

# UL System News

Recap of Official Business of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System

**Dr. Sally Clausen**  
President

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Mr. Charles C. Teamer, Sr.

Mr. David Wright

## Universities

Grambling State University

Louisiana Tech University

McNeese State University

Nicholls State University

Northwestern State  
University

Southeastern Louisiana  
University

University of Louisiana at  
Lafayette

University of Louisiana at  
Monroe

## Clausen Outlines 2004 UL System Accomplishments

**Natchitoches, La.** – In 2004, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and its eight universities embarked on ambitious initiatives and charted significant results aimed at boosting the quality, efficiency and accountability of its institutions, UL System President Sally Clausen said.

The president of the 84,000-student university system outlined this past year's accomplishments at the Board's meeting at Northwestern State University.

Among the accomplishments, the UL System:

- Launched an initiative to boost retention and graduation rates above the national average

- Implemented a system-wide cost-savings initiative that will save about \$1.67 million annually in:

- ♦ Technology (about \$1.1 million in savings)

- ♦ Utilities (about \$420,000 in savings and cost avoidance)

- ♦ Debit cards (about \$150,000 per year saved in administrative costs)

- Secured permanent leadership for Grambling

State University after obtaining reaccreditation for the next 10 years

- Recruited better-prepared students who can meet higher admission standards in fall 2005

- ♦ The average ACT score for UL System institutions increased from 19.7 in 2003 to 20.2 in 2004.

- Increased the number of UL System education majors passing the teacher licensure exam (Praxis) by 6% -- from 93% in 2000 to 99% in 2004

- Increased the number of prospective teachers entering alternative certification programs at UL System universities by 14% since 2000

- Led the effort (along with the Governor's Office, the Board of Regents and the La. Department of Education) to secure a \$3.6 million Wallace Foundation grant to improve Louisiana's school leadership

- Increased opportunities for Louisiana teachers to



*UL System Supervisors Jimmy Long (left) and Winfred Sibille share a laugh during a break from their board meeting at Northwestern.*

obtain National Board Certification

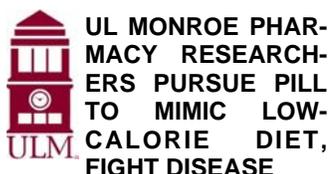
- Signed an agreement with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to ease transition from two-year campuses to UL System schools

- Committed to placing a greater emphasis on service learning and civic engagement by joining the national American Democracy Project

- Assisted ULS colleges of education in achieving the more rigorous national teacher education accreditation

- Increased the focus on university accountability and quality through athletic program reviews and institutional reviews.

## University Spotlight – UL Monroe



**UL MONROE PHARMACY RESEARCHERS PURSUE PILL TO MIMIC LOW-CALORIE DIET, FIGHT DISEASE**

MONROE, La. – Most people know that consuming fewer calories is good for their health; but achieving a lower-calorie diet is a challenge.

What if you could take a pill that would allow you to eat the foods you crave, but signal to your body that you're eating less? Thanks in part to researchers at UL Monroe, such a pill could be in the works, allowing people not only to be more fit but also to fight obesity and disease.

Scientists from the UL Monroe School of Pharmacy, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Toxicogenomics North Carolina and the Karolinska Institute of Sweden have discovered that PPAR-alpha, a receptor in the body that

helps lower cholesterol and triglycerides, also helps the body fight disease.

"We've found that this receptor that exists in all of us becomes more active as a result of a lower-calorie diet, actually helping the body fight disease" said Dr. Harihara M. Mehendale, ULM Professor and Kitty DeGree Endowed Chair in Toxicology. "More importantly, you don't have to be on a restricted diet for long before the body responds in this beneficial way."

Researchers are working to produce a drug that will trick the body into thinking it's getting fewer calories and increase the activity of the PPAR-alpha receptors.

The team examined the genetic changes that occurred over a month in mice fed a diet containing 35 percent fewer calories than normal. They then injected the mice with a toxin designed to attack the liver, and 70 percent of the mice survived.

"They were not immune

to the toxin, but their low-calorie diet made them better able to repair the damage and ultimately survive," Mehendale said. "We repeated the same experiment with mice that had been genetically altered to eliminate the PPAR-alpha receptor, and they died."

Researchers are years away from developing a pill to make PPAR-alpha receptors more active, but Mehendale says such work could have significant implications for the treatment of cancer and heart disease.

In the meantime, he said, diet and exercise are still the best way to maintain proper health.

Mehendale's research is being supported by grants from the Board of Regents Support Fund, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Marie Curie Fellowship of the European Community Program Human Potential, Swedish Science Council and KaroBio.



*ULM doctoral student Jaya Chilakapati conducts laboratory tests to determine the link between low-calorie diets and the ability to fight disease. She is among a number of students involved in research at the ULM School of Pharmacy.*

## Board Action

*The Board of Supervisors for the UL System took the following action during its December 2004 meeting:*

### Academic and Student Affairs

- Grambling: approved the request to award posthumously BA degree in Sociology to Mr. Steve Wayne Anderson
- Grambling: approved changing 1) Dept. of Health, Physical Education and Recreation to Department of Kinesiology, Sport and Leisure Studies and 2) undergraduate degree in Health and Physical Education to that of Kinesiology

- Northwestern: approved a letter of intent for M.S. degree program in Natural Systems Science
- Northwestern: awarded honorary Ph.D. of Humanities degree to Mr. Daniel Lee Chase, Spring 2005
- Southeastern: authorized and empowered University President to take action with respect to revocation of degrees, certificates, and credits upon completion of investigation and due process steps

### Joint Athletic and Finance

- Southeastern: approved an employment contract for William Kennedy, Head

Men's Basketball Coach, effective Nov. 1, 2004

- Grambling: appointed Willie E. Jeffries as Director of Athletics effective January 3, 2005
- Grambling: accepted the university's 2003-04 Financial and Compliance Representation letters

### Facilities Planning

- Nicholls: authorized the school to begin process of selecting firm to develop/implement comprehensive student housing plan utilizing a 502(c)3 not-for-profit corporation
- Nicholls: authorized the

school to proceed with process of planning/implementing street and parking improvements through NSU Facilities Corp., 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation

- Northwestern: approved the demolition of Rapides Residence Hall

### Personnel

- Northwestern: approved the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Byrd as Acting Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and Associate Provost, Jan. 11, 2005