



COMMUNIQUÉ

SCIA honors achievements at 22nd annual banquet

By Scott Yoshonis, Staff Writer, Houma Today, edited by Christy Alley Naquin



Paul Danos passes the President's Gavel to Chett Chiasson.

The South Central Industrial Association installed its new officers and gave out two awards for local achievement at the association's 22nd annual banquet at The Cypress Columns in Gray in July.

Among his last acts as outgoing president, Paul Danos, with Danos, awarded Lance Trotti of Paul's Agency the Tillman Esteve Outstanding Member Award for his work with the SCIA's annual golf outing fundraiser and the President's Award to longtime group Treasurer Charles Theriot.

The Tillman Esteve Award is presented each year in honor of founding board member Tillman Esteve from Bollinger Shipyards.

"Lance has done a great job," Danos said. "Our golf tournament every year is huge, it brings a lot of people together and he does a lot of hard work."

Theriot has been a part of SCIA since its inception, but said he had no inkling until Danos announced the President's award that he would be receiving it.

"It was definitely a surprise," Theriot said. "It means a lot, because I value my membership in the SCIA very highly. To be honored by an organization that you hold in that esteem is a big thing, a really big thing."

Danos said that choosing Theriot for the President's Award had a bit of a personal meaning for him.

"We've become very good friends over the last five years," Danos

said. "I've really appreciated his perspective on history and where we've come from, but he was willing to really think about how we get better and improve, how we take it forward. I really had a lot of fun working with C.T."

Chett Chiasson of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was installed as the new SCIA president at the banquet.

"It means a lot to me to be part of an organization that's all about leadership in our industry," Chiasson said. "That's who we are in south Louisiana, and it's an honor for me to represent this organization for the next year."

State Rep. Jerome "Zee" Zeringue, R-Houma, served as master of ceremonies of the event, and motivational speaker Jay Rifenbary delivered the keynote address. Lori Davis, a Past President of SCIA installed the new officers and directors.

Other officers installed at the banquet were:

- Executive Vice President Jared Toups, OBT International.
- Vice President Stuart Fauchaux, Express Supply and Steel.
- Treasurer Charles Theriot, Charles C. Theriot and Co., CPAs.
- Secretary Mitch Marmande, Delta Coast Consultants.

The 2019-20 SCIA Board of Directors consists of:

- Wynn Radford, BP.
- Lori LeBlanc, Lori LeBlanc LLC.
- Eric Bollinger, Bollinger Shipyards.
- Joni Tuck, Shell.
- Kristine Strickland, Fletcher Technical Community College.
- Past President Paul Danos, Danos.



Lance Trotti



Charles Theriot

A Message from our President



It is indeed an honor to have been chosen by you to preside over SCIA for the upcoming year. When I started my career at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission back in 2005, I quickly recognized the importance and stature of SCIA and knew I needed to be a part of it. When you look back at the founding members of SCIA and the list of past presidents of the organization, all you can say is WOW! What great people and Leaders, and now, for my name to be added to the list is simply amazing to me.

As President, I can only hope to continue the great work of all the folks that have come before us. Since 2015, I have had the opportunity to be a part of the SCIA Board and work with amazing people, and I look forward to working with the board for the 2019-2020 year. In the upcoming year we hope to enhance the services provided to SCIA members. Our 6 committees (ICE, POWER, Crawfish Boil, Golf, Banquet, and Workforce Development) are led by excellent members and perform very important tasks. I encourage you to become involved with our committees. In terms of monthly meetings, we strive to bring in speakers that can give us timely information that makes a difference to you and your business. We welcome speaker recommendations from you, so please let us know who you may want to hear from or what topics you may want to hear about.

An organization is nothing without its membership, so thank you for being a part of SCIA. We are so fortunate to have such a well-respected, impactful, successful membership. I and the rest of the board are excited for the year to come and look forward to success for your business and SCIA.

Thanks,
Chett Chiasson
SCIA PRESIDENT



Chett Chiasson
President



Jared Toups
Exec. Vice President



Stuart Fauchaux
Vice President



Mitch Marmande
Secretary



Charles Theriot
Treasurer



Paul Danos
Past President



Lori LeBlanc
Director



Wynn Radford
Director



Eric Bollinger
Director



Kristine Strickland
Director



Joni Tuck
Director

Executive Director Christy Alley Naquin

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Finance Charles Theriot
Golf Tournament Lance Trotti
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POWER Henri Boulet, Simone Maloz, Joni Tuck
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From the Director's Desk

August is now upon us, which means Fall is just around the corner. That may be hard to fathom considering the recent temperatures!

Just like the changes in seasons, so too are there changes for SCIA. We just welcomed our new SCIA Board President to the helm, Chett Chiasson, Director of Port Fourchon.

Chett already has our Board Retreat scheduled for later this month where we will concentrate on the direction of the Association and discuss what is important to our members. We'd like to hear from you! What can we do to better serve you? What can we improve upon? What have we been doing right? What speakers would you like to hear from? What workshops would you like us to organize?

We are here for you and want to hear from you!

On another note, tell all of your HR Staff about our FREE HR Workshop on Sept 26th (see pg 21 for details). And don't waste any time getting your golf team together and submitting your registration and/or sponsorship forms. (See pages 19 & 20). We already have 39 teams signed up and we want to include you too!!

See you at our next event and be sure to shoot me an email about how we can make SCIA work better for you!

Christy Alley Naquin

SCIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ConocoPhillips gives back to the coast and the community

By: Christy Alley Naquin



John Harrington

At the July General Membership Meeting, John Harrington, Director of the Coastal Wetlands for ConocoPhillips, gave an informative presentation on the company's wetland acres in south Louisiana and its work to restore and protect the coast. You see, they're not your typical oil and gas company.

So, exactly who is ConocoPhillips? It is the world's largest independent exploration and production (E&P) company based on proved reserves and production of liquids and natural gas. Its Lower 48 operations represent the largest segment in ConocoPhillips today based on production with 10.3 million net acres, much of it held by production. The Lower 48 is broken into two regions: Great Plains and Gulf Coast. Harrington concentrated on the latter in his discussion.

Through its subsidiary, The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company LLC, ConocoPhillips is the largest private wetlands landowner in the state, and even the nation, with approximately 636,000 acres of predominantly wetlands.

The Coastal Wetlands team (office in Houma) manages a high volume of commercial and recreational activity. They handle more than 2,000 contracts for hunting, campsites, trapping, fishing, alligator and oyster farming and other commercial uses. They maintain mineral lease maps and perform title work, manage property boundaries via airboat and aerial surveillance, and monitor/maintain water control structures, some dating back to the 1950s.

Perhaps more importantly, the team proactively participates in initiatives for land and marshland recovery to continue the company's long history of environmental stewardship.

ConocoPhillips grants access to universities who want to perform research and studies on their property free of charge. Research topics include terrace effectiveness, water control structures, marsh vegetation, currents, wave action, ducks, shorebirds and other wildlife.

ConocoPhillips also has a longstanding relationship with Ducks Unlimited. Since 2012, ConocoPhillips has invested \$8 million with Ducks Unlimited for restoration efforts like terracing, shoreline protection and marsh creation. Through their common goals, values and collaborative efforts, ConocoPhillips and Ducks Unlimited have completed 15 projects benefitting 15,000 acres.

ConocoPhillips is also a very committed stakeholder in the community and philanthropically supports organizations such as Hope Extreme, Terrebonne ARC, 4-H, South LA Wetland Discovery Center, and Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish sheriff offices and school boards.

Harrington said, "We are proud of our continued environmental stewardship and we are committed to our partnerships in this community." He encouraged further conversation to evaluate collaboration opportunities in pursuit of maximizing collective restoration and protection efforts in the coastal zone. 

Coastal Day highlights progress on flood protection, coastal restoration

By Halle Parker, Staff Writer, Houma Today, as edited by Christy Alley Naquin

Hundreds of people flocked to the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center for Terrebonne Parish's second biannual Coastal Day.

The day gives the parish an opportunity to showcase its progress on flooding protection and coastal restoration projects, informing the public about its completed and ongoing projects.

As visitors walked into the auditorium, they were greeted by some examples of the large heavy equipment used in the projects, sitting in the middle of the room. To the right, people walked through a replica of the Morganza-to-the-Gulf levee system.

Photos of the different levees and floodgates involved were on the wall, showing the full length of the system. Drone footage of the projects played on television screens.

Anthony Verdin, a Lafourche Parish resident, said he was drawn to the event because he wanted to make sure he was keeping up with the coastal protection effort. Verdin said he also went to the first Coastal Day in 2017. He said the projections about flooding and the loss of wetlands does worry him at times. "I want to learn everything that

we're doing to try to slow it because I know we won't stop it," said Verdin.

Various coastal groups and programs set up tables in the Civic Center, providing information about their own missions and answering questions.

Lori LeBlanc, the managing director for the Morganza Action Coalition (and SCIA Board Member), said the table gave her group the opportunity to inform more people as most people don't know all the organizations involved in making the flood protection and restoration projects happen. She said that was why the Coastal Day event was great in general.

"It's valuable to raise awareness and help residents understand where their tax dollars are going," she said, especially since the parish residents tax themselves to generate revenue for a lot of the projects. LeBlanc said few people in the parish have access to physically go out and see the projects themselves. "We can't all get out there on the levees, so we bring the levees here," she said.

The day started with a state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority board meeting followed by the dedication of the

Falgout Canal "Jimmy Dagate" Floodgate before the Coastal Day event opened at 3 p.m.

Around 5:30 p.m., local and state officials gave remarks and spoke on panels, including Gov. John Bel Edwards.

Edwards commended the willingness of the parish residents to work to protect themselves as well as the actions taken by the CPRA, noting that the agency will have more hurricane protection and restoration projects underway by the end of this year than at any other time in history.

He said he's also proud that coastal protection and restoration haven't become political issues and remain based in science.

"It's not a partisan issue," he said. "It is an issue of survival."

Tony Alford, who has been Terrebonne Parish Levee and Conservation District board president for 15 years, was also recognized for his dedication by the state and his peers today.

The parish expects to have its next Coastal Day in another two years. 🇺🇸

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Female representation on boards is slowly growing

By Annie Ourso Landry, Greater Baton Rouge Business Report

In early March, ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery Manager Gloria Moncada was elected chairwoman of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.

In announcing her new role, the organization marked the occasion as an important milestone, noting that she is the first female chairwoman in the organization's 97-year history.

It's a reminder that the number of women serving on corporate boards across the world is rising, albeit slowly, and the same seems to hold true for several of Baton Rouge's most prominent boards.

Fifteen years ago, women held just 15.7% of board seats at Fortune 500 companies. Today that percentage has risen to females comprising 25.5% of top corporate board seats worldwide, according to Fortune.

In Louisiana's Capital Region, business leaders have made conscious efforts to diversify leadership by adding more women to their boards, some of which are at or near the national average.

Women represent a quarter of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber's Board of Directors, for example, holding 16 out of 63 seats. BRAC, in fact, is among area business boards with the highest female representation. Embracing the business case for diversity, says BRAC President and CEO Adam Knapp, is part of the chamber's five-year plan.

"We began intentionally recruiting board members with diverse personal or corporate backgrounds," Knapp says. "We want this to ensure a robust dialogue and diversity of thought on behalf of the busi-

ness community."

Local health care institutions also boast high levels of women on boards, comparatively speaking. Women make up 38.5% of the representation on the Women's Hospital board. Meanwhile, women hold 25% of the seats of Baton Rouge General's board and 19% on the Our Lady of the Lake board. Baton Rouge-based Amedisys, a major public home health company, has two women serving on its nine-member board, putting its female representation at 22%.

Women are also gaining seats in heavy industry. In addition to Moncada as its new chairwomen, women make up 22% of Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association's 27-member board.

"I believe diversity on any board helps fuel creativity, expand perspectives and challenge paradigms," Moncada says. "All of these things drive better decisions and better results."

Women are also serving on other industrial sector boards, holding, for example, 9% of the seats on the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association.

The state's largest business lobby—the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry—also has been actively recruiting women, who now make up 16% of the organization's governing board. That percentage is even higher on the LABI executive committee, where women hold 22% of the seats.

"We've seen great improvement but still continue to improve even more," LABI President and CEO Stephen Waguespack says. "When I meet with employers around state, I see growing awareness of more

females and minorities in leadership. It's a good thing."

Still, there are some organizations in which female board representation is scarce—or nonexistent. Not a single woman serves on the nine-member board of one of largest public companies in Baton Rouge: H&E Equipment Services. Another, Lamar Advertising, has one woman on its seven-member board.

Banks also appear to have a smaller percentage of women on boards. Although the executive team at Business First Bank is 18% women, its board of directors remains all male. Two females serve on Investar Bank's board, which equates to about 14% female representation, and one woman serves on the bank's holding company board.

Female executives have the experience to serve on boards, says Investar Bank CEO John D'Angelo, but the pool of women in C-suite roles is limited. D'Angelo notes just 6.6% of Fortune 500 companies are led by female CEOs. And many women must balance work with home lives, which can make it difficult to also serve on boards. But that hasn't stopped Investar from seeking out women for these positions.

"I feel that Investar has more female executive managers than most other banks," D'Angelo says. "Many banks have created a 'good ol' boy' senior management team. We have not only broken that mold but smashed it. I started Investar 13 years ago with three women who are still executive managers today." 

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Safety training facility to be built in Gray

By Scott Yoshonis, Staff Writer, Houma Today, as edited by Christy Alley Naquin

There is good news for the local economy with the expansion of a Lafayette safety-training company into Terrebonne Parish.

Bryan Aucoin, CEO of M&A Safety Services, and new member of SCIA, has announced that his company will expand into Terrebonne Parish with a new facility in Gray. Construction has begun on the new facility, which will employ 25-30 people full time, both safety training professionals and administrative staff.

M&A Safety Services "provides any safety training that's required to work offshore, or onshore, in the oil and gas industry," Aucoin said.

The company's Lafayette training center is a 20,000-square-foot facility located in Youngsville. It contains 17 multimedia classrooms, two indoor heated pools, a hydraulic crane, a confined space simulator,

a fall protection simulator and numerous firefighting simulators designed to simulate various types of fires.

Aucoin said the facility will be designed to train about 200 people at any one time.

"The inside of our building is like a school," Aucoin said. "There are a bunch of classrooms and two indoor pools as well where we do the helicopter underwater egress training for offshore rigs in both the Gulf of Mexico and international waters."

Aucoin, a native of Thibodaux, said Terrebonne Parish was a logical place for a new training facility. "It's a hot spot for the oil and gas industry," he said. "A lot of our clients in Lafayette also have offices in the Houma area, and they know it's best to train their employees where they live as opposed to where they work, because they save on hotel costs, travel expenses and such."

That could signal good news for the local economy. Aucoin said his business is something of a bellwether, with companies investing in training new employees in anticipation of expanding their operations.

"When we started our business in 2016, it was a depressed time in the industry," Aucoin said. "But we knew that when the market got strong again, we'd be one of the first service companies to get busy because (workers) have got to have the training before they go back to work."

Aucoin said the hiring process will begin in the fourth quarter of 2019 with the goal of opening for business early in 2020.

"There are a lot of people going back to work right now," Aucoin said. "Our business has grown every month since it opened, and it continues to grow today." 

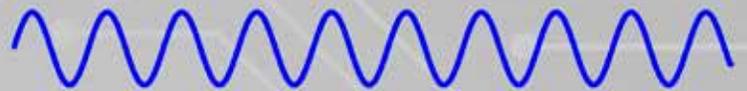
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Opinion: Shell and Terrebonne Parish – working with nature together

By: Rick Tallant, Vice President of Production

The Louisiana coast is one of the most dynamic, productive, bountiful, beautiful and challenging landscapes on earth. As a company with a presence in Louisiana for over 100 years, we know that the natural challenges facing our working coast are among the most urgent anywhere in the world. Shell is committed to working side by side with local governments, state agencies and other partners to meet these complex issues head-on.

The latest example of our commitment is Shell's donation of over 4,000 acres of land in Terrebonne Parish that will improve drainage capacity and livability in this coastal parish.

Knowing of Shell's interest in providing better protections for the community, businesses and assets, Terrebonne officials approached us with the idea to utilize this property to harness these wetlands to hold stormwater runoff during large rainfall or storm events, and we jumped at it.

Located off Savanne Road and La. 311 in Houma, this 4,139-acre swamp and wetland site has the potential to store over 1.8 billion gallons of stormwater from the areas surrounding Ellendale, Bayou Cane, Gray, Schriever, Martin Luther King Boulevard and Bayou Terrebonne and then release it slowly into the adjacent swamp and waterways. This slower release not only reduces flood risk for homes

and businesses in the Houma area but also improves water quality in the adjacent marshes by filtering stormwater naturally before releasing it back out in to the environment.

For Shell, our investment in coastal and community resiliency and adaptation in the face of the great challenges faced by our working coast is more than corporate social responsibility – it's about our survival, too.

In Louisiana, Shell has over 4,000 active employees and another 4,000-plus retirees who call this beautiful and bountiful place our home. Our global deep water business has its roots in the bayou region. We continue to service these assets from here, and we maintain a network of approximately 2,500 miles of pipelines. Throughout our history in Louisiana, Shell has looked for ways to enhance community resiliency. This donation underscores that commitment.

Another example of these large investments in resiliency and adaptation is our long-term commitment to the La. 1 highway elevation project in Lafourche Parish. Since 1997, we have provided \$2.4 million to assist the state of Louisiana in the existing and current works to elevate this critical roadway, and we are pledging an additional \$4.3 million toward its completion. This is all about helping Port Fourchon and Grand Isle remain vibrant communities and sustainable service hubs for the fishing, recreation and offshore industries for generations to come.

In my career, I have had the opportunity to travel to many different countries and tackle complex challenges. The work that we do here in Louisiana both pioneering the deep water offshore business and addressing coastal sustainability will always stand out as some of the most meaningful, cutting-edge work that we do as a company. My children were born here, and through our contributions to coastal resiliency and adaptation, Shell's team in Louisiana will continue to look for ways to give future generations along our coast as bright a future here as they could have anywhere else in the world.

Richard Tallant is vice president of production, leading Shell's offshore operations in the Gulf of Mexico, including seven Shell-operated production hubs and co-ownership of two oil and gas producing assets. 



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Magee says diverting BP oil spill funds to road projects keeps the money from being wasted

Source: Louisiana Record

Legislation to divert millions of dollars from BP's oil spill settlement with Louisiana toward infrastructure improvements was recently signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. Tanner Magee, R-Houma, told the Louisiana Record those funds would redirect to a construction sub-fund and ultimately pay for \$700 million in road construction projects.

Magee said that although coastal restoration is still being paid for by the settlement, the remaining funds had been used to "plug holes" in the general budget. Some of the funds had gone to repay money borrowed from the state's Medicare trust fund while the rest covered salaries and benefits for state workers.

Magee said diverting the funds to the construction sub-fund would keep them from being "wasted." "The sub-fund is

dedicated to only being used for infrastructure spending," Magee said. "We never put any money into it, never passed a gas tax, we (had) left it unfunded. So, the idea became why don't we put this money in there?"

Louisiana will receive annual installment payments of \$53.3 million from BP until 2034, according to the Houston Chronicle.

"It was kind of being used as a stop-gap measure and was not really being used properly, to be honest with you," Magee said.

This year, the sub-fund will receive \$690 million, now earmarked for road improvements. "It's a way to prioritize some money that was to be used for economic damages," Magee said.

Magee pointed out the state already has a number of economic development programs and the greater need was to use

the money for infrastructure. "So we really tried to focus in on regional projects that eased the flow of commerce," he said. "I think the best way we can spend those dollars is to reinvest them in the economy."

Magee pointed to the LA 1 improvement project that serves a significant Gulf Coast port for the oil and gas industry. The new construction will help keep roads from washing out during heavy rain in this low-lying area. "If you go a week without this road being open, it's a pretty significant impact on the economy," Magee said.

The \$350 million project will be paid for by state funds using the BP settlement, a federal grant and fees from companies like Chevron and other port users.

"It makes it an attractive investment for anybody who wants to invest in the port, knowing that they're not going to have to worry about (downtime)," Magee said. 

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Bollinger delivers Coast Guard cutter

By Mike Hill Night City Editor, Houma Today, as edited by Christy Alley Naquin

Lockport-based Bollinger Shipyards delivered the USCGC William Hart fast response cutter to the Coast Guard in May in Key West, Florida.

The patrol boat is part of the 58 boats Bollinger has a contract for with the Coast Guard. The contract is expected to keep 800 people employed into 2020. This is the 34th one Bollinger has delivered.

“The William Hart, the third of three fast response cutters to be home-ported in Honolulu, Hawaii, will join the cutters Oliver Berry and Joseph Gerczak. The vessel’s commissioning is scheduled for September,” Bollinger President and C.E.O. Ben Bordelon said in a news release.

Previous cutters have been stationed across the nation, including Alaska.

“FRCs already in commission have protected our country by seizing multiple tons of narcotics, interdicted thousands of illegal aliens and saved hundreds of lives,” Bollinger said.

The 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter has a flank speed over 28 knots; state-of-the-art command, control, communications and computer technology; and a stern launch system for the vessel’s 26-foot cutter boat.

Recently, the Coast Guard deployed the FRC 1124, Oliver Berry, from Hawaii across the Pacific to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the company said. The 4,400-nautical mile trip marked the furthest deployment of an FRC to date.

“This trip showcases the hugely expand-

ed operational reach and capability that the FRC provides,” the company said.

Each cutter is named for an enlisted Coast Guard hero who distinguished him or herself in the line of duty.

In November 1926, William Hart maneuvered his boat near a tugboat and helped evacuate its crew due to heavy seas and treacherous weather, the company said. One crew member fell overboard and was in imminent danger of drowning, but Hart jumped overboard and rescued him.

“For his heroic and selfless action, Hart was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal on May 24, 1927. Hart was also commended for actions in response to a floating gasoline fire in Arundel Cove while on board CG-210 on Aug. 26, 1927,” the company said. 🇺🇸



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Scott Angelle: Our nation's energy story starts in Louisiana

By: Scott Angelle

Our nation's energy story is one of innovation, growth and determination, and nowhere is it more evident than in my home state of Louisiana. Today, offshore energy production occurs on less than 1 percent of our nation's outer Continental Shelf but is responsible for 16 percent of U.S. oil production, 3 percent of U.S. natural gas production and billions of dollars in revenue that annually flows into rebuilding our coastline and improving our state and local parks.

This story often gets lost with those who fundamentally disagree with resource extraction and who would prefer to "keep it in the ground." But that does not work for the tens of thousands of pipefitters, welders, roughnecks and vessel operators employed in the energy industry. These men and women are proud to deliver affordable, American-made energy to families and businesses throughout the nation.

The Trump administration is dedicated to excellence in offshore safety. We launched an additional inspection protocol to stay ahead of potential issues. This risk-based approach uses data analysis to focus inspections on targeted operations and facilities. We are using technology to review testing records onshore allowing for a 6.1 percent increase in physical inspection time of equipment on offshore rigs and platforms and drastically increased participation in a near-miss reporting program.

The number of offshore inspections has consistently increased under President Trump. In calendar year 2016, BSEE conducted 8,508 inspections. That number jumped to 9,275 and 10,341 in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Our nation's regulatory system is meant to protect our workforce and drive safe practices. It is not a tool to stop American energy production. That is why last April, President Trump signed Executive Order 13795, "implementing an America-first offshore energy strategy" that directed

the secretary of the interior to review the previous administration's "Oil and gas and sulfur operations in the Outer Continental Shelf blowout preventer systems and well control," also known as the Well Control Rule.

Riddled with issues and controversy and provisions that many believed would make development less safe, the original regulation required an entire webpage to answer over 100 complex engineering questions to explain how the rule was supposed to work. It was one of several new regulations on offshore energy development and rushed out the door in 2016 to avoid triggering the Congressional Review Act – an important tool employed by Congress to overturn regulatory overreach.

“ OUR NATION'S ENERGY STORY IS ONE OF INNOVATION, GROWTH AND DETERMINATION, AND NOWHERE IS IT MORE EVIDENT THAN IN MY HOME STATE OF LOUISIANA. ”

This month, we have put forward a safe, smart and improved rule. Of the 342 provisions in the previous administration's Well Control Rule, only 68 provisions were revised, leaving roughly 80 percent of the original rule untouched. Our improvements add an additional 33 provisions to bolster safety, such as ensuring availability of properly maintained well intervention tools and testing of the blowout preventer blind shear rams.

Moreover, technical experts from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement combed through 424 recommendations from 26 separate reports from 14 different organizations following Deepwater Horizon and found that none

of the revisions contravened any of these recommendations.

The rule published May 15 in the Federal Register employs a performance-based approach to meet real-time monitoring requirements, removes duplicative certification requirements that add no value, reduces blowout preventer failure risks and improves the expected lifespan of critical blowout preventer components.

This revised regulation also addresses a troubling outcome of the original rule: the high propensity and significant need for alternate compliance. Alternate compliance, a provision that dates back to 1988, is a tool offshore operators utilize to implement safety and environmental protection alternatives that BSEE deems as safe as – or safer than – current requirements. There were troves of incoming requests to deviate from the rule to ensure the safety of hardworking crews offshore. Under the previous administration, the rate of alternate procedures or equipment approvals per permit was twice as high and the rate of alternate procedures or equipment approvals per day was 79 percent higher.

Many have perpetuated the false narrative that this administration is decreasing safety as we work to reduce bureaucratic red tape. This line of thinking ignores the simple fact that there are always different pathways that can achieve and even improve upon the same end result. Our nation's regulatory framework has room for improvement, and we will continue to make improvements that ensure safety while also allowing energy security and prosperity to flourish.

The Trump administration is focused on smart solutions that keep workers safe and allow for energy development and job growth. This final Well Control Rule does just that and will ensure that our Gulf economy will continue to be a global beacon of innovation, energy security and environmental stewardship for decades to come.

Scott Angelle is director of the federal Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. 

Interior announces region-wide oil and gas Lease Sale 253

Final Notice of Sale Outlines All Available Areas in Federal Waters

WASHINGTON - In support of President Donald J. Trump's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will offer 77.8 million acres for a region-wide lease sale scheduled for Aug. 21, 2019. The sale would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Trump administration is laser focused on developing our domestic offshore oil and gas resources in an environmentally conscious manner, and the Gulf of Mexico is front and center for that development," said Secretary Bernhardt. "The expansion of America's energy sector has been a major economic driver for the American people in keeping energy prices low. Our work in the Gulf of Mexico to ensure America leads the world in energy production is paramount."

Lease Sale 253, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the fifth offshore sale under the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Under this program, a total of ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf-wide lease sales are scheduled to be held each year and include all

available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

Lease Sale 253 will include approximately 14,585 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are: blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, is estimated to contain about 48 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas.

Revenues received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, certain Gulf Coast states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama), the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund.

"This lease sale is a critical part of BOEM's multi-faceted effort to secure our nation's energy future," said BOEM Gulf of Mexico Regional Director Mike Celata. "Environmentally responsible exploration and development of the Gulf's vital energy resources continues to help power our nation and drive our economy."

Leases resulting from this proposed sale would include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 253 are detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which will be available today, July 18, 2019 at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-253/>. Copies of the FNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853). 

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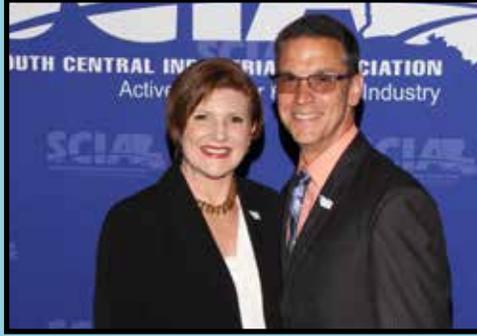
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Energy and the environment are compatible

By Tyler Gray, President LMOGA

Working together, as we have for more than a century, the people of Louisiana and the oil and natural gas industry have achieved great things. From the production of resources that helped fuel our nation's victory in World War II to the growing energy independence that America enjoys today, oil and natural gas companies have partnered with generations of Louisianans to strengthen our country and our state.

Today, Louisiana ranks among the Top 10 crude producing states and among the top five producers of natural gas in the nation. Our oil and natural gas companies support over 260,000 jobs and contribute more than \$2 billion in annual state taxes. Much of this revenue stream finds its way into local economies and helps provide critical operating resources for local governments.

In addition, the industry contributes significantly to hundreds of cultural, educational and social projects and programs throughout the state each year.

These same companies also invest heavily in hurricane protection and restoration projects that help make our communities safer and stronger. In fact, revenues generated by oil and natural gas activity serve as a primary funding source for Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts. Today, as a result of those investments, there are more coastal restoration and protection projects underway now than ever before in our state's history.

What's more is that the energy revolution over the last fifteen years in the United States has successfully disproved the long-held assumption that increased energy production creates higher emissions and is worse for the environment. As a result of our industry's longstanding commitment to the environment and billions of dollars' worth of investments in infrastructure and technology, total criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions have fallen while production has significantly increased. In addition, CO2 emissions from energy use across the entire

“REVENUES GENERATED BY OIL AND NATURAL GAS ACTIVITY SERVE AS A PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCE FOR LOUISIANA'S COASTAL RESTORATION EFFORTS.”

economy are at their lowest levels in nearly 25 years. Methane emissions from onshore natural gas production are down, while production is up, and our fuels are more than 99 percent cleaner.

It is clear, the oil and natural gas industry is making strides in Louisiana and all over the world — investing in people, communities, technology, infrastructure, new energies, and long term solutions that will allow us to continue to meet America's energy needs while protecting the environment for generations to come. 

Opinion: Thank you for HB 578

By: Henri Boulet, LA-1 Executive Director

Governor John Bel Edwards recently signed HB 578 – the bill many were calling the “biggest surprise of the legislative session.” HB 578 will provide Louisiana with the largest infusion of capital investment our state has seen in decades, which is much needed money that will be put to work immediately, building and strengthening our roads, bridges, and highways.

As Chairman Cortez pointed out, HB 578 “does a whole lot more than we can imagine” and will “generate more than \$1 billion of projects with federal and local funds included.” Included in this, of course, is dedicated funding for the LA 1 Improvement Project.

The journey of support for HB 578 this session from member companies, coalition supporters, organizations throughout the state, and elected leaders, shows just how powerful grassroots advocacy can be. The success this piece of legislation has experienced over the last two months has

been remarkable – and together we were able to accomplish:

Unanimous approval in the House Appropriations Committee;

- Final passage on the House floor with a vote of 97-4;
- Unanimous approval in the Senate Finance Committee;
- Final passage on the Senate floor with a vote of 37-0; and
- House concurrence of the amended bill by a vote of 92-10.

Each stage of legislative success was built on a solid foundation of support from HB 578's authors, Representative Tanner Magee and Senator Rick Ward. Their support for stronger infrastructure was instrumental in getting this piece of legislation across the finish line and both were supported by many colleagues in the House and Senate.

The “inside the rails” efforts were supported by advocacy measures in the Capital and throughout the state. The LA 1

Coalition worked with Josh Borill who played an integral part in coordinating the various outreach components to elected leaders, while FTI Consulting helped to manage the messaging, digital, and grassroots advocacy campaign efforts.

Finally, a large token of appreciation belongs with each of you. Taking time to voice your support for HB 578 made the difference. Ensuring that our elected leaders knew of the importance of funding for infrastructure projects throughout state helped to empower our representatives to make the right decision when casting their votes for this bill.

Thank you again for your continued support and commitment to the coalition's efforts and cause. I will be sure to keep you informed throughout the next phases of securing matching federal funds and both industry and local funding sources.

Merci! 



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Beverage Carts (2 avail)	\$2,000	Sept 25 th
Team Picture Sponsor	\$1, 500	SOLD
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Score Card Ad Back	\$500	Sept 25 th
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Golf Course Green	\$200each	Sept 25 th
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Golf Course Food/Drink Vendor	\$150 each Contact ben.malbrough@blfwd.org	Sept 25 th

Awards for Food/Drink Vendors again this year!! **Best Food ** Best Drink ** Best Theme **
 2018 winners: Best Food: Pelican Waste & Debris; Best Drink: Pedestal Bank; Best Theme: Pedestal Bank

My company is interested in sponsoring _____ at a cost of _____.

Name of Company: _____

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Please return this form to the SCIA Office via fax: 985-851-2202 or email: kathy@sciaonline.net
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 For more information, please contact the SCIA office at 985-851-2201

Christy or Kathy can assist you with your sponsorship requests!

17TH ANNUAL

SCIA GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 7, 2019
Ellendale Country Club
Houma, LA

\$1,000.00 per team

Please check your team's tee time preference below.

- 7:30 A.M. FLIGHT
- 1:00 P.M. FLIGHT

OVER \$30,000 WORTH OF PRIZES AWARDED

This tournament is a 4-person scramble with a blind bogey draw. The entry fee includes golf cart, winner prizes, a selection of an item from our signature tent mobile pro shop, and great food and beverages. Team's Company Sponsor must be a member of SCIA. Payment must be received prior to September 30.

Last Year's Teams have First Right of Refusal

Any company having a team(s) in last year's tournament has first right of refusal to play in the flight of their choice. Tee Time must be selected by submitting form by August 23, 2019 to secure spot.

You can write just one check!

Cost of Team of 4	\$1,000.00
Cost of Games	40.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,040.00

Sponsorships are also available.
Get your company name in front of hundreds of players!
Thank you for your participation!
It's gonna' be a great tournament!

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For Credit card payment, call 985-851-2201.

Forms can be faxed to 985-851-2202 or
Emailed to kathy@sciaonline.net

Please complete the information below and send in payment by September 30, 2019

PLEASE PRINT

Company Name: _____

Team Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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Telephone: Office: _____ Cell: _____

2019

EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE



September 26, 2019

Courtyard by Marriott-142 Library Drive, Houma
Registration: 7:15 a.m. Workshop: 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Complimentary full breakfast to be served.

Free to SCIA Members.

\$100.00 per person for non-members.

RSVP ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED

985-851-2201 or kathy@sciaonline.net

Join us for a one-half day seminar that will provide up-to-date solutions to employers' most common problems. Attendees will receive practical advice which they will be able to put into effect at their organizations.

This employment law seminar is designed for anyone who manages employees and makes decisions impacting the workforce. The seminar will benefit Presidents, CEOs, COOs, CFOs, Human Resource Professionals, and In-House Counsel with labor and employment responsibility.

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Education "ICE" of SCIA

➤ **Improving Employee Morale Through Accountability (1 Hour)**

Keeping employees happy and engaged depends significantly more on how they are treated in the workplace than their pay and benefits. People who feel valued are happier. This session will cover strategies for communicating with employees in both good and bad situations.

➤ **The FLSA Collective Action Tidal Wave (1 Hour)**

The FLSA collective action is the new darling of plaintiffs' attorneys in Louisiana. Currently, hundreds of these cases are being filed each year. Learn the top mistakes that companies make resulting in lawsuits and how to assess your company's vulnerability to claims.

➤ **HIPAA For Businesses (1 Hour)**

HIPAA covers a vast array of medical information in the hands of doctors, hospitals, insurers, and employers. Know your legal obligations and learn how to keep your company HIPAA compliant.

➤ **Medical Marijuana and Other Foibles (1 Hour)**

Medical Marijuana and Other Foibles: The growth of legalized marijuana, both medical and recreational, has created headaches for employers. And drugs are not the only growing problem in the workplace. Learn about dealing with the new age of vaping, tattoos, piercings, hair, and drugs.

This program has been submitted to the HR Certification Institute for review. The use of this seal is not an endorsement by the HR Certification Institute of the quality of the program. It means that this program has met the HR Certification Institute's criteria to be pre-approved for recertification credit.



Fisher Phillips is recognized by SHRM to offer Professional Development Credits (PDCs) for SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP.



Out & About with SCIA



Kevin Passman of Sealevel Construction gives an overview of the company to the general membership at the July GM luncheon. Thank you to Sealevel Construction for sponsoring the July meeting.



Jared Toups, SCIA Exec VP presents a new member certificate to Bryan Aucoin of M & A Safety



Jared Toups, SCIA Exec VP presents a new member certificate to Jay Robichaux of Advantous Consulting, LLC



SCIA Exec VP Jared Toups presents a new member certificate to Matt Isch of LUMCON



The Gordon Dove Jr. Foundation awarded Madison Bergeron a \$1,000 scholarship. Pictured left to right: Steve Ponville, Gordy Dove, Paul Duplantis, Madison Bergeron, Sye Broussard and Jackie Dove Broussard.



The Gordon Dove Jr. Foundation awarded Lillian Orban a \$1,000 scholarship. Pictured left to right: Steve Ponville, Gordy Dove, Lillian Orban, Paul Duplantis, Jackie Dove Broussard and Sye Broussard.



SCIA Exec VP Jared Toups presents Abby Arceneaux with the SCIA Otis T. Logue scholarship.



Past President Bobby Bartel and SCIA Exec VP Jared Toups presents Hannah LeBlanc with the Aimee Celeste Lagarde Scholarship. The scholarship is in memory of Bobby's daughter.



Brian Arceneaux of Pedestal Bank and Jared Toups SCIA Exec VP present the SCIA/Pedestal Bank Scholarship to Kayleigh Authement



Past President Kerry Chauvin and Exec VP Jared Toups presented the first ever Billy Forshag Terrebonne Parish Public School Scholarship to Braeden Manchester.



For the 100th episode of the coastal radio show, Delta Dispatches, cohost Simone Maloz of Restore or Retreat interviewed Governor John Bel Edwards to talk about coastal restoration and protection, including Morganza to the Gulf.



Pictured left to right: Chip Kline of CPRA, Ryan Chauvin of Audubon Society, Governor John Bel Edwards, Simone Maloz of Restore or Retreat and Jacque Hebert of Environmental Defense Fund.

Save the Date

**SEPT. 10 // GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEATURING JEREMY ALFORD, LA POLITICS**

SEPT. 26 // SCIA 2019 HR WORKSHOP

OCT. 7 // SCIA GOLF TOURNAMENT

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SCIA Members In the News

Danos welcomes former Shell executive to board



Greg Guidry

Danos has selected Greg Guidry to join the company's board of directors. Guidry retired from his position of Executive Vice President – Unconventionals for Royal Dutch Shell in October 2018 after six years in the role and nearly 37 years with the company.

"Greg has an invaluable understanding of the oil and gas industry, and we are grateful that he has accepted our invitation to join the board," said Chairman of the Board Hank Danos.

Guidry's appointment adds a seventh member to the Danos Board of Directors which includes Hank Danos, Eric Danos, Paul Danos, Mark Danos, Edward "Jed" DiPaolo and John Elstrott. A member of the board since 2000, Elstrott served as chairman of the board of Whole Foods Market, Inc. from 2009-2017 and is currently the emeritus director of the Entrepreneurship Center at Tulane. DiPaolo previously worked for 27 years at Halliburton Company where he was group senior vice president of Global Business Development. He has been on the Danos board since 2008.

Ribbon cutting ceremony held for Fletcher food locker



Left to right: Kenny Wood Sr., Fletcher Foundation Past Chair; Nicol Blanchard, CEO, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce; Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland; Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education; Lawrence DeHart, Good Samaritan Food Bank Director; and Tammy Ledet, President/CEO, Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce

Following the donation of a commercial refrigerator from Healthy Blue Louisiana earlier this year, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Fletcher Food Locker was held in May.

The college is working with the Good Samaritan Food Bank to keep the shelves full of food. Students can select small items to help immediately, larger quantities to support a student for one week, and if the student needs to provide for a family, they will

be given a month's supply of food to take home.

"Fletcher Technical Community College is proud to open a new food pantry for our students," commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. "We know that 36% of all college students experience food insecurity and in the State of Louisiana that number is even higher. This pantry will provide students the opportunity to find nutritious food offerings for themselves and their families. Fletcher will continue to strive to remove the barriers that prevent students from successfully completing the training and education

they need to strengthen themselves, their families and our community. We thank all of our generous donors for making this pantry a reality."

While the Fletcher Food Locker is located on the Schriever campus in the BP Integrated Production Technologies building (224 Weatherford Dr., Schriever), it is available to Fletcher students at all facilities. For more information on the Fletcher Food Locker or to request assistance, please contact Caitlin Bruce at 985-448-7919 or Caitlin.bruce@fletcher.edu.

Danos continues to win big in Permian and Delaware basins

Danos has recently entered into a contract with an independent land company based out of Dallas, Texas, to transition 50-60 crew members in a variety of positions. The transition will take place over the coming weeks to support water transfer at water treatment facilities in Midland and Orla, Texas. Additionally, Danos has been awarded a contract to construct two saltwater disposal facilities near Carlsbad, New Mexico, for a Texas-based drilling and production company.

"This is the first time Danos has provided production personnel on this scale for a water treatment facility," said owner Eric Danos. "And this is our first time providing turnkey saltwater disposal facilities for this particular customer in the Delaware Basin. We are honored our customers have put their trust in us and excited to partner with them while diversifying our service offerings."

The saltwater disposal facilities project will put to work approximately 25 employees from Danos' fabrication, construction, project management, instrumentation and electrical, and coatings service lines. The project is expected to take two months and will wrap up this summer.

Both contracts come on the heels of Danos' recent project win to fabricate and construct a central tank battery for an independent exploration and production company in Midland. Additionally, Danos has completed multiple projects installing skids for a midstream company in the Delaware Basin near Pecos, Texas. Danos has approximately 500 employees working in the Permian and Delaware basins and is in the midst of constructing a new office in Midland, set to open this summer.

Seminar focuses on business opportunities

Businesses can learn how financial statements used to manage a company's profits, measure growth and apply for financing opportunities can be used to their advantage at a seminar.

The 1-3 p.m. Aug. 14 seminar will be held at Fletcher Technical Community College's Houma campus at 310 St. Charles St., the Terrebonne Economic Development Authority said in a news release.

Register at <https://www2.lsbdc.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=1390032>.

SCIA Members In the News

Pedestal Named Bank of the Year for Work with Small Business Development

The Louisiana Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), along with the U.S. Small Business Administration, named Pedestal Bank as Bank of the Year for the bank's leadership in utilization of the LEDC Small Business Loan and Guaranty Program.

The Small Business Loan and Guaranty Program facilitates capital accessibility for small businesses by providing loan guarantees to banks and other small business lenders in association with the federal State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The program's purpose is to provide financial assistance, which will help with the development, expansion and retention of Louisiana's small businesses. The program is administered by Louisiana Economic Development through Louisiana Economic Development Corporation (LEDC).

Pedestal Bank President and CEO Mark Folsie said, "We are honored by this recognition from LEDC." He said, "We are happy to partner with a program that shares our vision to inspire possibilities in the communities we serve."

Closing ceremony held for Fletcher's certified line workers



A lot can happen in four months. Just ask the 15 members of the third cohort of Fletcher's Certified Line Worker Training Program. A packed room of family, friends,

and other well-wishers gathered at Fletcher Technical Community College on May 28th to celebrate the students' completion of the 16-week program.

Applause and cheers erupted as it was announced that all 15 students have secured employment with Louisiana Energy Workforce Consortia (LEWC) companies: Entergy and Linetec Services.

"We are excited to celebrate the completion of the most recent cohort of the Certified Line Worker Program," commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. "The students have worked tremendously hard over the past 16 weeks and it is demonstrated in the 100% job placement rate."

The Certified Line Worker Training Program provides the necessary foundation for participants to begin their line worker career as a helper/apprentice for an electric utility company. Students are encouraged to complete training in Fletcher's CDL Class A course, which immediately follows the Line Worker Training Program. Upon completion of both programs, students receive certifications in NCCER, OSHA 10, CPR/First Aid, and CDL Class A license.

Nicholls, LSU Health New Orleans partner to offer Culinary Medicine Course

Nicholls State University announces a partnership with the LSU Health New Orleans to offer a two-week course in culinary medicine beginning this summer.

Nine third-year LSU Health New Orleans School of Medicine students are studying the effects that nutrition can have on preventing and treating chronic diseases, as well as learn the necessary culinary skills and recipes to promote good nutrition. The program began July 1.

Defined by the founder of ChefMD and Chef Clinic, Dr. John La Puma, Culinary Medicine is an evidence-based field blending the art of cooking with the science of nutrition. Culinary medicine encourages physicians to learn more about food and work with nutrition professionals to prevent and treat their patients' illnesses.

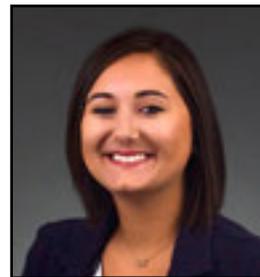
Students will begin the day in the classroom, learning nutrition theory through lectures, case studies and simulations covering ailments such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and obesity.

They'll also take field trips to Rouses with a Registered Dietitian, tour the kitchen at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center and test their new nutritional knowledge at local restaurants.

In the afternoon, students will move to the kitchens to learn basic culinary skills and relevant recipes from chefs and culinary professionals.

Eating patterns and specific foods have shown effectiveness in treating some cases of rheumatoid arthritis, epilepsy, cardiovascular disease, colon cancer, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension, metabolic syndrome and acute cough, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Paul's Agency Welcomes Kayla Gravois



Kayla Gravois

Paul's Agency is excited to welcome new hire, Kayla Gravois to the Morgan City office.

A native of Thibodaux and graduate of Nicholls State University, Kayla joins the Morgan City office as a Benefits Client Service Manager. She joined the team in early July and is tasked with assisting with the renewals and service of current groups as well as helping with new business inquiries.

"We are excited to have Kayla join the Paul's team — she will be an invaluable asset to our organization. Kayla's insurance experience and credentials will benefit our clients for years to come," said Ryan Gros, Chief Financial Officer at Paul's Agency.

Prior to her time at Paul's Agency, Kayla worked for two years in Thibodaux in insurance and she is both life and health insurance certified. She is eager to continue garnering experience in the insurance industry.

SCIA Members In the News

Jason W. Bergeron recognized as Congressional Champion, advocates on Capitol Hill



Jason Bergeron

Houma businessman, Jason Bergeron of Technology Professionals, was chosen by the Connected Commerce Council (3C), a non-profit membership organization representing digitally empowered small businesses, as a Congressional Champion for his innovative use of digital tools. As a Congressional Champion, Jason came to Washington, D.C. to meet with Members of Congress to discuss

the importance of access to digital tools, platforms, and marketplaces for small business success, while Congress is currently debating national privacy bill that could help small businesses across the country.

Jason was one of 24 3C Congressional Champions that met with more than 40 Members of Congress and staff during their visit to ensure that small businesses have a voice in the creation of new privacy legislation.

Fletcher partners with Houma-Terrebonne Airport to provide training for Gulf of Mexico Center of Excellence

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Assistant Secretary John Fleming of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Terrebonne Parish President Gordon Dove and Houma-Terrebonne Airport officials gathered recently to announce a \$1.35 million airport infrastructure grant from the EDA, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A number of improvements will take place on an undeveloped 10-acre parcel at the Houma-Terrebonne Airport, which will establish a Gulf of Mexico Center of Excellence for Large-Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or L-UAS. Gov. Edwards signed an executive order at the event designating the airport as Louisiana's L-UAS site with the Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA. Future improvements will include a new 40,000-square-foot hangar that will house automated navigation systems for unmanned aircraft flying the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas, hurricane reconnaissance, coastal protection, homeland security, research and military missions.

Fletcher is pleased to partner with the airport to train avionics, sensor and logistics technicians, along with airframe, power plant and ground equipment mechanics.

"Fletcher Technical Community College would like to congratulate the Houma-Terrebonne Airport on this new EDA grant," commented Fletcher Chancellor Dr. Kristine Strickland. "We are proud to partner with the airport to build out new training and educational

opportunities for our community in the drone sector. The Center of Excellence designation, combined with new dollars to expand the airport's infrastructure is critical in our ability to create new economic development opportunities for our region. Fletcher stands prepared to provide the workforce needed to grow this important industry for our region."

The Center of Excellence will allow for a unique opportunity to develop and retain cutting edge jobs in UAS technology here in the local region. Fletcher's initial role in the Center of Excellence will be training individuals in small UAS applications. In the beginning, training will focus primarily on FAA part 107 training. This certification will provide individuals with the foundation they need to start their careers in the commercial use of UAS equipment

Nicholls named top school for health sciences

Nicholls State University's health sciences degree program has been ranked as one of the best in the country by HealthcareAdministrationDegrees.net.

Twenty-five schools were included in the ranking with Nicholls at No. 14 as the only school in Louisiana to make the list.

Using National Center for Education Statistics data, the website reviewed mid-career graduate pay, student retention rates, average SAT scores of accepted students, student reviews and affordability to assign scores from 0-100.

Citing Nicholls Allied Health Sciences comprehensive curriculum, which is designed for both entry-level students and credentialed healthcare professionals, as well as student reviews and affordability, the website awarded Nicholls with a score of 81.8.

One of the most popular departments on the Nicholls campus, allied health sciences has a reputation across the state for training high-performing students and impactful graduates. Students can choose from a degree in dietetics or health sciences with a concentration in pre-professional, pre-athletic training, communicative disorders or nutrition and food services.

Bank announces executive promotion

Della McMillion has been promoted to banking officer and retail manager of the Larose office of United Community Bank, bank CEO Mike Riche announced.

McMillion began her career with the bank at 13386 W. Main St. in 2005 and has held various positions within the bank, having most recently held the position as assistant retail manager, the bank said in a news release.

As a retail manager, she is responsible for developing and enhancing new and existing banking relationships in the Larose market, the bank said. She will also be joining the 2019 Class of Leadership Lafourche.

SCIA Members In the News

GLPC staff participates in successful Coast Guard training



Left to right: Marine Safety Technician MSU Houma, Bridget Hendrix, Troy Dufrene, Executive Officer MSU Morgan City, Lt. Commander Elizabeth Newton, HP Compliance Coordinator Scott Bynum, and Director of Homeland Security and Technology April Danos

The Coast Guard recently sponsored a ICS-320 training that GLPC Director of Homeland Security and Technology, April Danos, and two Harbor Police officers, Troy Dufrene and Scott Bynum, attended.

At the training, GLPC staff continued to demonstrate its collaboration with the Coast Guard, and how they are

NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant.

Following the training, Danos said, "We are now better prepared and have developed an even closer relationship with our Coast Guard Incident Command Team. The roles we played took us all out of our comfort zone and was challenging at times, but we are better prepared."

According to Danos, this was a hands-on workshop where the Director of Homeland Security played the role of Deputy Commander in the IMT (Incident Management Team). Lieutenant Troy Dufrene played the role of Liaison Officer and Scott Bynum, HP Compliance Coordinator, played the role of Deputy Planner.

All three participants were able to understand what the Coast Guard expects in a Unified Command structure event, while also demonstrating the unity and collaboration the GLPC has with its partners.

Bollinger names construction executive

Lockport-based Bollinger Shipyards has promoted Chris Remont to executive vice president of new construction programs.

Remont will oversee commercial and government new construction programs for the company, Bollinger said in a news release.

"Chris' proven leadership and extensive, diverse shipbuilding and manufacturing experience will guide our new construction group's engineering, business development, bids/proposal, supply chain and program management teams to the next level," said Bollinger President and CEO Ben Bordelon.

"Also, Chris has been a key contributor to Bollinger's success, and I feel his new role combined with his continuous pursuit of excellence situates our company well in meeting the ever-changing industry demands and challenges in continuing our success in the future," he added.

Remont has served as director and vice president of program management and vice president and general manager of Bollinger Lockport's new construction facility in which he was responsible

for all facets of construction, including planning, scheduling, engineering, material control, quality and production, the company said.

He has over 25 years of shipyard and manufacturing experience and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Louisiana Tech University and a Master of Business Administration from Nicholls State University.

Fletcher offering airboat and marsh buggy operations classes

Fletcher Technical Community College is pleased to announce that two new noncredit classes will be offered this fall: Airboat Training and Marsh Buggy Training.

Airboat Training is a 5-day, 40-hour course that will cover the nomenclature, safety concerns, common malfunctions, and basic operations of airboats. Weather considerations, operational hazards, dangers, night operations, as well as maintenance, field repairs, and safety (including First Aid/CPR certification) will also be covered.

Applicants for Airboat Training must have a boating license with no violations in the last 12 months, and be at least 18 years of age. They must also have some experience operating an outboard boat and be willing to work in adverse and inclement weather conditions.

Marsh Buggy Training is separated into two levels. Level One, Excavator Training, is 28 hours in length and provides an introduction to excavator and marsh buggy operations including safety, inspection, and service guidelines associated with excavators. Level Two Marsh Buggy Training is 18 hours and covers theory and practical application, and basic water and boat safety. Both levels include training in First Aid/CPR certification.

Fletcher welcomes any business and industry partners who have used equipment they would like to donate, or individuals interested in serving as an industry expert on the Advisory Board or an instructor for either class, to please contact Tandra LeMay, Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Solutions, at 985-448-7950 or Tandra.lemay@fletcher.edu.

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