

Founded in 1948 as Francis T. Nicholls Junior College, Nicholls State University brings together the diverse cultures and heritage found in South Central Louisiana.

In 1970, Nicholls State University was designated a university by an act of the Louisiana Legislature. The university was established to meet the higher education needs of Louisianans and has evolved during the past six decades into a center for learning.

The quality of the university's academic programs is assured through numerous national-accrediting organizations. Nicholls State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Today, the campus occupies over 210 acres of land formerly part of historic Acadia Plantation on the eastern limits of the city of Thibodaux. The campus, which fronts Bayou Lafourche, is about 50 miles southwest of New Orleans. Nicholls State University offers more than 85 two-year, four-year and graduate level programs through five academic colleges - Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, Education and Life Sciences and Technology.

Nicholls State University was the first university in the state to offer seven-on, seven-off programs for those employed in the offshore oil industry.

Nicholls is also the first public university in the state of Louisiana to undertake a strategic planning project. The project, which is funded entirely by private donations, catapulted Nicholls into the 21st century.

### The University's Mission

Nicholls State University provides a unique blend of excellent academic programs to meet the needs of Louisiana and beyond. The university cultivates productive, responsible, engaged citizens in a personalized, culturally rich and dynamic learning environment through quality teaching, research and service.

### Other facts about Nicholls

- The Chef John Folse Culinary Institute offers both a Bachelor of Science Degree and an Associate of Science Degree in Culinary Arts. The Institute was the first of its kind in the United States to offer a Bachelor of Science Degree in Culinary Arts. These degree programs provide an opportunity for students to develop in-depth knowledge of the culinary field of study that is strengthened and supported by a foundation of general learning. By 2015, the institute will have its own dedicated building on Bowie Road.
- The Louisiana Center for Women and Government at Nicholls State University was established in 1990 to encourage the future leadership of women by preparing them for public service through nonpartisan education,



research and training programs. Other centers of excellence at Nicholls State University include the Center for the Study of Dyslexia, the Small Business Development Center and the Center for Traditional Louisiana Boatbuilding.

- The Ellender Memorial Library at Nicholls State University houses more than 220,000 volumes, more than 3,000 journal titles and catalogues about 255,000 federal and state documents. It provides study areas for 1,500 patrons.
- The Student Programming Association at Nicholls State University has played host to various entertainers including musical acts from every genre, up-and-coming comedians and world-class plays. In addition to presenting performers each semester, the SPA sponsors Crawfish Day, an annual event that draws more than 2,500 students into John L. Guidry Stadium.

### Thibodaux

Retaining its Southern charm and Cajun hospitality, Thibodaux has developed into a modern, progressive community where yesterday welcomes tomorrow.

Founded in 1820 on Bayou Lafourche, Thibodaux is graced by moss-laden oaks, plantation homes and lush fields of sugar cane. The word "lafourche" means fork as the bayou originally forked off the Mississippi River some 30 miles upstream from Thibodaux.

The Lafourche Parish Courthouse in downtown Thibodaux, the Edward Douglas White Home and Laurel Valley Plantation are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Elkins Hall on the Nicholls State University campus was recently

added to the Register. Renovated 19th century homes front Canal Boulevard and New Orleans-style wrought iron traces downtown balconies.

The Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center located in Thibodaux is one of three Acadian Cultural Centers of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Louisiana that features many colorful aspects of Cajun life.

Known as the "Gateway to Bayou Country," Thibodaux is minutes away from the best in outdoor recreation.

### Francis Tillou Nicholls

Francis Redding Tillou Nicholls was an esteemed figure in the Confederate Army, a Donaldsonville native, and the namesake of Nicholls State University.

Nicholls was born in Donaldsonville on Aug. 30, 1834. He graduated from West Point in 1855 and practiced law for a while. While serving in the Civil War he rose to the rank of brigadier general. After losing his left arm and leg and living as a prisoner of war, he returned home. He practiced law in Napoleonville for a while and was then nominated for governor in 1876 by the Louisiana State Democratic Party. He was elected during Reconstruction.

Nicholls went on to serve a second term as governor, from 1888 to 1892 and greatly opposed the corrupt Louisiana Lottery.

Following his time spent in as governor, he was named chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Nicholls retired to his home in Thibodaux in 1911 and died in 1912. He is buried in the St. John's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Thibodaux.



**LARRY T. HOWELL**

**Interim President**

Lawrence "Larry" Howell became the Interim President at Nicholls State University on August 1, 2013, after serving as the executive vice president for nearly two years.

A native of Paris, Illinois, Howell earned his bachelor's degree from Nicholls State University in computer science with minors in mathematics and business before earning his master's degree in applied mathematics from Clemson University.

Howell began his teaching career at McNeese State University before returning to Nicholls. He was promoted to Director of Institutional Research in 1995 and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs in 2001. He was appointed interim vice president for Academic Affairs in 2003 and promoted to associate provost in 2004. Howell holds the rank of associate professor of Computer Science.

Howell has been involved in computer consulting for private businesses, municipalities, hospitals, and several school systems. He has served as a member of the Assumption Parish School Board since 1981 and was a member of the governor's task force for technology in K-12 schools since 1999.

Howell resides in Napoleonville with his wife Tina. They are the parents of two grown children and have six grandchildren.

**ROB BERNARDI**

**Athletic Director**



Rob Bernardi enters his thirteenth season as director of athletics at Nicholls State University, making him the second-longest tenured athletics director in the school's history behind the legendary Ray

athletics.

Improved facilities and added pride are not the only areas where Bernardi has brought about changes to the athletic program. Improving graduation rates and upgrading the academic services provided to Colonel athletes has been a goal of the department since Bernardi took over. The commitment to academics has begun to show positive results in the form of higher graduation rates and improved APR (Academic Progress Rates) scores. Colonel athletes are graduating at increasingly higher rates than ever before.

Bernardi is credited with bringing the Manning Passing Academy to Nicholls State University. The football camp, which features Archie, Peyton and Eli Manning, has brought national attention to the Thibodaux community. The nationally recognized football camp finished its seventh year on the Nicholls campus, MPA attracts over 1000 young athletes to Nicholls and has become a summer attraction for the community, and economic success for the local community.

Bernardi has been active within the NCAA governance process having served on numerous NCAA committees. Currently Rob Bernardi is a member of the NCAA Division Leadership Council, while serving on the Division I Football Championship Committee, the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, and the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee, as well as the NCAA Interpretations Committee and the Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance

Cabinet.

Prior to coming to Nicholls, Bernardi spent ten years in varying capacities at the New Orleans-based Sun Belt Conference. During the last three years of his stay, he was the league's associate commissioner, coordinating and implementing marketing and promotional efforts related to the conference. He also worked hand-in-hand with other conferences, covering such topics as development and corporate relations. His responsibilities also included coordinating the Sun Belt's voting position on all NCAA legislation.

Prior to joining the Sun Belt Conference, Bernardi spent four years at the University of Arizona involved in athletics administration. While at Arizona, Bernardi worked under former NCAA president Cedric Dempsey, Dempsey was the athletics director at Arizona during the time.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Bernardi was a graduate assistant football coach at both the University of Arizona and Oregon State. While at Oregon State, he earned a master's degree in higher education. He earned an undergraduate degree in public health from California State University, Northridge in 1983.

Rob has two daughters Nadine (28), Jenna (17), and is the grandfather of Emma (7). Bernardi's brother, Gary, is also involved in collegiate athletics serving as an assistant football coach at the University of Colorado.

Didier. Stability, creativity, integrity and progress are the words that best describe Bernardi's tenure at Nicholls.

Since arriving in Thibodaux, Bernardi has reinvigorated Nicholls athletics by transforming the department into a modern, progressive program aimed at increasing funding, improving facilities and enhancing the student-athlete experience. The California native's energy has worn off on coaches, student-athletes and members of the support staff.

Bernardi helped orchestrate the renewal of a self-assessed student fee to help support Colonel athletics. It was the first time in more than two decades that intercollegiate athletics at Nicholls received funding directly from student fees. The added funding in conjunction with increased private support has helped rejuvenate athletic facilities and restore a sense of pride in Colonel

**Nicholls Athletics Directors**

<i>Morris Osburn</i> .....	<i>1958-1960</i>
<i>James Hall</i> .....	<i>1960-1963</i>
<i>Raymond E. Didier</i> .....	<i>1963-1978</i>
<i>Donald Landry</i> .....	<i>1978-1987</i>
<i>Phil Greco</i> .....	<i>1987-1993</i>
<i>Mike Knight</i> .....	<i>1993-1998</i>
<i>Stan Williamson</i> .....	<i>1998-2000</i>
<i>Rob Bernardi</i> .....	<i>2000-present</i>



**Krista Bayers**  
Head Athletic Trainer



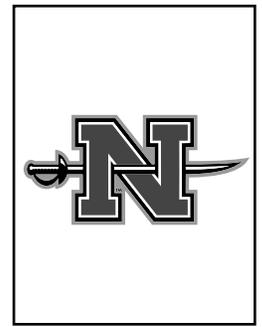
**Jean Bourgeois**  
Women's Athletics/Men's  
Basketball Secretary



**Jamie Bustos**  
Assistant Director of  
Athletic Media Relations



**Howell Chiasson**  
Associate A.D. for  
Budgetary Control



**Ryan Dupre**  
Strength & Conditioning  
Coach



**Lori Henry**  
Coordinator of Student  
Athlete Learning



**Michelle Keife**  
Events Coordinator



**Andrew Kerney**  
Director of Compliance



**Tyler Knowles**  
Director of Ticket  
Operations



**Barbara Naquin**  
Assistant  
Athletic Trainer



**DoBee Plaisance**  
Senior Women's  
Administrator



**Connie Rome**  
Business Office  
Secretary



**Brandon Ruttley**  
Director of Marketing and  
Development



**Arrianna Smith Martin**  
Faculty Athletics  
Representative



**Cathy Stegall**  
Compliance Secretary



**Clyde Verdin**  
Director of Athletic  
Media Relations



**Mike Wagenheim**  
Assistant Athletic Director  
for Communications



**KRISTA BAYERS,  
MS, ATC, LAT**

Head Athletic Trainer



**BARBARA NAQUIN,  
MED, ATC, LAT**

Associate Athletic Trainer

The Nicholls State University's Athletic Training Department provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art health care and wellness services as it pertains to the well-being of the student-athlete. The staff is composed of two full-time and four graduate assistant athletic trainers who are nationally certified athletic trainers through the Board of Certification of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Each member of the Nicholls Athletic Training Department will do his or her part to provide professional, first-class leadership and counseling necessary to prevent, manage, and

rehabilitate the student-athlete. Nicholls Athletic Training serves as a major intellectual and creative resource for Nicholls Athletics, develops interactive partnerships with allied health professionals, and participates in the exploration and development of the student-athlete's health and well-being.

Nicholls State University's Athletic Training Department also serves as a dynamic clinical learning experience for the institution's accredited Athletic Training curriculum. Currently there are approximately 25 athletic training students within the program. The Nicholls Athletic Training

Department strives to provide leadership and education for athletic training students through quality educational and clinical experiences.

The Vision of the Nicholls State University's Athletic Training Department is to become a nationally recognized athletic training program focusing on first-class, state-of-the-art health care services to the Nicholls Athletic Department, and a respected and prominent leader with the reputation of providing quality educational experiences to athletic training students.

## HEAD COACHES



**Dylan Harrison**  
Head Soccer Coach



**Angel Santiago**  
Head Softball Coach



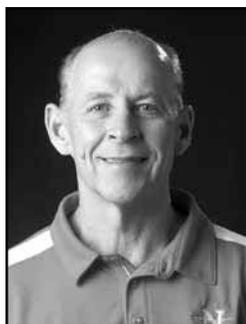
**J.P. Piper**  
Head Men's  
Basketball Coach



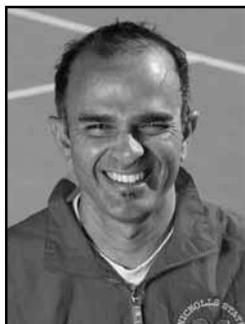
**DoBee Plaisance**  
Head Women's  
Basketball Coach



**James Schilling**  
Head Golf Coach



**Charlie Stubbs**  
Head Football Coach



**Meenakshi Sundaram**  
Head Tennis Coach



**Seth Thibodeaux**  
Head Baseball Coach



**Tommy Harold**  
Head Volleyball Coach



**Heather Van Norman**  
Head Cross Country/Track  
& Field Coach

John L. Guidry Stadium has been home to the Colonels football team since the school began playing the sport on the intercollegiate level in 1972. The facility is named in honor of former Galliano state representative John L. Guidry who was instrumental in the establishment of Francis T. Nicholls Junior College.

The stadium features a three-level press box on the west side. The second level houses an area for game management staff, radio and coaches' booths and a working press area that was established following a renovation project that was completed prior to the 1999 season. The president's suite and a 30-seat club level, which was also part of the 1999 press box renovation, is located on the third level. A photo deck is located on the roof. Just prior to the start of the 2010 season, a new scoreboard, complete with graphic animation features as well as a new sound system was installed. In 2012, the west entrance of the stadium was given a facelift which included a new elevator shaft and working elevator, entrance into the Colonel Club area and an ever-present illuminated Nicholls "N".

Adjacent to the elevator landing at ground level is the Colonels Club Room. Members use the building as a hospitality area before home games as well as for various university functions throughout the year.

Guidry Stadium is located adjacent to the Frank Barker Athletic Building, which houses the Nicholls football coaches' offices, locker rooms, the athletic training department and athletic staff. The Nicholls strength and conditioning facility and a 50-yard artificial turf field are located directly behind Barker Hall.

The stadium was officially dedicated on September 16, 1972 as Nicholls defeated Ouachita Baptist 12-7.

Hermon Grissom drilled a 37-yard field goal in the opening period for the first score in the stadium. Chris "Gator" Gardner caught a 27-yard pass from Lonnie Rogers for the first Colonel touchdown in the stadium as Nicholls came from behind to win.

The facility was originally referred to as Colonel Stadium but was renamed in Guidry's honor Sept. 15, 1973.

In 40 seasons, the Colonels have posted a 109-97-3 record in Guidry Stadium.

In 1975, Nicholls captured the Gulf South Conference championship with an 8-2 record, including a 6-0 mark at home. It is the only time Nicholls has gone undefeated at home. The 1996 Colonels capped the program's 25th anniversary season by going 5-1 in Guidry Stadium.

The five largest crowds to see the Colonels play in the stadium have come against intra-state rival Southern University, including a record 14,125 in the first Jaguar-Colonel game played in the stadium in 1981.

The stadium underwent an unexpected facelift during the 1992 season after suffering \$150,000 worth of damage during Hurricane Andrew.

The concrete facade between the third-floor glass and the roof was ripped away by strong winds during the storm and falling debris destroyed 52 chair back seats. Glass on the south side of the press box on both the second and third levels was also blown out.

Members of the media had a rare opportunity to enjoy the first three home games in an open-air press box while the stadium was in repair.

Guidry Stadium was originally constructed at a cost of nearly \$2 million.



## YEAR-BY-YEAR IN GUIDRY STADIUM

1972.....	2-4
1973.....	2-3
1974.....	2-3
1975.....	6-0
1976.....	4-1
1977.....	1-4
1978.....	2-3
1979.....	5-1
1980.....	2-4
1981.....	4-2-1
1982.....	3-2
1983.....	1-4
1984.....	4-2
1985.....	4-2
1986.....	4-1
1987.....	2-3-1
1988.....	4-1
1989.....	4-2
1990.....	4-2
1991.....	1-4
1992.....	1-3-1
1993.....	2-3
1994.....	2-3
1995.....	0-5
1996.....	5-1
1997.....	4-1
1998.....	2-2
1999.....	0-4
2000.....	1-4
2001.....	2-3
2002.....	3-2
2003.....	4-1
2004.....	3-1
2005.....	4-0
2006.....	3-3
2007.....	4-1
2008.....	2-2
2009.....	2-3
2010.....	2-3
2011.....	1-4
2012.....	1-3
Totals.....	109-97-3

## LARGEST JOHN L. GUIDRY STADIUM CROWDS

### Oct. 10, 1981

Nicholls 56, Southern 14 ..... 14,125

### Oct. 8, 1983

Southern 21, Nicholls 20 ..... 13,981

### Oct. 8, 1988

Nicholls 24, Southern 0 ..... 13,370

### Oct. 11, 1986

Nicholls 17, Southern 10 ..... 13,300

### Oct. 6, 1984

Nicholls 43, Southern 26 ..... 13,280

### Sept. 11, 1976

Nicholls 17, Mississippi College 7 ..... 12,500

### Nov. 13, 1982

Grambling 33, Nicholls 15 ..... 12,200

### Nov. 17, 1990

Nicholls 23, Southern 19 ..... 12,132

### Nov. 2, 1996

Nicholls 14, Southern 0 ..... 11,714

### Oct. 20, 1979

Mississippi College 28, Nicholls 14 ..... 11,550

### Sept. 25, 1976

Troy State 14, Nicholls 9 ..... 11,500

### Oct. 11, 1975

Nicholls 23, Northwestern State 10 ..... 11,000

### Oct. 29, 1994

Nicholls 20, Southern 14 ..... 10,617

### Oct. 23, 1976

Nicholls 7, Austin Peay 0 ..... 10,500

### Oct. 31, 1992

Nicholls 27, Southern 24 ..... 10,322

# ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME



THE PURPOSE OF THE HALL OF FAME IS TO STRENGTHEN AND PERPETUATE ATHLETIC TRADITION AT NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY. MEMBERS IN THE ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME SHALL CONSIST ONLY OF THOSE OUTSTANDING PERSONS WHOSE DEDICATION AND PERFORMANCE MERIT THE GREAT HONORS THAT THE UNIVERSITY CAN BESTOW.

Name	Sport	Dates at Nicholls	Name	Sport	Dates at Nicholls
1970 Baseball Team	Baseball	1970	Doug Hudson	Football	1983 – 1986
Ben Abadie*	Women's Basketball Coach	1983 - 1993	Shelby Hypolite	Basketball	1973 - 1976
Kenny Alfred	Baseball	1969 - 1972	Sonny Jackson	Football Coach	1981 - 1986
Karen Allen	Softball	1982 - 1985	Chris Jennings	Basketball	1978 - 1980
Rohan Anderson	Baseball	1999 - 2002	Carey Johnson	Football	1972 - 1975
Cody Arcement	Baseball	1995 - 1998	Mike Johnson	Golf	1984 - 1987
Mayfield Armstrong	Athletic Trainer	1980 - 1992	Emil Joller	Basketball & Baseball	1963 - 1967
Gary Barbaro	Football	1971 - 1975	Gerard King*	Basketball	1990-91, 92-95
Jack Barton	Basketball	1961 - 1965	Mike Knight	Baseball Coach	1980 - 1996
Richard Berard	Football	1972 - 1975	Don Landry	Basketball Coach & Athletic Director	1966 - 1987
Lester Bimah	Men's Soccer Coach	1981 - 1988	Robert Lawrence	Baseball	1963 - 1965
Sharon Brander Perkins	Softball	1992 - 1995	Mike Longmire	Baseball	1967 - 1970
Tom Broom	Football	1975 - 1979	Dione Meier	Softball	2003 - 2004
Rickey Broussard	Basketball Coach	1990 - 2002	Kieth Menard	Football	1981 - 1984
Patty Bubrig	Women's Basketball	1974 - 1978	Mickey McCann	Tennis Coach	1970 - 1974
Lynn Bychurch	Football	1984 - 1986	Johnny Meads	Football	1980 - 1983
Jaun Cabezon	Tennis	1969 - 1972	Amy Orr*	Softball	1994 - 1995
Mark Carrier	Football	1983 - 1986	Danny Ott	Golf	1970 - 1974
John "Jack" Cavan	Basketball	1958 - 1961	Jay Pennison*	Football	1980 - 1983
Cathy Compton	Softball Coach	1991 - 1995	Reed Pere'	Football	1982 - 1986
Sonny Charpentier	Basketball & Football	1975 - 1980	Richard Polk	Basketball	1973 - 1976
Clint Conque	Football	1981 - 1982	Darryl Pounds	Football	1991 - 1994
Colleen Clarke	Women's Tennis	1985 - 1989	Kelly Pugh	Baseball	1961 - 1964
Bill Clements	Football Coach	1974 - 1980	Rusty Rebowe	Football	1974 - 1977
Marion Stovall Curtis	Volleyball Coach/Administrator	1970 - 1981	Randy Raymond	Men's Tennis & Football Coach	1975 - 1980
Allen Danos	Football	1972 - 1975	Allen Rebstock	Golf	1979 - 1982
Laura Davis	Softball	1981 - 1985	Jerry Sanders	Baseball & Basketball Coach	1962 - 1964, 1970 - 1981
Realia Davis	Basketball	1984 - 1987	Scott Sanders*	Baseball	1989 - 1990
Raymond Didier	Baseball Coach & Athletic Director	1963 - 1978	Matthew Shelton	Men's Soccer	1985 - 1988
Phil Driskill	Basketball	1966 - 1969	Gene Simmons	Basketball & Baseball	1961 - 1964
Gene Duhe	Baseball	1967 - 1970	Kevin Smelley	Track and Field	1996 - 1999
Teddy Duhe	Baseball	1967 - 1970	Arrianna Smith Martin	Women's Basketball	1989 - 1992
Marvin Dumas	Football	1978 - 1981	Josh Son	Football	2000 - 2003
Frank Etheridge	Basketball & Baseball	1959 - 1961	Steve Stropolo	Football	1973 - 1976
Torbjorn Fasth	Tennis	1977 - 1980	Chuck Taylor	Basketball	1969 - 1973
Raymond Ferrand	Baseball	1962 - 1963	Robert Taylor	Baseball	1971 - 1974
Kenderick Franklin	Basketball	1995 - 1998	Romana Tedjakusuma	Women's Tennis	1996 - 2000
Dr. Vernon Galliano	University President	1963 - 1983	Chris Thompson*	Football	2000 - 2003
Charles Gambino	Men's Golf	1968, 1971 - 1972	Art Tolliver	Football	1978 - 1981
Jim Hall	Baseball Coach	1960 - 1963	Mike Tullier	Baseball	1980 - 1984
Johnny Hall	Basketball	1976 - 1980	Paul Vaccaro	Basketball & Baseball	1961 - 1964
Darryl Hamilton	Baseball	1984 - 1986	Dwight Walker	Football	1978 - 1981
Dewayne Harrison	Football	1982 - 1985	Larry Wilson	Basketball	1976 - 1979
Darrell Hebert	Baseball	1971 - 1974	Brad Zeller	Football	1995 - 1998
Cleveland Hill	Basketball	1968 - 1972			

\* - 2012 Inductees