

ALUMNI

1960

LETHA SAVANT BRIGGS is director of Community Life at St. Edmond Catholic Church in Lafayette. She coordinates social activities of the church parish, maintains sacramental records and assists the needy in Acadiana. Her family was honored by the Louisiana Volunteers for Family and Community at its recent conference. Briggs earned a bachelor's degree in home economics education. She is married to Willard A. Briggs, who attended USL for two years. The couple have six children, Byron Briggs; Stephen Briggs; **SUSAN BRIGGS SMITH, '87**; Michael Briggs; **ELIZABETH BRIGGS BERTUCCI, '93**; and Robert Briggs, who attended UL Lafayette. They have 11 grandchildren.

1962

RON R. EDDY is a certified public accountant in Spring, Texas. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from USL.

1970

NANCY CRAWFORD is vice president of Medical Staff Services at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge. She recently earned the 2006 Distinguished Member Award from the Louisiana Health Information Management Association and the 2006 Community Leadership Award from the Leadership Greater Baton Rouge Alumni Inc. Crawford is a graduate of the Leadership/Greater Baton Rouge



program and the Louisiana Leadership program. She also participates in Delta Delta Delta sorority alumni activities. Crawford received a bachelor's degree in health information management from USL.

MARY LENNY B. PERRIN earned a master of fine arts degree from Vermont College in February. She is co-owner of Galerie Eclaireuse, a gallery of fine art in Lafayette, and owner of Artisans of Louisiana, a Lafayette gallery of Louisiana-made crafts. Perrin holds a bachelor's of fine arts degree from USL. She is married to **WARREN A. PERRIN, '69**.

ROBERT A. THOMAS was recently named interim director of Loyola University's new School of Mass Communication in New Orleans. He has held the Loyola Chair in Environmental Communications since 1996. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from USL and a doctorate in vertebrate zoology from Texas A&M University.

1971

SUZANNE GARY BRIANS is a senior lecturer of reading at the University of Texas at Tyler and an undergraduate reading education adviser. She is also a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice. Brians has served as an educational consultant throughout East Texas and as an Attention Deficit Disorder specialist. She holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees



in education from USL. She is married to Robin Brians. The couple has two children, Christopher Robin and Michelle Suzanne.

SHIRLEY THERIOT was recently named director of the Center for Community Service Learning at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she teaches. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from USL and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Theriot has two children, Rob and Erin Fogleman, and a granddaughter, Rose.

1975

CINDY COURVILLE was recently appointed as the first U.S. Ambassador to the African Union. She is special assistant to the President and senior director for African Affairs at the National Security Council. Courville has served as senior intelligence officer in the Office of the Chief of Staff at the Defense Intelligence Agency. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from USL. She earned a second master's degree and a doctorate in comparative political science from the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies. Courville lives in Virginia.

RON JOHNSON retired in March as president and chief executive officer of MMD Equipment in Swedesboro, N.J. Johnson was named president of MMD in 1998



after having served in several other executive positions with the company. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL.

MARK S. WILLIAMS, '75, recently published *F/V Black Sheep*, a memoir about his adventures during his career as a lobster fisherman. One



afternoon, he was alone on his boat, the *F/V Black Sheep*, when a trawl line became wrapped around his leg. Within seconds, he was being pulled overboard. As he clung to the boat's stern, memories of growing up in Gloucester, Mass., came back to him, along with lessons his father taught him that would save his life. Williams retired from lobster fishing and decided to write about his childhood and his days spent working in the North Atlantic. *F/V Black Sheep* was chosen for *Forbes Magazine's* book club. Williams is an emergency medical

1900-1921
Southwestern Louisiana
Industrial Institute

1921-1960
Southwestern Louisiana
Institute

1960-1999
University of Southwestern
Louisiana

1999-PRESENT
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette

A Look Back



1954 Students Sammy Fontenot, standing, and Irving Manuel monitor Southwestern's first "electronic brain," which began operating in 1954.

technician and has worked as a commercial diver. He holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from USL.

1977

WILLIAM JUDE GREIG was recently promoted to secondary education supervisor for St. Martin Parish public schools. His responsibilities include curriculum development and curriculum funding for grades 7-12. He was a high school math teacher for 22 years and an assistant principal for seven years. Greig is an organist at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Parks, La., and has been a music minister since 1973. He received a bachelor's degree in math and science education, a master's degree in secondary education and a master's plus 30 in administrative supervision from USL. He is married to Mary Yvette Theriot Greig. They have three children: **PATRICE GREIG, '01**;

CANDICE GREIG, '06; and William Garrett Greig.

1980

LEIGH HENNESSY is an actress and stuntwoman who appears in "The Guardian," starring Kevin Costner, which opened nationwide in September. Costner's character is



a legendary rescue swimmer. The opening scene of the movie features him saving Hennessy's character after her boat capsizes in a storm in the Bering Sea. Hennessy was Demi Moore's stunt double in "GI Jane" and Lucy Liu's high-fall stunt double in "Charlie's Angels." She has appeared in many television programs, including an episode of "CSI" that aired in January. Hennessy holds

bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from USL. She was a world champion trampolinist while attending USL and is listed in Guinness World Records for winning the most U.S. women's trampoline championships.

1983

LAURIE J. JAMES recently earned recognition for her sales of Mary Kay skin care products and cosmetics. Her work was cited during the annual Mary Kay Inc. seminar held in Dallas. James received a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. She and her husband, **KENNETH JAMES, '90**, live in Lafayette.

1984

KENNETH H. COURTNEY entered his 18th year of service at First Presbyterian Church in Aiken, S.C., in August. As its director of music and organist, he's responsible for a multifaceted music ministry and the Midday Music and Lunch Concert Series. Courtney also is an adjunct faculty member of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at the University of South Carolina Aiken. He was recently elected to the executive board of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, which is the second largest church musicians association in the nation. Courtney earned a master of music degree in organ performance from USL. He and his wife, Kathy Belcher, have two sons, Charles and Christopher.

JOHN N. FELSHER is president of Felsher Communicative Services. "After Hurricane Rita destroyed my house in Lake Charles, La., on Sept. 24, 2005, I moved to Cabot, Ark., where I'm now a full-time freelance writer, photographer and media consultant," he told La Louisiane. Felsher writes a syndicated weekly outdoors column for six Arkansas newspapers and posts his own "e-zine" on the Internet. He also writes a bimonthly column for Acadiana Profile. Felsher holds a bachelor's degree in English from USL. He and his wife, Dawn P. Felsher, have two sons, Daniel and Steven.

1988

ROXANNE SIKES is a 7th-grade language arts and English as a second language teacher at Taylor Middle School in Albuquerque, N.M. In 2005, she was nominated for the school's prestigious 2005 Golden Apple Award. She is a member of CASA, an instructional council that makes decisions concerning the school's operation. Sikes received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL.

1990

HARRY SAMUEL SEAMANS was ordained into the priesthood in 2005 in the United Episcopal Church of North America. He was also made rector of St. Thomas' Anglican Church



in Mountain Home, Ark. Seamans is a sergeant in the Community Oriented Policing Services of the Mountain Home Police Department, where he has worked since graduating from USL. Seamans is also the department's chaplain. He was a University Police officer at USL from 1986 to 1990. He earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL and a master of ministry degree from Trinity Theological Seminary.

1991

TOBIN J. DEVILLE is assistant operations manager of Clearchannel Radio in Boise, Idaho. He assists and maintains operations of six radio stations in the area. He's



also music director of KCIX and KXLT radio stations and produces traffic reports for the cluster of stations. He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from USL and a master's of science degree in educational technology from Boise State University. He also received secondary education teaching certification from Boise State University.

1992

KAREN A. EILERAAS is living in

Competitive spirit helps former athlete fight malignant tumor

IF CHERYL CLARK, '85, were to write her life's story, it would probably have three volumes.

The first might chronicle the years she spent as a member and coach of the All American Red Heads, a professional women's basketball team that barnstormed across the country. The second could recount her years as a player in the Billie Jean King Team Tennis League and her student days at USL.

The last volume would most likely describe her experiences as a rare survivor of one of the most aggressive and deadly types of brain cancer.

Here's an abbreviated version of all three.

After graduating from high school in Musing, Mich., Clark played on the Texas Cowgirls pro basketball team for two and a half years. About halfway through the 1969-70 season, she switched to the All American Red Heads.

Formed in 1936, the Red Heads played against men's teams and entertained fans by performing special ball handling routines, according to John Molina, who has written extensively about the team. The women played about 200 games in a seven-month season, usually traveling by limousine.

As a player, Clark averaged 16.5 points per game. During her last four years as a coach, the Red Heads had a 677 to 91 win/loss record.

Clark's career with the Red Heads lasted until 1982, when she enrolled at USL. Her mother, Nola Evelyn

Clark, grew up in Pine Prairie, La., and graduated from the university in 1940.

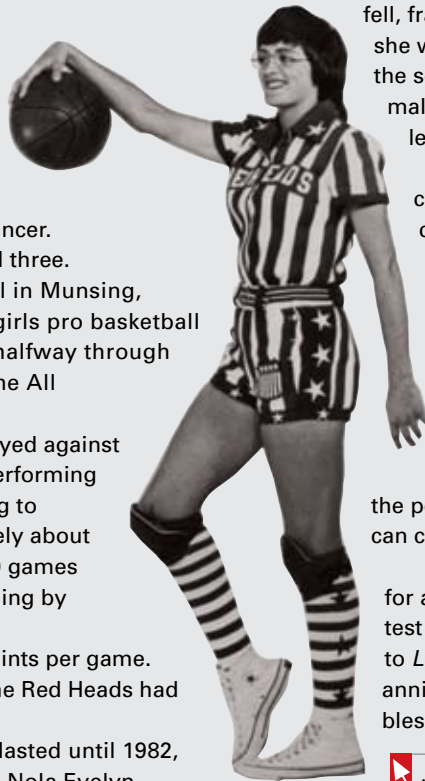
After earning a bachelor's degree, Clark went back to coaching, this time at the college level.


While horseback riding in 1997, she had a seizure and fell, fracturing eight ribs and breaking a vertebra. While she was recovering, doctors discovered the cause of the seizure – Glioblastoma Multiform, an aggressive malignant brain tumor. Clark's was the size of a lemon. She was 48.

Clark confronted the condition like an athletic competitor. After weighing her options, she chose a combination of surgeries, radiation treatment and some experimental approaches, such as a special diet created by a nutritionist, and a deliberate positive outlook.

"I decided to fill my mind with positive thoughts: I started daily visualizations, affirmations, laughter, and reading dozens of success stories," she stated in a 2001 interview with *The Daily Press* in Escanaba, Mich. "I know the power of the mind. You can choose to be up, or you can choose to be down. I chose to be up."

Clark has an MRI scan every six months to check for any recurrence of the tumor. Her most recent test in October was clear, she reported in an e-mail to *La Louisiane*. "This week I celebrate the ninth anniversary of my surgery and diagnosis. I am a blessed woman." ■



 www.allamericanredheads.com

Austin, Texas. After earning a bachelor's degree in English from USL, she worked in marketing for publishing companies and petrochemical industries in Houston. She moved to northern California in 2000 to work in the semiconductor and biotech industries. She and her husband, Eric Eilieraas, have one child.

1997

JASON D. MEAUX performs technical and business analyses on Nordstrom's merchandising management systems in Seattle, Wash. He spent the fall of 2005 in Bangalore,

India, studying at the Indian Institute of Management. Meaux holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from USL and earned a master's of business administration from the University of Washington this year.

BILLY M. RIVET is a co-owner of Bluegill Creative, a design and marketing communications firm in Knoxville, Tenn. He holds a bachelor's degree in advertising design from USL. In May, he received a master's of education degree, with a concentration in instructional technology, from the University of Tennessee. Rivet and his wife, Amy, have two children, Ben and Burke.

LEE A. WHITE is an associate in the real estate section of Jackson Walker LLP law firm in Dallas. He was recently selected to participate in the 2006-07 Associate Leadership Council, a leadership development program of The Real Estate Council. Before entering the legal field, White worked in a public accounting firm. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from UL Lafayette and a juris doctor from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

1998

THOMAS W. AYCOCK has joined

the Litigation Department of Smith Haughey Rice and Roegge law firm in Grand Rapids, Mich. He was previously employed by Crawford Lewis PLLC in New Orleans, where he focused on insurance defense, corporate executive officer liability and multi-party toxic tort litigation. He received a juris doctor from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL.

1999

BEATRIZ S. GONZALEZ teaches Spanish and sponsors the Spanish Club at East Ascension High School in Gonzales, La. She

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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 OR UL LAFAYETTE GRADUATION DATE

AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT

CHILDREN

(IF ANY ARE UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS OR USL GRADUATES, PLEASE INDICATE)

CURRENT DATE

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earned a bachelor's degree in education from USL. This year, she received a master's degree in Spanish linguistics from LSU in Baton Rouge.

CHAD LEMAIRE



recently started a four-year residency in psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston after graduating first in his class there in May.

He earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL and worked as a nurse for three years in pediatric hematology/oncology in Dallas before returning to school.

OMMANDA MAJOR is employed by Reliant Publishing Co. of Houston. She handles the mailing of marketing materials to various companies. Major taught for one year in Evangeline Parish and was an instructor at Sylvan Learning Center. She holds a bachelor's degree in English. She and her husband, Mark, live in Opelousas, La.

JENNIFER HARAGEONES PATTERSON



is director of Skyfire Productions and Cedarwood Drama in Abita Springs, La. She teaches acting to children

ages 2-16 and then produces a show in which they perform. She also directs a student troupe that performs for schools in the New Orleans area. Patterson holds a bachelor's degree in performing

arts from USL. She is married to Shawn Patterson; they have one daughter.

ANDREW PERRIN recently opened Andrew Perrin Design, LLC, an architectural firm, in Lafayette. He holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL and a master's degree in architecture from Syracuse University. Perrin is married to **COREE GISCLAIR PERRIN, '01**, who received a bachelor's degree in interior design from UL Lafayette.

MILaura B. SPELMAN teaches a language class for students in Seminole County public schools in Florida who have moderate communication difficulties and learning disabilities. She also started a private practice in 2005, providing speech and language therapy, as well as reading evaluations and remediation. Spelman holds a master's degree in speech pathology from USL. She and her husband, Jason, live in Oviedo, Fla.

2000

MARIE DESORMEAUX CENTANNI

was recently appointed deputy press secretary by Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. Centanni's duties include fielding press inquiries, communications management and serving as a spokesperson for the governor's administration. She was previously the capitol correspondent for WAFB television station in Baton Rouge. Centanni is former director of communications for the USA Rice Federation in Arlington, Va. She also worked on Capitol Hill

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as the communications director for Arkansas Congressman Mike Ross. Centanni holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management.

KRYSTRAL COOPER recently published a novel, *New Orleans Ladies*, about four women's friendships. She is an assistant to the mayor of Lafayette, La., Timothy Kerner. Cooper holds a bachelor's degree in English from UL Lafayette. She and her husband, Ronald Christen, have one son, Ramsey. They live in New Orleans.

BRADLEY M. MCDONALD is general manager of WCA Waste Corporation in Houston. He oversees its solid waste hauling and disposal operations. McDonald holds a bachelor's degree in environmental and sustainable resources from UL Lafayette. He has one son, Jonathan.

2001

MICHELLE M. DELOACH is an associate attorney for Borne & Wilkes LLP in Lafayette, which primarily handles insurance defense. She received a bachelor's degree in finance from UL Lafayette and a juris doctor from Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

2004

LERIN L. COSTALES was a member of the 2005 "Saintsations," the New Orleans Saints' cheerleading squad. Costales is a marketing assistant for Synergy Bank in Houma, La. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance from UL Lafayette and is married to John P. Costales Jr.

RYAN PETTICREW was recently appointed to the newly created position of public relations director at BBR Creative in Lafayette. He has experience in account service, media relations and event marketing. Petticrew is a member of the Leadership Lafayette XIX class and the Kiwanis Club of Acadiana. He is also vice president and media coordinator for Rebuilding

Together Acadiana, a nonprofit organization that repairs and renovates homes of low-income residents who are elderly or have disabilities. Petticrew earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from UL Lafayette.

CHRISTOPHER H. YANDLE is graduate assistant for athletic media relations for the Marshall University Department of Athletics in Huntington, W. Va. A member of the UL Lafayette Sports Information Office from 2002 to 2005, he is the primary contact for the Thundering Herd women's swimming, diving and softball teams. He received a bachelor's degree in public relations from UL Lafayette and is pursuing a master's degree in athletic administration.

2005

MARIA LAMBERT was recently promoted to graphic designer at BBR Creative, an advertising, design and marketing agency in Lafayette. She was formerly a production artist there. Lambert earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts, with a concentration in graphic design, from UL Lafayette.

IN MEMORIAM

JACK "RED" LABAUVE, '41, a retired member of USL's music faculty, died March 10, 2006, in Lafayette. He received a bachelor's degree in music education. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he earned a master's of music education degree from LSU. LaBauve joined the SLI music faculty in 1948, teaching brass and percussion instruments and music arranging. Upon retirement in 1977, he established Big Hill Music Press in Grand Coteau, La., and published his own arrangements. LaBauve is survived by his sisters, Anna Mae LaBauve and **HILMA LABAUVE LEVIS, '53**; two nephews; three nieces; three great-nephews; and three great-nieces.

PAUL FUDICKER HOOD, '48, died April 20, 2006, in Clarks Summit, Pa. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he was employed as a chemical engineer for International Paper Co. for 48 years. Hood was a member of the

Dietrich Literary Group and the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from SLI. Hood is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary Willene Stinnett Hood of Clarks Summit, Pa.; three daughters, Carry Leah Hood, Mary Stephanie Hood and Beverly Hood Allen Fisher; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

JAMES M. GRIFFIN, '56, died April 25, 2006, in Crowley, La. He was a teacher, coach and administrator in Acadia Parish for more than 30 years. Griffin was superintendent of the Acadia Parish school system for several years and ended his teaching career at McNeese State University. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he was a member of several civic and professional organizations, including the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents. Griffin was also a member of the "S Club," an organization of former UL Lafayette athletes who lettered in sports. Griffin received a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from SLI. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **SHIRLEY BROUSSARD GRIFFIN, '56**; two sons, Michael Griffin and Richard Griffin; two daughters, **RUTH GRIFFIN BARBIER, '79**, and **SHARON GRIFFIN SAIA, '85**; a sister, Virginia Griffin Graves; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

AVIS ANNE MOORE RUPERT, '60, died Dec. 2, 2005, in Houston. She received a bachelor's degree in communications, with a concentration in radio and television, from USL. Rupert worked in public relations and advertising until 1972, when she and her family moved to Houston. There, she was a freelance writer and publisher's representative for Lyceum Books. She served as vice president and partner of Tele-Communication Inc., from 1982 until 1992. Rupert is survived by two daughters, Shaun Mayner and Sharon Dunaway; two brothers, **STEPHEN MOORE JR., '71**, and **MARION MOORE II, '74**; an aunt, Jennie Moore Rhodes; and five grandchildren.

MARY EMILY HOLT WRIGHT, '65, died June 4, 2006. She owned

and operated Acadiana To Go, a destination management company, for 26 years. Wright served as vice president and president of the Louisiana Travel Promotion Association and was appointed to the Louisiana Tourism Promotion District by two governors. She was a member of Leadership Louisiana and served on several other economic development, civic and community organizations. Wright received a bachelor's degree from USL. She is survived by a son, Dr. Forrest Holt Wright; a daughter, Emily Ellen Wright; and a grandson, Forrest Holt Wright Jr. Donations may be made in her memory to the Mary Wright Hospitality Management Scholarship Fund, UL Lafayette Office of Development, P.O. Box 43410, Lafayette, LA, 70504.

TAMMY BRIGHT, '92, died May 15, 2006. She had taught in Lafayette; Charlotte, N.C.; Dayton, Texas; and Humble, Texas. At the time of her death, she was teaching at the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center in Austin. Bright earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL. She is survived by her parents, **ROBERT BRIGHT, '66**, and Marilyn Bright of Kingwood, Texas, and a sister, **ALLYSON BRIGHT, '97**.

PHILIP BERIDON died July 29, 2006, in Milton, La. As a USL student, he started a tradition in 1977 of jumping into Cypress Lake during annual Lagniappe Day activities. A retired state employee, he was an active member of the Abbey Players Theater. He served on its board of directors, was an actor and produced many plays. He is survived by his wife, **MARGIE DECOU BERIDON, '88**, of Milton, La.; a daughter, Amber Nicole Beridon; three brothers, O. P. "Jay" Beridon Jr., E.J. "Joe" Beridon and Mark R. Beridon; a sister, Marinda Beridon Sherman; and several nieces and nephews. Donations may be made in Beridon's memory to the Abbey Players Theater or UL Lafayette Alumni Association.

