The TGMC Wellness for Life team will work with you to keep your greatest asset, your employees, healthy and happy! Our Corporate Wellness Program will help control rising healthcare costs by improving your employees overall health, which leads to a more productive workforce and a boost in morale. Having a wellness program in place has also been proven to reduce absenteeism, injury and illness. Onsite wellness screenings could be covered by your health insurance at 100% with NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE! Think differently about employee health and happiness.

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On the Cover:

In this issue, read about what Terrebonne Parish School District Superintendent Philip Martin says about returning back to school, learn about new member Everybody’s Favorite Twins, get information about joining a Chamber Committee, and read what’s going on with our members with our member’s news section!

Member Milestones

August Anniversaries

15 Years
Kiwanis Club of Houma

5 Years
Downtown Business Association of Houma

Candlewood Suites

Calendar

AUGUST 2020:

8/4 Chamber Development Committee Meeting
Chamber Office/Virtual | Noon

8/11 Chamber Finance Committee Meeting
Chamber Office | 7:30 a.m.

8/11 Chamber Executive Committee Meeting
Chamber Office | 8:00 a.m.

8/18 Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber Office | 8:00 a.m.

8/19 Chamber Community Development (Education & Healthcare) Meeting
Chamber Office/Virtual | 8:30 a.m.

8/25 General Membership Luncheon
Reggie Dupre with Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District
Courtyard by Marriott | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information about Chamber Events call (985) 876-5600 or Email: info@houmachamber.com

Events in red denotes Chamber events
TERREBONNE PARISH SCHOOLS OPEN AMID COVID-19

We are looking forward to schools opening this year. Given the current COVID-19 crisis, it will be much different from any year prior. Based on information we have at this time, we plan to operate the Terrebonne Parish School District to minimize disruption to you and your family.

This school year, parents are being offered full-virtual learning as an option as well as traditional school classroom (Phase 2 & Phase 3). More information on virtual options are available on our district's webpage (tpsd.org).

With the start of school, we will be taking extra steps to support the health and safety of your children, your family, and our school staff.

Some of these are:
- Temperature checks of students upon arrival at school
- Masks for students in grades 3-12
- Masks for all adults
- Frequent and washing throughout the day
- Eliminate unnecessary movement of students as much as possible
- Decrease number of students in cafeteria, libraries, and computer labs
- Frequent disinfecting of highly touched surfaces
- Water fountains closed altogether

These are but a few of the protocols that will be in place. As we have seen, the COVID-19 pandemic creates a very fluid situation with many challenges. Changes will be necessary as the situation with the pandemic changes. We are planning to create as healthy of a learning environment as possible. In these uncertain times, working together is our objective. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Philip Martin
Superintendent
Thibodaux Regional Welcomes Dr. Ricky Miller, Interventional Radiologist

Thibodaux Regional Health System is pleased to announce the addition of Interventional Radiologist, Dr. Ricky Miller, to the active medical staff.

A native of Houma, Dr. Miller graduated from Nicholls State University and received his medical degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. He completed a General Surgery Internship at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. Miller performed his Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology Residency at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans.

As an interventional radiologist, Dr. Miller performs minimally invasive image guided procedures utilizing leading edge technology to both diagnose and treat numerous disease processes in nearly every organ system. These techniques reduce complications, decrease pain, and shorten recovery time as well as hospital stay. By employing the least invasive techniques currently available, interventional radiology can minimize patient risk and improve health outcomes.

Over the years, Dr. Miller’s medical education and training has allowed him to live in a number of different locations. However, he always has had an interest in returning to be part of the bayou community that he considers home.

Thibodaux Regional Welcomes Dr. Devin Bourgeois, Internal Medicine Physician

Thibodaux Regional Health System is pleased to announce the addition of Internal Medicine physician Dr. Devin Bourgeois, to the active medical staff.

Dr. Bourgeois will serve and treat patients at Thibodaux Regional Internal Medicine Clinic located 506 North Acadia Road, Thibodaux, (985) 493-4004.

A native of Thibodaux, Dr. Bourgeois graduated from Nicholls State University and received his medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association and the Louisiana State Medical Society.

After years spent away training to practice medicine, Dr. Bourgeois is very happy to be back home in Thibodaux and excited to serve the community he grew up in. He and his wife Katherine, also a Thibodaux native, look forward to raising their daughter in the community they both love so dearly. When not treating patients, Dr. Bourgeois enjoys nothing more than spending quality time with his family at the beach.

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Uniting community and building a stronger Terrebonne.
Chamber Connected!
Chamber Strong!
“Hi, I’m Cherry. Hi, I’m Sherry. And we are Everybody’s Favorite Twins.” This is Everybody’s Favorite Twins, Cherry and Sherry Wilmore’s signature tag line and audience introduction. The twins accepted their chosen nickname “our favorite twins”, as many of their friends and most people they meet affectionately call them, and turned it into a brand that they hope will be a household name. They use their social media platforms to be innovators and influencers within the community as well as on the internet, solidifying their presence as social media content creators.

Everybody’s Favorite Twins was formally established in July 2019 through a collaboration with Travion Smith on the principle that having a voice is vital, knowledge is power, and relationships are fundamental. It diverges from Cherry and Sherry’s belief of engaging anyone and never meeting a stranger.

Cherry and Sherry were born in Lake Charles, LA. They arrived in Houma at age ten byway of foster care and are graduates of Ellender Memorial High School and South Terrebonne High School, respectfully. Yes, Cherry and Sherry attended and graduated from different high schools as a way to establish and forge relationships outside of each other, independently. Even then, they knew the importance of networking and forming meaningful relationships. Cherry and Sherry went on to pursue Bachelors of Art degrees in Government from Nicholls State University in 2006 and have continued to pursue their education at Nicholls State University through the Master of Education program.

The Facebook audience of Everybody’s Favorite Twins loves their conversational approach and lively interactions with each other and their guests. Everybody’s Favorite Twins discusses a variety of topics such as foster care, mental health, government, and culinary. A cornerstone of their content is allowing local political candidates running for office to engage in conversations explaining their platforms in traditional and non-traditional formats. One of their unique experiences with a political candidate is when Sheriff Tim Soignet created his unique donut burger live with Everybody’s Favorite Twins, and it was one of their most viewed episodes.

While others may see having conversations involving difficult topics as uncomfortable and challenging, Everybody’s Favorite Twins view these conversations as crucial. Therefore, they use these crucial conversations to moderate vital topics to bridge gaps, build understanding, expand knowledge, and engage diverse groups needed to affect change in our community. Cherry and Sherry have moderated meetings between community members and community leaders to begin to forge these crucial conversations.

Cherry and Sherry hope their partnership with the Chamber of Commerce increases their reach and impact within their community. Cherry and Sherry plan to continue having diverse commentary, hosting, and moderating events and causes. Everybody’s Favorite Twins plan to continue allowing candidates explain their platforms, while also including current social, economic, and political issues facing our community and the community abroad to their repertoire. Everybody’s Favorite Twins plan to further use their love for conversations to participate in speaking engagements by bring their knowledge and passion to many diverse audiences. Everybody’s Favorite Twins intends to expand their platform by offering advertisement for local businesses, events, and causes.

Everybody’s Favorite Twins can be followed on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube under their brand’s name. Everybody’s Favorite Twins can be contacted via email at everybodyfavoritetwins@gmail.com and via phone at 985-381-8165. As their exit line goes, “Until next time Everybody’s Favorite Twins, out.”
Clyde Hamner Named Second Vice President of Louisiana Retired Teachers Association

Clyde Hamner, a Houma resident, was recently elected second vice president of the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association. In addition, Hamner will serve as Chairman of LRTA’s State Program Committee making him responsible for working with the district second vice presidents on program promotion.

“It is an honor to be elected to a leadership position in an organization that actively protects the quality of life of both current and future education retirees,” Hamner says. “LRTA has a long-standing history of advocating for the well-being of both retired and active teachers.”

Hamner remains heavily involved in Terrebonne Parish. He currently serves on the Terrebonne Parish School Board where he is Chairman of the Finance, Insurance, and Section 16 Lands Committee and serves as the school board’s Legislative Liaison. He is an active member of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Chamber’s Community Development Committee.

Hamner earned both of his bachelor’s degrees and his master’s in administration and supervision at Nicholls State University. He completed additional graduate hours with Louisiana State University, Nicholls, Tulane University and Loyola University. Hamner spent his teaching and administrative career in Terrebonne Parish and served as adjunct faculty at Nicholls.

The Louisiana Retired Teachers Association is a membership organization solely devoted to protecting and enhancing benefits for individuals receiving retirement benefits from the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana. LRTA represents over 20,000 retired educators and continues to promote the professional, social and economic welfare of all Louisiana retired educators. For more information about LRTA, visit lrta.net.

Vandebilt Catholic High School Appoints Head Baseball Coach

Vandebilt Catholic is pleased to announce the appointment of its new head baseball coach. Mr. Chad Menard has been chosen to lead the Vandebilt baseball program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Menard, a native of Eunice, Louisiana, has 20 years of coaching experience at the high school and college levels. In 2000, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Health and Human Performance from McNeese State University and furthered his education earning a Master’s in Health Promotions from McNeese in 2006. In 2000, Menard began his coaching and teaching career at Iowa High School and in 2003 won a district championship and was named the Southwest Louisiana Big Schools Coach of the Year. From 2004-2007, he was an assistant coach and HPRE Instructor at Louisiana State University - Eunice, where his accolades continued, earning a NJCAA Division II National Championship title in 2006. For the next 10 years, Menard took on the title of head baseball coach, teacher, and administrator at DeRidder High School, where he earned the title “Winningest Coach in School History” with a record of 213-175. His accolades there included 3 District Championships, 5 Coach of the Year Awards, 3 All-American players, and 8 All-State players. In 2018, Menard and his team were the 4A State Runner-Ups and earned most wins in a season for the DeRidder High School (35.) Menard spent this last school year (2019-2020) as the head baseball coach and teacher at New Iberia Senior High School, where his team’s season ended short due to COVID-19, but earned 4th in power rankings for the 2020 season. Menard will join the Vandebilt Catholic faculty this school year. Menard and his wife, JoAnna, have five children, Chipper, Alexis, Baylie, Krash, and Ashlyn.

Menard stated, “Vandebilt Catholic is a golden opportunity for me and my family. I am thankful to be chosen as head baseball coach and I’m ready to take off!”

Vandebilt Catholic High School congratulates Chad Menard for his commitment to the baseball program and to continuing the tradition of excellence of a Vandebilt Catholic education.
Nicholls Named Top Sales Program by Business Magazine

Sales Education Foundation has named the Nicholls State University sales program one of the best in North America. The 2020 SEF Annual Magazine listed Nicholls as one of the top universities for professional sales education. In the issue, the SEF recognizes the specialization and sales lab as two key factors of the program, as well as their 95 percent job placement rate.

“Recognition such as this is validation because it shows that even though we are one of the smallest programs on the list, that we are just as successful as larger schools in transforming the lives of our students,” said Laura Valenti, faculty sales advisor and assistant professor of marketing. “I am continuously impressed by the passion and ingenuity of our students. They are the true rock stars.”

The College of Business Administration includes a state-of-the-art sales lab located in Powell Hall and every spring hosts the Bayou Sales Challenge, which attracts schools from all over the Southeast. The Nicholls competitive sales team has developed a reputation for success in competitions across the U.S. going against larger universities. Nicholls is one of five schools in Louisiana to make the list, including LSU, Southeastern Louisiana University, Xavier University of Louisiana and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The nonprofit SEF has focused on advancing sales education for more than a decade by partnering with educational institutions to provide funding and aid research. They have published their magazine every year since 2007. For more information on the College of Business Administration, visit www.nicholls.edu/business.

The Catholic Foundation Makes Annual Distributions to Ministries

Bishop Shelton Fabre and the Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana Board of Directors recently made distributions from established endowments within the foundation. The Catholic Foundation is a Catholic community foundation established to promote philanthropy, empower priests, and inspire our community, and each year through the support of many gracious donors, endowments for our church parishes, schools and diocesan ministries continue to grow.

These endowments have been invested and managed by the Catholic Foundation with the intent to make an annual distribution to each beneficiary ensuring a consistent annual support of their mission. Members of the board are excited to make distributions this year, especially amidst this very difficult time, in the amounts of:

- $169,102 to the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux for seminarian education
- $66,740 to Catholic Charities
- $23,694 to E.D. White Catholic High School
- $10,994 to Vandebilt Catholic High School
- $8,576 to Assisi Bridge House with Catholic Charities
- $1,470 to Our Lady of Prompt Succor

For more information about The Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana and how your gifts can support your parish, school or favorite ministry, please contact our office at (985) 850-3116 or apsonson@htdiocese.org.

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Meet a CASA!

Our July “Meet a CASA” is Mrs. Rushelle Fitzgerald. Rushelle was sworn in as a CASA in April of 2016. Since that time, she has advocated on 4 cases for 6 children. She has been married for 37 years to Allan Fitzgerald and has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. After Rushelle retired, she wanted to give back to the community by volunteering with children. She decided that CASA would be the organization to join. Although she thought about quitting while she was going through the training, she pushed herself to complete it and she has no regrets. She says that CASA has opened her eyes to the reality of the cruel world that is right in our own backyards — that parents are causing severe harm to their own children.

When asked what advice she would give to anyone thinking of joining CASA, she said, “You are so desperately needed. Your heart will be broken by the stories that you will hear about and even more so by the stories that you become a part of. You have to be prepared to become an emotional wreck at times. You will wonder if you are actually making a difference. Then the day will come when your CASA child gives you the hello hugs or the goodbye hugs that will make it all worthwhile. You will then realize that you are making a difference in their lives. They melt into your heart the way that I thought only my children or grandchildren could.”

Just like Rushelle, you can be the voice for a child in foster care. To join our next training class beginning October 6, 2020 fill out our online application at: www.casofterrebonne.org

Meet a CASA!

Ginny Medina-Hamilton Selected as New Vandebilt Catholic Principal

Ginny Medina-Hamilton, a 1991 Vandebilt Catholic High School graduate, has been appointed principal of her alma mater effective for the 2020-2021 school year, it has been announced by Suzanne Troxclair, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Medina-Hamilton spent the last three years as the Director of Gifted, Talented, and Arts Education in the St. Charles Parish Public Schools system.

Medina-Hamilton succeeds Jeremy Gueldner, who was selected as Vandebilt Catholic’s next president for the upcoming school year.

A 24-year educator, her most current position allowed her to work with curriculum specialists in the professional development of teachers in all areas of instruction.

Medina-Hamilton also has experience with AdvancEd and school improvement core teams, and classroom teaching experience in Spanish, reading, and computer applications. Her administrative experience includes direct work in discipline, enrichment, safe schools, response to intervention efforts, and providing professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators.

“Mrs. Medina-Hamilton comes to our Vandebilt Catholic High School family with extensive experience and a deep knowledge of educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, and assessment through her years as a teacher, an administrator, and a school system director,” said Troxclair. “Her devotion to the Catholic faith, her passion for children, and her professional work ethic will afford our school family the opportunity to continue to grow both spiritually and academically. I am eager to witness all that is to come for our Vandebilt Catholic High School family!”

After her Vandebilt Catholic graduation, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Music Education from the University of New Orleans in 1996. She later earned a Masters of Education degree from Nicholls State University in 2015, with specialization in educational leadership.

Her teaching career included a nine-year stint directing choir and musical theater at Vandebilt Catholic, five years in the Terrebonne Parish School District as a vocal music instructor, then for the past ten years in St. Charles Parish as a choir director at J.B. Martin Middle School (where she earned Teacher of the Year accolades in 2013), assistant principal at Lakewood Elementary, and the past three years in the central office.

“I am excited to work alongside Mrs. Hamilton to serve the Vandebilt Catholic community,” said Gueldner. “She brings a tremendous amount of experience that will allow her to serve the needs of our students and their families. Her dedication to her faith and to educating young people will ensure the continued growth of our school for many years to come.”

CIS Establishes Endowment Fund In Honor Of Michael McElderry, MD

Cardiovascular Institute of the South (CIS) has established an endowment fund to benefit nursing students at South Louisiana Community College in honor of the late Michael McElderry, who provided cardiovascular care to the Acadia community for nearly 30 years.

The Cardiovascular Institute of the South, Mike McElderry Endowed Nursing Scholarship will be used for tuition, fees, uniforms and supplies for qualified students.

“Our hearts will always be with the McElderry family,” said CIS CEO David Konur. Mike was very passionate about patient care, and his patients loved him and were fiercely loyal to him.”

The CIS scholarship investment will be leveraged for one-to-one matching funds from the Louisiana Board of Regents through its Support Fund program for Two-Year Workforce Scholarships.

This donation is in line with CIS’s commitment to education in the growing field of medicine. CIS’s mission is to provide the highest-quality cardiovascular care available.

“Cardiovascular Institute of the South is a critical workforce partner of South Louisiana Community College, and we are proud to partner with CIS for clinical rotations of our nursing students,” said SLCC interim chancellor Dr. Vincent June. “Through this investment, CIS is adding yet another layer of support to the industry’s pipeline of high-quality nurses into the local workforce.”

The first award(s) for the endowment, which is based on the endowment’s market earnings, is expected to be made in Fall 2021. Practical Nursing and Registered Nursing students at SLCC with a 3.0 GPA or higher will be eligible to apply for the scholarship. To learn more about CIS, visit www.cardio.com.

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Stratify CEO Named to the Voices for Innovation Advisory Task Force

CEO of Stratify, LLC, Jason W. Bergeron, announces being named to the Voices For Innovation Advisory Task Force. Voices for Innovation (VFI) is a Microsoft-supported community of technology professionals and everyday Americans committed to advancing discussions about the most important technology policies. As citizen advocates, we champion public policies that foster innovation, support business growth, and enable technology to address societal challenges. Jason commented, “I have always enjoyed giving back to the community, and I am very excited to have the opportunity to give back on a larger scale.

One of the most recent programs that Jason joined forces with other VFI members and the International Association of Microsoft Channel Partners (IAMCP) on was to create the #TechforTR campaign. #Tech4TR is aiming to raise $25,000 to fund Team Rubicon’s ability to provide essential assistance to vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. You can get more information on this campaign at https://teamrubiconusa.org/tech4tr/

You can check out Jason’s profile and get more information on the Voices For Innovation website. https://www.voicesforinnovation.org/advisory/jason-bergeron/

Synergy Bank Donates to United Way’s Virtual Pack the Bus School Supply Drive

Synergy Bank (“Synergy”) and their employees recently donated a total of $7,200 to the United Way of South Louisiana’s Bayou Pack the Bus School Supply Drive. With Synergy donating $6,000 and their employees donating $1,200, their donation is more than half the campaign’s goal of $12,000.

This is the sixth year Synergy and United Way have partnered to coordinate the annual school supply drive to benefit local children and schools in both Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Due to the pandemic, the Bayou Pack the Bus School Supply Drive was moved online to www.bayoupackthebus.com.

“Now more than ever, we are seeing families who are in greater need in our parishes,” said Jerry Ledet, President and Chief Executive Officer of Synergy Bank. “Whether the schools are online or in-person, we want to be able to help students obtain the supplies they need to help them succeed.”

All monetary donations are being accepted now throughout the month of July on the website, at the United Way office or at any Synergy Bank locations in the drive thru. One hundred percent of the money collected will be used to purchase supplies that will be shipped directly to the school boards in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes for dissemination to the students.

United Way of South Louisiana encourages other businesses to host their own campaign to benefit the drive. Sign up today by contacting the United Way of South Louisiana at 985-879-2461 or email achampagne@uwsla.com.

Parents who need help with school supplies can contact their local school board representatives: Terrebonne Parish: Kwanzaa Johnson, 985-879-6400 ext. 264 Lafourche Parish: Quintina Brown, 985-532-2508

Learn more at www.bayoupackthebus.com or at facebook.com/BayouPackTheBus.

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Nicholls Names Former Football Player, Coach Terrell as Athletic Director

Nicholls State University has named former Colonel football player and coach Jonathan Terrell (BA ‘98) as its director of athletics. Terrell is the first Black athletic director in Nicholls history and has more than two decades of proven sales and coaching success.

“I am grateful to Dr. Clune and the committee for giving me the opportunity to work at a place that I love,” Terrell said. “I am honored to be able to lead this department and continue the climb. Whether it’s in the classroom, on the field of play or in the community, we will be one team with one goal in mind, winning.”

A press conference introducing Terrell as athletic director will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 29.

“An athletic director doesn’t win a single game,” said Nicholls President Dr. Jay Clune. “You need someone of superior judgment to put the right team of coaches in place to be successful. Jonathan Terrell has that judgment. Going into the search, I was looking for someone of unquestionable integrity and character who could raise money. I couldn’t be happier with our selection.”

Terrell takes over an athletic department in the midst of historic success both athletically and academically:

- This past Spring, the Colonel athletics programs combined for a school-record 3.31 GPA and 10th year in a row of successful NCAA Academic Progress Rate scores.
- The Nicholls Football program has won back-to-back Southland Conference Championships and participated in the NCAA Playoffs three years in a row.
- The Nicholls Softball team won the 2018 regular-season conference championship and played in back-to-back Southland Conference Tournament finals.
- The Nicholls men’s basketball team won the 2017-2018 regular-season conference championship.
- The Nicholls women’s basketball team won the 2018 Southland Conference Tournament and participated in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in history. In 2019, the team was invited to the Women’s Basketball Invitational postseason tournament.

Colonel Athletics have been growing in popularity with season ticket sales on the rise. Additionally, the athletic department received the largest single gift in Nicholls history to renovate and expand Barker Hall.

“Jonathan Terrell set himself apart early in the process because of his love and passion for Nicholls. He is the right person to keep the momentum we have going and built upon.” Lindsay McKaskle, interim athletic director and chair of the search committee said. “I want to thank Dr. Clune for his trust in me to serve as interim athletic director and as chair of the search committee. I also want to thank the members of the committee for their time and commitment to the process. I am excited about the future with JT at the helm.”

Terrell played quarterback and wide receiver for the Colonels from 1993-96 when head football coach Tim Rebowe was still an assistant coach for the Colonels, and worked with the program as a student assistant during the 1997-1998 seasons. After six years in the high school coaching ranks – including five at Vanderbilt Catholic High School – Terrell returned to Nicholls to coach quarterbacks during the 2004 season for coach Darryl Daye.

Since leaving the coaching ranks, Terrell has excelled as a leader, fundraiser, sales professional and brand manager. He spent 2005-2010 in sales with Sanofi-Aventis before joining Lifescan as a senior territory business manager. In 2012, he joined Novo Nordisk as a territory manager and grew revenue in the territory by 30 percent in his first year. The following year he joined Zoll Medical Lifevest as a senior territory manager. He was named regional manager of the year three times from 2015-2017, and the top territory manager out of 550 in 2017.

Since 2005, he has also put his networking and strategic management skills to work for the Colonel Athletic Department. As president of The First Down Club, he grew membership by more than 150 percent and raised revenue from $8,000 to more than $100,000. He co-founded the Huddle Up Club in 2015 and has served as president for the last five years. He raised more than $60,000 for the football program through fundraising events. He also saved the athletic department $30,000 through volunteer efforts, including cleaning up Guidry Stadium. The program is now the largest sports-specific booster club in Nicholls history.

Terrell is also deeply involved in the community, serving on the board of Hi-5, an after school development program in Thibodaux, and serves on various committees for First United Methodist Church in Thibodaux.

Colonel Pride is abundant through the Terrell family. His wife, Taryn (BA ‘99), daughter Katelyn (BA ‘19) and son-in-law Darius Coleman (BA ‘18) are Nicholls alum. Katelyn is also an admissions counselor in the Office of Enrollment Services. Twin daughters Meagan, a psychology major, and Makena, a business major, are currently sophomores at Nicholls. Maegan, and nephew, Tyrease Terrell, are student-athletes, playing soccer and basketball, respectively, for the Colonels. His youngest son, Jacob, is a die-hard Colonel fan. For more information on Nicholls Athletics, visit GeauxColonels.com.

“You need someone of superior judgment to put the right team of coaches in place to be successful. Jonathan Terrell has that judgment.”

Dr. Jay Clune, Nicholls President

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Chamber Member for 36 Years
Terrebonne General Medical Center First in the State to Offer New CT Scanner

Terrebonne General Medical Center (TGMC) is the first and only facility in the state to use the new Computed Tomography (CT) scanner, the GE Revolution Frontier Gen 2. This breakthrough technology makes diagnostic imaging safer and faster for patients while using low doses of radiation to create exceptionally high-quality images.

CT scan images provide medical experts with more detailed information than traditional X-rays. A CT scan combines a series of X-ray images taken from different angles around the body. CT scans can give a clearer picture of a variety of internal conditions that X-rays or physical exams can miss, such as colon or lung cancer or vascular blood clots. They are especially helpful in quickly examining people who may have internal injuries from trauma, such as car accidents. Similar to X-rays, CT scans involve radiation. TGMC’s new CT scanner allows a technologists to adjust the radiation dose based on the patient’s age and weight, limiting the radiation exposure to only what is absolutely necessary.

By using the most advanced technology available in the state, patients will experience shorter breath-holds and wait times during scans. The comfort of the patient will also be improved as the new technology allows for an overall quieter experience, peaceful scenery videos and instructional videos.

In addition, TGMC’s new CT scanner offers a large reduction in calcium blurring and solid structure artifact. It also captures images faster than traditional CT scanners giving medical professional more information to increase confidence in diagnosis.

“Our new CT scanner allows us to continue to improve lives through world-class diagnostic imaging,” said Phyllis Peoples, President and CEO. “By using the most advanced technology in the state, patient safety and comfort will be improved while our medical providers receive the highest quality images possible to be confident in their diagnoses and treatment plans.”

Danos Wins Shell Production Contract

Danos has been awarded a contract with Shell Exploration and Production Company, a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell plc, to provide a production workforce across Shell production assets in the Gulf of Mexico, including Appomattox, Auger, Enchilada, Salsa, Mars, Ursa, Olympus, Perdido and Stones.

The three-year contract began on May 1 and will employ 144 Danos personnel in a variety of positions including: crane operations, control room and process operators, electricians, electronic technicians, instrument technicians, logistics and onsite supervisors.

“Danos and Shell have partnered since 1971, and we are proud to continue that relationship,” said owner Eric Danos. “With a 73-year history, Danos has lived through many industry cycles. In today’s market, we understand the need to find innovative ways to provide services to our customers, and this contract is an example of that.”

A family-owned company, Danos was founded in 1947. The company has eight office locations throughout Louisiana and Texas and has operations across the shale plays of the Eagle Ford, Delaware Basin, Marcellus/Utica, Permian Basin and Gulf of Mexico.
Chamber Committees: Be a Voice

Let’s talk about how you, our valued Chamber members, can do a little more in our community! Did you know our Chamber has 4 Committees that deal with community issues? What does the committees do you ask? Issues are brought about at our monthly meetings and you get to have a voice about current events. Here’s a list of our committees:

1. Chamber Development Committee: Division Vice-Chair: LaDonna Cruse, Stephanie Hebert Insurance Agency | Chair: Blanca Robinson, VIVA Consulting Group LLC

The Houma Chamber’s volunteer Ambassadors are a group of business professionals who support the Chamber’s mission by helping to grow and maintain a strong membership base through activities that promote member recruitment, engagement, and retention. Ambassadors interact with members to provide information, celebrate and encourage membership growth and prosperity, and serve as an additional resource and communication link between the Chamber and its members.

They are the face of the Chamber and are occasionally mistaken for staff members because they assist with Chamber functions and meetings. The Ambassadors attend ribbon cuttings and reach out to new and existing members.

2. Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee: Division Vice-Chairman: Mitchell Marmonde, Delta Coast Consultants, LLC. | Chairman: Vacant

The Economic Development Committee monitors issues that impact economic development in the parish including the efforts of the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority. The committee has worked on parish beautification and gateway improvement projects and listens to business-related issues brought forth from individual members.

The Infrastructure Committee works with the parish and other entities to advocate for improvements to local infrastructure including roads, bridges and telecommunications.

3. Community Development Committee (Education & Healthcare): Division Vice-Chairman: Dr. Kristine Strickland, Fletcher Technical Community College | Education Chairman: Steven Barbera, Regions Bank

The Education Committee advocates for quality education and workforce development in the public-school system as well as Fletcher Technical Community College and Nicholls State University.

The Healthcare Committee advocates for quality, affordable healthcare. It also monitors healthcare legislation, evaluates reform options that decrease the current strain on our nation’s job creators, and educates businesses on the possible effects of recent healthcare legislation.

4. Government Activities Committee: Division Vice-Chairman: Nicholas "Nick" Hebert, Quality Energy Services

The Government Activities Committee monitors local, state and federal political issues that might impact the business community and/or the citizens of Terrebonne Parish. The committee reviews several bills and recommends that the Chamber support or oppose some of them.

Contact the Chamber today to participate in our committees! We’re always open for new committee members, and please keep in mind amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering committee members to come to the office or attend virtually for meetings. We’ll be seeing you soon!

Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland Appointed to Commission

Fletcher Technical Community College Chancellor, Kristine Strickland, Ph.D., has been appointed to the American Association of Community Colleges’ Commission on Institutional Infrastructure and Transformation. Her commission appointment dates are July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023.

The Commission on Institutional Infrastructure and Transformation will be charged with focusing on the transformation of the institution to improve student success, which includes administrative processes, infrastructure, technology and building human resource capacity.

As the voice of the nation’s community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), delivers educational and economic opportunity for 12 million diverse students in search of the American Dream. Uniquely dedicated to access and success for all students, AACC’s nearly 1,000 member colleges provide an on-ramp to degree attainment, skilled careers and family-supporting wages. Located in Washington, D.C., AACC advocates for these not-for-profit, public-serving institutions to ensure they have the resources and support they need to deliver on the mission of increasing economic mobility for all. https://www.aacc.nche.edu/

Nicholls State University Ranked Among Top 50 Most Affordable Online

OnlineSchoolsReport.com ranked Nicholls State University in its top 50 for most affordable online programs.

Nicholls was ranked No. 49 by the online resource. Nicholls Online has nine bachelor’s programs: business administration, English, health sciences, history, interdisciplinary studies, nursing, political science, psychology - pre counseling and sociology.

“This ranking is one of many that shows our commitment to providing the Bayou Region a respected and affordable option to further their education,” said Dr. Sue Westbrook, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Earning a bachelor’s degree from Nicholls has proven to be a path to climbing the economic ladder.”

OnlineSchoolsReport.com used six data points to determine its top 50:

• student satisfaction,
• graduation rates,
• number of programs,
• the median debt of graduates,
• admission rates,
Girls Who Code Virtual Camp Teaches Students Stem Skills and Life Lessons

Recently, 30 local girls participated in a virtual camp focused on computer coding and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as well as sisterhood, and how to be “brave not perfect.” The Girls Who Code Satellite Summer Session, which was sponsored by Chevron and hosted by Terrebonne Foundation for Academic Excellence (TFAE), offered hands-on STEM activities, interactive lessons, and online collaboration.

The girls learned the basics of computer programming and put their new skills to the test by coding their own characters and participating in numerous activities - including games, mad libs, and dance battles. Using Makey Makey kits, an electronic invention tool and toy, they also connected everyday objects to their computer. This allowed for them to learn about open and closed circuits, technology, and more.

“When campers pair their new coding skills with their Makey Makey kits, that’s where the magic really happens for them,” Katie Portier, TFAE Executive Director said. “One camper used their resources and a toy car to power her computer, while another made a piano with bananas as keys. It’s a lot of fun for them to try different items to see what works and what doesn’t.”

In addition, the camp featured two speakers. Leah Brown of Chevron shared the specifics of her STEM career, while offering the girls advice on time management and staying focused on their goals. Alyssa Carson, NASA’s youngest astronaut in training, talked about what’s required to prepare for a career in space, as well as her plans to walk on Mars in the next 10 years.

“I was blessed to have a great mentor at an early age, who instilled in me a love for STEM learning,” said Leah Brown, Public Affairs Manager for Chevron’s Gulf of Mexico Business Unit. “My hope is that these young girls completed the camp feeling inspired and were instilled with that same love of learning. I was grateful to have had the chance to speak with them about my experiences and encourage them to continue their STEM education.”

Girls Who Code is an international organization that offers opportunities for girls to learn about STEM through coding. The group also works to build confidence, a sense of sisterhood, and encourage bravery as girls explore typically male-dominated STEM career paths. Girls Who Code was first introduced to Terrebonne Parish when TFAE and Chevron funded a grant to local teacher Melissa Williamson to start her own club. Since then, the program has grown regionally through other school-based clubs and the annual camp sponsored by Chevron. Melissa, along with four other TPSD teachers and counselors, served as camp facilitators. Due to COVID-19, this year’s camp connected the girls virtually.

“We are incredibly grateful to Chevron for their continued support of TFAE and local education,” Portier said. “While hosting the camp virtually presented challenges, these girls overcame every obstacle and worked very hard. We are so proud of all they have accomplished and hope they will use their experience to further explore their interest in STEM.”

Thanks to Chevron’s donation, the girls were each given STEM Activity kits with their Makey Makey kits, all the supplies needed, a science journal, a Hidden Figures novel, and lots of other fun items like a camp t-shirt, candy, popcorn, a binary bracelet making kit, and much more. Chromebooks were also provided for those who needed them to participate in the camp.

To view a digital showcase of the girls’ projects and to learn more about Girls Who Code, visit www.tfae.org/girls-who-code.

Fletcher Receives Anatomage Table from Step Grant

Fletcher Technical Community College has been awarded a State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant for an Anatomage Table. As explained at https://www.anatomage.com/table/, the Anatomage Table is the only fully segmented real human 3D anatomy system. Users can visualize anatomy exactly as they would on a fresh cadaver. Individual structures are reconstructed in accurate 3D, resulting in an unprecedented level of real accurate anatomy, dissectible in 3D. Anatomy is presented as a fully interactive, life-sized touch screen experience, in operatory bed form. The Table allows for exploration and learning of human anatomy beyond what any cadaver could offer.

“Fletcher continues to strive to find new and innovative ways to educate our students,” commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. “We are excited about the addition of the Anatomage Table for our nursing and allied health students. This technology will significantly enhance the education and training our students receive, and will ensure that our graduates will be highly prepared for their health care career and will be prepared to provide our community with the best care possible.”

The Anatomage Table is used in institutions such as the University of Miami, Boston University, the University of Illinois, Stanford University, and the Mayo Clinic (FL), as well as news outlets such as TED Talks, PBS, the BBC, Forbes, and the San Francisco Chronicle.

The table will be in use this fall by Fletcher’s Nursing, Surgical Technology, Cardiopulmonary, and Biology students.
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