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Thursday, June 04, 2009

Resident indicted on porn charges

Chris Butler, Reporter

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Ruston police officers arrested a former Louisiana Tech professor today and charged him with 17 counts of possession of child pornography.

A Lincoln Parish grand jury assembled Wednesday and issued an indictment against former professor Ralph Gabriel. Investigators arrested Gabriel at his house in Ruston this morning. They charged him with 17 counts of possession of pornography involving juveniles and transported him to the Lincoln Parish Detention Center. His bond was set at \$250,000, said Curtis Hawkins, spokesman for the Ruston Police Department.

This is not the first time a law enforcement agency has arrested Gabriel on computer-related sex crime charges.

Authorities in Kenner approached Ruston police last year with two warrants for Gabriel's arrest. Kenner detectives arrested Gabriel in October and charged him with five counts of indecent behavior with a juvenile and one count of computer-aided solicitation for sexual purposes.

Kenner police said Gabriel had sexual conversations online with one of their undercover officers, who posed as a juvenile.

Police said Gabriel had child pornography on his computer in Ruston.

A grand jury in Lincoln Parish reviewed this information before handing down their indictment Wednesday, Hawkins said.

Gabriel no longer works for Tech, said Dave Guerin, university spokesman.



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