When You Love Your Job...

Award-winning ULS teacher Steve Babcock imparts life experiences to guide students
Dear Cub Family,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the new Cub Roar! As we restructure our communication avenues within the Cub community, this publication has been moving toward and now fully has a new purpose and identity. It is now a biannual magazine that will feature more in-depth coverage of the endeavors, accolades and achievements of our students, faculty, staff and alumni throughout the school year with a University Laboratory School Foundation focus.

In this first edition, you will see that we have had an impressive opening to the 2017-2018 school year. For starters, our school’s latest performance scores, issued annually by the Louisiana Department of Education, position us first among Baton Rouge area schools and second in the state as a whole. In fact, for the past two out of three years, ULS has been ranked highest in the Baton Rouge area and second or third in the state. This is a true testament to our faculty, staff and students living by the school’s motto – total effort in every endeavor – every day.

As you enjoy this publication’s new look further, please note the multitude of opportunities that our students have been provided to become involved in pursuits both in and out of the classroom and showcasing their interests, skills, talents and abilities. Whether academics, arts, service or athletics, our students, faculty and staff have been engaged in activities from the school to the national level bringing recognition to themselves and University Laboratory School.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that many of the opportunities afforded our students, faculty and staff are provided through the generosity of you, our community members, through donations to the University Laboratory School Foundation’s Annual Appeal. For that, we thank you and hope that as you read, you will see that your investment in our students is reaping immediate dividends, but that it is also clearly an investment in their and our futures as well.

It is hard to believe that this year is half over. I feel confident that the spring issue of Cub Roar will offer as much exciting and good news as this one does and look forward to being a part of what will surely be the Cub community’s continued success.

In closing, I wish the entire Cub family a wonderful holiday season and a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Wade Smith, Ph.D.
Superintendent
University Laboratory School
Welcome to the new Cub Roar! We hope you enjoy this up-close look at the recent accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff; the rich experiences that shape our K-12 curricula; and examples of the impact that our ULS community makes through philanthropy. Fall is always a particularly exciting time for us, because our annual appeal kicks off and alumni reunite on campus. The success of both efforts is a reminder to me of just how strong our shared Cub spirit is, from kindergarten students to alumni celebrating milestone reunions.

Year after year, our parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends demonstrate their loyalty and generosity by giving back to the school—truly paying forward the experiences they and their loved ones had or are having at ULS. As you read this issue, I hope you will take a moment to reflect on the impact of your support, no matter what role you have in our community. I’d like to extend my gratitude, too, to our annual appeal donors. You drive excellence all over campus, funding enhancements that enrich our students’ education in and out of the classroom and retain our outstanding faculty.

No matter your connection to ULS, you are an important part of our family, and I have the privilege of seeing the impact of your loyalty every day. In reading Cub Roar, I hope you, too, see just how much we can achieve when, together, we commit to total effort in every endeavor.

Go Cubs!

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

www.lsufoundation.org/becauseofyou
On Saturday, Aug 26, the University Laboratory School Foundation hosted the Cubs Hall of Fame event at the City Club of Baton Rouge in honor of the four outstanding alumni who were inducted into our Alumni Hall of Distinction and Athletic Hall of Fame. John Everett ’87 served as emcee for the event.

Inducted into the Alumni Hall of Distinction were Dr. Amanda Exner Staiano ’03 and Robert Dale Mathews ’67.

Dr. Staiano is a pediatric developmental psychologist whose research and efforts focus upon technology-mediated physical activity interventions for children most at risk for obesity and chronic disease. Mr. Mathews is a successful businessman, who in 1974 opened Baton Rouge’s first outdoor shop, the Backpacker, with a philosophy of selection, service and quality. Today, the store boasts a second location in Lafayette, LA.

Inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame were David Harris ’89 and Dr. Glen Brady. Mr. Harris currently serves as the director of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Northern Iowa. His prior employment has included senior associate athletic director at Iowa State University and associate athletic director of student services at the University of Wisconsin. He has also held senior staff positions at his college alma mater, the University of Mississippi. Dr. Brady was a beloved coach and athletic director at University High School in the 1960s. He is most well-known as a mentor for his student-athletes.

For information on how to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, please contact Megan Bourgeois at mbourg@lsu.edu.

Photos clockwise: Dr. Smith welcomes guests to Cubs 2017. Whitney Higginbotham Greene ’89, Honoree David Harris ’89 and Coach Wills Stelly; John Everett ’87 and Honoree Amanda Exner Staiano ’03; Honoree Dale Mathews ’67 visits with a guest; Honorees Coach Glen Brady and Dale Mathews ’67 with members of the Class of 1967.
Virtual Reality is now Reality

Imagine as a student not only learning about a coral reef or a faraway planet in science class but also actually being able to visit such a place and see it in real time. For middle school science students at ULS, this is a reality - virtual reality.

The new science program now being piloted at ULS, HMH Science Dimensions, uses a virtual field trip app compatible with a wide range of student smart phones and durable headsets.

“We have visited a coral reef in Australia to look at coral bleaching, gone into space and have even been to Mr. Everest,” said ULS 7th grade science instructor Dr. Catherine Cummins, who added, “As a teacher, it is a blast to watch. They make great ‘oooh and ahh’ noises. You really do feel like you are there, and the teacher resources make sure we get the most out of the VR experience.”

Cummins noted that there are also more traditional field trips to science museums and planetariums, but VR has a unique advantage.

“VR is so realistic, you get a true sense of being there, which is great for students who are visual learners,” Cummins said.

In addition to the high school science class, students in the 8th grade science, 7th grade Earth Science, and 6th grade Life Science classes have also had the opportunity to explore virtual places.

For 6th grade life science student Andrew P., the virtual experience allowed him to “see what it’s like to be under the water and observe fish in their natural habitat.”

“I have always been interested in biology,” said P., and the VR experience helped him “understand more about the creatures in the coral reef.”

“Having the opportunity to experience this kind of thing is pretty cool,” added 8th grade earth science student Reed H.

Dr. Cummins is excited about the potential of virtual reality to enhance student learning and engagement.

“Students will be able to make connections between what they see and read about in their textbooks and the virtual experiences they have,” said Cummins. “This can help make the learning more meaningful and memorable.”

The VR headsets, provided in part by funding from the ULS Foundation, were piloted in ULS Science classrooms and are expected to be implemented across the curricula.

“The potential for using VR in education is immense,” said Dr. Cummins. “With the right technology and resources, we can make such experiences can be implemented across the curricula.

ULS Teachers Share Experience & Knowledge

ULS teachers presented at and attended the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics conference held in Baton Rouge from Nov. 6 - 8. ULS lower elementary math and science coach Trisha Fos was the coordinator of the conference.

LATM conference presenters and ULS instructors included Michelle Blanchard (1st grade); Katie Boyd (5th grade); Ellen Daugherty (elementary school curriculum coordinator and lower elementary ELA coach); Lori Fanning (high school math); Trisha Fos (lower elementary math and science coach); Rebecca Svensson (upper elementary math and science coach). Serving on the LATM Board are Ellen Daugherty, treasurer; Trisha Fos, LATM BRAC'TM representative and conference coordinator and Lori Fanning, LATM vice president of high schools.

ULSF Establishes an Arts Fund

Five percent of ULSF Annual Appeal funds support Collaborative Funding for the Arts and opportunities within U-High that fall outside the scope of general operational cost associated with Art Program equipment and or uniforms. The fund’s primary purpose is to offset costs associated with curriculum based travel for student art groups (not individuals) and faculty sponsors, performances and competitions within the Arts Department. The fund also engages and benefits a significant number of constituencies (faculty, students, alumni, grandparents, parents and/or community partners) through event-based productions. In addition, the University Laboratory School Foundation will match dollar for dollar, up to $10,000, of net proceeds raised through event-based Arts productions during the current school year.

ULS Welcomes Panamanian and Romanian Students

The first leg of 2017-2018 University Laboratory School Panamanian and Romanian student exchange programs were completed this fall. Several ULS families hosted students from the Metropolitan School of Panama and School #6 Brasov. Together, they experienced unique Louisiana activities, including a swamp tour on the Atchafalaya Basin, visits to plantation homes and local museums and a tour of the Governor’s Mansion by Louisiana’s First Lady and ULS parent Donna Edwards. The ULS Foundation provides assistance with funding for travel for students who meet certain criteria to ensure domestic and global exploration is available even for those students whose families may not be able to afford it.

ULS students enjoyed visits from two novelists, Jesse Haynes, author of Creepers, and Jeff Zentner, author of The Serpent King and Goodbye Days, in early November. Both authors spent the day leading students in writing workshops and large and small group discussions.

Middle School students were each provided a copy of Jesse Haynes’ book, Creepers, prior to the visit, through ULS Library funds. Haynes wrote Creepers while still in high school. He is currently a 19-year-old college student at the University of Tulsa.

Jeff Zentner spoke to high school students who have been reading his novel, Goodbye Days, also courtesy of the ULS Library. He came to writing through music, starting his creative life as a guitarist and a songwriter. He has released five albums and appeared on recordings with Iggy Pop and Debbie Harry among others. Both visits were sponsored by the ULS Foundation Speaker Series fund.
University Laboratory School 'C' Building was established in 2006 to house third through fifth grade classrooms that accommodated the kindergarten through eighth grade enrollment expansion of that same year.

ULS Foundation funds and maintains playground systems on campus through Annual Appeal donations.

The Gerald Furr Memorial Golf Classic raises funds for athletics and physical education. This year’s event is set to raise funds to expand the outdoor turf field to accommodate physical education classes as well other varsity school sports.

By the fall of 2004, University Laboratory School dedicated a new building that housed elementary classes on the first floor and middle school classes on the second floor. Along with the new addition, the school renovated the first and second floors of a building constructed in 1981 to connect with the new building and to also house elementary classes on the first floor and middle school classes on the second floor. In addition, the library doubled in size. This new addition and renovation allowed the school to expand the middle school from 225 students to 300 students and to gradually increase the high school population to 400 students. In 2005, University Laboratory School completed a total renovation of the original 1953 high school building. The high school now has a population of slightly more than 400 students.

In August 2006, a new elementary building was opened, and the elementary division doubled in enrollment. Throughout its more than 100-year history, University Laboratory School has maintained its place among the best primary and secondary educational institutions in the state, region and beyond in academics, arts, athletics and facilities and services. Stay tuned as our progress forward continues!
Clint Heroman has been selected as the 2017-18 University Laboratory School Elementary Student of the Year. Heroman was named Student of the Year after an extensive selection process, including a portfolio, a writing sample, an interview with fifth grade teachers and a review of his academic achievement throughout his elementary years at ULS.

Nominees for the award were selected by kindergarten through fourth grade teachers and included current fifth graders Heroman, Caroline Cain, Annsley Easton, Calla Graves, Annie Leotta, Jake Giering, Jacob McCann and Tommy McRae. Heroman will continue in the Student of the Year competition at the regional level. This marks the first year that ULS Elementary School has competed in the Louisiana Student of the Year program beyond the school/district level.

Clint Heroman has been selected as the 2017-18 University Laboratory School Elementary Student of the Year. Heroman was named Student of the Year after an extensive selection process, including a portfolio, a writing sample, an interview with fifth grade teachers and a review of his academic achievement throughout his elementary years at ULS.

Five Cubs Attend International Youth Science Forum in London

The London International Youth Science Forum has been held annually in London since 1959 and each year attracts young scientists from more than 70 participating countries. This past summer, five University Laboratory School seniors were selected by their science instructors to attend the residential student event.

Held primarily at Imperial College London and The Royal Geographical Society, LIYSF also offers day visits to other leading UK research centers and universities. Oxford and Cambridge, and optional sightseeing tours of London, Stonehenge and Salisbury, Windsor and Hampton Court are among some of the tours in which students partake.

Pictured at Stonehenge (left to right) are the ULS 2017 participants: Jordan Blunt, Cathryn Coulter, Zoe Bart, Grant Smith and Connor McCarthy and Secondary Principal Frank Rusciano, who discovered the LIYSF as an opportunity for ULS students.

For two weeks, the five ULS students lived together with nearly 500 other young scientists between 16 and 21 years old as an international community. They exchanged ideas and experiences, fulfilling the aim of the forum, which is to give a greater insight into science and its application for the benefit of all mankind.

While all five of the ULS participants said the event solidified their desire to pursue a career in science, they also all noted that it provided them with a window to far more opportunities than they were previously aware.

In particular, Coulter said, “I knew beforehand that I was interested in pursuing a career in science, but LIYSF has helped me narrow down my interests through exposure to a large variety of different fields. One lecture that interested me the most was about the spread of viruses and containing outbreaks. The lecturer told us about her experience working in disadvantaged countries in Africa, and how she was able to directly help people in need. This was my first-time hearing about anything like this, so it opened up a door for me to possibly study virology in the future!”

And while Coulter and Bart also both enjoyed the visit to CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, and seeing the world’s largest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, Smith appreciated the lecture by Virgin Galactic’s CEO on commercial space travel. Blunt was excited to learn about the making of luxury cars and the Boeing 787 Dreamliner engine at the Rolls Royce testing facility.

“This event and the associated travel was educational, exciting, challenging and beneficial for all of the students who were selected to participate this year. I look forward to continuing this opportunity for our students for many years to come,” said Rusciano.

Anne Furr and Webster Gordon both achieved the honor of 2018 National Merit Semi-finalists.

To qualify as National Merit Semi-finalists, students must earn a score on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test that is within the top 1 percent of the 1.6 million students across the nation who took the test as juniors in the 2016-2017 academic year. Both students have entered the next phase of the National Merit competition where they will be considered for finalist status.

In addition to their academic success, Furr and Gordon have both served the Cub student community through membership and participation in several clubs and organizations. Anne is a pole vaulter and sprinter on the ULS Track Team, while Webster is a member of the ULS Cub Pride Band.
TeachingWorks, a national program dedicated to providing resources and training to ensure that beginning teachers are ready to instruct on their first day, has selected two ULS high school English instructors to serve as model educators for the program's high leverage practice video series.

Tamara Empson and Candence Robillard will be featured in the program's collection of video exemplars scheduled to launch on-line this month. The videos of both were shot at ULS earlier this fall and captured the teachers and their students in model group discussions on selected literature.

TeachingWorks is a program of University of Michigan’s School of Education. While visiting ULS, the program's director of secondary English Language Arts, Monique Cherry, noted that she scouted expert teachers across the country from Oakland to New York to find those like Empson and Robillard who could assist in the mission to “train novice teachers so every child in the nation has a quality education.”

CUBS HAVE HEART

University Laboratory School elementary students and physical education teachers were recently awarded first in the nation for their efforts in the 2016-17 American Heart Association's combined Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart event. The total raised was $61,551. Pictured receiving the award are P.E. instructors Susan Gremillion and Ashley Applegate with ULS's AHA representative.

Physical education instructor Christina Courtney was also presented the prestigious Louisiana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Jump Rope for Heart Award at the ceremony.

She is being recognized for her overall dedication and service to the American Heart Association.

This summer, Christina was also one of 40 people selected to be a National Trainer for OPEN PhysEd for the Louisiana Department of Education standards and curriculum training. Through this program, she participated in the National Curriculum Coach Training and the National PE and School Sport Institute Conference.

Finally, Mrs. Courtney was chosen by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to be a standard setting panelist for the EMC/Physical Education certificate area. She traveled to Chicago, Illinois, on Aug. 10 to participate in the panel.

NINTH GRADERS SOAR AT THE NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMY

During the first week of summer 2017, 33 ULS students from grades 7-9 attended the National Flight Academy camp held at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. The students spent the week flying missions from the world’s largest simulated aircraft carrier. They were surrounded by advanced technology, flight simulators and virtual reality games.

The group also had front row seats for the Blue Angels’ performance on the base.

"During the week, they made calculations for the amount of fuel needed for missions, specific drop locations for humanitarian aid, and search and rescue missions. "I was super impressed with what our students learned during the week," said Secondary Principal Frank Rusciano, who also attended and coordinated the camp for ULS students.

"It was amazing," said James Upp, a rising 8th grader at the time, who is an airplane enthusiast and perhaps a future pilot.

After a wonderful experience during the summer program, the ULS 9th grade class attended a 3-day overnight deployment at the National Flight Academy in November. Students lived in a multi-story structure of academic rooms, simulator bays, a galley, a mess deck, simulation and immersion spaces, berthing rooms, activity rooms and student aviator lounges.

Throughout the week, students learned from Ambition eXperimental Pilots about life as a Naval Aviator, as well as what it is like to live on a modern aircraft. Missions the students faced grew in difficulty with each passing day. Their communication skills, aviation, and science skills were continuously put to the test. The 9th graders also had the opportunity to work with advanced flight technology and simulators.

Finally, Mrs. Courtney was chosen by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards to be a standard setting panelist for the EMC/Physical Education certificate area. She traveled to Chicago, Illinois, on Aug. 10 to participate in the panel.
University Laboratory School's elementary musical, The Little Mermaid Jr., performed to sold out audiences in late November. The story, based on the Hans Christian Anderson story and the Disney film, featured students from kindergarten through 5th grade. Lead roles included Evie Trahan as Ariel, Sadie Everett as Scuttle, Reese Ward as Chef Louisa, Mercer Richardson as Sebastian, Charlie McCandless as Prince Eric, Wesley Hau as Jetsam, Michael Victorian as Flotsam, Israel Hollie as Flounder, Matthew Mele as Grimsby, Ethan Hopkins as King Triton, MacKenzie Granger as Ursula, Lukas Schwem as Pilot, Izzy Shanklin as Seahorse and 4th grade instructor Catherine Myrick as Carlotta.

Under the musical direction of ULS vocal instructor Patti Hayes, students rehearsed for months while nearly 50 parents volunteered almost as many hours in a variety of support roles. Special thanks to parents Lee Lee Jareau and Meredith Metzger (props and sets), Misty Shanklin and Ashley Stringfellow (costumes), Stephanie McCandless and Terra Whitaker (choreography) and Tracy Randolph (cast supervision).

A GRAND FINALE...

This year’s elementary musical marks the last for Hayes who will retire at the end of the school year as ULS vocal instructor. She noted in the playbook for the musical, "Pride and joy are my feelings. Because this is my final elementary musical for University Laboratory School, I could not be more proud to be affiliated with this show. All the memories made during the past 25 years of concerts, contests, performances, show choir and musicals will hopefully keep me in your thoughts and always ‘part of your world!’ And to her we say, ‘no worries’ Ms. Hayes! Once a Cub, always a Cub.

ULS high school students in English instructor Tamara Empson’s Creative Writing class spent the first quarter of the school year learning how to write with voice. In the second quarter, they shifted their attention to writing with a sense of audience. To now apply what they have learned, the creative writing students recently interviewed first graders in instructor Frankie Day’s class to begin the process of authoring books for each of them. The high school students will complete their assignments and return to Day’s class before Christmas break to deliver their final work to the first graders.
Garrett Brumfield is now a junior at Louisiana State University and a starter for the Tiger football team, once lined up for U-High's offensive line on Friday nights before he started taking on Saturday nights in Death Valley. The offensive guard first picked up a football around the age of 8 after taking some time to convince his mom that it was worth it. "It honestly was just kind of a random thing. My family and I were driving down the road, and I saw a sign that said a youth football team was starting. I ended up begging my mom and initially she said no. She was very reluctant, but she came around to the idea eventually," said Brumfield. Brumfield attended Sherwood Magnet Middle before venturing to U-High in high school, but no matter the school, he continued to play the sport that seemed to come into his life on a whim.

"It’s just one of those things where you start as a kid and one year turns into two years, and two years turn into three years, and I’m just kind of here where I am now." When the time came for Brumfield to decide on where to attend high school, U-High appeared unparalleled. Taking into account the environment, academics, athletics, structure, and support the community provided, Brumfield’s parents felt that the school fit their son’s needs best.

"My head coach was of course Coach Chad Mahaffey. He had great plans and great structure, and my parents thought that it would be a great environment for me to be involved in," said Brumfield. They were correct. Brumfield became a top recruit nationally in the blink of an eye. He ranked as the No. 1 offensive guard in the country, and the No. 52 overall recruit regardless of position. He was also named to the first team All-State honors his junior and senior years, and to the Under Armour All-American team and to the USA Today All-USA Second Team.

When the time came for Brumfield to decide where he would continue his football career, he gave every school an equal chance. “More than anything, my parents and I tried to take the whole U-High, Baton Rouge bias out of it. I just tried to look at LSU as another school and not necessarily where I’m from and was raised. There was a great environment and a great support staff, and I felt it was the place that suited me best,” Brumfield said.

Upon entering college, Brumfield says he quickly met many challenges and learned many life lessons. "Being basically a top and highly recruited guy in high school, and then coming to college, I red-shirted my freshman year. I kind of went from feeling like I was on top of the world to being a guy that doesn’t play and sits on the sideline. It was very humbling and helped push me and mold me into who I am now."

Now, Brumfield starts for the Tigers offensive line. For this current season, he wears No. 78. In his sophomore season alone, he played for 150 offensive snaps. For the season opener for 2017 against Brigham Young University, Brumfield received a team high of an 86 percent. Following the game, he was named the SEC Offensive Lineman of the week.

Brumfield says having the chance to play in a stadium like Death Valley is surreal, but when it comes down to it, it is the familiar feeling of his days at U-High that will always bring him back to those hallways he walked through on his first day. "There is nothing quite the same as playing at your home. I have so many memories there. Being in high school with your teammates and having your family right there watching you, it’s a much more close-knit group. The love I experienced there is just unmatched. It was very personal, and I don’t think that is something I will ever get again in my life."

Overall, Brumfield says that while he continued to improve both on the field and in the classroom at U-High, someone always seemed to be next to him pushing him onto greatness in whatever endeavor stood in front of him. "There were teachers that were willing to help me when I wasn’t willing to help myself when I wanted to be lazy and didn’t want to get stuff done. They would push me and drive me and challenge me. Just having to conquer challenges at U-High, I learned that things won’t come easy and that was the greatest lesson I learned there."

As he continues to suit up for Saturday nights in Death Valley, those Friday night cheers from his alma mater will continue to echo in his mind. Though he is a Tiger now, Garrett Brumfield is a Cub forever.

Volleyball Earns LHSAA Sportsmanship Award

The University High School volleyball team was named the Capital City Board of Volleyball Officials’ Division IV and overall winner among the 47 Baton Rouge area schools for the LHSAA Sportsmanship Award.

In 2014, LHSAA began its Sportsmanship Award program to recognize those teams who go “beyond the game” and who empower others through exemplary sportsmanship both on and off the court.

In the face of tragedy this year, the University High School volleyball team valiantly supported one another and their extended volleyball family while they continued to pursue excellence in the game of volleyball. “Sportsmanship is treating others that you would play with and against the same way you would like to be treated. To receive such an honor speaks volumes for each and every player on the team. Receiving this award is a life lesson in itself, one that will follow these girls the rest of their lives, and for that, I could not be more proud and happy for these young ladies,” said UHS Coach Bonita Johnson.

Score
ULS Teacher Brings a Little Bit of Louisiana to Japan

ULS Social Studies instructor Belinda Cambre, JD, Ph.D. was one of 10 teachers from North America selected to participate in a 10-day study tour in Japan as part of the Keizai Koho Center Teacher Fellowship Program. While in Tokyo, Dr. Cambre was able to visit several high schools and businesses, including Sony, Honda, the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the Tezuka Production Company, one of Japan’s oldest studios of animation and anime. While in Tokyo, Dr. Cambre gave a lecture about Louisiana geography to the English class (equivalent to our sophomores) at Mejiri Kenshin Junior and Senior High School.

The trip was sponsored by the Keizai Koho Center (KKC), an independent, nonprofit organization affiliated with Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation), which was established to serve as a platform for the Japanese business community to interact with key stakeholders inside and outside of Japan.

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CUBS TAKE ON HARVARD MIT MATH TOURNAMENT

ULS middle school students Alex Wu (7th) and Niles Babin (8th) qualified to compete in the annual Harvard MIT Math Tournament (HMMT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wu and Babin traveled with LSU’s Math Circle Competition Team to compete at Harvard University on Nov. 10. Over 900 high school math students from across the nation represented Asia, Europe, Africa and South America at the competition.

HMMT, which was first held in 1998, is considered one of the most prestigious high school math competitions in the world. Wu and Babin met with the LSU Math Circle Competition weekly on LSU’s campus to practice for national-level high school math and coding leading up to the competition.

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ALL EIGHT 2017 ULS NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

All eight 2017 ULS National Merit finalists were named as winners of National Merit college scholarships. They are among 7,500 high school seniors total from throughout the United States who received National Merit Scholarship awards this year. The winners were originally selected from a pool of around 1.6 million students. From that group, semifinalists and then finalists were selected. Finally, a committee of admissions officers and high school counselors from throughout the country selected the winners based upon academic record, scores on standardized tests, leadership in school and community activities, student essays and recommendations from high school officials.

The ULS National Merit scholarship recipients, pictured above clockwise are: Elizabeth Feltner - National Merit Dow Chemical Company Scholarship; Matthew Johnson - National Merit Louisiana State University Scholarship; Henry Kantrow - National Merit Scholarship; Sean Kennedy - National Merit Scholar; Scot McKenzie - National Merit Louisiana State University Scholarship; Isabella Reed - National Merit University of Alabama at Birmingham Scholarship; Kathryn Schimmel - National Merit Tulane University Scholarship; and Paul Stouffer - National Merit Scholarship.

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STUDENTS NAMED TO LHSAA ALL-ACADEMIC ATHLETES

Nine ULS students have been named LHSAA all-academic athletes for the fall 2017 season. Included are (right) Cathryn Coulter, volleyball; Justice Merrifield, cross country runner; Bailey Grimes, volleyball; and Callie Engle (not pictured) along with football team members Aidan Gale, Jack Hamilton, Fox Vidrine, Davis Mitchell, and Cole Whittington. Criteria for this award are that students must be actively participating in a sport while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or above. Two students, Cathryn Coulter and Bailey Grimes, earned spots on the LHSAA composite all-academic team by having GPAs of 4.0 or above.

Congratulations to these student athletes who have excelled both in the classroom and in the game!
George Daniels ’57 was seldom without a paperback in his briefcase and an audiobook in his car. A voracious reader with a soft spot for history, George’s love of books and learning was practically innate: his mother, Will Conerly Daniels, was the ULS librarian for 40 years and earned three advanced degrees. Will and George have now passed away, but their ULS legacy stands strong.

Nearly 80 years ago, from Mississippi to attend LSU, not realizing just how closely intertwined her life would be with campus. Shortly after earning her master’s degree in 1932, Will was hired as librarian of ULS. In 1939, she and her husband welcomed George into the world.

Long before George was a student at ULS, he accompanied his mother to school. Will raised George on her own from 1932 to 1939, accompanying his mother to school. In 1939, Will was hired as librarian of ULS. In 1939, she and her husband welcomed George into the world.

George was a student at ULS, he moved to Birmingham after being appointed manager of the Dean Witter office there, then started his own company in 1994.

While in town for a ULS reunion several years ago, George and Vicki participated in a school tour. Vicki described George’s reaction to learning about the resources available to students: “He was so impressed when we did the tour. We know that sort of thing only comes with additional funding. We said to each other that naming the library would be a really nice thing to do, because he knew how important the library was to his mom.”

George and Vicki had hoped to bring his idea to life together; after George passed away last year, making it happen seemed the ideal way to celebrate his and Will’s connections to the school. In their memory, Vicki made a six-figure gift to name the Daniels Family Library/In Memory of Will Conerly Daniels and George V. Daniels Jr. “We thought we’d have more time together, but I’m glad I’m in a situation that I could do it for him,” Vicki shared.

The naming of the Daniels Family Library marries Will and George’s ULS legacy with their and Vicki’s shared appreciation for learning and giving back. George was on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Central Alabama for 38 years, a post Vicki now holds. The couple volunteered with their public radio station, and Vicki chairs the annual book sale for her local library.

Vicki said the act of giving was most important to George, explaining, “He was never really interested in whether people knew how much he’d given. He was more interested in encouraging people to give.”

Vicki’s gift to ULS affords the school flexibility to direct the funds where they are most needed. That, too, is in keeping with George and Will’s perspective on helping others. She said, “Giving back—his mom instilled that in him growing up. If it’s going to help, it’s just the right thing to do.”

The gift also honors George’s appreciation for the school’s unique, family-like community. Vicki remembers being amazed at the closeness among George’s classmates, decades after graduation and even though they didn’t see each other often. “They had been such an important part of each other’s lives at a very formative time,” she said.

During their 20 years of marriage, Vicki and George traveled extensively. She jokes that they were trips, not vacations, remembering, “Our first trip to Paris, we stayed in the Louvre for 12 hours. He was one of these people who went to a museum and read every single plaque.” Vicki credited Will, whom she never had opportunity to meet, saying, “She instilled in him how important it was to learn his entire life.”

Among the mementos George held onto over the years were copies of The Yearling and The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, which made their way from the ULS library to his bookshelf.
The large art room tucked away at the end of a hallway on the second floor of University Laboratory School is a classroom of action. Students constantly move about, most wearing headphones to block out distractions. All are busy at work on a variety of projects – some painting, some drawing, some weaving, some printing, some sculpting.

Instructor Therese Knowles shifts from student to student checking on progress, providing words of encouragement and sometimes offering the occasional gentle critique. She has established her classroom so that students are able to explore their individual artistic aspirations. “This is finally my home,” she says glancing around at all of the stations available to students.

When Knowles first arrived at University Laboratory School, she had a vision of providing students with an array of artistic outlets. Upon her transition from elementary art instructor to high school art instructor, she saw the opportunity to move forward and slowly began building her dream, much of it with grants and funding through University Laboratory School Foundation. Year-by-year, she purchased equipment and established new curriculums of study. Nearly a decade later, in one classroom under her guidance, students may participate in visual arts, ceramics, printing and electronic arts.

A PLACE WHERE ACADEMICS AND CREATIVITY COLLIDE

While the art, technique, and styles are as varied as the students in the class, the common thread is that all are required to approach their projects in a thoughtful, purposeful, meaningful manner. Before beginning any project, students are asked to make observations of similar work, the environment or some other form of inspiration. They then must ask questions, formulate the best way to tackle and manage a project and consistently analyze their own progress, making changes along the way if and when necessary.

If this sounds somewhat scientific in principle, Knowles would say, “Of course it does! Art adds the human voice to math, science and other content areas. It pulls together the loose ends of academic subjects to weave together a moment of making sense of the world we live in – whether visually, musically or through literature.”

The art room, some would say, is where academics and creativity collide. To use the kick wheel in pottery, students must intimately understand momentum and friction. Chemistry comes into play as students begin mixing glazes for ceramics. In the fiber arts (weaving), mathematics are an integral part of calculating patterns and texture desired. Mathematics are also an important component in using value to create size and form in paintings. To integrate optical illusions and symmetry into their work, students must understand perspective math.

From the extruders to the kiln, from the slab rollers to the silk screens, from the loom to the wood burners, Knowles’ students must know the mechanics of how the classroom’s equipment works so that they are also aware of how to properly use AND maintain the tools necessary to craft their projects.

Like science, Knowles explains, art is not an end result. “Artists, like scientists, constantly transition from one process to another.” She goes on to say that artists and scientists both “want to know who we are, why we belong here and want to find some sense of control in this world.”

An accomplished artist in her own right, having shown works and taught both locally and internationally, Knowles believes art is “an expression of life and people’s connection to one another.”

Her classroom, her home, is reflective of that sentiment. Whether academic, scientific or artistic in nature, she says, “...It is a need in all of us, in whatever we do, to find a sense of stability, order and harmony.”

CREATIVITY IN PROGRESS

Art adds the human voice to math, science and other content areas.
When You Love Your Job...

University Laboratory School science instructor Steve Babcock's first visit to LSU was when he was 12 years old. He grew up on a family farm in rural north central Louisiana. One of seven children, the Babcock parents and siblings spent most of their lives working and playing outdoors. They tended a garden, raising much of their food, and spent their days taking care of all of the animals on the farm. It was this upbringing and a prized cow that first connected Babcock to the university that would provide him with his education and ultimately, his career at University Laboratory School.

"Her name was Queen," says Babcock. Growing up in the country, it made sense that the Babcock children would show cattle through the local 4-H club. "Queen was something," he says. After winning grand champion at the 4-H regional show, Babcock and Queen qualified to compete at LSU's Parker Coliseum. Remembering his first drive to campus, a glimmer of pride is still apparent as he shares a picture from that day.

Through the life lessons he learned on the family farm, it has always been easy for Babcock to see the connection between the environment and really every facet of our lives as humans. Now, as an environmental systems and physics instructor in an urban setting, one of his primary goals today is to "get kids to slow down and see the world as they don't normally."

He explains, ecosystems vary throughout the world – deserts to marshes, mountains to plains. "The ecosystems of a country are strongly linked with its people’s cultural values," he notes. Perhaps even more importantly, he says, "The lion’s share of each country’s worth is linked to its ecosystems. We cannot be isolated from our ecosystems. The world’s population is growing. We have to figure out if what we are doing is best for people and for the environment." As a science instructor, it is now his intended focus to ensure students leave his class with that understanding.
Babcock takes pride in developing interesting curriculums that are “relevant to students’ lives and emphasize understanding through inquiry.”

Babcock did not dream of being a teacher. Despite ending up as an award winning science instructor, he started with a different vision. “I studied history at LSU, but I always thought I would go into construction. Then, I met my future wife, Mary Gugich, while in college.” By the time they married, Mary had earned degrees in German and Russian from LSU. After graduation, Gugich accepted a graduate teaching position at University of Oregon and later began teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Portland, which had a large Russian émigré population. “I always wanted to move out west, so this worked out,” says Babcock.

Babcock landed a job performing work for the Forest Service in Oregon and surrounding states where he developed a variety of projects ranging from reforestation in logging country to building hiking trails in wilderness areas. His fondest memories are of supervising the ground crews for helicopter lifts on remote bridge construction sites. “I spent a lot of time in the woods,” he says, which continued to ignite his curiosity of his new surroundings and the interest, developed during his childhood, in the connections between humans and their environments.

It was finally that innate interest, along with his passion for the environment and his desire to share it with others that soon met head on with an urgent need for science teachers in Portland. He decided to pursue his own master’s degree in education with a focus in science (he now has two masters degrees), ultimately putting him on the track for what has now become more than 20-year prolific career as a scientist and an educator.

In his initial year (1996) as an instructor, he was named Sallie-Mae First Year Teacher of the Year for Oregon’s Beaverton School District.

Babcock realized almost immediately that he wanted to continue to participate in environmental projects and research on his own time to ensure science remained new and interesting to him and therefore to his students. So, in that initial year as an educator, he also accepted a second job as a data interpreter for Pacific Marine Environmental Labs and the NOAA sea floor observatory at Axial Volcano.

That in turn led to his selection as Oregon’s representative for the Maury Project (named after the father of oceanography Matthew Fontaine Maury) - a teacher professional development program based on studies of oceanography directed towards improving teacher effectiveness among precollege students – and housed at the prestigious U.S. Naval Academy.

One year later, Babcock was awarded Discovery Channel’s Outstanding Science Mentor award.

In 2004, having established careers as educators and now with two children, Babcock and Gugich decided that it was time to move back to Louisiana and closer to family. Within a year, Babcock’s educational journey landed him full circle back to LSU as a science specialist with the University’s Cain Center and as a physics and environmental systems instructor at University Laboratory School.

Then, just as today, everything Babcock learns through his field studies and research has been brought back or incorporated into his classes. In 2010, he was selected for the Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands. Before leaving, he had his ULS environmental systems students research the various islands that he would visit. Each had to identify a question they wanted him to answer during his travels. While there, he gathered the data necessary to answer their questions in field notebooks and brought those back to his students at the conclusion of his trip.

The students were then responsible for analyzing the data collected, answering their own questions and creating graphs and tables to put into a power point for presentation to the entire class.

Babcock’s work has been published in numerous scientific and educational journals. He has been a presenter or panelist at more than a dozen workshops or conferences throughout Louisiana, the region and the U.S., and he is a current member of the Louisiana State Science Standards Writing Group which defines the knowledge and skills Louisiana students are expected to know in the subject of science at each grade level.

Most recently, he has served as a public outreach consultant for Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and at ULS he is director of the Coastal Roots native plant nursery – a project that he incorporates into his classes.

Babcock takes pride in developing interesting curriculums that are “relevant to students’ lives and emphasize understanding through inquiry.” His classes incorporate fieldwork, service-learning and information technology, much of it funded through grants from the University Laboratory School Foundation.

Among his most recent ULS Foundation-funded projects is a collaborative effort with LSU called Environmental Monitoring with Drones. “Our drones were first deployed last year to measure plant species diversity and to calculate the amount of impervious surfaces on campus that contribute runoff to waterways,” said Babcock, adding, “This year we will be working with Dr. Rodrigo Diaz of the LSU AgCenter to monitor invasive aquatic species such as giant salvinia found in Louisiana waterways. We will also be participating in field research with Dr. Diaz to compare water quality
I want kids to get outside and get dirty. I want them to get out of the classroom and work in and play in the environment. When they do, I can see that they put aside any biases they may have had and can actually see for themselves what is going on environmentally even right here on our own campus.

Ultimately, Babcock hopes all of his students leave him with an understanding that how people live and what they hold valuable from generation to generation is central to human existence. “We have to constantly figure out if what we are doing is best for people and the environment.”

Babcock nominated for Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching

ULS PHYSICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL systems instructor Steven Babcock is one of five state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the United States government for K-12 mathematics and science teaching. Established by Congress in 1983, the President may recognize, from each of the 50 states each year, up to 108 exemplary teachers. Since the program’s inception, more than 4,700 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. According to the PAEMST website, “Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of STEM education.” The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.
Cub Tracks

1. Mary Michael Lloyd Staples ’04 and husband Bo welcomed a daughter, Sarah Margaret on July 17, 2017. Sarah Margaret joins big sister Mary Bowman.

2. Martin Setliff ’00 recently became the director of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department at Our Lady of the Lake.


4. Rani Whitfield ’87 also known as the “Hip Hop Doc” has recently been named the new medical director of CareSouth. Rani is a 2015 inductee into the University High School Alumni Hall of Distinction.

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9. High School Sweethearts, M’Lynn Ganey ’09 and Garrett White ’09 were married at Alton Villa in St. Francisville on Oct. 27, 2017. Both are 2016 graduates of LSU. M’Lynn is currently working as fitness director at Central Physical Therapy and Garrett is construction manager at D.H. Horton.

10. Do you have news to share? Please share your latest news and achievements with The Cub Roar, so we can let your fellow classmates and friends know about the good things you’ve done since leaving U-High! Please take a moment to email your Alumni Cub Tracks news to Megan Bourgeois at mbourg@lsu.edu.

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The 1972 UHS Marching Band initiated a new era of half-time performances. For the first time ever, the band marched and played at the same time. Under the direction of Drum Major Richard Buchholz and Mr. James Choate, band director, the band played many popular tunes. The majorettes also were a part of the show and placed first in a statewide competition.
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