



University of HOLY CROSS CHRONICLE



Student Newspaper

New Orleans, LA

Fall 2017

University Residence Hall Construction Underway

by Will Luton

When arriving at Holy Cross, you cannot miss the cranes stretching to the sky, steel frames rising from the ground, concrete pouring into slabs, and the constant ferrying of construction materials laying the foundation of a new direction: The University of the Holy Cross Residence Hall is under construction!

"We are going from what was a commuter college into what will become a residential University," said Dr. David M. "Buck" Landry, University President. It will soon provide on-campus housing, athletic and meditation areas, and added community space for students. The dormitory, the first for the 101-year-old university, is scheduled to be ready for students in Fall 2018.

On November 14th, a Construction Commencement Ceremony and News Conference took place on the front steps of Holy Cross's main entrance. In attendance were students, faculty, staff, and community leaders from Algiers and the greater New Orleans area.

"This will allow us an opportunity to expand our Mission which is to educate the mind—but not at



(From left) Mallory Ottaway, Dr. Landry, Derrick Martin, Kyle M. France, Sister Ann LaCour, MSC, and the Very Reverend James A. Wehner

the expense of the heart—and to do even more community service than we're doing now," said Dr. Landry.

The multi-storied hall will have space for 135 beds and will be broken down into singles, doubles, and quads. Male students will be isolated on one-half of one floor, and an RA (compensated by free rent) will be on each floor. Fifty rooms are reserved for current students.

"We as students are very

excited to welcome the growth and development that the residence hall will bring to this campus," said Ms. Mallory Ottaway, President of the University of Holy Cross Student Government Association.

A new policy will be put into effect requiring incoming first-year students living more than 40 miles away from home to live in the residence hall, unless they provide proof of a relative with whom they

plan to live.

"Changing the University from a commuter campus to a residential campus will bring a new excitement to the University, and we believe that it will help student life," said Ms. Ottaway.

In the spirit of the increasing diversity of the student body, a meditation room open to all denominations will be on the first floor. The Hurricane Café will be expanding service hours and providing three meals a day. The Library will also have increased hours open for studying.

More changes will be seen as a brick and wrought iron fence is constructed and security is added with 24-hour police, outside cameras, new lighting, and campus lockdown at 11:00 each night. "We are the most secure campus in Louisiana, and we want to keep it that way," said Dr. Landry.

With so much change, there is of course a price tag. A \$10 million loan from First Bank, naming rights by donation, and the University endowment are financing the project.

CONSTRUCTION-PAGE-2

The Leaving of a Legend: Carol Scott Retiring

by Lindsey DiFebbo

After thirty-one years of teaching, Carol Scott, the art professor at the University of Holy Cross, has decided to retire at the end of the year in order to focus more time on her art work.

When she first started teaching, she was a math teacher for fifth and sixth grade students, and had never taken an art class until college. Later, she decided to take classes at the University of New Orleans for fun, and eventually ended up graduating with a degree in Fine Arts.

Mrs. Scott found her way to the University of Holy Cross when her father would have some of the Marianite sisters over for dinner. Eventually, they invited her to be the art teacher at the University.

One of the many things she loves about being an art teacher is letting students find their creative

personalities when they may have never created any sort of art work before.

"My first piece of art work was just to have decoration in my house," she said. "I was always a creative person, even though I never took an art class until my college days."

Ever since her arrival at the University, she has created many paintings that hang on the walls of UHC, two of the most known works being *The Spirit of Our Lady* and *Blue Rosary*.

One of her many prestigious awards is the Outstanding Recognition Award she received from The Colored Pencil Society of America. Her best known collection of art work done in colored pencil is called *Crystallography*. It showcases how light reflects and shines through crystal in different ways. This particular collection took her

three years to complete and was on display at the Jean Bragg Gallery.

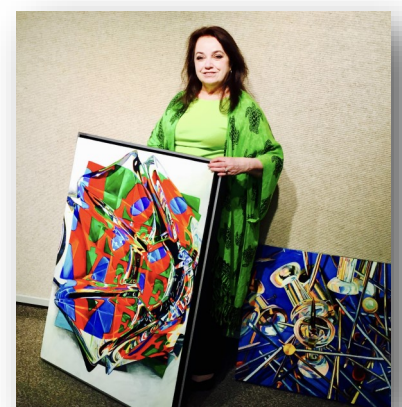
Mrs. Scott's art work has been shown in various places all over, including Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and even as far as Argentina.

Sadly, our legendary art teacher will be departing at the end of this year and she will surely be missed and remembered by the faculty and students.

Erin Krause, one of the Liberal Arts majors at the University, met Carol Scott for the first time when she walked into her first class late. "She let me know I was late and then told me it was okay because she liked my glasses. She's really cool," Erin said.

Erin had explored two other majors before switching to Liberal Arts. "Mrs. Scott was so inspiring as a teacher that it made me feel like I was being called to create my

own art work," Erin said. With her love of art and her newfound wisdom in creating masterpieces, Erin hopes to one day be just like the legendary Carol Scott.



Mrs. Carol Scott



Students Volunteer at Groundbreaking Ceremony

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"As a developer, whenever I see bulldozers and steel I get excited because that means opportunity," said Derrick Martin, Executive Director of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation.

As with many building projects, the original estimate of \$12.8 million has now increased to \$14 million. Although talks are ongoing with potential donors, the Tom Benson Foundation has given \$100,000 for the athletic facility, which will be available to all students, faculty, and staff.

"It's more than just the driving of pylons; it's about economic impact; it's a 14 million-dollar investment that will probably lead to another 101 years," said Mr. Martin.

Education and the continued success of the Allied Health, Nursing, and Education programs contribute to the undercurrent of change: Holy Cross has moved from 77th to 55th in the *US News and World Report Regional Colleges South*.

"This has been a long time coming," said Dr. Landry. It has indeed been a long time since the Marianites first began the University's Mission.



Sr. LaCour and Rev. Wehner

"101 years ago, a group of Marianites at 3500 St. Claude Avenue had a dream that we would continue education beyond ourselves, beyond elementary and high school education, to the university level," said Sr. Ann LaCour, MSC, Congregational Leader of the Marianites of Holy Cross.

That Mission was under their direct supervision until recently. "A year ago, the Marianites made the decision to turn the ownership over to the Board of Trustees and to sponsor the University of Holy Cross. That decision came with much prayer and a pledge that the Marianites will always be here in one way or another," said Sr. LaCour.

The Marianite tradition is still central to Holy Cross and acknowledged by their blessing at the Commencement Ceremony. "Today, as I stand on the steps that many of us entered to become Marianites of Holy Cross and look to my left, I know that the Marianites leave a legacy of mind and heart that is grounded in the Gospel," said Sr. LaCour.



Dr. David M. "Buck" Landry speaking at the Commemoration.

"The idea of having a residence hall is to target a larger marketing area than just New Orleans," said President Landry. The marketing strategy includes contacting 50,000 high school juniors and sophomores who take the ACT. The projection is 7,500 will respond; 2,500 will be interested; 750 will apply; and 225 will register as incoming students. These projections are guiding the overall growth plan.

Despite some acknowledged faith-financing for the future, "We will retain our status as the least expensive private college in the state," said Dr. Landry.

The addition of the Ph.D. programs in Counseling and



Artist's Rendering of the New Residence Hall.



Brenton Guerin
Kallie Glidewell
Drew Ordoyne
Joseph McGowan
Alexis Baldassaro

Ashley Dunham
Heather DuCharme
Caitlyn Anglin
Kayla Albarado
Ann Murphy

Following in Her Mother's Footsteps

by Lindsey DiFebbo

Heather DuCharme, the new Director of Student Life at the University of Holy Cross, is a great addition to our University family.

With both diverse interests and background, Heather majored in theater at Fordham University in New York. She completed her degree so quickly that she was able to take up another major in religious studies. She also holds a Master's degree from Columbia.

"The big dream was to be on Broadway, but I would have believed you if you told me when I was younger that I would be working in Student Affairs. My mother worked in Student Affairs and I helped her out a lot and loved it, so it would only make sense that I would follow in her footsteps," DuCharme said.

Previously, she worked at Richmond, the American International University in London, where there was a small number of students. After living in London for ten years she decided to give the United States another try, but did not want to move back to New York due to the changes it had gone through.

When she visited New Orleans a few times with friends she realized how much she loved the city's attitude, the friendly people, and the music. "I find New Orleans to be the most European city in the United States, and thought living here would be a pretty great compromise between the UK and the US, so I took a chance," she said.

With Heather's diverse educational and professional background, it is not difficult to see how easy it

is relating and working with students at our University.

The University has two dozen student clubs and organizations. With the opening of the Residence Hall, more weekend and evening events to engage the on-campus population will be necessary.

"Our commuter students will also be swayed to participate in activities on campus during these times, and I'm hoping that the development of more campus-based activities will bring higher participation rates for all students, not just our new residents," she said.

Ms. DuCharme not only hopes that student life will become more vibrant, but that she will continue to get to know the students. The goal is to "create a program of events that suit the students' needs and enrich students' lives outside of the classroom," said DuCharme.

Heather encourages students to think of new ways to expand student life. It takes only a few people to make a club. With the influx of students that will be living on-campus, new clubs and organizations will begin to form, and the student life at the University will become more boisterous.



Ms. Heather DuCharme

“Let’s Write Right” Program Expands

by Will Luton

“Let’s Write Right: Writing in the Disciplines” is on track to be incorporated into all academic programs by 2020. All students will encounter the initiative in the admissions process, the satisfaction of degree requirements, and in coursework.

The “Let’s Write Right” program is a result of the consensus reached by students and faculty four years ago to implement and fulfill University of Holy Cross’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) required by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for re-accreditation.

The goal is to ensure students graduate with the written communication skills necessary to excel in graduate school and/or their professions. “The true proficient is able to write about a discipline and make it known to someone else,” said Dr. Michael Labranche, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The main parts of the program are the English Proficiency Test (started last year), English 201 (new in Spring 2017 for students

needing extra support to pass the Proficiency Test), increased availability of faculty tutors in the Writing Lab (already in effect), and writing-intensive courses at the 300 and 400-levels in all majors by 2020.

“No matter what the discipline is, high levels of literacy and writing proficiency are key to continued learning,” said Dr. Labranche. Liberal Arts and Science majors

begin next year; Counseling, Education, and Business start in 2019; Nursing and Allied Health start the following year in 2020.

Students who fail the Proficiency Test twice, or who opt-in voluntarily, enroll in English 201. “If students really work hard, they have no trouble passing the Proficiency Test at the end of the course,” said Dr. Claudia Champagne, Professor of English, Hu-

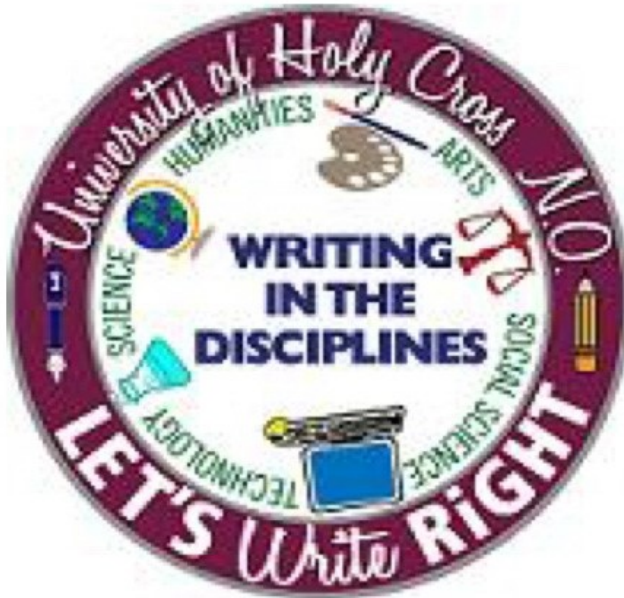
manities Department Chair, and QEP Co-Director.

“It is important to be committed to passing the course the first time, when it’s completely free,” said Dr. Champagne. If students fail the Proficiency Test after taking English 201, a \$150 fee will be required to take the class again.

With these new requirements and procedures put in place by faculty, the initiative to “write right” is being reciprocated by students. “We are seeing an increase in the number of students coming for tutoring,” said Dr. Champagne, with an average of twenty students a week.

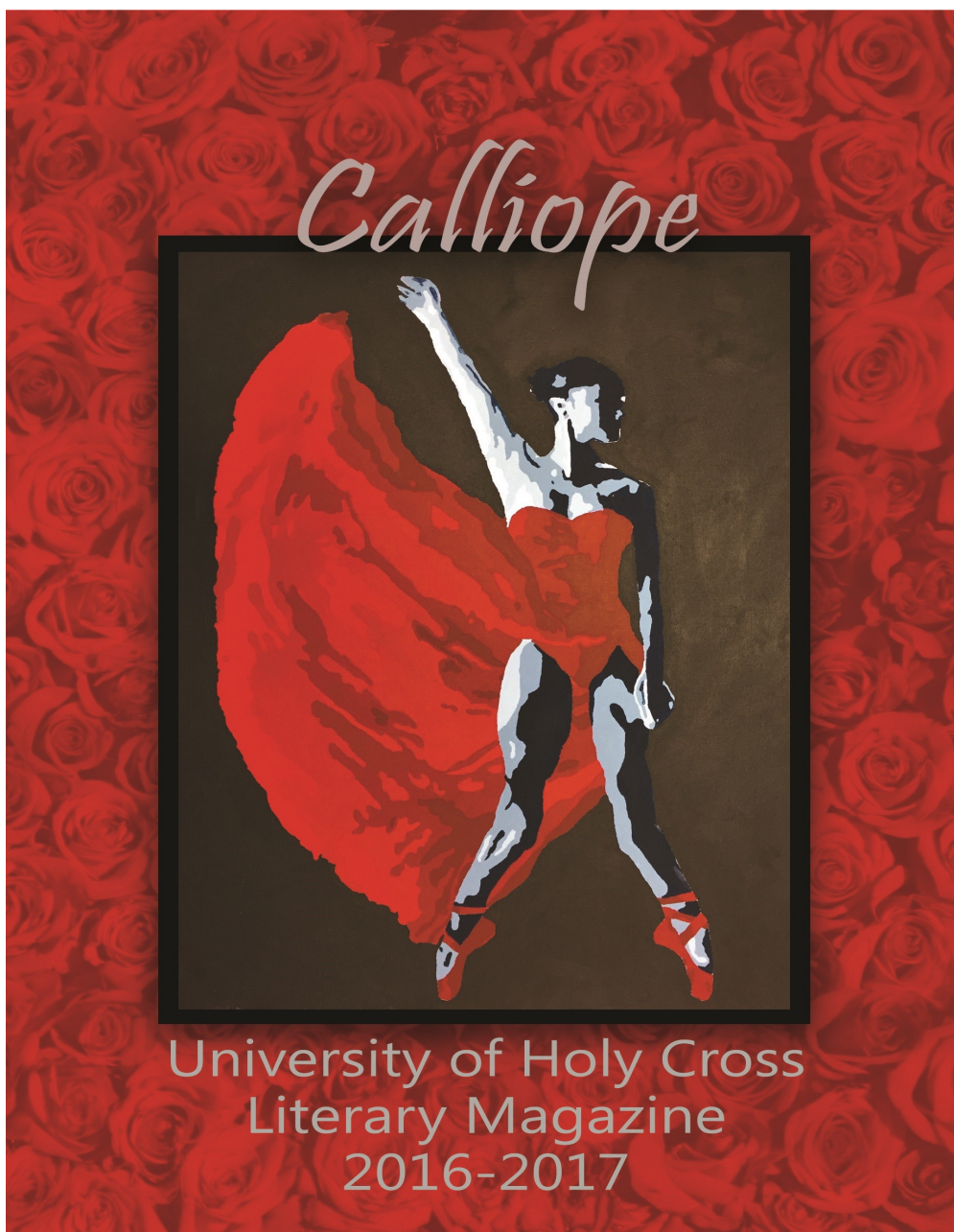
“We offer tutoring in the Writing Lab at any point in the writing process,” said Dr. Champagne. The extended hours and one-on-one attention—at whatever point students might need it—help ease the added stress of proficiency testing and course requirements.

Whether an Education student is working on PRAXIS I, a Nursing student is taking the TEAS Test, a graduate student is preparing for the GRE, or a student has any writing assignment for any course—the Writing Lab is open.



Scholarship Application Deadline '18-'19 February 15th

For more information visit: uhcno.edu/scholarships



Calliope! Calliope!

by Heidie Randle

Calliope, University of Holy Cross’s literary magazine, is published every Spring. *Calliope* features artwork, short stories, and poetry created by students.

The 2016-2017 edition’s cover is by Charity Thomas. It is a beautiful picture of a posing ballerina. “My inspiration came from Misty Copland. She makes art with her body and that inspired me to paint my version of a photo of her,” said Ms. Thomas.

Calliope was put together by Student Editor Colby Antoine; Art Advisor Mrs. Carol Scott; and Literary Advisor Dr. Claudia Champagne.

Submissions for the 2017-2018 edition of *Calliope* will begin in February. All students are highly encouraged to submit their poetry, stories, reflections, and/or artwork. *Calliope* provides students an opportunity to express themselves, highlight their talents, and be published in a magazine.

Health Fair and UHC Night

by Heidie Randle

On October 18, 2017, the University of Holy Cross held two major annual events on campus. The first event was the Health and Wellness Fair, put together by our school nurse, Donyelle Marigny.

Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to receive free flu vaccinations from Walgreens. There were vendors and charities present, such as Rite-Aid Pharmacy, Daughters of Charity, New Orleans Council on Aging, Susan G. Komen Foundation and many other wonderful companies.

The Health and Wellness Fair also included some incredible demonstrations, such as pH tasting in water and the sampling of essential oils and vegan foods. A special thank you goes to School Nurse Donyelle Marigny and all of the vendors for an absolutely well done job.

The University held UHC Night later that same evening. Due to construction taking place in the Moreau Center, school administrators decided to conduct this event in a more interactive manner. Each department and various clubs set up tables throughout the campus.

Prospective students and their parents went on voyages guided by student volunteers. During these tours, students were able to visit each table and gather information about the school.

In the Student Lounge, the Student Government Association set up a fabulous photo booth that everyone enjoyed. Congratulations to everyone involved for an outstanding UHC Night.



Ms. Kelly Fabre (left), Dr. Lisa Sullivan (center), Ms. Theresa Foret, Megan Wharrington (bottom left), and Hadeel Abuali (bottom right)



Dr. Mark Kuss (left) and Dr. Craig Bauer (right), Professors of History



Heidie Randle (left), President of UHC Literary Club and Dr. Claudia Champagne (right), Professor of English and Chair of Humanities

Bye-Bye Blackboard...

by Will Luton

"Canvas" is the learning management platform recently purchased by University of Holy Cross to replace Blackboard. As students and faculty approach the end of the Fall semester, it is clear this digital piece of the classroom is—for all practical purposes—mandatory.

The change was made because Blackboard requires an institution to purchase components by tier; Canvas is less expensive and offers more features for what the University can afford. Though Blackboard has name recognition and familiarity, Canvas provides the essential components for the goals of classroom integration and storm preparation.

"This semester, I have been videotaping all my course presentations and posting them on our module-based system," said Dr. Michael Labranche, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Mathematics Professor.

Canvas allows a lecture to be available instantaneously. Students can view the lecture on a mobile device or online as needed. This feature also acts as a fail-safe in case of inclement weather or absence.

In addition to ease-of-access for course materials, Canvas makes grades, attendance, and assignment feedback transparent and prompt. "I do like the idea that all my course information is in Canvas. From grades to attendance to calculating the grades, it has really helped out and been a time saver," said Ms. Judy Weekley, Education Department Adjunct Instructor.

For students pursuing a career in education, getting comfortable with learning management software like Canvas is not only a reality as a student, but also a professional necessity. "Students definitely need to climb on board and use it, because that's where we're headed," said Ms. Weekley.

The extent to which Canvas is being utilized varies because the software is new with students and faculty in the middle of a learning curve. The benefit, though, of using the software to its potential outweighs the alternative.

"Why not do something that can only be of benefit to the students? For me the detriment would have to be substantial to do otherwise," said Dr. Labranche.

So, bye-bye Blackboard, and hello Canvas!

Chronicle Staff

Lindsey DiFebbo—Feature Editor

Will Luton—News Editor

Haydee Ortiz—Photography

Heidie Randle—Reporter

Payton Haddican—Reporter

John P. Travis—Faculty Advisor

Dr. Claudia Champagne—Department Chair Humanities

Story Ideas for Spring Semester? Email: william_luton@uhcno.edu

