

## **BREC Newsroom**

APRIL 17, 2008

### **2008 BREC Champions & Volunteers to be Honored at Annual BRECfest of Champions**

BREC will hold its annual BRECfest of Champions at 8 a.m. on April 29, at the Boudreaux's Reception Halls, 2647 Government Street, in honor of its numerous volunteers and 2008 "Champions of BREC."

This event will feature Mayor-President "Kip" Holden as the guest speaker. Holden will speak on the core values of volunteering.

In 2007, an estimated 1200 volunteers donated their time to the many programs and activities coordinated by BREC. Over 42,000 hours were volunteered, contributing to \$819,420 BREC financially. The "national" value of a volunteer hour as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is \$19.51 per hour.

These volunteers worked at the following BREC facilities: Baton Rouge Zoo, Magnolia Mound Plantation, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Farr Park Horse Activity Center, BREC-LSU-BRAS Highland Road Park Observatory, BREC's Special Events, Golf, Tennis, Sports Leagues, Inclusive Recreation, Adult Leisure Programs, and Park Operations. Many people were positively affected through the volunteer's efforts at these facilities. Champions are created with the assistance of our volunteers.

The 2008 Champions of BREC are people who have used BREC's recreational programming to enrich their lives and the lives of others in the Baton Rouge community. Many Champions been both locally and nationally recognized in their fields of excellence for skills honed through BREC.

### **The 2008 "Champions of BREC" to be inducted into the BREC Hall of Fame at the BRECfest will be A.J. Parro and Doug Williams.**

Doug Williams was the first African-American quarterback to start in a Super Bowl and be named MVP. He was born in Zachary, the sixth of eight children. He began playing football in BREC programs and on BREC parks when he was seven years old. From there he went onto play for Chaneyville High School, Grambling State University, where he placed fourth in voting for the Heisman Trophy.

Williams then began to play with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and then the Washington Redskins, where he won the Super Bowl MVP award. Since he retired from professional

football, he has coached for the U.S. Naval Academy, the Scottish Claymores of the World League and Morehouse College. He also scouted for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

In 1998, he became the head football coach of his alma mater, Grambling State University. After six successful seasons, he returned to the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers as their player personnel executive. He returns to Baton Rouge every year for the past 27 years to conduct the Doug Williams Football Clinic at BREC's Memorial Stadium. Thousands of children have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him and be coached by him.

**A.J. Parro , at 73 years old, credits BREC with helping to make his life happier through exercise and training programs found at BREC's fitness facilities. He had been a life-long runner, but he blew out his right knee several years ago. On his doctor's advice to do other exercises rather than just run, he began to work out at BREC's fitness facilities to stay healthy. He developed a mentoring relationship with one of BREC's fitness attendants who encouraged him to keep competing, but through a different sport. With our help, Parro began to train to compete as a senior weightlifter. Parro has now won three gold medals in the Senior Olympic Games as a weightlifter.**

The 2008 champions will join an elite crowd; "Champions" alumni include: Kurt Ainsworth, Darren Clark, Jo Paul Steiner, Jason Garey, Denny Braud, Nicole and Tiffany Wesley, Seimone Augustus, Bob Pierce, the Lady Patriots Badminton team, Warrick Dunn, Collis Temple III, Brittny Kimble, the Tigerettes, Alexis "The Tiger" Veal, Susannah Lazar, Megan Messina and BREC Sports Academy Alumnus which includes Glen Davis, Tasmin Mitchell, Tyrus Thomas and Garrett Temple.