



# University of HOLY CROSS CHRONICLE



Student Newspaper

New Orleans, LA

Spring 2018



## HOW-TO USE QR CODES

Above is a "QR Code" that will link a mobile friendly version of the Chronicle, with **News and Announcements** that are not in the print edition; follow the steps below:

For Apple/Android OS:

1. Open Apple /GooglePlay store; search "QR Code Reader;"
2. Select the reader of your choice for download (there are many free apps)
3. Open the reader and enable camera access;
4. Once launched, the reader will recognize the QR code above, and open a window where you can read the paper electronically.

## Angie Ruiz New Campus Minister

by Lance Gaulon

There is a new spiritual leader on campus. Her name is Angie Ruiz, LCSW, and she is Vice President for Mission Integration and Campus Minister.

"All students need to know I am here for them in any way possible and they are welcome to email me or come see me in person," said Ms. Ruiz. Her undergraduate degree is in Education from Southeastern Louisiana University, and she has a Master's in Social Work from Tulane.

Ms. Ruiz has additional credit hours in Theology from Loyola University and Notre Dame Seminary and even a few from University of Holy Cross. In the past, she has taught in local Catholic schools and has spent the last seventeen years in Jefferson Parish Public Schools as the Executive Director of Health and Social Services.

Additionally, Ms. Ruiz was a campus minister at Louisiana State University in Alexandria, a case worker at Covenant House in New Orleans, and a

social worker at Northwood School in Boyce, Louisiana.

"God has placed me here for a purpose and I look forward to working with all of you," said Ms. Ruiz, who was a Marianite sister for seven years and feels like she has finally come home.

Everyone can count on her for guidance and help with any obstacles they may encounter. Students and faculty alike are encouraged to give Ms. Ruiz a friendly hello. Rest assured, she is welcoming and an interesting

conversationalist!

Ms. Ruiz is located in the Academic Affairs office room "M"; however, she will be moving to the Residence Hall upon its completion.

Students can reach her at: [aruiz@uhcno.edu](mailto:aruiz@uhcno.edu) (office) 504-398-2271, and (cell) 504-452-5676.



## Residence Hall Update: Student Applications Now Available

by Will Luton

Starting this fall, students will be living on campus 24 hours a day for the first time in the history of the University. The logistical realities are beginning to take shape.

The recently appointed University Housing and Residence Life Director, Heather DuCharme, has released the application for current students wishing to reserve a room in the new residence hall.

Some important information to consider is that if students elect to live in the residence hall, they must select a meal plan. So, that means if you live in the most expensive room and opt for the 3-meal a day plan, the total cost for a full year is \$13,400. If you opt for the least expensive room and the two meal a day plan, the annual cost is \$11,200.

"We wanted to give the students options and something that will work within their budget, so that's why we have different tiers and different pricing based on what selection a student might prefer," said Arlean Wehle, UHC Vice President for Finance and Operations.

These are important things to consider when deciding if the residence hall is the right pick. This is especially true for current students who are accustomed to the current cost of attendance, which leaves living expenses largely up to personal discretion.

That is not to say that there aren't tangible and financial benefits to considering the new living option. It would seem at face value that the monthly cost of the residence hall is higher than the options in the immediate vicinity; however, the cost of the residence hall includes utilities, maintenance, a meal-plan, study space, a fitness center, 24-hour security, and a proximity to class that makes transportation expenses voluntary.

With these incidental perks rolled in, the cost/benefit analysis suggests the residence hall is a competitive option.

"We're going to work with every student and their situation, we always have. That's one of the great things about this University: we want to help the students and we

always find a way to help," said Ms. Wehle.

So, for incoming freshmen, it is a great opportunity to transition into independent living while focusing on education. For current students, it offers a new option to add another level of engagement with the school that is already home.

"I talked to one student who will be living in the residence hall five days a week and returning to family on the weekends," said Ms. DuCharme, emphasizing that the diverse needs of the student body are reflected in the mission of the residence hall.

"The mission is to provide a comfortable

environment where a student can learn, live, and thrive while meeting other students to establish life-long friendships," said Ms. Wehle.

"We're looking to have people move in the week-end before classes start, so Saturday, August 11th," said Ms. Wehle. Check out the housing application linked by this QR code:



AND also check out the time-lapse of the ongoing construction!



<p>UNIT A: Private Bedroom &amp; Bath Fall/Spring: \$4,300/semester 220 Sq. Ft.</p>	<p>UNIT C: 2 Bedroom/ 1 Bath Suite Fall/Spring: \$3,800/semester 463 Sq. Ft.</p>
<p>UNIT B: 2 Bedroom/ 1 Bath Deluxe Suite Spring/Fall: \$4,000/semester 700 Sq. Ft.</p>	<p>UNIT D: 4 Bedrooms/ 2 Baths Deluxe Suite Spring/Fall: \$3,650/semester 915 Sq. Ft.</p>



## 2018 UHC Ambassadors

Brenton Guerin  
Suhad Judeh  
Jessica Aragonez  
Kallie Glidewell  
Taylor Ford

Stephen Stein  
Kailey Loetzerich  
Holly Casso  
Alexandra Shamp

by Payton Haddican

The University of Holy Cross launches its new Ambassadors program this semester! The selected students will be setting the standard for the future of the program.

The primary purpose of the program is to promote school spirit and solidarity among students. The members of the program will provide general services to the UHC community by advising all students on the rules, regulations, traditions, resources, and different aspects of university life.

Additionally, they will be assisting with new student orientation. The secondary purpose of the Ambassadors program will be to help the

University with the recruitment of students.

The University of Holy Cross Ambassadors will help give a positive impression to incoming students; therefore, the standards for these students will be set high.

The creation of the program is further proof that the University is expanding. The founding of the organization could not have come at a better time with the development of the new residence hall.

Exciting things are happening at the University of Holy Cross, and the Student Ambassadors are being trusted not only to uphold the ideals of UHC, but also to convey the sense of family felt by students.



UHC Ambassadors gathered with Dr. & Mrs. Landry, Ms. Ashley Maxwell, Dr. Ashley Johnston, and Ms. Angie Ruiz.

## Dr. Landry Initiates 10-Year Strategic Plan

by Will Luton

With final preparations for the new residence hall being made, the expected influx of new students, and the morphing of campus life that will ensue, UHC President Dr. David “Buck” Landry’s call for the development of a strategic plan has a particular urgency in the invitation for faculty and students to participate in shaping the vision of our next ten years.

It’s easy to get confused as phrases like “institutional accreditation,” “5-year impact report,” “ten-year reaffirmation,” “Quality Enhancement Plan,” and now UHC’s own “ten-year strategic plan” are floating around on email and letterheads. But don’t be

intimidated. It is all part of steering Holy Cross into the next phase of its life.

“The ten-year strategic plan is significant because it’s what you want this place to look like in ten years; it’s both a physical plan as well as an academic plan,” said Dr. Landry.

The physical plan is visible as the construction cranes continue to stack slab on steel of the residence hall. The academic plan is perhaps more important but much harder to pin down.

Holy Cross has a history with planning and implementing programs that are tailored to its unique student population.

“It all really does fit together like the gears of a machine,” said Dr.

Victoria “Vicki” Dahmes, University Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of Education.

One example of how these gears have fit together in the past is the last QEP, the “Preparing Students for Success Program,” (prior to the “Let’s Write Right” program) that founded The Center for Teaching and Learning.

“Some of our students come from struggling academic environments, low-performing high schools, and maybe are at a difficult point in their lives. For whatever reason, they haven’t experienced their true potential, but that doesn’t mean that they aren’t capable or able,” said Dr. Dahmes.

With over ten years of data and

evaluation, the success of the Center bodes well for the ability of the faculty, administration, and community representatives to authentically respond to the needs of students.

“The data we’ve collected confirms my belief that no ACT score—or any one test score—is reliable enough to present a true picture of a person’s capability,” said Dr. Dahmes.

So with the next ten years in the bull’s eye of Dr. Landry’s strategic plan and the last ten years providing perspective, be prepared to participate if called on to help discern the next phase of UHC. The process has just started, so look for opportunities to make your voice heard!

## Radiologic and Neurodiagnostic Technology Program

by Haydee Ortiz

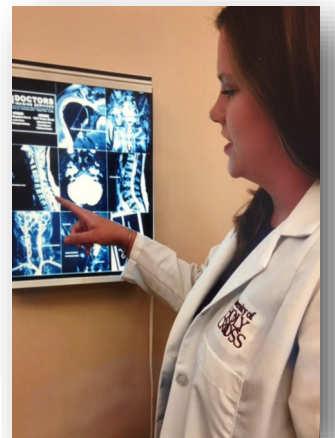
UHC Students are now interpreting brain wave activity in the Neurodiagnostic program via new EEG and EKG devices on campus!

Also underway is the renovation of the Bessette Center (the little house by the back parking lot) into an Anatomy Lab with a high-tech table to be used in the training of Biomedical students. This will help to meet the demand for medical personnel in the New Orleans area.

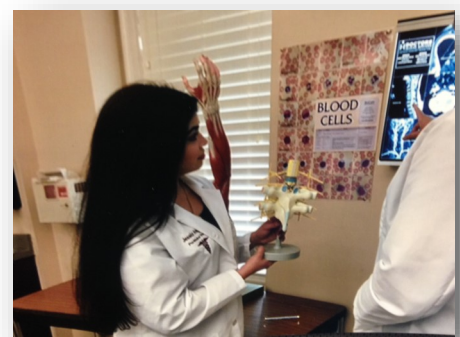
See the QR code at the bottom of the page for more information on some new and exciting programs!



Jourdan Smith (left) and Emily Calloway (right)

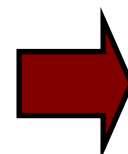


Gina Doredant



Jessica Aragonez

**New Master’s Program in Biomedical Sciences**  
**Starting in Fall 2018, Learn More Here**



# First Round Diversity Photo Challenge

by Haydee Ortiz

"It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity *there* is beauty and there is strength," said Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Maya Angelou.

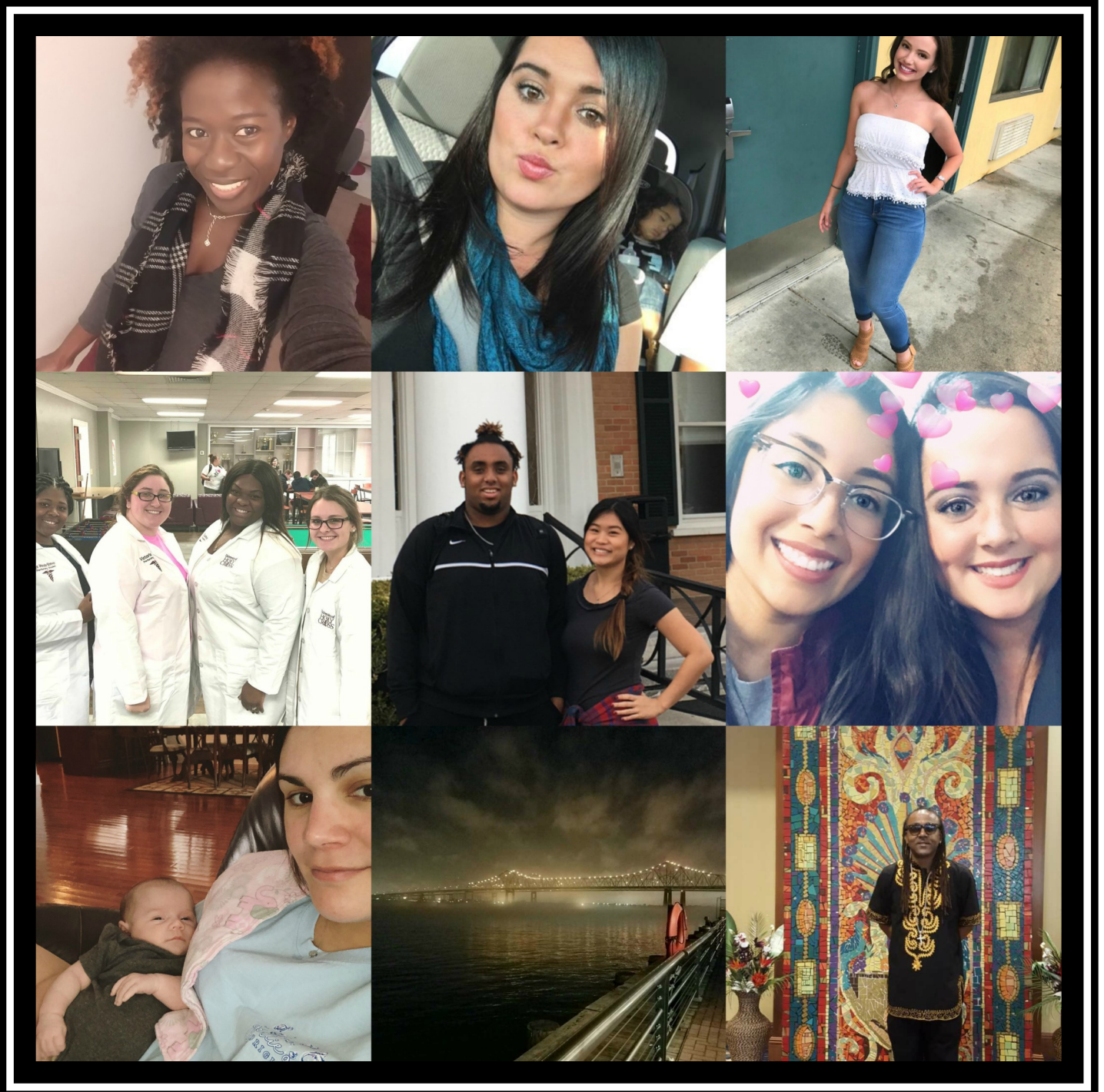
Recently, the UHC Chronicle held a "Diversity Photo Challenge," in which students were asked to take a selfie representing diversity.

To the right are the submissions we received. We would like to congratulate everyone who participated and invite more students in the future to participate as well. We truly are a diverse student body.

The middle row of the diversity-photo-square features our first, second, and third place winners: Mornika Burkes, Stephanie Parks, and Martha Cortez. Congratulations again!

Every morning when we walk through the front door of UHC, there are different faces from different backgrounds as well as different languages spoken. There are so many students from various cultures gathered together studying in the cafe or library or even the hallway. Our community is truly a diverse and beautiful place to be.

Studies indicate that students educated in racially and ethnically diverse settings perform better scholastically and contribute more noteworthy accomplishments than students in more homogeneous learning environments.



So, the upside of being in a multicultural world as well. Students like us can unite in our diversity and reach far past the educational environment and into the profession- al world as well. Students like us can embrace the diverse community we have and ultimately contribute to the celebration of human life that can change the world into a more accepting place. Diversity is UHC!

## Former UHC President Fr. Chambers Died Jan. 2



by Will Luton

Though many current students may only recognize the name "Chambers" from the Counseling Center, the mark left by Father Thomas Chambers is familiar and recognizable in the University's Mission-oriented commitment to students who are ready and willing to improve their life through education.

"A number of people have told

me that they would not have completed college if it were not for Father Chambers," said Dr. David "Buck" Landry, current University President.

Holy Cross has a long tradition of the non-traditional. The evidence is in the path followed to become a University and in the student population that calls it home. It was, however, not without periods of difficulty in its now over one-hundred-year history.

"The enrollment of the Our Lady of Holy Cross College was only 615 students and carried a crushing debt of more than \$1 million and faced possible closure," said Dr. Craig Bauer, Professor of History. Father Chambers was hired in 1987 and began a transformation, ultimately laying the foundation for the possibilities being realized today.

"Enrollment more than doubled, reaching an all-time peak for the College of nearly 1,400 students at the time Father retired as President in 2003," said Dr. Bauer. With a personality that made student population growth possible, he also

had the fundraising savvy to finance the growth while shoring up the past.

"During his tenure at the College, he not only retired the \$1 million debt he inherited, but left a \$9 million-dollar endowment and more than \$4 million in capital improvements on the campus," said Dr. Bauer.

Although Father Chambers was the College's President, he was also a priest and licensed counselor. The synthesis of these roles was a key factor in his ability to connect with students, donors, and faculty alike.

"I think Father Chamber's open-door policy also translated to an open-heart policy," said Dr. Susan van Loon, Professor of Allied Health and faculty member since 1977.

Dr. van Loon described a scene where a student came to Holy Cross attempting to get back on the right track in life, but sadly fell back into hard-drug use that ended in a coma.

"Father Chambers came to visit the Mom and Dad in the hospital and had a long conversation with them that gave them the ability to do what they needed to do, to let their son

go," said Dr. van Loon. This was the type of radical hospitality and depth of connection Father Chambers had with students and their families.

"We had a funeral Mass in the chapel and it was packed. That's the kind of openness Father Chambers practiced. He didn't care that they were Baptists. He wanted to celebrate the life of the student, and he did," said Dr. van Loon.

When asked what impact Father Chambers had on the University, Dr. van Loon replied, "We're here today because of him; it's as simple as that."



# The World Now Has A Void: Remembering Dr. Stephen Pearce—“Prof”

by Lindsey DiFebbo

After teaching English and Latin at UHC for twenty-three years, Dr. Stephen Lee Pearce, or “Prof” as everyone liked to call him, passed away on December 4, 2017 from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a disease that attacks the lungs. He was 70 years old.

Dr. Pearce was a native of Durham County, England. Despite being an inspiring professor to his students, Prof had not wanted to be a teacher when he started out, but instead an architect. Paying to further his education was expensive in England at the time, unless students entered a program that allowed the government to pay for their education. The only downfall was that the government made the decision on what the student would study.

When Prof entered the program wanting to be an architect, he was immediately shot down and told that he would be a teacher instead,

creating a path that would make Dr. Pearce a beloved Professor at UHC.

Many of the students and fellow faculty members at the University were deeply affected by Prof’s death and felt that he was one of the professors who made the English language fun to learn.

“He liked to spark students’ creativity...he was very traditional, but he embraced change easily,” said Dr. Claudia Champagne, Humanities Chair and Professor of English, who was his long-time friend and colleague. In his online Introduction to Literary Forms class, he would lecture in front of amazing backgrounds like a large English castle.

Even though Prof taught only online in his last two years at UHC, due to his failing health, that did not change the love students had for his classes. “Prof was a very generous and understanding person; he always had his students’ best interests at heart. Although I never met him in person, I can tell you he

was a kind and caring soul,” said English major Lauren Sisk, a student in his very last online class.

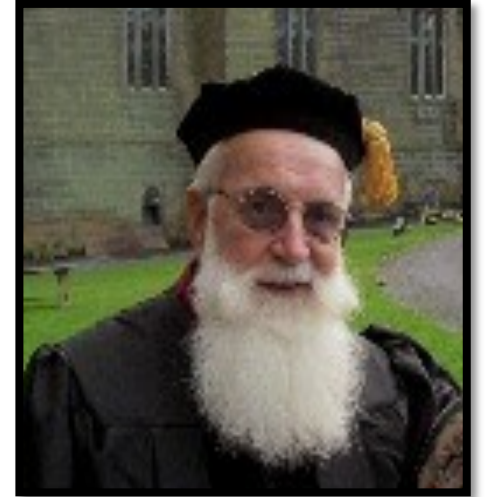
When he was not out singing in one of the two church choirs, Prof was playing Santa Clause in local shopping centers. His students and fellow faculty members often wondered if he was growing out his long white beard on purpose because he enjoyed playing Santa.

Not only did he look like Santa, but when walking the halls of UHC he always wore his doctoral robes. This made him look like a real-life Albus Dumbledore, from the *Harry Potter* series.

Despite his eccentric and fun-loving ways, he was always helping his students to the best of his abilities. “Prof always looked out for the underdog. He saw potential in people that they didn’t know they had,” said Shelly Rodrigue, a UHC English alumna who completed her undergraduate senior thesis on Emily Dickinson with Prof in 2013.

“Prof is a measure of the immeasurable heaven, and the world now has a void where he once was,” said Ms. Rodrigue.

Prof will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but he will live on through the impact he had on his students and in the collective memory of the Holy Cross community.



## From University Student to Director of Student Life: Mallory Ottaway

by Brenton Guerin

Mallory Ottaway, an alumna and graduate Counseling student, has been appointed Director of Student Life at UHC. Since her freshman year when she joined the Student Government Association (SGA), Ottaway has made it a point to be engaged in student activities.

In her sophomore year, Ottaway became President of the SGA and entered UHC’s Early Entry program for a Master’s in Counseling. And then she went on to serve as President of the SGA during her junior and senior years, too. She built up the University’s student activities, including the annual “Trunk or Treat” Halloween event.

In 2018 Ottaway started her first year of Graduate School and was asked to be the new Director of Student Life, taking over those duties from Heather DuCharme.

Ottaway says it’s an exciting time at UHC and she hopes to play a role in advancing more and more student activities, including the growth of formal athletic programs, “as we transition into a residential university.”

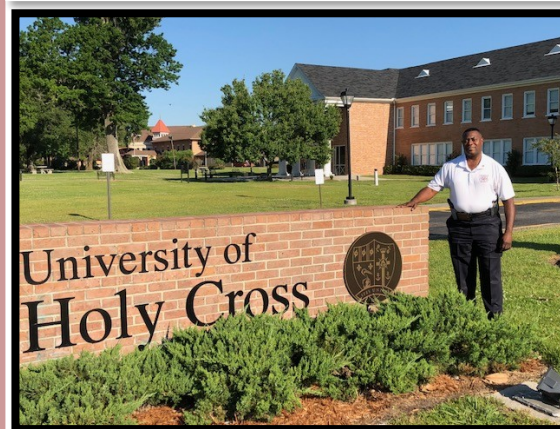
The new residential hall will open this coming fall semester and the University’s long term plan is for playing fields to be established on the west side of the campus. An architectural blueprint of the University’s goals is posted on the wall of the hallway between the Admissions and Registrar’s offices.

Ottaway welcomes ideas to enhance student life at UHC, so you or your organization should feel free to contact the new Director at:

[mottaway@uhcno.edu](mailto:mottaway@uhcno.edu)



## New Director of Campus Public Safety Mr. Marshall Pierre



CPS can be reached at:

504-329-4430  
(daytime)

504-247-3825  
(evening)

Additionally, Mr. Garry Flot was recently appointed Assistant Director of CPS.

## Chronicle Staff

Lindsey DiFebbo—Feature Editor

Lance Gaulon—Reporter

Brenton Guerin—Reporter

Payton Haddican—Reporter

Will Luton—News Editor & Graphic Design

Haydee Ortiz—Reporter & Photography

Heidie Randle—Reporter

John P. Travis—Faculty Advisor

Dr. Claudia Champagne—Humanities Department Chair

Story Ideas ? Email: [studentchronicle@uhcno.edu](mailto:studentchronicle@uhcno.edu)