain of U.S. Marine Corps Fighting Squadron 112.

one-man plane armed with six .50-caliber machine-guns. He knew he would be facing a Japanese plane known as the Zero. Although it lacked the Wildcat's firepower, it had superior speed.

The American pilots flew for about two hours before encountering their enemy. De Blanc's plane was almost out of fuel. Using his circular slide rule, he did some quick calculations, then weakened the plane's gas mixture to buy more time. Two of his comrades had already turned their planes around to head back to the U.S. base.

But De Blanc chose to stay to protect the American bombers, knowing he would not have enough fuel to make it back to his post.

"We needed all the guns we could get up there to protect the other dive bomber pilots," he said matter-of-factly during an interview in his St. Martinville, La., home more than a half century later. "To turn back would have been something I would have had to live with as a fighter pilot and as a human being. . ."

The Americans and Japanese engaged in a ferocious mid-air battle of strategy, skill, courage and will. During the next 30 minutes, De Blanc downed five—and probably six—enemy planes.

He and the remaining three pilots managed to strafe the *Toa Maru* with machine gun fire that set the Japanese

ship on fire. Then he noticed a Zero pilot bearing down on him.

"He was too anxious for the kill and did not judge my speed correctly. I could see he was diving, so instead of running, I skidded and he overshot me.



During World War II, pilot Jeff De Blanc flew a Grumman Wildcat, protecting American dive bombers from attacks by the Japanese in the South Pacific.

We locked eyes as he flew past my right wing-tip. We were just 50 feet over the water. You can't outrun a 50-caliber machine gun bullet. I shot him down with one short burst," De Blanc said.

Relieved, he forgot to check to see if any other enemy planes were roaming in the sky. Instead, he looked at his wristwatch.

Within moments, a 20 mm shell ripped the watch from his arm before striking the instrument panel and setting the cockpit and engine on fire. De Blanc unbuckled his safety belt and jumped.

"How peaceful it felt to be free of noise and watching the waters far below as I slowly tumbled through the air. What a sensational feeling! I felt free as a bird and got a beautiful view of the earth from 'space,' " he wrote many years later of his escape.

Suspended from his parachute, De Blanc decided to "play dead."

"I let myself go limp in the chute, with my head sagging, as the pilot circled me twice. This Japanese pilot had seen me shoot his buddies down. Some Japanese pilots shot at Americans in parachutes, so I was anxious to get down," he said.

The area where De Blanc would land was deep in Japanese territory.

"We were not winning the war at that time, so the pilot knew that if I survived the waters and sharks, the natives would turn me over to the Japanese for a price," he said.

De Blanc plunged so deep into the ocean that he had to pop his Mae West life jacket to help him reach the surface. As he gasped for air, he realized that he had lost his .45 caliber pistol, canteen of water and extra shells. But his backpack containing survival equipment was

Alumni Association



still attached to his body. Salt water swam to the island of Kolombangara. Exhausted, he fell asleep in the jungle bordering the beach. He slept in trees the next night, after he dressed his wounds and ate fruit he found and a candy bar from his survival kit. He then roamed the island cautiously.

“One of the intelligence officers had told us that we would be dead men unless we had native loyals to pick us up. I’m not stupid. The Japanese were looking for me because I had escaped,” he recalled.

He found an abandoned hut in the jungle, where he slept. On the morning of the fifth day after his crash, De Blanc woke up to the sound of silence and immediately sensed danger. Birds had stopped singing, so he knew that other humans must be nearby. He looked outside the hut.

“I saw a man, about five feet tall, with Afro hair and a bone through his nose, and a machete. He was grinning.”

Five others were with him, also armed with machetes. “They didn’t say anything to me because we couldn’t communicate. I was stripped to the waist and sunburnt, and they poked at my skin. I could see myself in the pot,” he said.

The natives took De Blanc to their village deep in the jungle and placed him in a bamboo cage.

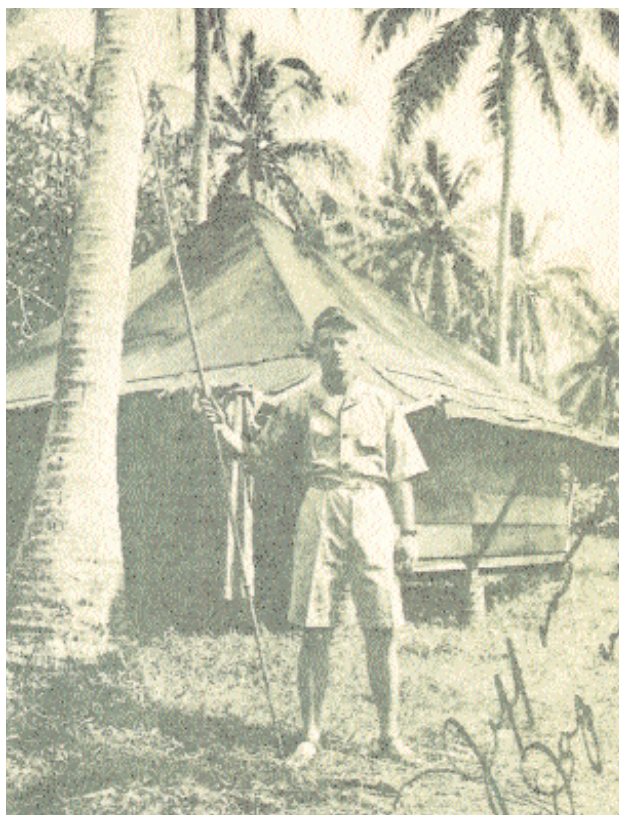
“I figured if they locked me up and put two guards in front of me that they would either send me straight to the Japanese, or eat me,” he said.

The natives began to beat drums loudly. Soon, a stranger arrived and threw a 10-pound sack of rice at the American’s feet. The two guards immediately released him.

“You can’t price out what you’re worth in dollars and cents, but I know exactly how much I’m worth!” De Blanc said.

The stranger was Ati.

Ati Lodukulo was a Coastwatcher, a member of a covert group of Australians, Englishmen and natives who aided the Allies. The islanders despised the Japanese, who had raped and abused native women and plundered the island’s gardens.



Jeff De Blanc is shown wearing a Japanese uniform he found aboard an abandoned enemy ship that was beached on Kolombangara Island.



With his wife, Louise, looking on, Jeff De Blanc receives the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman. The medal is the nation’s highest military honor.

“I didn’t know anything about the Coastwatchers. Here I am in the middle of hostile territory with natives I thought were headhunters who befriended me,” De Blanc said.

He felt safe for the first time since he had arrived on the island.

“I knew I was in the right hands. Ati was a cat. He walked with authority.”

Ati guided the young American pilot through enemy territory. Before they left Kolombangara, they came across the *Toa Maru*, which was beached on the shore.

“We managed to get aboard the ship, and there were no Japanese. I went to the engine room and picked up some Japanese codes, whatever I could find, as well as a uniform, which I found in a locker,” De Blanc said.

Ati and other natives paddled a 12-man canoe all night in a thunderstorm to transport De Blanc to nearby Gizo Island. There, he was ordered to lie flat in the bottom of the canoe and was covered with palm fronds so he could not be spotted by Japanese pilots. The journey continued.

Once the canoe arrived at Vella la Vella, De Blanc was greeted by an English missionary. After hearing rumors that

a Japanese patrol was roaming the island, the Coastwatchers took De Blanc to a mountain hideout.

On Feb. 12, 1943, 12 days after De Blanc's Wildcat had been shot down, a U.S. Navy plane known as a "flying boat," was dispatched from Guadalcanal, along with fighter cover protection, to pick him up. Ati, who had planned De Blanc's entire rescue with the Coastwatchers, put the American in a canoe once again and paddled to the rescue boat.

December 6, 1946

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN PRESENTED De Blanc with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor. It is awarded by Congress to citizens who risk their life in combat beyond the call of duty.

"A gallant officer, a superb airman, and an indomitable fighter, 1st Lt. De Blanc had rendered decisive assistance during a critical stage of operations, and his unwavering fortitude in the face of overwhelming opposition reflects the highest credit upon himself and adds new luster to the traditions of the U.S. Naval Service," the citation states.

December 29, 2000

SEATED AT A DINING TABLE COVERED with military memorabilia, De Blanc reflected on his World War II experience.

"Many men died who did much more than I did, and people will never know about their efforts," he said.

De Blanc returned to SLI in 1946, and graduated a year later with a bachelor's degree in science.

Today, he writes grants and teaches mini-courses in physics and mathematics for St. Martinville Parish schools. He and his wife, Louise, have five children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He is at peace, now that he has thanked Ati—in person—for keeping him alive during the war. "I would have no wife and no grandchildren if it hadn't been for him," De Blanc said quietly. And he knows their families are bound forever.

Look Us Up

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Big Spender (big spend•er) *adj.* Anyone who buys stuff using the MBNA Ragin' Cajun Visa Card.

Boiling Point (boil•ing point) *n.* The site of a crawfish boil held by 35 RAGIN' CAJUN alumni chapters and clubs across the country.



Book 'em, Dano (buk 'em, Dan•o) *vb.*

The phrase to use to sign up for a trip abroad sponsored by the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. Call 482-0900 and ask for Dan.

Flasher (flash•er) *n.* Any fan who sports RAGIN' CAJUN® Wear at UL Lafayette athletic events around town.

Fun Raising (fun rais•ing) *vb.* This occurs almost any time Ragin' Cajuns get together.

Geaux (go) *vb.* 1: This is the way you get to RAGIN' CAJUN events. For instance, you can *geaux* to a Lady Cajuns softball game. 2: Or, this word can be used to cheer on your favorite team, as in "Geaux Cajuns!"

Hang 10 (hang•ten) *vb.* RAGIN' CAJUNS "Hang 10" using a keyboard, not a surfboard. Their fingers, not their toes, dangle as they surf zRaginCajuns.com, the Alumni Association's Internet portal.

Party Central (pärt-ë sen•trel) *n.* The UL Lafayette Alumni Center on St. Mary Boulevard.

*Whether you use these terms or not, just stay involved.

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Alumni

1920s

RUTH JONES RABEL, '27, '31, is a resident of Old Brooklyn, N.Y., where she has lived for 50 years. Rabel received a teaching certificate in 1927 from Southwestern Louisiana Institute and a bachelor's of administration degree in 1931. Rabel was named a National Honor Teacher during her career as an educator.

MARGUERITE (MARSHALL) KNOTT, '29, obtained a teaching certificate from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. She married Eugene McDonald Knott, and the couple moved to Houston. There, she taught kindergarten, first grade and second grade until 1964. Eugene Knott died in 1972. Marguerite Knott, who lives in Sulphur, La., has two children, Mary Jean (Knott) Bergeron and Patrick Eugene Knott, and five grandchildren.

1930s

AUDREY BESS (HOFFPAUIR) HEATON, '31, lives in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. She studied home economics at SLI from 1929 until 1931. During World War II, Heaton worked for the American Red Cross, promoting nutrition programs in several states. When her husband, the late Herman Shelby Heaton, was stationed in Germany and France from 1956-1969, Heaton taught third and fifth grades at American schools in both countries. Heaton has three children, Louis Heaton, Scott Heaton and Audrey (Heaton) Threkeld.

BENJAMIN M. MCDOUGALL, '32, worked as a clerk at SLI's post office to pay for his tuition. There, he met Martha Hesse, whom he married in 1933. During the Great Depression, McDougall worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps, and then for the Texas & Pacific Railroad

in Big Springs, Texas. Martha McDougall died in 1956. From 1968 until his retirement in 1985, McDougall worked at his own commodity futures trading firm. He also owned a small ranch in Missouri, where he raised beef cattle and Tennessee Walking horses. In 1995, he sold his ranch and moved to St. Louis. In 1999, he married Maralee Thompson "and now they are living happily in Kirkwood, Mo.," he wrote in a letter to *La Louisiane*. McDougall obtained a bachelor's degree in engineering from SLI. He has three children, Martha Ann (McDougall) Hodge, Ben McDougall and Susan (McDougall) Ritland, and six grandchildren.

1940s

CLEOTHILE MARY (BORDELON) DEWAILLY, '40, lives in Moreauville, La. She taught home

economics at Bordelonville High School for 32 years. Dewailly obtained a bachelor's degree in home economics from SLI. She and her husband, Voorhies Dewailly, have three children, **PAULA A. (DEWAILLY) BERGERON, '71**; **GRETCHEN (DEWAILLY) KRUEGER, '74**; and Buster Dewailly.

For 33 years, **HERBERT GUY PINCKLEY, '48**, worked for a subsidiary of Dow Chemical, which is now owned by Schlumberger and known as its Dowell division. He obtained a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from SLI. Pinckley is married to **JESSIE ELIZABETH (MEAUX) PINCKLEY, '43**, who holds a bachelor's degree in home economics from SLI. The couple, who live in Farmington, N.M., have three children, Guy Pinckley, Jeff Pinckley and Ellen (Pinckley) Stewart.

CHARLES JEANMARD, '49, is former owner of Jeanmard's Marine Electronics. He sold the business when he retired in 1982. Jeanmard earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from SLI. He and his wife, Mary Alice, have two daughters, Charlotte Gisclair, and **REBECCA JEANMARD**, who attended USL in 1972; three sons, Michael, George and Carl Jeanmard; and five grandchildren.

1950s

VERNON L. JOHNSON, '57, retired in 1998 after 32 years of service as an agent for State Farm Insurance. Before joining State Farm, he taught industrial arts education at Ponchatoula High School for 13 years. He also worked for the Louisiana Department of Education, supervising industrial arts and vocational education. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in industrial arts education from SLI and a master's degree in industrial arts education from LSU. He has four children: B. Douglas Johnson, Glenn L. Johnson, Vernon Johnson Jr. and Gaye Marie (Johnson) Dykes. Johnson and his wife, Dorothy, live in Hammond, La.

RALPH ERROL SCHWARTZENBURG, '59, is retired from the Louisiana Office of Community Services, where he served as supervisor of child protection, foster care and family services. He received the Charles E. Dunbar Award, which is given by the Louisiana Civil Service League for excellence in social service. Schwartzenburg obtained a bachelor's degree in geography from SLI. He lives in Marksville, La., with his wife, Geraldine (McManners) Schwartzenburg. They have four children, Robert Errol Schwartzenburg, Deanna (Schwartzenburg) Long, Myrl Etta Schwartzenburg and Lee Joseph Schwartzenburg, and seven grandchildren.

1960s

NANCY (TREGRE) WILSON, '64, '67, is president of Louisiana Gourmet Enterprises Inc. She is also a teacher in the St. Charles Parish Head Start program. Wilson previously taught home economics and child development at Nicholls State University. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in agriculture/home economics from USL, and a master's degree in child development from LSU. She and her husband, Charles, have four children, Angela Wilson; **TREGG WILSON, '95**, who earned a degree in general studies from USL; Charlena (Wilson) Thorton; and Nanette Wilson.

HENRY LYNN BREAUX, '68, was recently appointed as ambassador to France for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Society's 25,000 members are descendants of noted French military personnel. Breaux is a member of the New Orleans chapter



of the French Chamber of Commerce, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, and Action Acadienne. He is chief executive officer of Bronco Realty of Lafayette and co-founder of Vermilion Health Care Nursing Home, BB Medical Supply, and Television Louisiane. Breaux holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL. His wife, **SUE (EBNER) BREAUX**, attended USL in 1965 and owns Bayou Travel. The couple, who live in Lafayette, have three sons, Bert, Brandon and Bryce.

SYLVIA MARIE (HODGES) GAMBOA, '68, is an assistant professor of English and director of summer school at the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C. She is founder of the National Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, which encourages university and high school faculty in all disciplines to incorporate writing assignments into their classes. Gamboa is also a contributing author for *Learning Literature in an Era of Change*, a textbook published in 2000. She received a bachelor's degree in English from USL and a master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas. Gamboa and her husband, Joseph, live in Charleston. They have one son, Stephen.

BARBARA FAYE GUILLOTT, '68, '86, is a computer science instructor at LSU. She has also taught at McNeese State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, USL and LSUE. Guillott previously worked as a software engineer for a home health company. Guillott obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's



degree in computer science from USL. Her daughter, **SONYA LACOMB, '90, '92**, holds an associate degree in general studies and a bachelor's degree in fine art from USL.

"The Last John Doe," a play written by **JENÉT LYNN DECHARY, '69**, was presented in January at Manhattan Theatre Source at Washington Square. It satirizes the dilemma of John Doe, a young television journalist who is asked to select a more "viewer-friendly" name before accepting his first reporting job. In 1998, Dechary left her career of over 25 years as Broadcast Standards Manager for NBC4 in Washington, D.C., to become a freelance writer. Her essays and features have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Reader's Digest* and other publications. Dechary has written and performed several one-woman shows adapted for the stage from her essays. She holds degrees in English and social studies from USL. Her son, Paul Dechary, practices law in San Diego.

1970s

CHARLES R. JENKINS, '70, lives in Hot Springs Village, Ark. Until his retirement in 1999, he served as president of Jenkins and Associates Inc., a consulting engineering firm that he established in Denver, Colo. Jenkins obtained a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from USL. He has two children, Jennifer E. Jenkins and Jeffrey C. Jenkins.

DAVID BAROCCO, '73, is assistant vice president of sales and marketing of North American Turkey Operations for Cargill, Inc., a major food processor. Barocco holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from USL. He lives in Springdale, Ark., with his wife, Lynda Ann, and three children, Emily Elaine, Rebecca Leigh and Matthew.

PHYLLIS CHELETTE, '73, is dean of the Rife & Carolyn Saunders Division of Nursing and an associate professor of nursing at Louisiana



College. In October 2000, she was named the Coughlin-Saunders Foundation Chair in Nursing. Chelette recently obtained a \$1 million grant from the Rapides Foundation to develop a faith and health ministry center, which will provide health promotion to church congregations. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL, a master's degree in public health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and a doctorate in nursing from Texas Woman's University.

She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL, a master's degree in public health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and a doctorate in nursing from Texas Woman's University.

STEVE CRAFT, '75, was recently named vice president of information services at Duke Energy Gas Transmission of Houston. He is responsible for oversight of the information



technology group for all pipeline activities. Craft received a bachelor's degree in computer science from USL and a master's degree in business administration from Houston Baptist University in 1984. He

and his wife, Jonna, have three daughters, Carrie, Katy and Rachel.

KATHY (NEFF) BRADSHAW, '77, is president and chief executive officer of HOUTEX Business Products, which sells cash register rolls and



ribbons to restaurants, hotels, country clubs and retail stores. She holds a bachelor's degree in management from USL. Bradshaw and her husband, Jim, live in Spring, Texas. Kathy Bradshaw has one son, Christopher W. Brand.

GRACE A. (HEGGELUND) BARRY, '78, is an instructor of legal research, writing and analysis at Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU.



Barry also works part-time as a social worker for Baton Rouge City Court. She graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in political science from USL. Barry obtained a juris doctorate from LSU Law School in 1989 and a

master's degree in social work in 1999 from LSU. She is married to Andrew Gates Barry. They have two sons, Kevin John Barry and David Nielsen Barry.

1980s

CAROLYN COLE, '80, '84, is a professor of English and coordinator of the freshman English program at Oklahoma Baptist University. She received Oklahoma Baptist University's Distinguished Teacher of 2000 Award, the highest award given by the university. Cole holds a bachelor's degree in English from Mississippi College, and a master's degree and doctorate in English from USL. She is married to Thomas Cole. They have two children, Catherine and Charles.

SHARON ANN (BURGESS) GUIDRY, '80, is party coordinator manager for Leilani Lanes in Seattle, Wash., where she is responsible for children's birthday parties and supervises assistant coordinators. She is also a member of the American Legion. Guidry holds a bachelor's degree from USL in animal science. She has two children, Ronald Allen Guidry and Larry Mason Guidry.

GORDON PAUL BONNET, '82, is a science teacher at C.O. Dickerson High School in Trumansburg, N.Y. He teaches beginning and advanced placement biology, and is conducting student independent study courses in human genetics, evolutionary biology, linguistics and Latin. In October 2000, he received the Raymond van Houtte Excellence in Education Award. Bonnet, who obtained a bachelor's degree in physics from USL, has two sons, Lucas and Nathan.

J. JEFFREY BELLAMY, '83, is vice president and leasing director for Jones Lang La Salle, a commercial real estate firm. He is responsible for leasing commercial office space and tenant representation in Atlanta. Bellamy earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. His wife, **DAWN (GUILLOT) BELLAMY, '82**,



holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from USL. The couple live in Alpharetta, Ga., with their son, Taylor.

holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from USL. The couple live in Alpharetta, Ga., with their son, Taylor.

KEVIN RAY BROWN, '83, is vice president of business development for Command and Control Technologies Corp., in Titusville, Fla. He oversees marketing and executive management for the startup space software firm, which specializes in launch site automation. Brown co-founded the firm in 1997 after working for McDonnell Douglas at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., for 10 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from USL and a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Central Florida. Brown and his wife, Abby, live in Cocoa, Fla., with their daughters, Erica and Selena.

KATHERINE H. ARMENTOR, '84, is president of the Lafayette chapter of the Louisiana CPA Society. She had previously held the offices of treasurer, secretary and president-elect and had served as a chapter board member. Armentor is a partner with Castaing, Hussey, Lolan and Dauterive, LLP in New Iberia, La. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL.

MICHAEL THOMAS BERTRAND, '85, '88, is a visiting assistant professor of history and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi. He recently wrote *Race, Rock and Elvis*, published by University of Illinois Press as part of its "Music in American Life" series. Bertrand holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in history from USL. He is married to **THERESA ANN (THERIOT) BERTRAND, '80, '88**, who obtained a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in history from USL. They live in Oxford, Miss., with their daughter, Micaela Bertrand.

Alumni

ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

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FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

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Major & Date of Graduation

OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY

Current Job Title

Business Name

Business Address

Professional Duties

Accomplishments

Spouse's Name

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

Spouse's USL Graduation Date

AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT

Children (if any are UL Lafayette students or USL graduates, please indicate)

Current Date

Please mail this form to **La Louisiane, Box 41009, Lafayette, LA 70504-1009**

MARISOL (OCHOA) KONCZAL, '86, '88, was recently named director of marketing for



Orcom Solutions, an application service provider of customer care and billing solutions to the utility and energy industries. In April 2000, *Vanidades* magazine named her one of the 50 most influential Latinas in the United States. Konczal holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in communication from USL. Her husband, **MICHAEL KONCZAL, '80, '88**, obtained a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in mass communication from USL. The couple live in Denver, Colo.

NANCY LEE STARR, '87, '2000, is a documentation specialist at University of Texas Hospital in San Antonio. She received certification as a registered health information administrator in November 2000. Starr holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a bachelor's degree in health information management from UL Lafayette.

ANGELA (FRANK) ADAMS, '88, is assistant director of human resources for Holiday Inn Capitol in Washington D.C. She holds a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising from USL. Adams and her husband, Byron, live in Hyattsville, Md., with their daughter, Malaaya Briana Adams.

STEVE BONIN, '88, is president and owner of EZ FX, Inc., an Orlando-based film and video production tool company. In 1998, he received a U.S. patent for the invention of the EZ FX handle, a remote control device used to pan, tilt and position a camera for visual effects. He obtained a bachelor's degree in mass communication from USL.

ROLAND N. UDENZE, '89, is lead architect and project design principal for the architecture and engineering group of The Haskell Company, a Jacksonville, Fla.-based design-build and construction management firm. He also served as chairman of the Public Arts Advisory for Orlando in 1997. Udenze holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL and a master's degree in real estate financial analysis from Harvard Graduate School of Design.

1990s

JOHN PATOUT HAYS, '90, is a physical scientist for the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office in Stennis Space Center, Miss. He makes maps and charts of oceans, which requires him to travel around the world on scientific ships to gather data. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserves in 1985, and became a Naval intelligence officer in 1998. He obtained a bache-

lor's degree in geology from USL. His wife, **MICHELLE RENEE (PERRODIN) HAYS, '90**, earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from USL. The couple live in Picayune, Miss., with their four children, Peter, Laura, Mary and John.

MARY CATHERINE TERREBONNE, '93, is the educational tour director at Associated Wayfarer, a Lafayette-based travel agency. Her professional duties include coordinating trips for school groups. She is a member of the International Airlines Travel Agent Network, and Partners in Education, an organization that supports Lafayette-area schools. Her first CD, "Cat Terrebone, No Dogs Allowed," was released in March 2001 by Forum Trade Records. Terrebone holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL. She lives in Lafayette with her daughters, Jenee Dansdill and Jacey Dansdill.

JULIE ANNE LEBLANC, '93, is an occupational therapist at South Mississippi Regional Center in Long Beach, Miss. She provides rehabilitation services to clients with mental retardation and developmental disorders. LeBlanc received a bachelor's degree in psychology from USL. She also holds a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from LSU. LeBlanc and her husband, Todd Smith, live in Pass Christian, Miss.

SCOTT ALLEN ROY, '94, is an instructor and coach at Opelousas Catholic School in Opelousas, La. He teaches science to sixth, eighth and 12th graders. He also serves as assistant football coach and head baseball coach. Roy holds a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from USL. He has a son, Andrew Scott Roy.

MICHAEL SHANNON JORDEN, '95, '98, is a network specialist for Point-to-Point Communications, Inc., in Broussard, La. He tests fiber optic equipment for possible implementation in MCI/Worldcom's network. Jorden obtained a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in telecommunications from USL.

ASHLEY (BOURG) MONCLA, '96, is co-owner of Shoes My Size.com, a company that sells small-sized women's shoes via the Internet. Moncla received a bachelor's degree in mass communications from USL. She is married to **MARC MONCLA, '96**, who holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL. The couple live in Lafayette.

TYLA ILEEN (SOSA) TULLIA, '96, is case manager of Home Health and Hospice for Provena Ventures in Waukegan, Ill., where she is responsible for the care of homebound clients. Tullia holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL. She is seeking a master's degree in information technology from the University of Illinois. Tullia has two daughters, Christina Landry and Cheryl Landry.

ARTHUR L. KERN, '98, is owner, chief executive officer and general manager of Addax Technology, LLC, a new service company in Broussard, La., specializing in the compressor controls field of the petroleum and natural gas industry. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from USL. Kern and his wife, Bobbie (Gregory) Kern, have a son, **CRAMER KERN**, who is attending UL Lafayette, and a daughter, Britlyn.



ANDREW PERRIN, '99, has been admitted to the University of Syracuse master's of architecture program. He chose to spend a year studying in Florence, Italy, under the school's Division of International Programs Abroad. He is concentrating on the architecture of the Renaissance and in urban studies there. Perrin was selected as a finalist for a proposed design for Louisiana's commemorative quarter to be produced by the U.S. Mint in 2002. He is the son of **WARREN PERRIN, '69**, of Lafayette, La., who is a former president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association.



IN MEMORIAM

JAMES NELSON THOMAS, '49, died Oct. 3, 2000. He was a federal veterinarian for the states of Virginia and Arkansas from 1973-91. Thomas served on the boards of directors for Welsh General Hospital and Jennings Federal Savings and Loan Association. He also served on the state Board of Medical Examiners from 1961-69. Thomas obtained a bachelor of science degree from SLI and a degree in veterinary medicine from Auburn University. He is survived by his wife, Jean Reagan Thomas of Metairie, La.; two daughters, Stephanie Thomas Benoit of Longview, Texas, and Dwaines Thomas Lawless of Austin, Texas; two sons, **JAMES NELSON THOMAS II, '78, '80**, of Lake Arthur, La., who holds an associate's degree and bachelor's degree in criminal justice from USL, and **MICHAEL REGAN THOMAS, '80**, of Fort Collins, Colo., who obtained a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from USL; three sisters, Iola McMillan of Roanoke, La., Mugs Herring of Jennings, La., and Verna Lee Broussard of Lake Arthur, La.; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

JOHN ANTHONY GUDAN, '54, died April 6, 2000. Until his retirement in 1989, Gudan was a U.S. Customs inspector at New Orleans International Airport. From 1955

until 1965, he was a grain inspector for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Gudan, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1945-49, obtained a bachelor's degree in agriculture from SLI. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia T. Sietzen of Metairie, La., two sons, John Gudan Jr. and Clint Gudan; two daughters, **JANET (GUDAN) LESKO, '79**, who holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from USL, and Christine (Gudan) Coci; two sisters, Teresa (Gudan) Battistella and Mary (Gudan) Ready; one brother, Thomas Gudan; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Darren Gudan.

ROBERT THOMAS ALCIATORE, former professor and dean of the College of Education of UL Lafayette, died Jan. 9, 2001, at a Utah ski resort. He had retired in 2000 after almost 20 years of service to the university. Alciatore was director of higher education at Oklahoma



State University from 1968-1973; professor and director of the Division of Education at the University of Texas in San Antonio from 1973-76; and professor and dean of the College of Education at Florida Atlantic University from 1976-81. He held a bachelor's degree in English and a Ph.L. in philosophy from Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala.; an STL, *cum laude*, in theology from St. Louis University; and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Minnesota. Survivors include his wife, Pegge Luken Alciatore, a biology instructor at UL Lafayette; three daughters, **ELIZABETH (ALCIATORE) GOSSEN, '93**, and her husband, Gerald M. Gossen Jr., and Mary Patricia Alciatore, all of Lafayette, and Erin (Alciatore) Hebert and her husband, Thomas, of Baton Rouge; and one grandchild, Bryson Alciatore Travasos. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Ann Mignon Alciatore.

MARK MCQUILLIN, a defensive ends coach at UL Lafayette, died on Dec. 27, 2000, at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center. The Winnsboro native had just completed his second season on the UL Lafayette coaching staff. McQuillin previously worked as a defensive ends coach for three seasons at LSU. He held a bachelor's degree from Northeast Louisiana University, a master's degree in social sciences from Mississippi College and a master's degree in kinesiology and sports management from LSU. McQuillin is survived by his wife, Stacy Jowers McQuillin; his mother, Kathryn McQuillin; and a brother, Tim McQuillin.