

# Busy semester for ULM's College of Business

Article published Nov 30, 2007  
The News-Star

It's hard to believe that our fall academic semester is coming to an end. Looking back over the past few months, the college and community have many reasons to be excited and pleased about the progress made.

U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, and U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., were successful at obtaining earmarks for the ULM College of Business and the Louisiana Small Business Development Center to develop a business incubator to be housed on ULM's campus.

The House has passed the appropriations bill containing the funding and the related bill is currently on the Senate floor. We're hopeful that final funding will be included in the 2008 federal budget so that we can develop this much-needed tool for economic development.

During the past few months, college programs have undergone accredita-

tion reviews by national organizations to verify our high quality and emphasis on continuous improvement.

Our Louisiana Small Business Development Center earned reaccreditation from the Association of Small Business Development Centers. This national recognition indicates the significance and quality of work undertaken by the network of SBDCs in the state.

Congratulations to Mary Lynn Wilkerson, state director, and the entire state network for the outstanding work they do and the impact they have on business development and success.

In the academic area, our computer science program was visited by a team of reviewers as representatives of ABET, the national accrediting agency for engineering and computer science programs.

Additionally, our business programs were visited by a team of reviewers representing the AACSB-International. We are anxiously awaiting accreditation board approval of both teams' recommendations.

The review process for both programs allowed the college to showcase our outstanding faculty, staff, students, business partners and programs.

Our Center for Business and Economic Research released the second edition of our Economic Fact Book, a resource that provides relevant, accurate and independent data describing our region.

The center and our students participated in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index survey so our region will be included in this great benchmarking program. We will be able to compare our area in terms of cost of living with other areas of the country.

Hopefully, this will be a valuable tool to assist in marketing our area for economic development purposes.

As the old Chinese proverbs suggests, the journey of a thousand miles start with a single step. We are taking those steps to create a better college, better community, and better region. If you would like to know more about the college or our programs, please contact me.