

COURTESY ROSALIE BENITEZ

LONG DISTANCE

Rosalie Benitez

HERE: Graduate student at LSU
THERE: Director, Gladstone Gallery

When and why did you leave Baton Rouge?

I moved to New York in 1999 when I got an internship at the Guggenheim Museum.

What do you miss about the city?

The warmth of the landscape, the people and old-fashioned manners.

What don't you miss about it?

Flying roaches!

What does New York have that you wish Baton Rouge had?

The subway —impossible, I know, but purely magic.

What's essential when you come back to visit?

An oyster po-boy, a drive down River Road and a visit to The Chimes.

When were you in town last?

Easter weekend

—MARY HELEN CRUMPLER

Charity by the glass

We've all heard the expression "Eat, drink and be merry." Well, now you can add "be charitable" to that list.

Baton Rouge Uncorked is a new group for young professionals that's all about enjoying good wine while giving something back. Pete Bush, a native of Louisville, Ky., started the local chapter after a similar group formed in his hometown.

It's a simple recipe: Young professionals like to network, and they like to enjoy good wine. Uncorked simply identifies a local charity worth supporting, then arranges a wine-tasting event. Guests are asked to make a donation at the door to fund the charity, while inside they get to mingle and savor good wine.

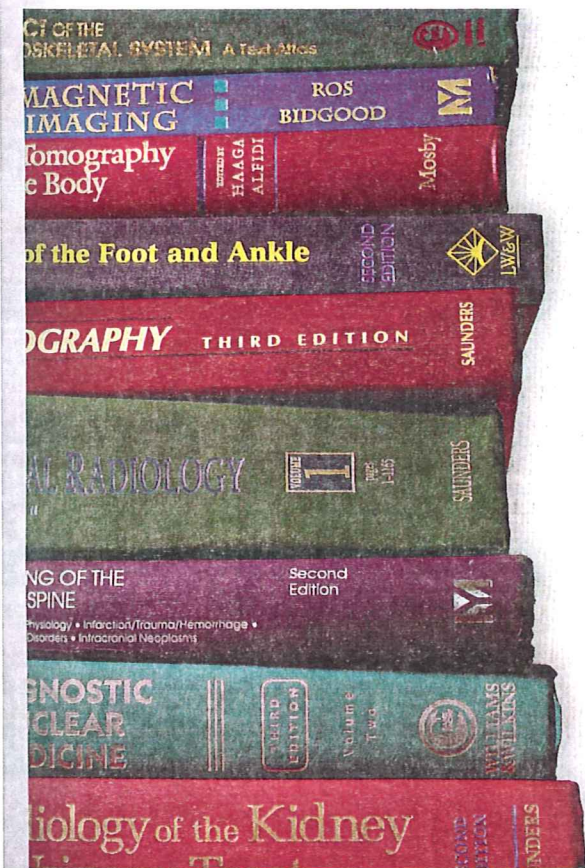
"I just knew we had to do this here," he says. So, he recruited six of his fellow, wine-sipping buddies, and Baton Rouge Uncorked was born.

The group's first event is Oct. 18, a Cabernet Sauvignon tasting at the Shaw Center to benefit Playmakers, the local children's theater group. A minimum donation of \$20 will be collected at the door, with 100% of proceeds going to Playmakers.

"Our goal is to help some worthy causes and have fun doing it," Bush says.

Newcomers are welcome join and attend Baton Rouge Uncorked's first event. RSVP at batonrougeuncorked.com.

—SARAH YOUNG



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