

THE BATON ROUGE AREA FOUNDATION

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It would have been easy to shift last year into neutral until the financial clouds vanished. But the Foundation's work is more necessary in difficult times, and we believe hurdles are challenges that test our capacity.

Thanks to generous donors and a hard-working staff, 2008 was a year of accomplishment. Among the key victories was establishing the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority, which is now set to hire a staff and begin moving aban-

OneEleven lofts at the Arts Block and providing grants for Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two, which is building on the original master planning work for downtown.

Last year, Gustav struck Baton Rouge instead of New Orleans. We responded accordingly, raising more than \$500,000 and writing grants to feed, shelter and care for our neighbors.

Partnerships with the mayor, Gov. Bobby Jindal, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and LSU resulted in landing EA Sports, a video game giant that established a testing center in Baton Rouge. The partnerships emerged from support for the Baton Rouge Digital Industries Consortium, which is leading conversations with other video gaming companies.

Thanks to generous donors and a hard-working staff, 2008 was a year of accomplishment.

doned properties back to commerce.

In collaboration with Mayor Kip Holden and others, the Foundation got the Legislature to create the redevelopment authority. Led by chair John Noland, the authority met for the second half of 2009, where it learned that similar organizations in other cities have quickly reclaimed inner cities.

This year, the authority will start its work in Old South Baton Rouge, Mid City and other inner-city neighborhoods that are bedeviled by thousands of abandoned properties. The goal is to secure the properties and return them through private means to people who want homes.

In 2008, we continued to work in downtown, supporting the city center by opening the

Our most visible project in 2008 was Audubon ALIVE. With the Audubon Nature Institute and Mayor Holden, we offered an iconic riverside science and entertainment experience. Dr. Jim Richardson's independent economic study showed ALIVE would pay for itself in about a decade. Even with the nation's economy in turmoil, a new tax to pay for ALIVE and for infrastructure failed by just a fraction of a percent. Inspired by voters to try again, the mayor is fashioning a new tax proposal that could include ALIVE and should be on the ballot in fall 2009.

Projects like ALIVE and the redevelopment authority provide a long-term return for the region. Our core work—donor grants to nonprofits—cares

*Baton Rouge
Area Foundation*

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The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is a community foundation that takes advantage of opportunities to improve the quality of life in the capital region. We do so by providing two essential functions. One, the Foundation connects philanthropists with capable nonprofits to make sure the needs of our communities are met. For example, our donors support the Shaw Center for the Arts and buy eyeglasses for needy children. Two, the Foundation invests in and manages pivotal projects to improve the region. Our Plan Baton Rouge initiative spearheaded the downtown revitalization plan and now is working to revive Old South Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Mukul Verma at mverma@braf.org.

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for more immediate needs. We were fortunate to provide millions in grants this year, helping nonprofits that were stung by recession. To help them stand on their own, the Foundation's staff trained some nonprofit leaders to implement or to improve their capital campaigns.

So what of 2009? The financial markets have crimped our resources, but there is so much more to do. To bridge the gap to better times, the Foundation is saving more than \$250,000 by not replacing employees lost last year. Our donor services department, meanwhile, is launching a more aggressive membership campaign and searching for more charitable assets in unusual places, such as the 8,500 water buffalo you will read about in this issue.

Our existing staff is also moving faster, working longer hours. I want to thank them for this extraordinary effort.

As this is my last column as chair, I also want to thank others who have supported me and the Foundation.

I'm grateful for my family's support, as well as the support of members and donors. My fellow board members have made the journey easier as well, responding thoughtfully to care for a community foundation that belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,



Christel C. Slaughter, Ph.D.

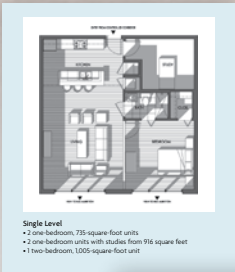


Sweet dreams in the heart of downtown

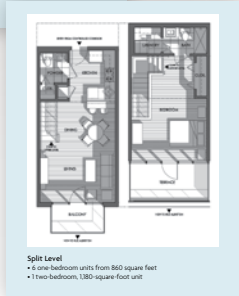


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About Us

Baton Rouge Area Foundation

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation is among more than 700 community foundations across the country. We work to improve the quality of life for all people in the region. We do so in two ways.

First, we connect philanthropists with exceptional nonprofits to make sure the needs of our neighbors are met. Our donors, for instance, fund safe havens for abused women and children, provide vaccinations to prevent cancer and pay for teacher supplies. Last year, we provided thousands of grants worth \$18.8 million.

Second, the Foundation invests in and manages pivotal projects. Working with partners, we have revitalized downtown Baton Rouge, are rebuilding neighborhoods between downtown and LSU, supporting the improvement of public education through experimental schools, creating an economic corridor across South Louisiana and much more.

Who we serve: We conduct projects and provide grants in eight parishes in South Central Louisiana: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston and Pointe Coupée.

The Foundation also works in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Helena parishes through the Northshore Community Foundation, a support organization that operates independently from a home base in Mandeville. This year, the Foundation started providing support services to the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. Based in Lake Charles, that foundation serves Calcasieu, Beauregard, Allen, Cameron and Jefferson Davis parishes.

How we work: The Foundation is funded in several ways. One key way is through generous people who choose to start donor-advised funds at the Foundation to provide grants to nonprofit groups and community projects.

Philanthropists can start a tax-deductible charitable fund for \$10,000. *To learn more about charitable funds, call Jake Holinga, director of donor services, at 225.387.6126.*

The Foundation also is funded through earnings on unrestricted assets, which were donated by philanthropists and grow over time.

Among Foundation assets is the Wilbur Marvin Foundation, which is comprised of real estate left by the late Wilbur Marvin. Those real estate assets include the Hilton Capitol Center Hotel in Baton Rouge, as well as shopping centers in Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico. The real estate assets are managed by Commercial Properties Realty Trust.

What's our size: At year-end 2007, the Foundation had estimated assets of \$568 million, making it among the top-30 largest community foundations in the country and the largest in the Gulf South. Donors of the Foundation have provided the assets over more than 40 years. Since 1964, the Foundation has issued \$210 million in grants to support our community. Also, the Foundation has contracted with for-profit organizations to provide social benefits to the region, such as guidance on health care reform and direction on whether to build a new airport or invest in our existing ones.

More information about the Foundation is available at BRAf.org or by calling Mukul Verma at 225.387.6126.

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Design delayed>>

About now, Baton Rouge was supposed to have a design for its town square. But the unveiling has been pushed back to ensure that the square will be consistent with Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two, an advancement of the successful downtown revival strategy.

PBR Phase Two is scheduled to be revealed in June, but the square design could be revealed before then. Designers of the square don't need to wait for the final PBR Phase Two; they just need to understand the concepts to mesh the two.

Local government has committed \$4.5 million for the town square, a gathering place that will be flexible enough for festivals, road races, holiday celebrations and more. Part of the riverfront plan, the square will run along North Boulevard from River Road to Fifth Street.

Town square designers are Brown Danos Land Design and Joey Furr Design Studios. •

Dig that lake>> In late December, insufficient rains caused undesirable islands to appear in the LSU lake. Lakeside dwellers worried about the possibility of another fish kill.

At the same time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

was working on a long-term sustainability solution, one that would keep the lake healthy for at least 50 years, not the two decades since the last dredging. The corps had nearly completed a feasibility study, a step toward getting federal funding for turning the lakes into a more valuable amenity.

Nick Sims, who oversees the project for the corps, said the federal agency is in final discussion with local government, BREC and LSU about the project. The parties have to agree on the plan and cost sharing for the estimated \$15 million project.

The scheme calls for deepening the lake and installing a piping system that would move phosphorous—which robs the lakes of oxygen—to a nearby canal that ulti-

mately moves it to the river. The dredged material would be used to create more paths around the lakes. Some of the dredged material might be used to expand Baton Rouge Beach.

Before the project gets under way, there will be a public comment period, says Sims. He couldn't pinpoint when the project would begin, but design and construction should take about two-and-a-half years.

Deepening the lake and using the silt to create more paths would continue improvements to the area. BREC recently opened a renovated City Park, and a children's museum is expected across from the park on Dalrymple Drive. BREC also wants to add a boating facility at City Park. •



TIM MUELLER

53%-55%

The success rate of the first two malaria vaccines, with one vaccine underwritten by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The vaccines go into wider testing with an eye on the market in three years. They should put a considerable dent in malaria, which kills about 1 million people per year. The 250 million malaria infections annually also disrupt the economic lives of the poor in developing countries.

Time for their closeup>>

The University of Louisiana Lafayette will have its moment in the sun—and it will benefit Louisiana.

The school's architecture department has started to build a house that will compete against 19 universities from across the world in the Solar Decathlon, a competition to design, build and operate a beautiful solar powered house.

As in the past, the media is expected to descend in big numbers on the Department of Energy contest, which runs for the first three weeks in October at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In mid-December, ULL had raised \$300,000 of the \$600,000 to cover the cost of building and transporting the house, hotel stays and other expenses.

Competition includes The Ohio State University, Penn State and Cornell University. The 20 finalists were chosen from 40 entries.

Each team must design and build a house no larger than 800 square feet that is powered solely by the sun's energy. The building must also be attractive to potential

homebuyers. The ULL team calls its home BeauSoleil, which is beautiful sun in Cajun French.

The completed house will feature a cistern, porches, native plants and a dog trot. On cool days, the center of the house can be opened to reduce energy costs. The house will produce solar power that can be sold back to energy companies.

ULL's project won't end with the competition. Louisiana System Based Houses, a company that builds modular housing, is expected to put the house into production, making it available for about \$130 per square foot. The firm wants to produce different models to match market demand.

For more information, visit beausoleilhome.org. •

Reading, writing, computers>>

Advance Baton Rouge, an independent nonprofit that was created with assistance from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, is on schedule to open a digital media high school for the 2010 school



year.

The school would benefit the growing digital media business, which gained momentum with EA Sports establishing a video game testing facility in the city. More digital firms are expected to land in Baton Rouge in coming years.

Advance Baton Rouge is partnering with LSU to create the charter school and another that will focus on math, science, technology and engineering. BP America has provided startup funds.

Students at the digital high school would learn traditional subjects through the latest techniques in digital arts and technologies. Opening with 100 students, the school would expand by 100 students per year until topping out at 400 students. •

Idea exchange>>

Trahan Architects is exploring a reworking of the existing downtown library on North Boulevard. The Baton Rouge library system is expected to spend \$20 million on the project, which has no established timeline. The downtown library is on the future town square. The architects were expected to present their ideas in January. In December, we asked Trey Trahan, founder of the firm, five questions about the project.

What kind of limits in design and construction do you face because you are working with an existing building?

At this time, this is unclear. The current phase of work is focused on identifying constraints and the feasibility of a variety of approaches—renovation, addition or a completely new building.

Critics have said the governmental building and the library, to be kind, lack charm. Do you plan a new design for the library?

The downtown district is growing and includes a variety of civic and destination activities as well as architectural diversity, such as the Old State Capitol, Shaw Center, Lafayette Plaza, One Eleven lofts and the new courthouse building. Furthermore, plans for a new town square offer a considerably different experience from the governmental building and its setting.

Considering the town square will be at its doorstep, how will the building interact with its surroundings?

Together, the town square and library will form a community gathering space, mutually supporting venues that provide a platform for a broad range of community activities. As mutually supporting elements, the boundaries between the two may be blurred in some way.

Libraries have changed. They include coffee shops, arts areas, gathering places for teens. What new functions are you planning to include in the design?

Libraries today reflect a new world of information. And, in many ways, the public expectations and needs have changed. The idea of a library as a tomb of information or a rigid place of extreme quiet is being expanded to meet the demands for comfort, a community living room and a social center that fills the void for a number of activities in a well-balanced community. These might include modest spaces with flexible programming that accommodate changing needs. We can expect to see expanded spaces dedicated to digital, audio and video me-



dia and a shrinking of the space dedicated to books.

If the library you envision was open today, describe what we would see and how we would feel in that space?

Our role at this moment is to identify what is the highest achievable product within the EBRP Library's resources. The Library should represent a national standard for the 21st century community—its identity will embrace diversity and innovation. There is tremendous support for a downtown library to serve our city in ways the existing facility was not designed to do. Exactly what you would see and how you would feel will be achieved in the design process. At this point, we are exploring the changing role of the downtown library and how it might best serve the public. •



An uncommon donation

No need for a catchy opening line for this story. Lake Charles businessman A.P. Leonards has donated 8,500 water buffalo to the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, a support organization of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Water buffalo are valuable because they produce rich milk, which is commonly used to make Buffalo mozzarella, and because they provide tasty meat and work as beasts of burden in soggy climates.

Leonards inquired about donating the buffalo herd in December, sparking the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to scramble and get it done.

Before the transfer, several key questions had to be answered.

How do you legally transfer water buffalo to a foundation? Leonards donated the herd to a new LLC, then donated the company—Buf-Mex LLC—to a new donor fund at the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana in Lake Charles.

How do you count the buffalo? The Foundation dispatched Legal Counsel Edmund Giering IV to examine the herd, which is in the state of Tabasco. Ranchers tagged the buffalo as a step to determining their worth.

What are Buffalo worth? An appraisal was performed by a McNeese State University water buffalo expert and his counterpart in Mexico. They appraised the herd for \$5.5 million.

Leonards wants the donation to benefit the Daughters of Mary USA Fund, which was established at the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. Grants from the charitable fund will pay to develop life skills for at-risk 11- to 17-year-old girls.

Leonards is considered to be a North American pioneer in the field of water buffalo research, breeding and production. •



Donor portal comes into shape

Cars are bought and sold on the Web. Presidential campaigns gather energy from online believers. People even meet and marry on the Internet. So why not use the medium to speed up philanthropy?

That's what the Foundation has done with a secure site that lets donors manage their giving online. Donors can log into the site to check their charitable fund balances, make grant recommendations, learn about nonprofits and much more.

The site runs on a platform developed by StellarFinancial, which serves the mutual fund industry, including giant Vanguard.

On their personal sites, donors can review grants made from their funds, see contributions to their funds, review a history of grant-making by sector. They can also read news and learn about Foundation projects.

Over time, the Foundation will continue to improve the donor portal, adding services and boosting the amount of local knowledge for charitable giving decisions.

For more information about the donor portal, contact Scott Gautreau at 381-7113 or sgautreau@braf.org.

Codes before expropriation

Put expropriation as the last option for securing blighted properties. Instead, rely on enforcing codes, a quicker and less expensive means for returning abandoned properties to commerce, David Marcello told the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority at its December meeting.

Marcello, executive director of The Public Law Center in New Orleans, was hired to review blight enforcement rules around the country and guide the young redevelopment authority in that area.

Louisville was Marcello's example of a city where enforcing codes works. There, the underpinning of the system is open communications with residents, who can even track the progress of abandoned properties on a government website, a means to accountability.

Government in the Kentucky town also partners with neighborhood groups. Together, they identify a manageable 10 properties that need to be fixed or removed. The government reports on progress before choosing 10 more neglected properties.

To pressure negligent property owners, Louisville levies fines as high as \$1,500, writes citations, charges people for cleaning up their properties, and even puts people in jail for ignoring blighted properties for too long.

Crime drops in areas that are cleaned up, adds Marcello.

Next step for the authority is to determine how East Baton Rouge's enforcement codes and process can be improved. The parish has more than 3,000 abandoned properties and uncounted blighted property.

Launched with an assist from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and supported by the Foundation, the redevelopment authority is expected to hire its first executive director next year. At its final 2008 meeting, the authority approved a \$2 million budget for its first full year of operation.

Next step

Alex Krieger can pack the house. In fall, the lead planner for Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two spoke to more than 250 people who attended the Marcia Kaplan Kantrow Lecture Series at the Manship Theatre. Get a first glimpse of the plan in this issue's cover story.

The lecture series was begun by family and friends of the late Kantrow, the first director of



programs for the Foundation. The series is designed to spark conversations about improving the region.

From left, Susan Kantrow, Byron Kantrow, Josh Kantrow, Alex Krieger, Miriam Kantrow McMains and David Kantrow. •

West Feliciana's horizon

Residents of West Feliciana would not be derided for boasting about their parish. Anyone who has spent time there knows of its verdant beauty, quaint restaurants and friendly neighbors.

But how does the parish retain its high quality of life and grow as well? The answer is to devise a community growth plan, then stick with the recommendations within it.

And that's what West Feliciana has done in just over a year, with an assist from the Center for Planning Excellence, the Foundation-supported land planning nonprofit.

The project began with community meetings, where the people pored over maps and picked where they wanted to permit building and where they wanted to preserve the wilderness.

Fregonese Associates of Portland, Ore., led the land planning, offering the keen eye and knowl-



Oak Alley plantation

edge of experts. In November, the land plan was adopted by West Feliciana's planning and zoning commission. The Police Jury agreed with the plan in December.

The plan recommends such things as zoning code rewrites, where to build infrastructure to keep up with population growth and the look of streetscapes. It's a citizen-driven manual with steps on arranging and building the environment to improve how people live.

CPEX has worked across South Louisiana on similar plans and has produced a regional plan, Louisiana Speaks, that stitches together cities and towns across South Louisiana. •

How does the parish retain its high quality of life and grow as well?

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There's more, folks!

EA Sports is in our game. The company, which was recruited by a coalition that included the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, has established a testing center at LSU's campus on Gardere Lane.

Eventually, EA might employ up to 600 workers at the facility.

Landing EA has its origins in another project that was supported by the Foundation—the Red Stick International Animation Festival, which is set for April 22-25 this year. Last year's festival was attended by more than 4,000 people, who watched films from more than 200 entries representing nearly 30 countries.

The festival highlights the intersections among art, technology and computational science. Each year, the festival draws renowned animators, video game developers and other digital media industry professionals to Baton Rouge to host lectures, workshops and other events for aspiring artists, programmers and entrepreneurs. •



Duel Under the Oaks

In tennis, love has a new meaning.

James Blake and Pete Sampras played an exhibition match in December to benefit a disaster relief fund created by the Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation. The fund is managed by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

The event, Duel Under the Oaks II, raised more than \$250,000 for disaster relief. Together, the two foundations have been at the center of storm relief since Katrina, raising millions of dollars from around the world to feed and shelter people and to take on projects that make Louisiana more resilient against storms.

It was the second time Sampras played in an exhibition event for storm relief. In October 2006, he helped raise money for LSU Medical Center students who were displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The Baton Rouge Area Foundation also has standing funds for storm relief. To donate, visit FoundationsForRecovery.org. •



Pete Sampras and James Blake with Alice and Bob Greer and Christel and Bill Slaughter. Christel Slaughter is board chair, and Alice Greer, secretary.



PHOTO COURTESY FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

One Love

The string of generosity begins with fried chicken and that secret sauce.

On Fox's *Secret Millionaire*, Todd Graves and his wife, Gwen, were cloaked for a week, helping to rebuild Buras, which remains wobbly after Katrina. In the reality show's reveal, Graves, founder and owner of Raising Cane's restaurants, discloses his wealth and writes checks to several worthy people.

One was Cyril Crutchfield, head football coach of South Plaquemines, a team cre-

ated when three schools combined post-Katrina. Crutchfield paid it forward, investing \$50,000 of the \$100,000 from Graves to open a charitable fund at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

Money from the fund paid for new uniforms for the football players. In December, the players put on those uniforms and won the state 1A championship in the Superdome. The team name—"Hurricanes." •



Ryan Elementary School principal Darlene Brister reads *The Principal's Night Before Christmas* after Wacky Wednesday book fair at the school. Parents and grandparents joined their children on a Wednesday morning in December for juice, donuts and the opportunity to buy books.



No excuses

DETERMINED PRINCIPAL PROVES LONG-SHOT SCHOOL CAN SUCCEED. YES, SHE CAN

>> by **MAGGIE HEYN RICHARDSON** photos by **TIM MUELLER**

Ryan Elementary parent Alicia Davis is in the principal's office, but not to complain or to hear about discipline problems. Instead, Davis beams, telling Ryan's veteran principal, Darlene Brister, that she couldn't be happier about her decision to enroll her children at the Baton Rouge school.

"I tell ya, it's made a big difference in a short amount of time," says Davis. "Jailyn was so excited about Literacy Night, and for the first time, Nicholas is really understanding how to spell."

Davis' 7-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son transferred to Ryan this year from another parish public school under the federal School Choice program, a component of No Child Left Behind. School Choice allows parents whose children attend underperforming schools to transfer to selected public schools with good records. During the 2007-08 school year, 97 children transferred to Ryan from other East Baton Rouge Parish schools. Last fall, 46 more students came.

The pressure to integrate so many additional children into Ryan's operations, says Brister, was frustrating. She spent days wondering how her teachers were going to weave the new students, many of whom were below grade level, into the rhythm of the classroom.

"But I set the tone for my teachers," she said. "So I regrouped, got it together, and told them, 'We are going to turn this around.' "

Immediately, teachers began building relationships with new parents, an important part of the school's past success, says Brister. She and her teachers also spent considerable time building relationships with students to learn what made each one tick.

"It's all about the child," Brister says. "Our motto is every day, every child, whatever it takes."

That attitude and a renowned no-nonsense style have helped Brister take Ryan Elementary, a school dominated by children in poverty, from a state ranking of 44 to No. 6 among East Baton Rouge Parish schools. Ryan has improved to a two-star school and qualified for state financial rewards.

The improvements have happened in small, steady increments

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Ryan Elementary School student Mariah Sept is ready for the start of the Wacky Wednesday book fair event at the school.

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“It’s all about the child. Our motto is every day, every child, whatever it takes.”

—RYAN ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL DARLENE BRISTER

over Brister’s 14-year tenure. While observers want to pin her success on a silver bullet, she flatly disagrees.

“There is no secret,” she says. “There are a lot of things working together that make the difference.”

One of those ingredients is the relationship Brister has with her teachers, which is grounded in her own experience years earlier as a fifth grade teacher at Ryan. Another is her complete intol-

erance for classroom discipline problems. Another is the school’s relentless pursuit of keeping children on grade level.

To accomplish that, teachers benchmark their children’s performance each week through in-class assessments. The results are charted on large posters and are used by Brister and her teachers

in regular meetings. If children don’t progress like they should, the team develops a game plan for getting them on track.

“It’s all in the data,” she says.

THE KNITTING

And the data often reveal a wide range of student abilities in each classroom. Brister’s teach-

ers react by working with children in small groups, and supplementing their needs after hours. Those performing below grade level work with specialists during class time or after school, while accelerated students are pushed to do more both in small groups and during free Saturday camps offering rigorous, advanced activities.

Brister's leadership, says East Baton Rouge Parish School Superintendent Charlotte Placide, is another essential ingredient to her success.

"When you have strong leadership the teachers will come and stay," she says. Brister has shared her techniques with other EBRP elementary principals through school system workshops, adds Placide.

To keep teachers happy and motivated, Brister spends Ryan's few discretionary funds on professional development, and the library's resource room is full of manuals to help them instruct their student population more effectively, including the well known "Understanding Poverty," by Ruby Payne, as well as numerous tomes on increasing literacy.

"Professional development is a big deal to Mrs. Brister," says Librarian Teri Perry-Copponex, whose 16-year career at Ryan also includes classroom teaching. "It's not just one thing that's worked here to improve test scores, it's a lot of things, but professional development helps a lot."

Brister says she feels strongly about fostering solid teaching skills because she believes it not only stimulates and prepares students, it also creates harmonious classrooms.

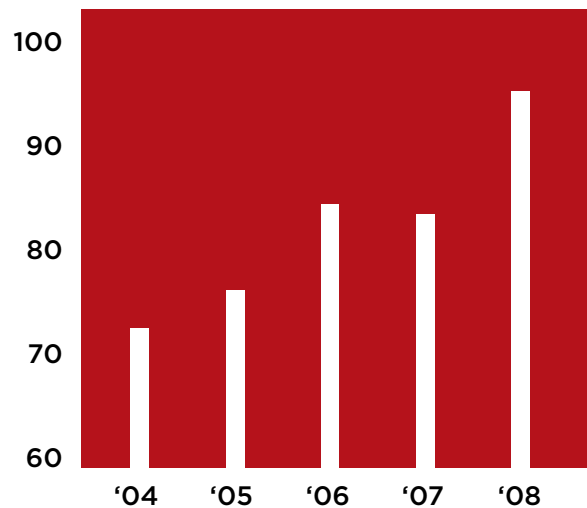
THEY CAN DO IT

"Good instruction, for the most part, eliminates discipline issues," she says.

But just as Brister supports her teachers, she expects much from them. If test scores threaten to drop, it means a thorough examination of instructional quality.

RYAN RISES

School's scores based on test results, attendance, dropout rates and more.



Source: Department of Education.

"It's not personal, but it's all about the child, and we cannot improve until we face the brutal facts," she says.

The children at Ryan are largely the products of single parent households, almost all receive free or reduced lunch and many reside in a nearby public housing development. They have nearly every societal strike against them, but Brister says she doesn't accept that as an excuse and trains her teachers not to either. The teachers understand how to work around the children's household limitations. For example, if an assignment requires a computer, they make time to let the children finish it at school.

"We have to set them up for success," Brister says.

Ryan's students are the very ones that Brister says she is most motivated to help. After a brief stint in the early '90s at South Boulevard Elementary, Brister requested to return to a Title One school. By chance, she was assigned to Ryan, where she began her career as a teacher.

"It's my passion," she says. "It's where you can really see a difference." •



Angel from Montgomery

ALABAMA WRITER WINS FOUNDATION'S SECOND ERNEST J. GAINES AWARD FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE >> by **MUKUL VERMA**

Ravi Howard began writing fiction as a middle-schooler. A few years later, Michael Donald was lynched in Howard's home state of Alabama.

About 25 years later, Howard's prose and Donald's lynching meet at a crossroad. The result is *Like Trees, Walking*, a fictional account of the killing that explores family obligation, faith, justice

and truth.

"I wanted to look at the long-term effects of these kinds of crimes, about how communities deal decades after the fact," says Howard about his debut novel, which is winner of the second annual Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. "Ultimately, I wanted to look at how people heal in the aftermath of racial violence and how they and

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a community progress and move forward,”

Mobile has improved since the 1981 lynching, concludes Howard. That was the year the real Donald, a teenager on his way home from the corner store, was randomly picked by Klansmen, who beat him, slit his throat and hung him from a tree.

Local investigators dismissed the murder as drug related, but protests triggered a federal probe that led to the murder convictions of two men (the third died before retrial) and the bankruptcy of the

United Klans of America from a \$7 million wrongful death verdict in the case.

“We have made progress because society now will give a chance for any race or people to get justice, which was not available 30 or 40 years ago,” says Howard.

Mobile, meanwhile, has publicly reckoned with the murder. The city has had art shows about the lynching and a street was named after Donald.

Howard, 34, traces his creative writing to junior

ABOUT THE WINNING BOOK: When the phone rang at the home of Paul and Roy Deacon in the early morning hours, it often meant that someone had died. The brothers’ family owned the Deacon Memorial Funeral Home and had buried the loved ones of Mobile’s black families for more than 100 years. On the morning of March 21, 1981, the call was different. The body of 19-year-old Michael Donald was found hanging from a tree on Herndon Avenue. The murder shook the citizens of Mobile, Ala., especially the Deacon brothers. They had called Michael Donald a friend.

As the brothers navigate their teen years, they face familiar rites of passage; prom night, graduation, college life, but the family business forces them to confront the rites death brings, passages from this world to the next. As Roy and Paul Deacon search for solace, their journeys take them from church sanctuaries to cemeteries, protest marches to courtrooms, from the tree-lined streets of Mobile to the dark beach roads on the Eastern Shore.

Added to the grief of a murdered friend, the brothers and their hometown face the first lynching in more than 60 years. Mobile had been as peaceful as its tree-lined streets were beautiful, but the murder gave the city its own sad chapter in the Alabama racial history. Like Birmingham’s four little girls, Selma’s Bloody Sunday and Tuskegee’s experiment, Mobile had the murder of Michael Donald.

Like Trees, Walking explores a fictional aftermath. The novel examines death, faith, truth and justice, elements that often intersect and at times collide. An old tale set in modern times, *Like Trees, Walking* explores the complexities and the promises of America’s New South.



high school. He wrote for the school's literary magazine and entered local short story contests.

At Howard University, he chose to study journalism, graduating in 1996 and proceeding to work as a sports journalist. Words beckoned; he returned to school to earn an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Virginia in 2001.

The Gaines award is not his first win. He has received fellowships and awards from the Hurston-Wright Foundation, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the New Jersey Council on the Arts.

His work has been published in *Callaloo*, *Massachusetts Review* and *Velocity Weekly*. He has

also recorded commentary for NPR's *All Things Considered*. As a former television producer for NFL Films, he received a 2005 Sports Emmy for

his work on HBO's *Inside the NFL*.

Howard, who lives in Mobile with his wife, says book awards inspire writers. "They help writers move forward with new projects."

The \$10,000 Gaines award of the Baton

Rouge Area Foundation is a bridge to complete his next novel. The full-time writer expects his book to be completed in summer. It's based on Nat King Cole, who shares another crossroad with Howard. Montgomery is their hometown. •

"Awards help writers move forward with new projects."

—RAVI HOWARD

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ABOUT THE AWARD: The annual award is underwritten by Baton Rouge Area Foundation donors to honor Louisiana's own Ernest J. Gaines while also encouraging and supporting the work of a new generation of African-American writers. The award recognizes an African-American author who has published a full-length work of fiction during the previous calendar year. Ravi Howard is the second winner. The first was Olympia Vernon, who won in 2007 for *A Killing in this Town*.

Mr. Howard will read from his work at a celebration Jan. 29, 2009 at the Manship Theatre at the Shaw Center for the Arts.





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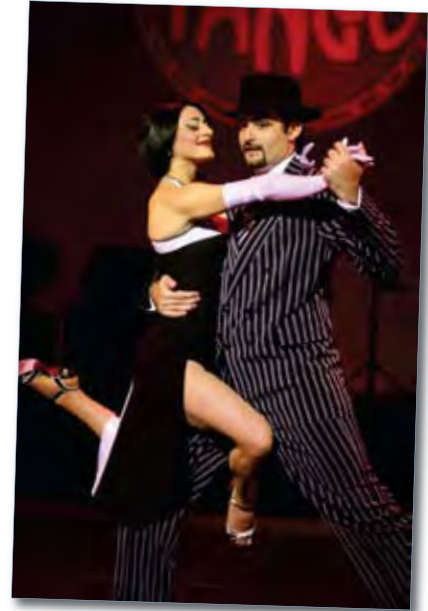
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TIM MUELLER

Cranes show progress in downtown, which has \$300 million in projects under way. Next page left, designers for the second phase of the downtown plan recommend a unified greenspace around the Old State Capitol and a network of greenspace.

Six that spark

PLANNERS REVEAL IDEAS FOR DOWNTOWN'S
NEXT 10 YEARS >> by **MUKUL VERMA**

Quaint pictures of downtown from the 1950s show women and men in hats, cars jammed on Third Street, signs for movie theaters and the beloved Piccadilly. They are freeze frames of a vibrant city.

Destroying downtown, where the city originated, took more than four decades. A concerted revival began in 1998.

"You have had fabulous success in 10 years," says John Alschuler. "Congratulations, you are about a third of the way there."

Alschuler and colleagues from Chan Krieger Sieniewicz, town planners from Massachusetts, are crafting Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two, which builds on the original Plan Baton Rouge strategy that has been the underpinning of downtown's rebound.

To continue the momentum of a decade, the planners, led by Alex Krieger, are recommending six projects they believe will extend a resurgence of the region.

The planners will provide a detailed report in June with strategies to accomplish more. In the meantime, here's a glimpse of the six projects roughed out by them. >>

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Location: Open space surrounding the Old State Capitol, Shaw Center for the Arts, the River Center and the future town square on North Boulevard.

Don't let trees and some lawns fool you. Downtown has sparse green-space, nearly nothing, says Krieger.

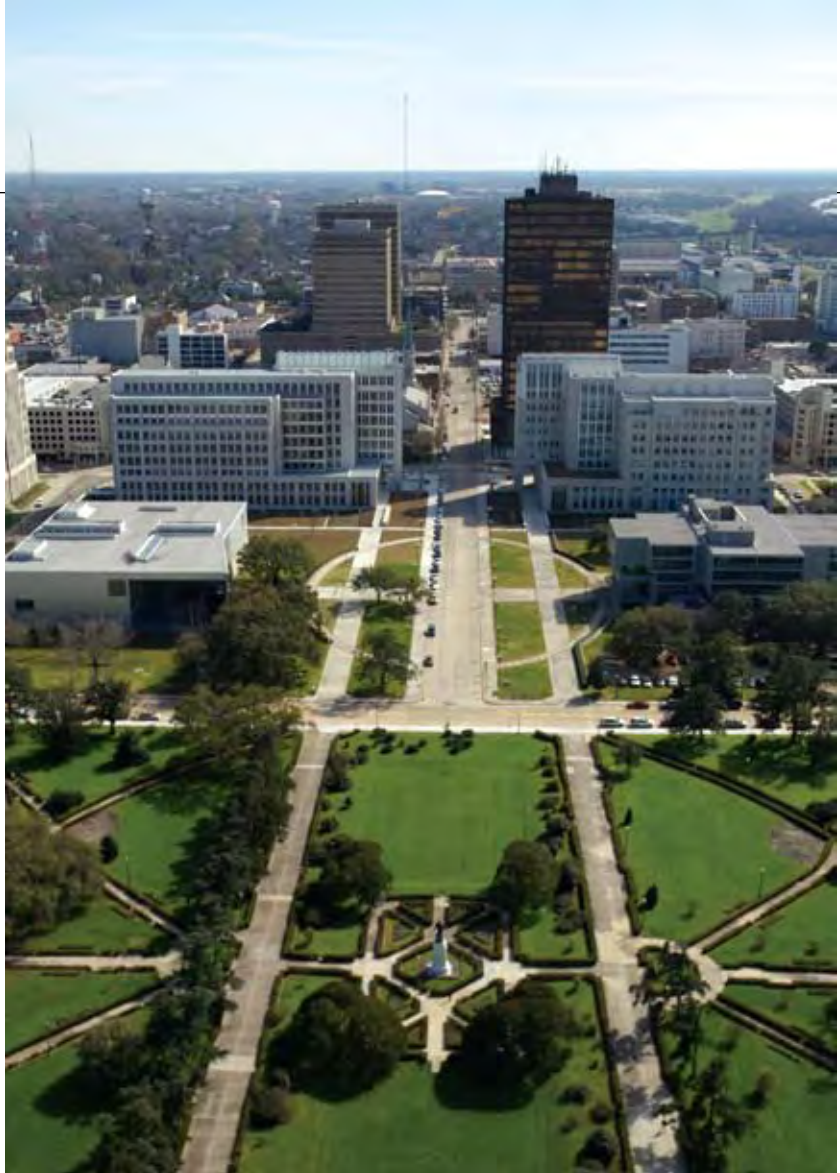
Moreover, the few green spots in downtown are disconnected. The lawn at the Old State Capitol is fenced in. Levee land next to the Louisiana Art and Science Museum is broken up by a fountain and a helter-skelter walking area.

THE CENTRAL GREEN

As a starting point for downtown, the designers recommend connecting the areas into a unified green. They say the natural and constructed levee and the river should be included in the green. They also suggest the existing library become a gathering space, with an active space on the first floor. (Separately, Trahan Architects is exploring new uses and designs for the public library).

An alternative use for the land surrounding the River Center, which includes fountains, also should be considered. The town square, now being designed, must be incorporated into the green. The Central Green should link with other areas of downtown in a network of lush spaces.

The park at the capitol is a good beginning. Designers say it should link with the river and Spanish Town.



Location: Blocks surrounding the State Capitol Park and the river, including property around empty lots on River Road.

A wonderful park exists around the State Capitol. But the park mostly stands alone. Designers say the space should be extended to the river, offering a connection for the Spanish Town neighborhood and creating a

vast space that can be used for other purposes. A big lure: The levee doesn't block the river view, and batture land next to Hollywood Casino can be elevated to street level.

CAPITOL PARK WEST

Preliminary ideas include linking the levee walking and biking trail to adjoining neighborhoods with a beautiful bridge, and continuing the trail into the neighborhood. Another idea is an attraction on the river. Planners say the city should consider an attraction on the elevated batture land across the street from the visitor center.



Top, an active park is recommended for downtown at Convention and Sixth streets to anchor a new neighborhood that would connect the existing ones.

Location: Surrounding the federal building and post office on Laurel Street

Downtown used to have a park, but the parks system donated the land for a federal building. There is still about a fourth of a block at Convention and Sixth streets that BREC is considering for a park. Yet the designers offer an interesting idea for the area that they call

“Victory Park District.”

The advice is to build a new neighborhood connecting Spanish Town and Beauregard Town. An active park should anchor the neighborhood.

To boost connectivity among the neighborhoods, they say Laurel Street should be turned into a two-way thoroughfare and St. Ferdinand Street should be two-way between North Boulevard and Europe Street.

New housing would boost the downtown housing market, a fundamental need to extend downtown’s return. A bus transit center with a garage near the interstate would provide spaces for public parking.



BRIAN BAIAMONTE



BRIAN BAIAMONTE

Chan Krieger says the Shaw Center for the Arts should be a model for a similar development on the other end of Third Street.

Location: Third Street

Third Street has risen in the last decade. Restaurants and a few clubs are located on the street, as is a small amount of retail and some rental units. An entertainment district is being developed for the street. The planners recommend more—a mixed-use district.

The inspiration for the idea is the Shaw Center for the Arts, which is on a block that includes Third and North Boulevard. The center offers many uses. The Manship Theatre, the LSU Museum of Art, two restaurants with a third on the way, loft apartments, offices for arts groups and more.

The center has open spaces and a connection with the river as well.

Chan Krieger believes the city should explore creating a second cultural and entertainment venue to anchor the other end of Third Street, where it connects with North Street. It could include clubs, restaurants and a movie theater.

To support the street, they say an entity should be created to manage a public supply of parking. The parking space inventory can be boosted by permitting easier public access to existing garages during the evenings.

Incentives will be required to get developers to redevelop existing parking lots.

THIRD STREET MIXED-USEDISTRICT



Nicholson Estates, a firm with its roots in Lafayette, has purchased a string of homes along Nicholson Drive. The firm plans a mixed-use development on the property, which will improve the human link between downtown and LSU.

Location: Neighborhoods between downtown and the university.

To be sustainable in the long run, downtown must create a critical mass. For that, the city center must connect outward to link with Old South Baton Rouge and LSU.

They offer many ideas for making this so. One is to link the areas with

mass transit, possibly with a shuttle system, trolley line or light rail.

Along the routes, they advise a student village on the edge of downtown. They also suggest a

OLD SOUTH BATON ROUGE AND LSU LINKAGE

transit-oriented development, a mixed-use project that is dense enough to support transit stops. (Nicholson Estates, a development company, is planning a high-density project for land on Nicholson Drive near downtown.)

Chan Krieger says the city should pursue redevelopment of the Beauregard Town site that houses the police department, and consider building a new arena between downtown and LSU that might be shared with the university.

Government Street doesn't have to be a liability. By improving the quality of the street, the two sides of Beauregard Town can be reconnected.



The planners say the two sides of Beauregard Town, divided by a busy Government Street, should be reunited.

That goal can be accomplished by reworking Government, an idea that has bubbled for a while in downtown circles. The street should be made friendlier to the neighborhoods and pedestrians. It should be turned green. Traffic can be calmed by permitting on-street parking during non-peak commuting times.

Some of the one-way streets in the neighborhoods should permit two-way traffic to create a functioning grid that removes some cars from Government.


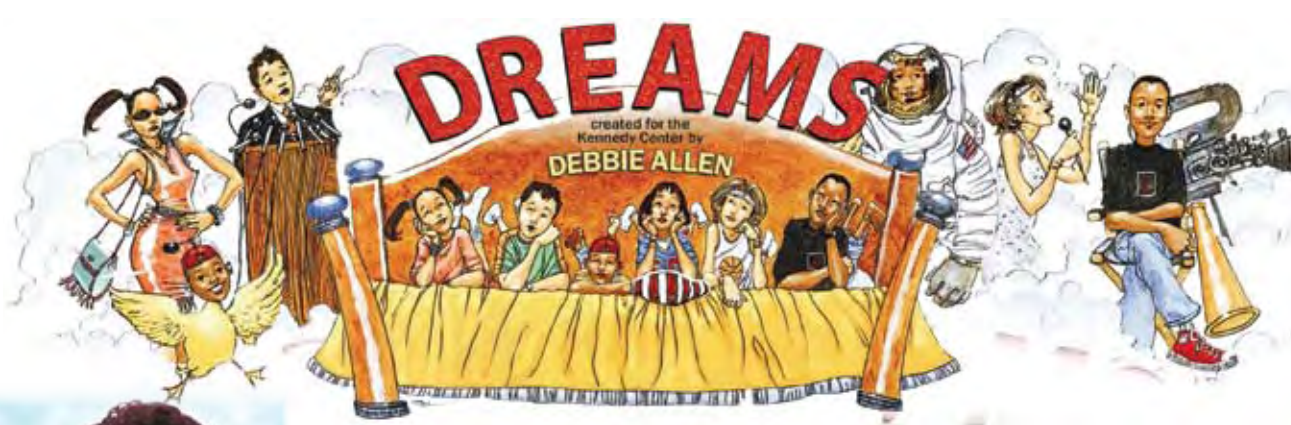
What's more, design guidelines should be implemented for new commercial development, and parking should be better managed in the area.

And Corporation Canal, a cement canal, should be extended and turned into a green waterway. •

BEAUREGARD TOWN DISTRICT

PLAN BATON ROUGE PHASE TWO GOALS



1. Expand downtown as Baton Rouge's "city center" to include LSU
2. Improve both physical and strategic connections with LSU and Southern University
3. Maximize the experience of the river
4. Commit to making the city center a great place to live
5. Enhance cultural and entertainment amenities & the mixing of uses
6. Improve the pedestrian experience and position downtown for transit to be a viable future mobility option
7. "Green" the city center: restoring tree canopies and park space
8. "Green" the city center: advancing environmental stewardship
9. Diminish roadblocks to & find incentives for private investment
10. Establish protocols to better manage long-term parking supply
11. Build upon existing success but also seek the extraordinary



DREAMS, a delightful production written and choreographed by Debbie Allen, takes you to the magical world of childhood dreams. From grown-up dreams of careers in fashion and marine biology to wishful hopes of becoming a duck, everyone will enjoy this fun exploration of children's imaginative aspirations.

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This Community Dance Residency and Performance is a project of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge in collaboration with Baton Rouge Community College and local area dance companies and studios. The project is supported through the Office of the Mayor-President and the Metro Council, the Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation, and Turner Industries.

www.artsbr.org • 225.344.8558 • 427 Laurel Street • Baton Rouge, LA 70801





3/13/08 – Narva Barrymore lived in a tent at a homeless camp under I-10 at Claiborne Avenue. The city’s homeless population had doubled to 4% of the total population after Katrina. The amount was four times the national average.

Wrestling poverty

WITH NEW CENTER, LSU BATTLES FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, PLANS TO BECOME NATIONAL RESOURCE

>> by **SARA BONGIORNI** photos by **TIM MUELLER**

Images of desperation outside the New Orleans Superdome in the days after Hurricane Katrina thrust Louisiana’s dire poverty before the eyes of the nation and world.

Now, LSU is moving to build an equally far-reaching reputation for finding solutions to an entrenched problem that continues to undermine efforts to grow Louisiana’s economy and educate its citizens.

Over the coming year, university officials hope to establish a high-profile poverty center on the Baton Rouge campus in pursuit of the research, community practices and policies most likely to make real reductions in poverty in Louisiana and across the South.

“We hope to have the capacity to contribute significantly to the national discussion of solutions to poverty,” says LSU Chancellor Mike Martin. “Hopefully we can be viewed as a national or even world leader on this issue.”

Already the university is actively recruiting star poverty researchers under a multidisciplinary hiring initiative designed to give it national prominence in five areas. It has not hired any new poverty experts yet, but could add up to six researchers in that area over the next several years.

LSU last spring hosted its first poverty summit, which gathered national experts in Baton Rouge. This year, with leadership from the School

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Alex Clay lived under the I-10 overpass after Katrina washed away his Ninth Ward house.

“We hope to have the capacity to contribute significantly to the national discussion of solutions to poverty. Hopefully we can be viewed as a national or even world leader on this issue.”

—LSU CHANCELLOR MIKE MARTIN

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of Social Work, it will apply for federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which currently supports university-based poverty centers in Washington, Wisconsin and Kentucky.

More than 50 researchers from departments as diverse as economics and agriculture would contribute to the center’s research through new and existing projects.

LSU is already beefing up its poverty-research muscle. In 2008, the university received \$150,000

from the New Mexico-based Frost Foundation to support creation of a database to give researchers, lawmakers, government agencies and others unprecedented access to information on poverty in Louisiana.

In the past, that information has been scattered across agencies, with no one source able to give a complete picture of the problem and its impact on issues as different as workforce development and health.

“The flagship university should be the place to

go to get answers on policy issues, including poverty,” says Pamela Monroe, a professor of social work who is leading LSU’s anti-poverty efforts. “This is a tool we haven’t had.”

A BROAD COALITION

The university’s effort is part of a broader effort known as the Louisiana Poverty Initiative, a once-informal collaboration of private and public partners that has gained momentum in the years since the 2005 storm.

LSU’s Monroe helms both efforts, but she quickly points to the diverse nature of Louisiana Poverty Initiative partners, which include Southern University, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and the state Department of Social Services.

“It’s not just LSU, (and) it’s not just academic,” Monroe says.

Certainly Louisiana’s poverty problems are real enough. Louisiana ranked No. 49 in a 2008 study on child well being. Its rate of child poverty, at 27%, is double the national average. Roughly 20% of its residents live in poverty, compared to 13.3% for the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. What is striking—and perhaps demoralizing—is that Louisiana’s poverty rate has been intractable.

“You might see small changes here or there, but nothing has changed in the aggregate,” Monroe says.

The 2008 national study by KIDS COUNT, for instance, found that while Louisiana improved in

one measure of child poverty—the teen birth rate dropped between 2000 and 2005—by seven other measures, the welfare of its children was worse.

REGIONAL ROOTS—AND REMEDIES

The federal government has funded poverty re-

search for nearly 40 years.

The National Poverty Center, at the University of Michigan, focuses on the root causes of poverty with the aim of devising practices and policies most likely to work. The three regional poverty centers at the University of Kentucky, University of Washington and University of Wisconsin-Madison likewise look for broad solutions but with a special focus on challenges in those parts of the country.

Monroe sees something missing in the government’s search for solutions to poverty. There is no federal poverty center in the Delta region of the Deep South, the part of the nation where pov-

erty is worst. That is significant because the causes of poverty—and solutions most likely to work—vary by region, Monroe says.

“What works in Louisiana may not work in Appalachia,” she says. “We can borrow from what works in other places but there is no substitute for a regional approach.”

AN ANTI-POVERTY WAVE

LSU’s plans jibe with recent, unprecedented efforts to combat poverty in Louisiana. Hurricane Katrina sped the effort, but did not create it, according to Monroe. “It did bring awareness, be-



Dr. Pamela Monroe of the LSU School of Social Work leads LSU’s nascent anti-poverty initiative.

“Louisiana seems to be paying more attention in a thoughtful way to poverty as a policy priority.”

—DREW MURRAY, DIRECTOR OF SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

cause we don't have to introduce the issue any more,” she says.

Indeed, several observers say the momentum began in 2004 under the administration of former Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who called Louisiana's first poverty summit that year. Her administration also created Solutions to Poverty (SToP), a statewide Department of Social Services initiative to fight poverty through community action, policy and legislation.

SToP's actions include support for the 2008 legislation to create the Louisiana Child Poverty Prevention Council, whose mission is to halve the state's child poverty rate over the next decade. LSU is a member of the council, which in April will publish its 10-year implementation plan.

Some observers say they see new commitment at multiple levels to finding solutions to the problem.

“Louisiana seems to be paying more attention in a thoughtful way to poverty as a policy priority,” says Drew Murray, director of SToP. “It's now more widely acknowledged as a significant problem for the state on many levels, but also a problem that, with the right approach, can be solved.”

Ignoring Louisiana's poverty may become more difficult for another reason. In recent years, nonprofits and other players have started more aggressively publicizing statistics that measure the extent of the state's poverty problem.

“We have a very in-your-face approach to getting these statistics out,” says Martis Jones, vice president of public policy for Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, which in 2007 pub-

lished a groundbreaking report on poverty designed to educate state lawmakers on the scope and impact of poverty in the state.

The report “so clearly pointed out Louisiana's bottom-of-the-barrel ranking” in a way that grabbed the attention of lawmakers, business groups, state agencies and others like nothing before it, says Jones, who adds that the state seems to have reached “a tipping point” on the issue.

LANO and SToP are both partners in the Louisiana Poverty Initiative. They also would lend key support to an LSU-based poverty center. SToP's role would include providing data for LSU research to identify the best anti-poverty programs and their real impact on poverty, Murray says.

Working with community-based groups to identify, implement and track the success of programs on the ground would be another central focus of the center, providing an obvious role for LANO.

Monroe is enthused about the new momentum, and says she hopes it will lead to a weapon that anti-poverty programs have never had: a comprehensive approach to overcoming its root causes. The poverty center at LSU will be keenly interested in projects and policies that focus on that comprehensive approach, even through small but well-executed projects, she says.

“We have always taken a piecemeal approach,” Monroe says. “What we believe is going to alleviate poverty is the opposite of that.” •

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The Foundation's Rebecca Noecker is among the believers.



She found that overage kids were disrupting classes. They weren't hopeless. They were drained of hope. Rebecca gathered business and school leaders to fashion a solution—a program that teaches job skills, along with fundamentals, to overage students. A first batch of students will graduate this year. Jobs await them, so does hope.

Rebecca's work is supported by another set of believers—members of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Nearly 700 united in their generosity, members enable the Foundation to rebuild inner-city neighborhoods, offer people on the margins a chance to prosper, celebrate literature and arts, create a better place for all of us.

Join the Believers. Become a member by calling Helen Fisher at 225.387.6126 or visiting BRAF.org. Memberships start at \$100.

*Baton Rouge
Area Foundation*



LaMoyn Williams, chief workforce development officer for Louisiana Technical College, talks about the automotive repair lab.

Two birds, one stone

PILOT PROGRAM OFFERS HOPE TO OVERAGE STUDENTS, CHIPS AT WORKFORCE SHORTAGE >> by **MAGGIE HEYN RICHARDSON** photos by **TIM MUELLER**

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Ask people on the street to list the reasons why public education in Louisiana has failed and they will rattle off reasons: lack of parent involvement, teacher quality, below average pay, substandard classrooms, pervasive poverty.

But ask a middle school teacher, and while the list is also long and varied, one issue in particular stands out: overage students.

That fact emerged when 100 principals and 110 teachers from around Louisiana participated in Baton Rouge Area Foundation focus groups about what has stymied public education. These insiders painted the reality of some public school classrooms, where frustrated, disruptive overage students fall further and further behind.

The numbers are astounding. In 2007 in East Baton Rouge Parish alone, a whopping 7,497 students were overage by one year, while 2,052 were overage by two or more years. Many of these students will ultimately drop out, and with low-level literacy and scant job skills, their earning potential will be dismal.

After the focus groups, the Foundation and East Baton Rouge Parish School System officials discussed how they could zero in on the issue. With partners, including the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, the Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition, the Louisiana Technical College and Career Builders, a pilot was launched to provide a learning avenue for overage students.

In January 2009, the “ConnectED” program selected 20 students from Capitol Middle, along with 20 students from Tara, Belaire, Glen Oaks and Lee high schools to attend courses three days a week at the Louisiana Technical College in fields that can translate to work.

The pilot curriculum focuses on construction, and it includes classes, labs and field trips to local facilities where students can see the application of job skills.

“We hope to raise these students’ awareness about high-demand careers, and to show them what it takes to live in the real world,” says Donnie Middleton, director of workforce development for Career Builders.

The ConnectED coursework supplements a student’s regular curriculum.

“In fact, the point is to demonstrate to students they have a reason to complete and excel at school,” says Tammy Brown, Louisiana Technical College chief development and public relations officer. “They’re not getting a certification, then immediately getting a job. We want them to understand the more they learn the better they will do.”

ConnectED addresses not just a dire need within the school system—how to productively advance overage students who are often uninterested, rowdy and significantly older than their peers—it also addresses Louisiana’s workforce shortage.

The silver lining to hurricanes Katrina and Rita was an infusion of federal money for massive reconstruction, which lured new companies and sparked thousands of jobs. But despite the availability, only 61.6% of the civilian population age 16 and older in Louisiana participates in the workforce, and a lack of qualified workers is one of the prevailing problems of current and potential employers, reported the Office of Governor Bobby Jindal last year.

ConnectED, says Middleton, could make a dent in the dearth of qualified workers. Organizers hope to expand the program significantly this fall.

One of ConnectED’s strengths is that it draws on the resources and existing programs of its vested partners. The school system provides transportation to students from their home campuses to LTC sites.

In addition, the curriculum itself, as well as equipment, already exists at LTC. Career Builders will provide practical job and life skills sessions. The Greater Baton Rouge Literacy Coalition has stepped in to recruit and train mentors for each of the 20 high school students.

Literacy Coalition Executive Director Debbie O’Connor says her organization has recruited volunteers from complementary sectors, particularly manufacturing and construction, which rely heavily on technical colleges to produce qualified applicants.

“We want the students to feel like what they’re doing is relevant to their lives,” she says.

Thus, volunteers from ExxonMobil, Coca-Cola, Turner Industries and others have come forward to show students how sticking with it can lead to a good paying job with benefits.

While ConnectEd chips away at the workforce shortage and improves order within schools, at its core is the difference it makes to a group of students that most of society has given up on.

“They’re scared, and they’re worried about their future. To be 17 and in the eighth grade and know you need a job but can’t get one, that’s scary,” says Career Builders program organizer Juanita Coleman. “Our job is to show them they have hope.” •





LSU expects to raze student housing and the old baseball field for a development that could mix housing with retail. A committee is reviewing what to do with the 37 acres, which is situated on Nicholson Drive.

Prime chance

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LSU REDEVELOPING PARCEL THAT WILL IMPACT UNIVERSITY, SURROUNDING AREAS >> by MUKUL VERMA

A handful of LSU employees hold a tremendous responsibility. They must decide how to reuse 37 acres along Nicholson Drive, a precious parcel that is not only valuable to LSU but also to the remaking of Nicholson Drive in Old South Baton Rouge.

Some other universities, such as The Ohio State University, have built dense mixed-use projects on similar sites. Stores, movie theaters, bookshops,

restaurants and homes are blended into self-contained communities. The projects serve the students and staff, but they also lure outsiders who spend money to provide a revenue stream to the universities.

LSU has formed a committee to study its parcel. That committee, which includes a cross-section of interested LSU parties, met twice last year, gathering for introductions and to hear from Nicholson

THE OHIO STATE CAMPUS GATEWAY

Ohio State University and the city of Columbus partnered to reclaim 7.5 acres near the university and turn it into a \$150 million development. The university created a nonprofit in 1995 to build the project, which is called South Campus Gateway. The nonprofit, Campus Partners for Community Urban Redevelopment, hired Jones Lang LaSalle as an advisor, and a construction firm to build it. CB Richard Ellis, a private firm, manages Campus Gateway for the nonprofit.

Three years after opening, the project is breaking even, says Doug Aschenbach, interim president of Campus Partners. With increasing occupancy, he expects the project to turn a profit that could be used for other projects. Campus Partners' mission is to revive a neighborhood between OSU and the Columbus downtown.

Campus Gateway's 184 apartments are fully occupied. The 90,000 square feet of office is nearly full, taken by OSU's human resources department and other divisions. Eighty-one percent of the retail space is occupied.

"It's helped in student recruiting," says Aschenbach of the blended development. "Students today are looking for recreation and amenities as part of the campus experience. The movie theater is there; the restaurants are there. It's convenient and safe." •



WHAT CAMPUS GATEWAY INCLUDES:

- Apartments for students, faculty and staff. The 184 apartments range from \$600 to \$1,200 per month.
- Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore.
- Retailers include Aveda, GameStop, a nutrition store, clothing stores, cellular phone stores.
- Restaurants include IntaJuice, Mad Mex, Cold Stone Creamery, Panera Bread and Potbelly Sandwich Works.
- Movie theater by Landmark Theaters.



WHAT'S NEXT?



LSU student housing, built more than six decades ago, will be razed for a mixed-use project.



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Estates, a private firm that is separately redeveloping a section of Nicholson Drive between LSU and downtown, on land across from Magnolia Mound.

Nicholson Estates, with offices in Lafayette, won't disclose its project, but a representative acknowledges that it will be mixed-use. Steve Oubre, the architect famous for River Ranch in Lafayette, is designing the project. Nicholson Estates plans public meetings for input about the project.

Another section of the Nicholson corridor also will come into play. In upgrading the sewer system, the city-parish is shutting down a riverside sewer

plant, which would free 20 acres for redevelopment. The sewer plant should be shuttered within a half decade.

The corridor between LSU and downtown is considered important for a continued rebound of downtown. Land planners for Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two, the next step for reinventing downtown, recommend connecting LSU and Old South Baton Rouge as one of six catalytic projects for the next decade. Included in that recommendation is a desire to see transit-oriented developments, a student village at the edge of downtown and shuttles

“Nothing is off the table.”

—STACI PEPITONE

or some other mass transit connecting the city center with the university.

LSU has not decided the density for its 37 acres. Staci Pepitone, assistant to the vice chancellor and a committee member, says the goals include replacing the outdated married and graduate student housing, likely having retail in the project and somehow replacing the 600 parking spaces, which are cater-corner to the football stadium. The Tiger Athletic Foundation, she says, has expressed an interest in building a mobile home park with hookups.

“Nothing is off the table,” says Pepitone. A campus bookstore, hotel and office space are not out of the mix.

A report for LSU by Economic Research Associates has an initial recommendation for about 35,000 square feet of retail space, which would include restaurants. Also recommended are 630 apartments for graduate and married students and faculty. The report says building a campus hotel would be challenging under current market conditions.

On a site that is 7.5 acres compared to LSU’s 37, The Ohio State University has built a \$150 million project that leases to 9 restaurants, 13 retailers, apartments, a Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore, a movie theater, an organic grocery

LSU’S REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Eric Monday, chair, Finance and Administrative Services

Emmett David, LSU Facility Planning

Corey Graham, LSU Student Government

David Hardy, TAF Counsel

Jenny Kornuta, Residence Hall Association

Frank Miller, TAF

D’Ann Morris, Office of the Chancellor

Eddie Nunez, LSU Athletics

Staci Pepitone, Finance and Administrative Services

Heath Price, LSU Campus Life

Jason Soileau, LSU Facility Planning

Jason Tolliver, University Auxiliary Services

Steve Waller, LSU Residential Life

Rose Mary Wilhelm, LSU Purchasing

store and a parking garage. (See page 41 on Ohio State project.)

When the LSU committee completes its work, recommendations will be forwarded to the chancellor. The decision ultimately will be made by the chancellor and the LSU System. No timelines have been set for decisions or construction.

Pepitone says the university won’t rush into the project. Leaders understand that what is done on the parcel will affect generations to come. •

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Enough already with “enough already”

With all due respect, I personally agree that, at the end of the day, we must absolutely stop using the following phrases 24/7, for it's a nightmare to do so. The preceding sentence is akin to fingernails on a chalkboard to some University of Oxford researchers. Phrases within the lead sentence are on a list of “Top 10 Most Irritating Expressions” published by the researchers.

We agree, and gently ask our readers to refrain from using them in the future. We add two words to the list, courtesy of football coaches: Nick Saban uses “relative” more than any top physicist and Les Miles uses “enjoy” to the point that we don't. To be fair, we also use words that are irritating; “impactful” and “facilitate” are among them. •

From the folks at Oxford, the tiresome phrases are:

1. At the end of the day
2. Fairly unique
3. I personally
4. At this moment in time
5. With all due respect
6. Absolutely
7. It's a nightmare
8. Shouldn't of
9. 24/7
10. It's not rocket science

44



3.1 million

Number of Internet donors and volunteers signed up for the Obama campaign. Not only did the president use them for fund-raising and delivering votes, he's expected to mobilize them to advocate for his issues. How he will deploy his grass-roots electronic army is unclear, but experts say that Obama has claimed ground on the medium of the future, just as conservatives did on talk radio. •

Segue to Kamen

The inventor of the Segway continues to tinker with inventions that could change the world.

Though Dean Kamen gets ribbed for lackluster Segway sales, he still believes the transporter will become a major people mover in two decades, when cities will be more dense and the alternatives will be more expensive.

Meanwhile, the owner of DEKA Research is working on several projects, including the Slingshot, a device that can clean water of contaminants, including sewage, and operate for years without maintenance. He wants to couple that device to a Stirling engine that can power an entire village by operating on any source of heat.

In a six-month test, a Bangladesh village is being powered by a Stirling engine that is fueled by methane from cow dung.

Though they work, Kamen is having trouble commercializing the two devices, reports the *British Telegraph* newspaper. "The big companies long ago figured out that the people in the world that have no water and have no electricity have no money," says Kamen.

The inventor, who has made considerable wealth in the medical devices business (he invented the first drug infusion pump), is unyielding. "I just believe in it. It might fail, but you've got to try. Look at the state of the world. It's a mess. What if we can fix it?" •



Recycled power

British researchers have shown that energy produced by the heart can produce 17% of the electricity needed to run an artificial pacemaker. The breakthrough means future pacemakers and defibrillators can last longer and do more complex tasks.

The invention uses the pressure generated by each heartbeat to power a microgenerator. The generator produces electricity to power a pacemaker or defibrillator, which as-

sist hearts and help them keep a rhythm.

The researchers are improving the technology, hoping to increase the output of the microgenerator. There is even hope that the heart will provide enough energy to indefinitely power pacemakers and defibrillators.

The microgenerator was invented by a consortium that includes Zarlink Semiconductor and InVivoTechnology. •

45

Government 2.0

So you are a Baton Rouge leader feeling down because Hurricane Gustav canceled this year's idea-shopping trip to another innovative city. Here's a surrogate: You could study the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance's list of annual innovations awards for a little pick-me-up. Director Stephen Goldsmith says each of the winners "produced a new, bold way of addressing a previously intractable problem."

There is, for instance, the **Acquisition Fund of New York City**, which made housing more available and affordable to disadvantaged residents by providing affordable housing developers and nonprofits with faster access to equity and predevelopment capital. It did so by combining the resources of philanthropies, financial institutions and the city to reduce risk for smaller developers.

North Carolina's Learn and Earn won an

award for a program that helps underperforming high school students jumpstart their college educations and prepare for the workforce. The program includes high schools within college campuses in which students can earn high school and college credit, and \$4,000 college grants to students who make the grades required by the program.

Other winners include The **Division of Youth Services in Missouri** for a program that rehabilitates juvenile delinquents through a therapeutic group approach in small, homelike settings. The **Arizona Department of Corrections' Getting Ready: Keeping Communities Safe** reduced recidivism rates by enrolling the incarcerated in a program that parallels life outside and offers opportunities for job training and educational achievement. •

Searching for higher ground

Around the world, seas and oceans are rising. Under worst-case scenarios, which become more grim with each new study, coastal cities like New Orleans and Miami will drown because of global climate change by 2100.

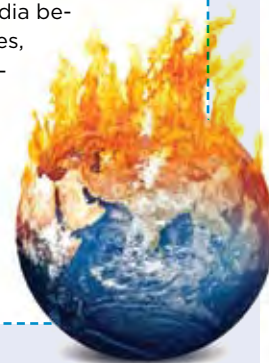
Not waiting around for his country to go the way of Atlantis, the president of Maldives has begun to invest a portion of the government's \$1 billion in annual tourist revenue to find a new home for nearly 300,000 islanders.

Mohamed Nasheed, the first elected president of the 1,200 islands and coral atolls that make up the Maldives off the tip of India, expects even a small rise in sea levels to de-

stroy cities. "We can do nothing to stop climate change on our own and so we have to buy land elsewhere," he says in reports. "It's an insurance policy for the worst possible outcome."

Nasheed is considering relocating Maldivians to Sri Lanka and India because they have similar cultures, and Australia because of available land.

The Maldives is in an unfair situation, threatened to lose its place on the planet even though other countries are mostly responsible for global warming. •





4° to 11°



Wireless next wave

In fall, the Federal Communications Commission decided to liberate unused frequency between TV station signals, potentially opening up new markets for electronic devices of the future.

Though TV broadcasters complained that use of the spectrum would interfere with their signals, the FCC said that electronic device makers proved that would not be so.

What's ahead? Like television broadcasts, the frequency can be used to transmit huge amounts of data for hundreds of miles. The frequency could be used to deliver over-the-air Internet signals, opening up new competition for cable and phone companies. Electronic companies say they can even transmit in-car Internet service and allow car-to-car wireless communications that bypass wireless companies.

New devices should appear in the market in a couple of years. •

Predicted range of increase in average temperature by end of the century under scenarios by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Average high summer temperature in Baton Rouge could be 101° Fahrenheit by then.

Don't get up

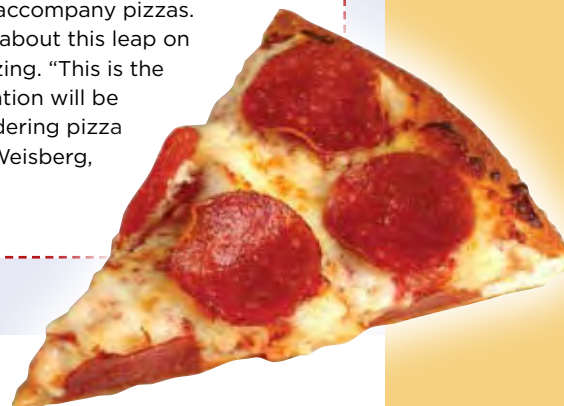
It won't cure our oil addiction or create worldwide harmony, but the inactive among us rank TiVo's newest service among monumental advances for the universe.

The device that liberated viewers from an unforgiving TV schedule now lets them order pizza by moving just one finger. TiVo users can order pizza by clicking during special Domino's ads or by visiting the pizzeria's store on the digital video recorder.

Choose your pizza, enter your home address and pay for the food when it's delivered to your door.

TiVo says the deal with Domino's is the "first step in the future of consumer interactions." The company won't reveal additional plans, but may we suggest ordering of cold beverages to accompany pizzas.

Luddites and Thoreau followers are frowning about this leap on behalf of the sedentary, but TiVo is not apologizing. "This is the first time in history that the 'on-demand' generation will be able to fully experience couch commerce by ordering pizza directly through their television set," says Rob Weisberg, Domino's vice president of marketing. •



**Sweetheart Week at the Markets!
February 9-14**

**Celebrate Valentine's
with special events every day!**



Main Street Market

Cooking demonstrations ♥ Garden Gifts
Heart Happy Menu ♥ Romantic Giveaways
Farm Fresh Flowers ♥ Gifts for Sweethearts
Valentine Chocolates from Steve Lawrence

Monday-Friday—8am to 4pm

Saturday—8am to 1pm
on 5th Street next to Main Street Market

**Valentine's Day
Red Stick Farmers Market
February 14th**

Valentine Face Painting ♥ Valentine Art Activities
plus...Fresh from the Market hosts local food
columnists Tracey Koch & Stephanie Riegel
who will have Special Valentine Recipes for Kids!

"How to Select the Perfect Wine"
from Martin's Wine Cellar



Plan Baton Rouge

2



PLAN BATON ROUGE PHASE TWO PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Louisiana State Museum

660 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge

What do you want for our downtown?

Share your ideas at an open community meeting for **Plan Baton Rouge Phase Two**—the strategic plan for making downtown a more lively place to live, work, shop, dine, learn and play.

For more information, please contact Rachel Diresto 225-267-6300



The blue wagon

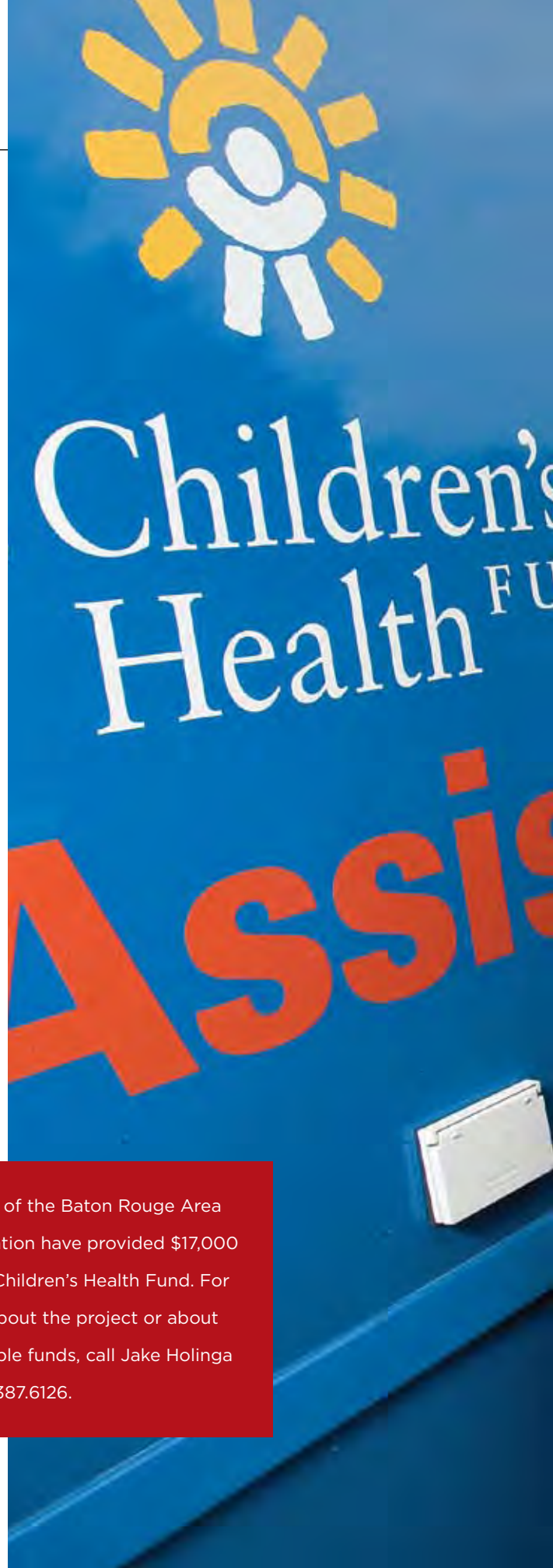
CHILDREN'S HEALTH FUND PROVIDES SERVICES WHERE CHILDREN LIVE >> by **SARA BONGIORNI**
photos by **TIM MUELLER**

Five days after Hurricane Katrina smashed into the Louisiana coast, New York-based Children's Health Fund dispatched mobile medical teams to the Gulf Coast to care for displaced, traumatized children.

More than three years later, the local segment of that effort—now known as the Baton Rouge Children's Health Project—continues to rely on bright-blue, RV-like vehicles to bring medical care to children in some of the region's poorest neighborhoods.

Yet the project also is in transition as it shifts from what began as a post-disaster role to its emergence as a permanent provider of medical care, including scarce mental-health services, to a vulnerable population of children. Meanwhile, it is seeking increased support from the Baton Rouge community as it looks to better address a shortfall in children's mental-health services.

"We are hoping the community will step forward and help us to be here for the



Donors of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation have provided \$17,000 to the Children's Health Fund. For more about the project or about charitable funds, call Jake Holinga at 225.387.6126.



Dr. Heidi Sinclair, top, and staff of the Children's Health Fund use a mobile unit to care for underserved children, a project sustained after Katrina. From left, Registrar Wend Harris, Medical Case Manager Schaun Morgan and Health Educator Jeff Soileau are members of the mobile medical crew.

long-term,” says Dr. Stewart T. Gordon, chief of pediatrics at Earl K. Long, which oversees the project through a partnership with Children’s Health Fund.

NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT

On a crisp fall morning, a 38-foot mobile unit stands in the parking lot of Progress Elementary School in North Baton Rouge. Inside, Dr. Heidi Sinclair, medical director of the Baton Rouge Children’s Health Project, shows the compact but cheerful exam room. In a typical month, about 50 patients from newborns to mothers in their early 20s receive care here, from eye exams and immunizations to mental-health screenings, during a regular line-up of stops that include elementary and middle schools in North Baton Rouge and Baker.

Adjacent to the exam room is an even smaller space where a caseworker spends her days filling another of the project’s core functions: connecting families with other medical and social resources by helping fill out forms, making telephone calls and explaining bureaucratic intricacies.

“Linking people with the resources that are out there—that’s vital,” says Sinclair, who describes the project’s larger purpose as providing a “medical home” to children who may not have access to regular care as a result of frequent family moves or other upheaval.

“We want to supplement the care that our patients are getting, but we also want to reach families that aren’t getting proper care due to problems with literacy, transportation or just getting time off from work to see a doctor,” she says.

The project’s second mobile unit is dedicated to mental-health services. It provides counseling and other care to 50 to 60 kids each month, says project administrator Linda Lee.

Aboard the medical and mental-health units, the staff look to treat patients in a comprehensive way. That means providing counseling to children’s caregivers to help them cope with stresses of their

own and trying to understand patients’ lifestyles in assessing issues from nutrition to depression. With that in mind, the project provides art therapy to children through funding from Sister Judith Brun’s Community Initiatives Foundation and anti-obesity education to both parents and children through a grant from the Irene W. and C.B. Pennington Foundation.

That multi-pronged approach is central to the project’s goal of really improving the health of the children it sees, Lee explains. “You can’t be successful in treating the child if you don’t address the environment in which the child lives.”

A GAP IN CARE

From the beginning, the project has had a special focus on mental health. Its disaster-relief role included bringing counseling and other services to children at Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer parks, like the now-closed Renaissance Village in Baker.

These days, about 20% of patients are children who were displaced by Katrina. The schools on its regular schedule of stops—Progress, as well as Crestworth Middle and Ryan Elementary—are where many of the former children of Renaissance Village are now students. Its remaining patients face barriers to medical and mental-health care that were in place before the 2005 storm: poverty and the problems that often go with it, including poor access to transportation.

In Baton Rouge, the shortfall in mental-health services for poor children likewise predates the storm. A 2005-06 survey of patients served by Earl K. Long’s outpatient pediatrics clinic found that among respondents ages 6 to 17, 40% reported being hit or kicked hard; 27% had witnessed a family member being hit or kicked hard; 29% had seen someone beat up, shot or killed; and 51% reported witnessing the serious injury of a loved one. Of the 350 survey respondents, 304 were from the Baton

Rouge area, Gordon notes.

The psychological stress of witnessing such events, if left untreated, can lead to more significant mental-health problems down the road, yet uninsured and underinsured children in Baton Rouge have few options because almost no mental-health providers accept Medicaid. The LSU Health Sciences Center's MidCity Pediatric Clinic is one of the few that provides such services—and does a great job, Gordon says—but “they are maxed to the gills already.”

To that end, a key project goal for 2009 is raising funds to replace the existing mobile mental-health unit. While it has been refurbished to meet patient and staff needs, it frequently breaks down and ends up in the shop. The Children's Health Fund has said it will cover \$150,000 of the estimated \$300,000 cost of a new vehicle if the Baton Rouge project can raise the remaining \$150,000, Gordon says.

“We are hoping some of that money will come from the community,” he says.

Baton Rouge Children's Health Project also is looking for ways to wean itself from Children's Health Fund, which typically provides 4% to 40% of funding for local projects (it agreed to provide 100% of funding for the first three years of the Baton Rouge project). Late last year, the project entered a contract with the East Baton Rouge public school system to provide mental-health services to students, an arrangement that will cover about a third of the program's operating costs, Gordon says.

Project proponents say they will be looking for more such opportunities.

“The goal is to have the community sustain this as a permanent effort,” Lee says. •

Dr. Heidi Sinclair examines six-month-old Kevion Carter. Last photo, Kevion is entertained by his mother, Kawanda Carter. The boy attends Arc's Early Head Start and Day Care Center.





Downtowns in Hammond and Covington are charming. Leaders across the Northshore trying to extend the look are getting help from the Northshore Community Foundation.



A better plan

THE HOT ISSUE OF 2009 IS LAND USE, AND IT'S BEING ADDRESSED BY COMMUNITIES OF ALL SIZES >> by **MAGGIE HEYN RICHARDSON** photos by **LORI WASELCHUK**

The colorful, landscaped gateway that leads to Fairhope catches glances from thousands of motorists daily, and it sends a message that residents care about the image of their Alabama city. Business owners along the Louisiana Northshore took notice, using Fairhope as a model for cleaning up a key local corridor—the seven-mile stretch of Highway 190 that connects Covington and Mandeville.

The state road now is clean but it remains industrial and bland, nothing like the boutique charm revealed within Northshore communities themselves. Business owners have decided it's time for a change.

"We really want people who drive into our area to know we're serious about quality of life and business," says Sam Giberga of Covington-based Hornbeck Offshore, a founding member of the new nonprofit, "Roll Out the Green Carpet." The group

aims to create a master plan for the stretch, and they're raising donations toward a \$100,000 Phase I goal.

Green Carpet is well on its way. In August, the Northshore Community Foundation granted the organization \$35,000 through its Hurricane Katrina Planning Assistance Grants, which provide matching money for communities committed to smart growth land use plans.

Last year, NCF held two competitive rounds for grants that fund comprehensive or master plans, as well as neighborhood, downtown, corridor, land use, transportation, infill and housing plans. Awards ranged from \$20,000 to \$150,000 and required a one-to-one match from applicants.

The projects were intended to not only enhance the look of a location, but also to improve an area's ability to absorb the post-hurricane population surge. Along with Green Carpet, the City of

Hammond, St. Helena Parish and Amite City will create master plans for their areas. A fifth project will assist the St. Tammany Parish Community Land Trust to solve a deep affordable housing shortage by placing abandoned property back into commerce.

Hammond's idea to create a comprehensive plan for the metropolitan area ties in well with work already accomplished in its downtown, says Frank Saxton, NCF Director of Community Development. Five years ago, residents engaged in a charrette to improve the livability and charm of the urban core, and it paid off. "Hammond took the neglect of the seventies and turned it into a showpiece," he says.

Mayor Mayson Foster wanted to build on that success, and he wanted to ensure that Hammond's recent growth won't lead to unchecked development.

"It was time to create a strategy for the whole city and to make sure that major corridors were developed in the best way possible," says Foster.

NCF granted Hammond \$75,000 toward the creation of a plan Foster hopes will be completed by the end of the year. He's expecting significant community feedback along the way. "We want a lot of public input. This is not something we're going to do in the back room."

To be awarded planning assistance, communities had to demonstrate whether their projects jibed with the goals of Louisiana Speaks, the long-term smart growth plan for the state's recovery and future created after hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit in 2005. With input from 27,000 Louisianans collected over 18 months, the comprehensive plan recommends how the state's communities can grow in livable and sustainable fashion.

The impetus for several projects was how to adjust to the post-storm population surge after many New Orleans residents relocated.

For example, in St. Helena Parish, a \$20,000 grant will help the rural area develop solutions for

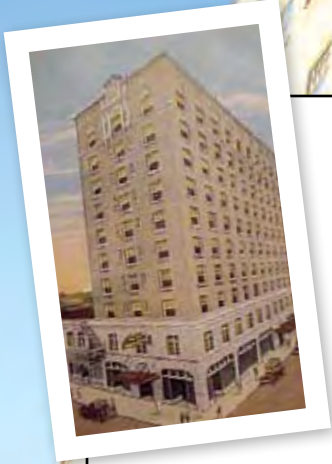
"We really want people who drive into our area to know we're serious about quality of life and business."

—SAM GIBERGA, HORNBECK OFFSHORE

infrastructure, recreation, workforce housing, transportation and open spaces in parts of the parish at low risk for flooding. In Amite City, Project Grow Amite will use a \$25,000 matching grant to create a Downtown District Redevelopment Plan, expected to revive the main street and urban core and create pedestrian-friendly mixed-use areas.

In St. Tammany Parish, two nonprofits, the Northshore Housing Initiative and Habitat for Humanity St. Tammany West were awarded \$30,000 to create the new Community Land Trust. Once formed, the trust will create affordable housing for the new wave of nurses, teachers and construction workers now working on the Northshore, but who have been priced out of the market. Saxton says that the CLT will hold title to parcels of land, including donated land or abandoned housing. It will then resell refurbished homes to moderate-income buyers. To maintain a cycle of affordability, homeowners will forego a portion of the home's appreciation if they sell in the future.

The project, says Saxton, is an innovative strategy to a problem that has reached considerable proportions. The parish faces a 12,000 house deficit, forcing many workers to live beyond its environs. There are around 250 community land trusts throughout the United States operating in 43 states. "It will help those citizens most in need of stable housing in the midst of a national downturn," he says. •



The Charleston Hotel in Lake Charles

was reopened in December with a benefit for the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. Now loft apartments and a ballroom, the Charleston is among leading projects for the people of Lake Charles to recover their downtown. The Baton Rouge Area Foundation, through a support organization, funded downtown planning for Lake Charles, and the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana is a sister organization of the Foundation.





PHOTOS BY MARY BETH CONNER

Above, Noni Shearman cuts the ribbon to reopen the Charleston, while her husband, Tom (right), holds the ribbon. Far right is Mayor Randy Roach. Tom Shearman, who redeveloped the Charleston, is a board member of the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana.

Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach, Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana CEO Lisa Verrette, and Noni and Tom Shearman prepare to cut the ribbon to reopen the Charleston. More than 200 people in attendance heard about the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, which has begun anew to build philanthropy in that area.



Jay Hollman

THE GOOD DOCTOR

TIM MUELLER

Mongolian hospital cardiologist trained at EKL in mid-2008. In conversations, Hollman was struck by the need for an electrocardiogram in Mongolia.

To buy the ECG, he started a charitable fund at the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. To pay for it, he secured about \$30,000 from anonymous donors.

Doctors use stethoscopes to diagnose hearts, but they yield only a glimpse. “What we learn from a stethoscope is about 10-to-15% of what we can learn from an Echo,” says Hollman. “You learn about the valves, the function of the heart, whether it’s contracting well or not...”

Two doctors from Mongolia, Amarjargal Badarch and Tserenpil Tsendjav (above, left and center), have trained to use the ECG at EKL, which has delighted Hollman’s heart. “It’s been so great to see how warmly they have been received by the hospital staff here. They have been invited to dinner, been taken different places.”

“I’ve done very little.”

—Mukul Verma

58

No gray areas about the role of medicine for Dr. Jay Hollman. In the debate between medical care as a right or a privilege, he is certain—“medicine is a ministry.”

He does his rounds at Earl K. Long. He has shared his knowledge of the heart with doctors in poorer nations. His most recent overseas lectures were in Mongolia, a country created by empire builder Ghengis Khan.

Location: Wedged between China and Russia. Size: Nearly as big as Alaska. Population: 2.9 million.

In September 2007, Hollman and his wife, Charlotte, also a doctor, landed in Ulaanbaatar’s Hospital 1. They taught on behalf of Christian Medical Education International.

The trip began enriching relationships. A

Jazz It Up!

with two great performances



Presented by the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and the River City Jazz Coalition



BLUE NOTE RECORDS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Photo credit - Jimmy Katz
Musicians (L-R) - Ravi Coltrane, Lewis Nash, Bill Charlap, Peter Bernstein, Nicholas Payton, Peter Washington, Steve Wilson

BLUE NOTE RECORDS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Thursday, Feb 26, 09
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PATTI AUSTIN

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