

Continuing Education

Volume 2 Number 46- *The Weekly Newsletter of the SBBA* - October 29, 2013



Higher Education Quote of the Week:

"When you take the full name of Louisiana, you are insinuating you are the flagship of the system. Every graduate and student at any University of Louisiana System and institution should be concerned about the arrogant way Louisiana Lafayette has shoved this down not only our throats but the media's throats." -
Quote included in an editorial written by the Monroe News-Star Editorial Board

Dear Johnette,

If U.L. System President Dr. Sandra Woodley ever wondered just how ugly higher education politics can be in the state of Louisiana, she now has her answer.

Two weeks ago she became the referee for an internal feud among Grambling football players, alumni, and administration that resulted in a forfeited football game and national public embarrassment for the college. The story is also far from over since the city of Jackson estimates their losses from the boycott are in the millions of dollars and Jackson State is intent on filing suit.

This week Woodley is referee for a fight growing more bitter by the day between the University of Louisiana Lafayette and the University of Louisiana Monroe. It appears the Lafayette school has decided that since they have the second largest enrollment of any college in the state, they should be able to drop "Lafayette", just become the "University of Louisiana", and thus claim their "rightful spot" as flagship of the U.L. System. Unfortunately for Lafayette, Louisiana law prohibits the name change.

Of all the schools in the U.L. System, it appears ULM is the least amused. The Editorial Board of the Monroe newspaper offered this suggestion to ULL this weekend: "In the interim, since these things do take time, we do have a very simple solution for ULL that would only require a slight alteration and provide a unique name for the institution. Go ahead and drop the second 'L' and become the University of Lafayette. We're fine with that."

Shreveport-Bossier Higher Education News

- Louisiana Tech has announced plans to spend \$18 million to expand Joe Aillet Stadium in Ruston. The football stadium will include a 70,000 square foot sports complex and is slated to be completed by the start of the 2015 football season. ***Shreveport Times, 10.29.13***



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- When Grambling football players failed to show for the football game two weeks ago against Jackson State, JSU had to issue refunds to ticketholders. The school has announced it intends to file suit. JSU spokesperson Eric Stringfellow posted this on the school's website, "Jackson State University and the city of Jackson's losses could be in the millions." [***The Clarion Ledger, 10.23.13***](#)
- The Grambling football team brought to light the many needed repairs at Grambling State when they sent pictures of the university's dilapidated buildings and equipment to ESPN. The Louisiana Board of Regents says Grambling is not alone. They estimate Louisiana schools have up to \$1.8 billion in deferred maintenance. [***The Shreveport Times, 10.25.13***](#)
- The New York Times carried a lengthy, in-depth piece this weekend on Grambling's dire financial troubles, and the newspaper asked the obvious question: Can Grambling Afford a Football Team? [***The New York Times, 10.27.13***](#)

Louisiana Higher Education News

- The editorial board of the Advertiser is siding with local readers in Lafayette and arguing ULL has the right to drop the usage of Lafayette except where legally required. The board writes, "If the university wants to build its athletic image around the term Louisiana, and if the move has community support - and it does - it has every right to do that." [***The Advertiser, 10.26.13***](#)
- Supporters of ULM, including the Monroe newspaper, are pushing back and protesting Lafayette's attempts to raise its stature above other schools in the U.L. system. A Monroe editorial shared this story with readers, "The Sports Information department at ULL contacted the News-Star and demanded that our sports writers adhere to their "style" for their team's acronym - UL. We politely declined." [***Monroe News-Star, 10.28.13***](#)
- LSU Professor and Political Columnist Bob Mann writes about the public's priorities and concerns when it comes to the flagship. "Raise tuition to offset some of Jindal's budget cuts and many of these fans won't notice. Raise ticket prices, however, and hear them wail." [***NOLA.com, 10.27.13***](#)



National Higher Education News

- According to the national Project on Student Debt, only 46% of 2011 graduates in Louisiana had student loan debt, placing the state at 45th in the nation. Nationally, 2/3 of students graduating in 2011 carried student

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Sincerely,

***Johnette Magner, Ph.D., Executive Director
Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education***

You are welcome to forward this newsletter to others in your network who are interested in higher education.

For more information on becoming a member of the SBBA, or providing direct support for our work, please contact Dr. Johnette Magner at jmagner@sbba4he.org

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