



LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



DR. JOSEPH SAVOIE

Meet the university's new leader



The huge press was just getting cranked up to its full speed. It was printing a special section that listed the names of donors who had recently contributed to the university. That section would be included in *La Louisiane*.

I picked up a copy and my heart sank. The pages were supposed to have a subtle background, ghost-like images of clouds that were almost imperceptible. But something was terribly wrong. The background resembled the hide of a Holstein cow. Big dark blotches made it difficult to read a few of the donors' names.

I had two choices. I could allow the press to continue spitting out mottled pages. Or, I could ask the foreman to shut down the press so we could determine why the pages had this unexpected look and then reprint them correctly.

This might seem like a no-brainer. But when a press is halted during a run, it's sort of like a taxi idling at a red light. It's not moving but the meter keeps running. And trust me, an idling press costs much more than an idling taxi.

This was in the mid-1990s, when our budget was especially tight. So, which would be worse – bovine-like pages or a substantial extra expense? I had not been working for the university long, so I didn't know what to expect. Would I have to pay for the mistake personally? Would I lose my job?

I quickly called my boss, Julie Simon-Dronet. She tried to help by asking me to fax a copy of one of the pages. But it was impossible to gauge the severity of the situation by looking at the fax. She had not been working at the university for long either. So, she wanted some guidance.

"Let me ask T-Joe," she said, referring to Joseph "T-Joe" Savoie, who was then vice president for University Advancement.

By then I was sweating profusely.

Julie called back a couple of minutes later. "T-Joe said to tell you that he trusts your judgment. Make the absolute best decision you can and, no matter what, he will back you 100 percent."

In a sense, it was not the answer I had hoped to hear. And yet, it was a great answer because it was empowering. He probably doesn't remember the incident. I will never forget it.

Dr. Joseph Savoie is the university's new president. When someone who doesn't know him asks me what he's like, I am reminded of how he responded to my dilemma. It says a lot about how he treats others.

By the way, I stopped the press that day. It turned out that the paper was defective; we didn't have to pay an extra charge.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*.

— Kathleen Thames

Working Together

Institute promotes shared projects that can save coast, marshes

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE IN DIFFERENT fields, Dr. Don Hayes and Dr. Jenneke Visser have a common professional interest. They want to bring researchers in many disciplines together to find ways to protect and restore Louisiana's rapidly eroding coast and to rehabilitate its damaged marshes.

Hayes and Visser are co-directors of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's new Institute for Coastal Ecology and Engineering.

Hayes is an engineer who specializes in sediment, particles of soil that settle

at the bottom of bodies of water. More specifically, he concentrates on dredging sediment and using it to form land. Visser's areas of expertise include coastal restoration, wetland vegetation and seabirds.

Through the ICEE, they plan to integrate engineering and science into coastal restoration efforts.

"There's no single answer and the answers are different for different parts of the coast, as well," Visser said. "We are interested in getting as many faculty involved as possible."

Their primary goals for the ICEE's first



DOUG DUGAS

Dr. Don Hayes and Dr. Jenneke Visser, co-directors of a new center at UL Lafayette, examine plants in a marsh in Iberia Parish.

year are to settle into an office on campus, identify and coordinate university resources, and explore funding opportunities.

Louisiana lost 1,900 square miles of coastal land, mostly coastal marshes, during the 20th century, according to the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force. U.S. Geological Survey data shows the state lost about 24 square miles per year from 1990 to 2000.

Some of the causes of coastal erosion and wetlands damage are natural, such as wave erosion, a rising sea level and subsidence. Others are caused by humans. Some wetlands have been drained to make more land available for agricultural use, for example.

Dr. Bob Stewart, vice president of Research and Graduate Studies at UL Lafayette, said the complexity of coastal restoration requires the skills of many professionals, such as sociologists, engineers, mathematicians, biologists, geologists and chemists. He estimates that 15-20 UL Lafayette faculty are working on research projects related to coastal erosion.

"Restoration of coastal Louisiana can be done, but it's going to require great engineering. It's going to require great science. It has to have federal, as well as state, involvement. And, I think that every university in the state should step up to the plate. When we formed the institute, we did it in a way that enables us to work with other universities, not just within the university," he said.

Stewart noted that many funding agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, stress an interdisciplinary approach to research. "If you don't have an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approach to something, you're dead on arrival – and in some cases, if you don't have an inter-university approach."

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which battered south Louisiana in 2005, boosted public awareness of the important role that barrier islands and marshes play by protecting inland populations.

"I think it's pretty clear now that the federal government and state government are going to invest substantially in restoring south Louisiana," Hayes said.

In mid-August, for example, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal announced that the state's allocation for coastal restoration and levee work will top \$1 billion over the next few years. The governor estimated that the state spent \$10 million to \$15 million an-



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

"Louisiana has lost up to 40 square miles of marsh per year for several decades – that's 80 percent of the nation's annual coastal wetland loss. To date, Louisiana has already lost coastal land area equal to the size of the state of Delaware. This loss is at an average rate of an acre every 38 minutes. If the current rate of loss is not slowed by the year 2040, an additional 800,000 acres of wetlands will disappear, and the Louisiana shoreline will advance inland as much as 33 miles in some areas."

Source: www.lacoast.gov

nually on coastal restoration before 2005.

In late September, Louisiana Public Broadcasting aired "Harvest to Restore", a 30-minute documentary about rebuilding the coast using sediment transfer.

Here's how it works:

A mixture of sediment and water, called slurry, is transported by pipeline to areas where land has washed away. The slurry spews from the open end of the pipeline. Land is formed as sediments collect and water from the slurry drains away. Scientists can then introduce plants, birds and mammals there.

Hayes said sediment transfer on Louisiana's coast presents some challenges. For example, many coastal areas that need to be rebuilt are remote, so slurry must be transported several miles from its source. Underlying sediments are soft, which makes it difficult to build retaining structures. Also, since sediments transferred by pipe are soft, "they are very susceptible for re-erosion and re-transport," he said.

Despite those challenges, about 3,000 acres have been added to Louisiana's coast through sediment transfer since 1994. It's one of the fastest ways to replace land.

Visser and Dr. Mark Hester, an associate professor of biology at UL Lafayette, together with researchers at LSU, are working on a restoration project that doesn't rely on sediment.

"We are trying to create floating

marshes," she said. "A lot of the freshwater marshes in Louisiana are floating. So, they don't have a solid soil under them. They are a floating organic net of roots and grasses that are all kind of tangled together. They move up and down with the water, so they are not susceptible to subsidence. They are, however, very susceptible to salinity."

Mandalay National

Wildlife Refuge near Houma, La., is one of the testing areas. Floating plants there were doing well, but the area "got hit pretty hard by Hurricane Gustav," Visser said. Saltwater from the nearby Houma Navigation Canal entered the refuge. "But the plants are still alive, so we're hoping we will have one more year to observe them," she said.

In addition to replacing land that has eroded along Louisiana's border with the Gulf of Mexico, scientists are trying to find ways to heal ailing inland marshes. These wetlands were once sustained by annual flooding each spring when melting snow and ice would cause rivers to overflow. Floodwaters carried nutrients and particles of land that the marshes needed to thrive.

As Louisiana became more populated, levees were built to prevent flooding and to prohibit rivers from naturally changing their courses. That has starved some marshes.

"One idea that we really haven't tested much is creating land with pipeline dredge sediment and then reintroducing the river to those areas, so that the marsh can be sustained with nutrients and a little bit of sediment," Visser said. "Louisiana will keep sinking as sediments compact and the sea level keeps rising. But marshes have this really amazing ability to sustain themselves by capturing sediments and by their biological production of organic material."

Stewart said research conducted by faculty members such as Visser, Hayes and Hester is especially important because it has the potential to solve specific, pressing problems in Louisiana.

"I'm a fervent believer that we need to have some of our focus be on issues that are important to the state and the region that we live in," he said. ■

Gear, Impact May Be Cause of Height Loss

A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL player can lose more than a game on the gridiron.

He can temporarily lose a centimeter – almost half an inch – of his height, according to Dr. Brian J. Campbell, an assistant professor of biomechanics at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

“The decrease is likely due to the intermittent high-impact compressive loading of the spinal column during a football game, as well as the low-impact continuous compressive forces from equipment weight,” Campbell said.

Researchers had already shown that gravity compresses the spine. This phenomenon, called “creep,” can reduce a person’s height by about 1 percent in a day. The loss is restored during sleep.

Campbell said fluid loss in vertebrae may contribute to the height loss, but more research is needed to show the mechanisms that affect players’ height.

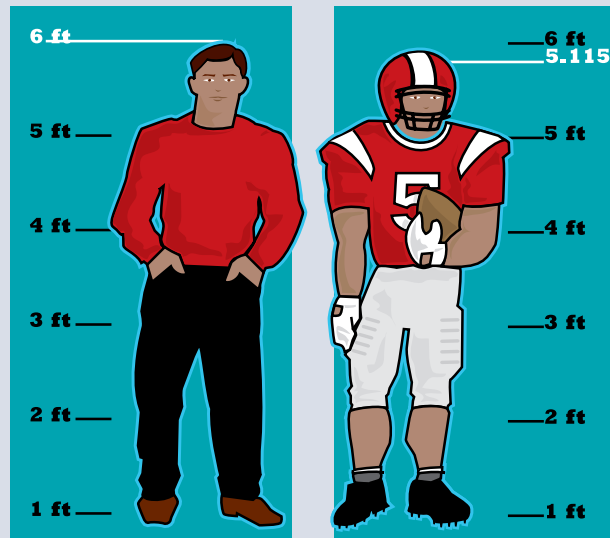
In his study, a certified athletic trainer measured 10 high school football players’ heights before and after

a game. They played positions on the field that involve repetitive blocking and tackling, such as lineman and defensive tackle. The players’ average pre-game height was 176.56 centimeters, while their post-game height was 175.81 centimeters.

“In a game such as football, one centimeter could mean the difference between a game-winning catch or a blocked field goal,” Campbell said.

Studying height change in football players could be beneficial for understanding lower back injuries commonly suffered during play, he added.

He presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Col-



ANNE DARRAH

lege of Sports Medicine in May. The UL Lafayette faculty member’s research drew the attention of major television networks, such as CBS, NBC and ABC, and national publications, such as *U.S. News and World Report*.

RESEARCH FINDINGS REVEAL HOW TEACHERS’ VALUES COMPARE

Do K-12 teachers share the values of most Americans?

Dr. Robert Slater, a UL Lafayette professor of education, analyzed public opinion survey results from 1972 to 2006 to answer that question. He wrote about his findings in an article included in the Winter 2008 issue of *Education Next*, a journal published by the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Slater’s research is based on the premise that teachers impart more than facts and figures to their classes.

“Teaching is as much a moral effort as it is an intellectual enterprise; teachers not only educate our children

how to think and solve problems, they also inform children’s beliefs about what is right, good and important in life, shaping their values in the

process,” Slater observed in the article.

Most teachers convey the value of hard work, perseverance and meeting deadlines, for example.

Slater noted that there are roughly 3.5 million public and private school teachers in the

United States. During the 2005-06 school year, they taught about 54 million elementary and secondary school students.

To compare teachers’ and other Americans’ values, he studied results

of the National Opinion Research Center’s General Social Survey. That questionnaire produces “one of the largest, most reliable, and frequently used data sets in the social sciences,” he wrote.

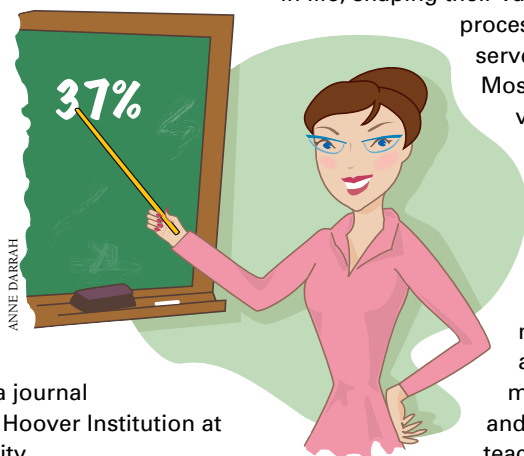
Here are some of his conclusions:

- Teachers tend to be less supportive of free speech rights than Americans with similar levels of education. But they are more supportive of free speech rights than other less-educated Americans.

- Teachers expressed more conservative views on homosexuality than other Americans with similar levels of education.

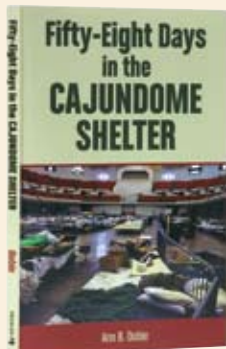
- Thirty-seven percent of teachers reported attending church at least once a week, compared to 26 percent of Americans who say they attend one or more times per week.

- Teachers are 9 to 11 percent more likely to pray one or more times per day than other Americans.



ANNE DARRAH

FIFTY-EIGHT DAYS IN THE CAJUNDOME SHELTER



Ann B. Dobie
Pelican Publishing Co. Inc.

The Cajundome on UL Lafayette's campus became a temporary haven for south Louisiana residents forced from their homes by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

"More than 18,000 people landed there, some of them having gone through horrendous experiences during and after the storms, many of them ill and all of them needy. . . This is the story in all its complexity – its moments of transcendent human kindness and its incidents of malice, the selfless human gestures and the selfish, the noble and the base," Dr. Ann Dobie summarizes in *Fifty-Eight Days'* introduction.

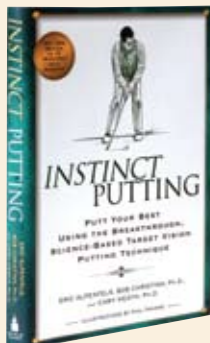
She is professor emeritus of UL Lafayette's Department of English, director of the Louisiana Writing Project State Network and former director of the National Writing Project of Acadiana.

Dobie chronicles many evacuees' experiences. She also cites examples that demonstrate the Cajundome staff's compassion and resiliency, as well as the unflagging support provided to storm victims by volunteers and public servants.

Observations taken from Dobie's personal journal and other first-person accounts give *Fifty-Eight Days* an added dimension.

"I sometimes feel as if I've stumbled into a place so private that I shouldn't be allowed in," the author noted on Sept. 17.

INSTINCT PUTTING



Cary Heath, Bob Christina
and Eric Alpenfels
Gotham Books

Golfers can improve their scores by using a revolutionary technique.

That's the premise of *Instinct Putting*, co-authored by Dr. Cary Heath, a UL Lafayette assistant professor of economics and finance.

"In conventional putting, one is taught to look at the ball for the duration of the putting stroke and not to look up until the ball is well on its way to the hole," the co-authors note.

A golfer should look at the target – not the ball – while executing a putt, they claim. "Your skill would improve dramatically if you learned to concentrate on *where* to put the ball and didn't try to think so much about *how* to execute the stroke."

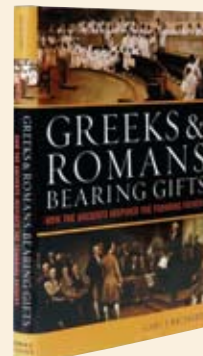
The benefit of more accurate strokes on the green is significant, since putting accounts for half the strokes in a typical round on a par-72 course.

Instinct Putting is co-authored by Dr. Bob Christina and Eric Alpenfels.

Christina is a research and educational consultant to Pinehurst Golf Advantage School and *Golf Magazine*, as well as professor emeritus of the Department of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Alpenfels is director of Pinehurst Golf Advantage School and is included in *Golf Digest's* "50 Greatest Teachers" and *Golf Magazine's* "Top 100 Teachers in America."

GREEKS AND ROMANS BEARING GIFTS, HOW THE ANCIENTS INSPIRED THE FOUNDING FATHERS



Carl J. Richard
Roman and Littlefield

Modern schools don't spend as much time teaching classical history and mythology as their 18th century predecessors.

Americans are poorer for it, contends Dr. Carl Richard, a history professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He illustrates the power of the classics by showing their influence.

"... in neglecting these stories we neglect an important part of our own heritage. After all, these were the tales that inspired the founders to rebel against the mother country and to establish a republic they hoped would one day rival those of Greece and Rome," he observes in *Greeks and Romans Bearing Gifts*.

Richard wrote this book for anyone who enjoys a good story masterfully told.

Roger Kimball, editor of *The New Criterion*, a publication dedicated to artistic and cultural criticism, said Richard hit his mark. "He brings the words and world of the Greek and Roman ancients to life with the same passion and understanding that kindled the Founding Fathers.

"*Greeks and Romans Bearing Gifts* is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the moral and intellectual sources that inspired the founders and helped define the ideals of American democracy."

Next Step

Change provides business incubator with new opportunities

A BUSINESS INCUBATOR IN CARENCRO, La., is under new ownership.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is now the sole owner of the Enterprise Center of Louisiana. It acquired the center earlier this year from two partners, the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation and the City of Carencro.



Roy Holleman has served as executive director of the Enterprise Center of Louisiana for the past eight years.

Roy Holleman, ECOL's executive director, said the change is another step in the center's successful evolution. And, it's a step that was planned from the start.

The business incubator was spearheaded in the early 1990s by SLEMCO to help promising businesses get established and create more jobs. SLEMCO, a private membership corporation that provides utilities in Acadiana, owned 60 percent of ECOL's stock; UL Lafayette owned 40 percent. The City of Carencro put up 25 percent of the funds needed to build it and obtained a 50 percent matching grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the center's construction. Additional funding to build ECOL came from the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

"SLEMCO's intent from the beginning was to get ECOL started, help it through its lean years and then hopefully turn it over to the university someday," Holleman said. "The plan worked."

It became clear that the timing was right for a transfer of ownership, Holleman continued. "We all saw that for the incubator to continue to grow, it would be better with one partner and that the most logical partner would be the university."

As a UL Lafayette center, for example, ECOL will be eligible for funding from sources that weren't available under the original ownership arrangement. As part of the university, ECOL will continue to contribute to economic development in Acadiana, Holleman said. "At the same time, this move ensures the Enterprise Center's future."

Early agreements require a public



ECOL provides office space and administrative support to its tenants.

This allowed me to not only build a successful business but to invest in Lafayette's commercial real estate market, something that I would not have been able to do without ECOL's helping hand."

Holleman said all ECOL graduates have remained in Louisiana; most have relocated within Acadiana. Many of those graduates have stayed in northern Lafayette Parish. Recently,

ROBIN MAY

body to own the building and specify that the center must be used as a business incubator for at least 30 years.

ECOL offers office space, administrative support and guidance to budding entrepreneurs who have solid business plans. New businesses are nurtured there until they "graduate" and move to other locations. A business can stay at ECOL for a maximum of five years.

"Small businesses are really the backbone of job growth. They will hire locally and buy locally," Holleman said.

The incubator is at 100 percent capacity, with businesses ranging from an electrical repair franchise to a commercial fire sprinkler company. Some tenants have only one employee, while others have more than 20.

One recent ECOL graduate is Durel Mail and Imaging Technologies. The first of its kind in Acadiana, it offers high quality, rapid turnaround, short run digital color printing and automated mailing services.

Owner John Durel said one of the biggest expenses for most start-up businesses is rent. By locating first at ECOL, he said, "small start-up businesses like mine are able to 'live within our means' and build up business.

"This, along with the advice, exposure to high level business leaders via the board of directors and the incidentals provided, gives ECOL's clients a leg up.

four ECOL graduates, which have a total of 45 employees, relocated in Carencro.

ECOL sits on prime real estate.

"Basically, we're at the corner of Interstate 10 and I-49, so our manufacturing and distribution businesses, and those who are using the interstate system, couldn't ask for a better place to be located," Holleman said. "Once I-49 continues further south, it will make our area stronger. It will become an even more important corridor."

ECOL works closely with other economic development agencies and programs, such as the Manufacturing Extension of Partnership of Louisiana, Louisiana Small Business Development Center, Lafayette Economic Development Authority and the small business unit of the Louisiana Economic Development Department.

"We've identified what we all do best, and we don't duplicate. We complement each other," Holleman said.

The Louisiana Small Business Development



The business incubator is strategically located near the intersection of Interstate 49 and Interstate 10.

CURRENT ECOL TENANTS

Double Eagle Inspections

Excel

iMedia

InfoTech

iWrite

Mr. Electric

Pro Tech

Purchasing Partners, Inc.

Safety Compliance

opment Center holds training sessions at ECOL, including seminars for people who are considering opening small businesses. Mark Galyean, that center's director, said it is the only "nationally-accredited, university-based business consulting and training organization in the state. And, our consulting is free."

ECOL assists many businesses that never become tenants. "About 90 percent of people we help will never locate here and shouldn't locate here. We're not the place for them," Holleman said. For instance, ECOL can't accommodate restaurants or retail stores. "But we will help people with those businesses, along with our partners," Holleman said.

ECOL also houses a library of business start-up guides available from Entrepreneur Media Inc. It is the only free, comprehensive library of its kind in Acadiana. It's a joint project with the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority.

With financial unrest in the United States and abroad, some potential entrepreneurs may be reluctant to start a business.

"It's tough. But if you think it through and you prepare a business plan properly, that takes a lot of the fear out of it," Holleman said.

Also, he added, "One of the great things about being in an environment like ECOL is that you have other companies that are starting up. The tenants are all very good about working with each other and helping each other." ■

ROBIN MAY

Bonnette Watched Technology Flourish

DELLA BONNETTE, vice president for Information Technology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, retired in August.

She supervised several departments, including Computing Support Services, Continuing Education, the Electron Microscopy Center, Information Networks, Information Systems, Institutional Research, KRVS Public Radio Acadie, the Marine Survival Training Center, Media Center and Printing Services, and Edith Garland Dupré Library. She was appointed to the post in 1996.

"Della is a perfect example of integrity and commitment," said Dr. Steve Landry, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "She's been a leader here on campus and she'll be missed."

Bonnette was a long-time university employee, having first served as an instructor and then assistant professor of computer science in the 1970s. She became director of the Computing Center in 1977 and director of Computing and Information Services in 1981.

"I've seen the university change in so many ways," Bonnette said. "It has



Della Bonnette

certainly changed in the number of students enrolled, in selective admissions policies and, of course, in the landscape of campus."

She noted that when she first started working at UL Lafayette, a single computer could fill up a room. Now, the information stored on that computer can be stored on a flash drive.

"The biggest and most profound has to be the impact of the PC and the Internet," she said.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie cited Bonnette's dedication to the university. "She was a mentor to many here. She will be missed very much," he said.

Bonnette earned an undergraduate degree in mathematics and master's degree in computer science from USL. She served in leadership positions with the Computer Science Accreditation Commission, which accredits computer science programs at colleges and universities; and the Association for Computing Machinery, a professional computer science society.

Film Captures Flavor of Area Plate Lunches

"Raised on Rice and Gravy" celebrates a daily dining tradition in Lafayette, the plate lunch house.

The 30-minute documentary offers a look at the kind of authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine that Acadiana natives serve themselves, not tourists, such as chicken stew, smothered potatoes and stuffed turkey wings.

Conni Castille, a folklorist



and co-director of the film, said the role the modest restaurants play in the community is just as important as the food they serve.

"People used to come home to eat lunch with their families. For farmers and laborers, it was an important daily ritual to sit down and share the midday meal at home. That's not possible today, so neighborhood plate lunch houses have become a substitute for that in South Louisiana culture," she said.

Castille and co-director Alison Bohl focus on three plate lunch houses: the Creole Lunch House on 12th Street, Gary's on Lamar Street and Country Cuisine on University Avenue.

"Raised on Rice and Gravy" is the second documentary directed by Castille and Bohl. "I Always Do My Collars First: A Film About Ironing," earned them the Louisiana Filmmaker Award. Both films were produced by Charles E. Richard, an associate professor of English and director of the Cinematic Arts Workshop at UL Lafayette.

PRINCETON REVIEW PRAISES MBA PROGRAM

UL LAFAYETTE'S MASTER of Business Administration program is cited in the 2009 edition of the Princeton Review's *Best 296 Business Schools*.

"We are pleased to recommend the B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration to readers of our book and users of our web site as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review's vice president for publishing.

Princeton Review editors observed that UL Lafayette's business college offers an MBA with a concentration in health care administration, which they describe as "an appealing option to the area's many health care professionals."

UL Lafayette students surveyed by the Princeton Review noted that faculty in the MBA program have experience in their fields. Such practical knowledge helps them provide information that students will need in the workplace, one UL Lafayette student reported.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCES NOW CARRIES FORMER PRESIDENT'S NAME

COMMENCEMENT FOR THE COLLEGE of Sciences in May had special meaning for Dr. Ray Authement, former president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The college was named the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences in his honor.

And, he presented a diploma to his grandson, Philippe Prouet II, who graduated with a degree in biology. With that act, Authement fulfilled a promise he had made to one of his two daughters. When the late Kathleen Authement Prouet was battling leukemia, he had pledged that he would personally hand a diploma to Phillippe.

Authement retired in June after 34 years as UL Lafayette's president and more than 50 years of service at the university. When he retired, he was the longest serving president of a public university in the country.

Julie Simon-Dronet, director Communications and Marketing at UL Lafayette and chair of the Authement Recognition Committee, proposed naming the College of Sciences for him. Dr. Steve Landry, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at UL Lafayette, and Winfred Sibille, vice chairman of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, sought the ULS



Dr. Ray P. Authement

board's approval. Board members voted unanimously for the change. "For his name to be tied to the College of Sciences is perfect because of his history with the college, as a student for four years, then as a professor for eight years, as an administrator for eight years and as university president for 34 years. He led the college to national and international recognition," Simon-Dronet said.

The Ray P. Authement College of Sciences has continually received grants

from renowned organizations such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes for Health.

Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of the college, noted that Authement always supported the College of Science and believed "first class research goes hand in hand with first class teaching. We have had 15 straight years of merit-based raises for the faculty, raises in the bad years as well as the good. We've had a number of endowed professorships and chairs, created thanks to tireless fund raising."

Dr. Sally Clausen, the state's commissioner of higher education, praised Authement for his leadership. "We thank you for giving us your energy, your intelligence, your life and our future."

Authement thanked his family and many others for their support during his career. "They say that memories are the treasures of the mind and I leave with so many precious memories. . . I leave you with a strong university, one that is financially better off than it has ever been and a faculty that is as prepared as any I've ever worked with. With appreciation and love that I have for you and all of those who came before you, I thank you so very much for a great 34 years."

Gaines Adds Honorary Doctorate To Long List of Honors

ERNEST J. GAINES, acclaimed author and UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence emeritus, received an honorary doctorate of letters from the university in May.

The symbolic degree was presented during Graduate School's Commencement.

Gaines is one of the most significant American authors of the 20th century. He is best known for three of his novels, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.

Gaines' relationship with UL Lafayette began in 1981 when he accepted an invitation to serve as a visiting professor of creative writing. He became the university's writer-in-residence in 1984; he retired in 2004.

The author has often said the two most important moves in his life were when he left Louisiana to be educated in 1948 and when he returned in 1963 to

work on one of his novels, *Catherine Cormier*.

"Since then, I've added a third important move to my life: when I accepted the invitation to teach creative writing at USL. . ." he continued. USL is now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The Ernest J. Gaines Center will be built on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus. It will house the only



Ernest J. Gaines

complete collection of Gaines' scholarship in the world. The center will coordinate research related to him and possibly other African-American writers in Louisiana.

Gaines' work has been translated into at least 17 languages and earned him a National Book Critics Circle Award, National Humanities Medal and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey chose *A Lesson Before Dying* as an Oprah Book Club selection in 1997.

Student Advocate

'Coach' Blanco's influence will remain for years to come

AFTER 46 YEARS OF SERVICE TO UL Lafayette, vice president for Student Affairs Raymond Blanco will retire, effective Jan. 1, 2009.

He relinquished his student affairs duties in August but remains in charge of campus maintenance through this year.



Raymond Blanco's career has spanned four university administrations.

The university is conducting a search for Blanco's successor. Dean of Students Ed Pratt is interim vice president.

Blanco has served during the administrations of four of the university's six presidents: Dr. Joel Fletcher Jr., Dr. Clyde Rougeou, Dr. Ray P. Authement and Dr. Joseph Savoie. He earned a reputation as a compassionate advocate for students.

"During my 46-year career at the university, I have watched the evolution of student life on campus from integration to student protests of the war, to the current era of instant communication," Blanco said. "But the one thing that has remained constant is that kids want to be respected and they want to know someone cares about them."

"We were able to deal with difficult times because we listened, we communicated, and we truly cared about kids."

Dr. Jimmy Clarke, executive director for the ACT Center for College and Career Success, worked with Blanco in Student Affairs for more than 15 years. "He would tell us repeatedly, 'Treat these kids as you would if they were your own or as their parents should,'" Clarke said.

Blanco initiated the Dean on Call program so that students could contact a student dean at any time of the day or night if they needed help. He was also responsible for providing emergency call boxes on campus.

Clarke said Blanco pays attention to detail and taught him and others to do the same. "In the same way he used to break down film as a football coach, he is able to process and think through multiple circumstances and situations and piece them together and see ahead."

Clarke said Blanco's retirement is a loss for the university. "But I think he would be the first to tell you that no one person is bigger than the organization."

And, what he has so successfully done is to bring up so many of his charges, who now have extraordinary responsibilities at the university. So, although he personally is leaving, his philosophies, his commitment and his ideas are there and they will be for a long, long time.”

Blanco grew up in Birmingham, Ala. He graduated from St. Benedict’s College in Atchinson, Kan., in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and political science. He became assistant football coach at Kirwin High School in Galveston, Texas, the same year.

From 1959 to 1962, Blanco was head football coach and athletic director at Catholic High School in New Iberia, La. He led its football team to the state championship in 1962.

Blanco joined the university in December 1962 as assistant football coach and defensive coordinator. During his coaching tenure at UL Lafayette, the Ragin’ Cajuns had five winning seasons and won two conference championships. He is still referred to affectionately as “Coach” by many former students.

Blanco married Kathleen Babineaux of



Raymond Blanco taught students about the importance of social justice.

New Iberia, La., in 1964.

In 1969, Blanco was named dean of men. He later became dean of students and was soon promoted to vice president for Student Affairs. He also took on the additional responsibility of overseeing the university’s Physical Plant Department.

University President Dr. Joseph Savoie said Blanco gave him an opportunity to become a university administrator. “He was one of my first mentors and taught me to be sensitive to students and their needs.

“Over his many years of service, he has also mentored dozens of college administrators that are now serving on campuses across the state. Many of the remarkable things he has done at the university have gone unnoticed, but have had a lasting impact on many students, faculty, and staff.”

When the university was grappling with rising energy costs, Blanco was charged with developing an energy management program to reduce electrical and fuel costs. That program saves the university more than \$1 million annually.

Savoie said the impact of the energy management program is significant. “This program has allowed us to dedicate more revenue to faculty salaries and is now a model program for other higher education institutions in the state.”

In the late 1970s, Kathleen Blanco was district manager of the U.S. Census. When that project was complete, she and her husband started a political consulting firm. Over the next two decades, she held several elected positions. In 2000, she was elected governor of Louisiana; Blanco became the state’s first gentleman.

Blanco said he is excited about the university’s new administration and the direction the university will take. “I had the opportunity to hire Dr. Savoie some 30 years ago and I have watched



Former Gov. Kathleen Blanco and Raymond Blanco celebrate at a ball held the night of her inauguration.

his career with great admiration and pride. The university family and the community are excited about the future of the university and under Dr. Savoie’s leadership, they have every right to be.” ■

BLANCO BIO

1935	Born in Birmingham, Ala.
1953	Graduated from John Carroll High School, Birmingham, Ala.
1958	Graduated from St. Benedict’s College, Atchinson, Kansas
1958	Assistant football coach at Kirwin High School, Galveston, Texas
1959-62	Head football coach, Catholic High, New Iberia, La.
1962-69	Assistant football coach University of Southwestern Louisiana, now University of Louisiana at Lafayette
1964	Married Kathleen Babineaux of New Iberia, La.
1969-72	Dean of men, USL
1972-74	Dean of student personnel, USL
1974-82	Dean of students, USL
1974-2008	Vice president for Student Affairs, UL Lafayette
2000-2004	First gentleman of Louisiana

Alert System Passes Real-Life Test

RIGHT AFTER A BANK near campus was robbed this summer, thousands of phones started spreading the news. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's web site and its hotline announced the crime, too.

"We needed to alert the campus community about a possible threat as a result of this armed robbery. We wanted to ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff on campus," said UL Lafayette Police Chief Ray Lucas.

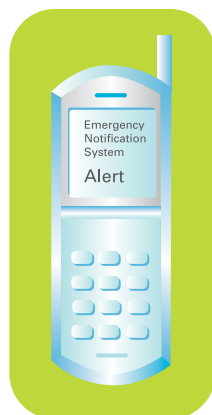
It was the first time the university activated First Call, its new emergency notification system, to issue an alert. Previously, it had only been activated for tests.

Warnings about the robbery were sent via text messaging and by calls to all campus phone lines and all cell phones registered with First Call. UL Lafayette's hotline gave callers a recorded message.

"The system performed as it was designed to perform," Lucas said.

A second message was distributed after a suspect was arrested later that day.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie said he was pleased with the system's performance. "The safety of our students, faculty and staff remains a top priority for this university," he said.



Savoie encourages all UL Lafayette students and employees to sign up – at no cost – for First Call by providing their contact information. They can give

additional e-mail addresses and phone numbers for First Call to automatically contact in case of an emergency. For instance, a student may furnish his parents' home phone number as an additional contact number.

First Call is only activated for emergencies and tests of the notification system. It does not distribute any advertising.

UL Lafayette students and employees can register their contact information online at <http://ens.louisiana.edu>

The First Call service is part of an initiative by the Louisiana Board of Regents and supported by the University of Louisiana System.

Universities across the nation began implementing emergency notification systems after a disturbed student shot and killed 32 students on the campus of Virginia Tech before killing himself last year. A review panel criticized Virginia Tech administrators for failing to take steps that might have reduced the number of casualties, such as informing students more quickly about the shootings.

T-Shirt Swap Puts More Red On Campus

TIRED OF SEEING any other university colors worn by UL Lafayette students on campus, the University Program Council's Spirit committee held a T-Shirt Swap at the annual Yell Like Hell pep rally.

Students could trade other university shirts for limited-edition UL Lafayette T-shirts. They were invited to stay after the pep rally to watch other shirts burn in a bonfire intended to get students fired up for the Cajuns' Homecoming game and spark more school spirit.

A total of 150 UL Lafayette shirts were given away. An additional 90 shirts had to be ordered to give to students later who had brought shirts to the event to swap.

"I never expected to exchange as many shirts as we did that night. It was such a success that we may sponsor another T-shirt Swap in the near future," said Laura Bullinger, UPC Spirit Committee chairperson.

Aimee Graunard, UPC president, said she hopes there won't be a need for many more T-shirt exchanges.

"Ideally, we will get to a point where we don't have to host this type of event because everyone on campus will be sporting UL shirts all the time," she said.

Turn It Up!

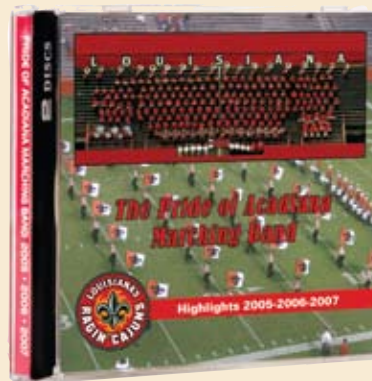
RAGIN' CAJUNS fans can enjoy the music of UL Lafayette's Pride of Acadiana Marching Band long after the football season is over.

A new two-CD set offers crowd favorites, such as "Respect," "Fight Song" and "Tear the Roof Off." It features drum cadences and percussion pieces, as well as tunes performed during halftime shows in the past three years.

There's a bonus: Songs the band played during the 2005 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The Pride of Acadiana was one of only two university bands invited


to perform in the parade that year.

A number the band performed in Herald Square at the end of the parade is also included. It's a medley of "When the Saints Go Marching In," "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and "South Rampart Street Parade" that's called "When the Saints Go Marching Down the Sunny Side of South Rampart Street."



The CD set can be purchased at the UL Bookstore in the Student Union on campus, Follet's Bookstore on St. Mary Boulevard and Louisiana Hot Stuff on Ambassador Caffery. For more information, call the UL Band Department at (337)

482-6014 or visit its web site.

 www.ulbands.com

Buses Double as Rolling Billboards for University

TWO NEW BUSES used to transport students from Cajun Field to campus are sporting custom wraps.

They feature photos of UL Lafayette students celebrating at home football games. The buses also display the university's primary athletic mark. UL Lafayette's pepper logo is on the front of the bus.

The university's Office of Communications and Marketing worked with Prejean Creative, a local design firm, to produce the bus' new look.

"Lisa and Kevin Prejean spent weeks measuring each bus and making minute adjustments to the designs so that they fit just right along all the panels and contours of the buses," said Matt Tarver, assistant director for trademark licensing at UL Lafayette.

The first wrapped bus was unveiled in April, just in time for the university's inaugural Retailers' Appreciation Tour. Students, staff, faculty and fans used the bus to visit

nearly 20 local retailers to say "thanks" for selling Ragin' Cajuns merchandise.

Tarver said the wrap was an instant hit. "The first day the bus was used, people all across Lafayette were waving and blowing their car horns when they saw it."

Kennan Guillory, assistant director of UL Lafayette's Parking and Transit, said the buses are a powerful advertising tool for the university. "Who doesn't notice a



45-foot red moving billboard?"

The second wrapped bus debuted before UL Lafayette's Homecoming week in late October. Its wrap design features different photos of students.

"It's another great way to get our name out to the community," said SGA President Jamey Arnette.

Besides shuttling students, the buses are used for campus tours and other university events. "I think the wrapped buses add great school spirit, not only on our campus but city wide," Dustin Domangue, SGA vice president, said.

Kimberly Wooten, SGA treasurer, described the first time she saw the wrapped buses: "I immediately stopped in awe."

PODCASTS ENABLE NURSING STUDENTS TO PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

Thanks to a grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents, students taking the "Fundamentals of Nursing" course at UL Lafayette can review lab skills anytime they want.

The College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions received \$50,000 to produce podcasts of lab skills. Podcasts are audio and video files that can be downloaded from the Internet onto portable media players, such as iPods and mp3 players.

"We are always looking for ways to motivate students and to also give them more flexibility," said Susan Randol, freshman and sophomore coordinator for the college.

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, who's a professor, head of the Nursing Department and associate to the dean of the college, said the podcasts have been a hit with students. "They love it. They want more," she said.

"Fundamentals of Nursing," is the first clinical course that nursing students can take. Second-semester sophomores are



eligible to enroll in it.

Oberleitner explained that students might only have a couple of chances to interact with an instructor who demonstrates certain clinical nursing skills. A podcast gives them "the ability to watch that demonstration as many times as they need to. . . They can review the skill right before they go into a patient's room," she said.

Students can stop a podcast at any point and watch or listen to it as many times as needed to review a technique.

Nursing student Jacob Kora said the podcasts are helpful. "There's only so much you can get from your notes on lab skills. This program shows that the nursing instructors are willing to help students any way they can," he said.

A survey showed that about 70 percent of students taking "Fundamentals of Nursing" own an iPod or mp3 player. Those who don't can borrow one for a semester. The grant enabled the college to purchase 30 to loan to students. A podcast can also be viewed on a computer.

The project is part of a pilot study that will track recruitment and retention for the college.

"We're banking that the more resources that we can give students outside of class, that will help with retention," Oberleitner said.



Investiture Ceremony

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE, PRESIDENT

“Knowledge is the core business of the university. In every phase of it – discovery, transmission, assessment, application and expansion – the university plays a critical role. On our campus every day, and on college campuses throughout America, knowledge is discovered, knowledge is gained, knowledge is tested, knowledge is shared and knowledge is applied. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is well positioned to step up to this challenge to expand knowledge, to expand the knowledge base and to keep our state and nation economically secure.

“...(many people) did their part to secure a brighter future for this university and the people that it serves. But now it's our turn. We are now the custodians of the promise, as it has been passed on to us. Notice I said 'our turn.' It's not me. It's not you. It's not some 'them'. It's what we will do together and that will be our legacy.

“Teaching is a moral profession. Scholarship is a public trust and public service is an obligation. This is how we will meet the obligations of our generation. We will simply strive for perfection. Now, perfection is rarely attainable. But if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

OCTOBER 30, 2008

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP GOULD



Inauguration events began with an ecumenical prayer service in front of Martin Hall on Thursday morning. It featured readings by UL Lafayette students Kyle LeBoeuf, Fawn Roy and Lance Dunn and prayers by Father Chester Arceneaux (far right), Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church; Scott Belmore, Baptist Collegiate Ministry; the Rev. Daniel Hixon, Wesley United Campus Ministry; the Rev. Eric Treuil, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship; and the Rev. Lloyd Joiner Jr., Progressive Baptist Church. The following performed during the ceremony: the UL Lafayette Trumpet Ensemble, the UL Gospel Choir, the Lafayette High School Advanced Mixed Choir, the Ascension Episcopal School Choir and the Acadiana Community Ecumenical Choir/Gospel Music Workshop of America Chapter.

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Inaugural Luncheon



UL Lafayette hosted delegates of other universities and special guests at the Cajundome. Leaders of key organizations and agencies offered remarks and a video tribute to the new president was presented.

“WE KNOW THAT IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE, WHEN BUDGETS START TO BECOME THREATENED, IT IS THE TIME THAT WE MUST TAKE A LOOK AT THE VALUE OF OUR BUSINESS, OUR ENTERPRISE. AND, AS I HAVE HEARD DR. SAVOIE SAY MANY TIMES, ‘NEVER RETREAT.’”

DR. SALLY CLAUSEN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Investiture Ceremony



Above: During the investiture, Elsie Burkhalter, chairperson of the University of Louisiana System Board, attached a lapel pin to Dr. E. Joseph Savoie's doctoral gown. The pin was worn in 1920 by Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens, the university's first president. Right: An office chair used by Dr. Stephens symbolized his presence at the ceremony. Shown in the foreground, from left, are: Dr. Steve Landry, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; the Most Rev. Glen J. Provost, bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles; Jamey Arnette, SGA president; Dr. Donna Gauthier, Faculty Senate secretary; Mary Galyean, UL Lafayette Alumni Association president; L. J. "Joey" Durel Jr., Lafayette city/parish president; and John N. Chappuis, UL Lafayette Foundation president.



UL LAFAYETTE NAMES FIRST PROVOST

What are a provost's duties? It's no wonder that Dr. Steve Landry is often asked that question. He's the first provost in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 110-year history.

Landry has served as the university's vice president for Academic Affairs since 2000 and will retain that position in addition to his provost responsibilities. As vice president for Academic Affairs, he is responsible for the general direction of UL Lafayette's instruction, research and outreach activities.

As provost, Landry is the senior academic administrator and senior vice president on campus. He will coordinate academic affairs, student affairs, research, advancement and administration.

"It's almost like a chief operating officer in a company," he said of his added role.

Landry has a broad view of the university that is based, in part, on his career at UL Lafayette. Prior to being named vice president for Academic Affairs, he was the university's vice president for Research. Landry had previously served as director of Research and Sponsored Programs. He is a former associate professor and department head in Computer Science and the Center for Advanced Computer Studies. He also served as director of the university's Computing Center.

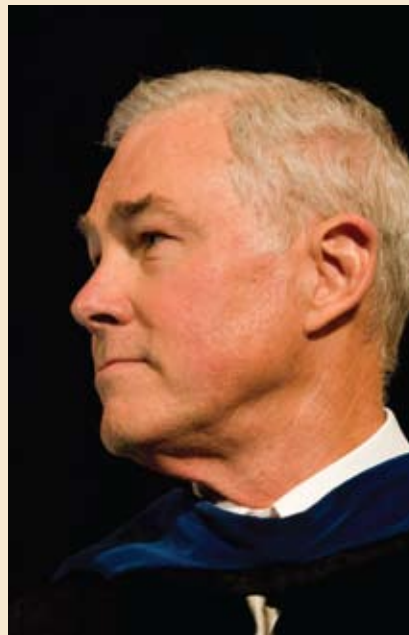
"Each one of these positions has influenced the way I see the university today and how I see what it could become. I've gained a wonderful perspective," Landry said.

As vice president for Academic Affairs, Landry led the seven-year transition that gradually strengthened admissions criteria. He assisted with the development of an accelerated option track in nursing that enables students with four-year degrees in other disciplines to obtain a bachelor's degree in nursing through a fast track. He also led the development and implementation of the university's partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System and other district systems for dual enrollment of high school students.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie said Landry's

"He is a distinguished leader and is highly regarded across the campus and throughout the community."

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE, PRESIDENT



Dr. Steve Landry

experience in higher education makes him a perfect fit for the provost position. "He is a distinguished leader and is highly regarded across the campus and throughout the community."

One of Landry's duties is helping to recruit outstanding faculty. "We're always trying to get the best who can teach and conduct research," he said.

Landry said the scope of his responsibilities is reflected in the people he interacts with each day and the variety of projects and activities that he is involved with on behalf of the university.

"One minute, I'll be talking with students who come to my office," he said. His voice drops a little and he offers an aside, with a smile: "They're either in trouble or they're doing something magnificent."

He continued: "The next minute, we may be talking with the city-parish president or a legislator about a work force initiative. Three hours later, I could be talking with a faculty member and later meet with someone who has donated money to the university for a scholarship."

Creation of the provost position is one of several modifications of the university's administrative structure that have been made since Savoie became UL Lafayette's president.

For instance, Dr. Carolyn Bruder is now associate vice president for Academic Affairs. She had previously served as assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

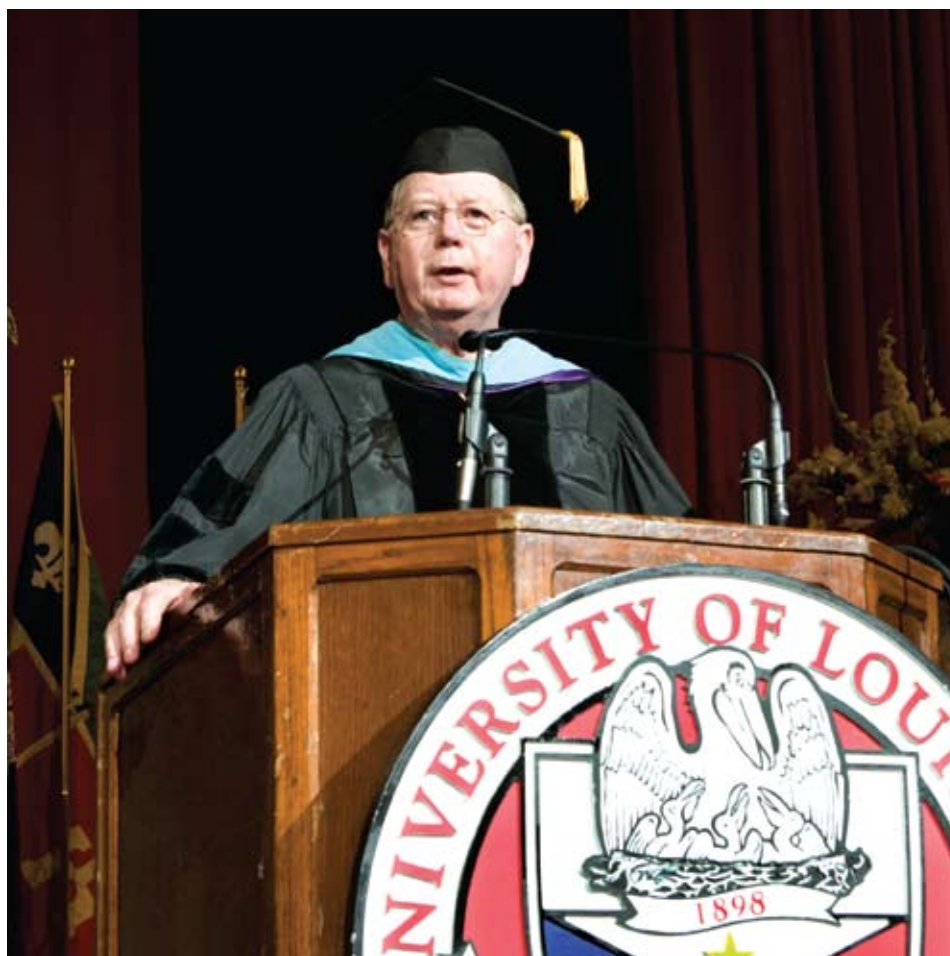
"She is a miracle worker," Landry said. "She is a former faculty member and department head. She has also been engaged in the university's accreditation reviews by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the NCAA. So, she has a breadth of experience that's almost unmatched on campus."

Landry said it's critical for the university to have a team of strong deans. "It makes a huge difference when you have good colleagues, all of whom have good experience and intentions."

But all university personnel have a key role, he continued. "My job is to be a team builder. One of the most important things that all of us do is recruit and retain the right faculty and staff, so that we can recruit and retain the best students. This really is a people business." ■

“I THINK WE KNOW JOE’S STORY. HE GREW UP A LITTLE WEST OF HERE. HE SPENT TIME AT THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY AND THEN HE MADE HIS MARK AS AN EDUCATION LEADER, AN EDUCATION POLICY CHANGE AGENT, NOT ONLY IN BATON ROUGE, BUT THROUGHOUT THIS GREAT COUNTRY. AND, NOW HE IS RETURNING HOME FOR WHAT I THINK WILL BE THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF HIS LIFE.”

DR. RANDY MOFFETT,
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM
PRESIDENT



Investiture Ceremony



Left: UL Lafayette's Army ROTC cadets presented the colors. Bottom center: The University Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. William Hochkeppel, performed. Bottom right: Dr. E. Joseph Savoie with state Sen. Michael J. 'Mike' Michot, left, and state Rep. Patrick Page Cortez.

Investiture Ceremony



Top left: Thomas Frey, executive director and senior futurist of the DaVinci Institute, gave the keynote address. The institute is a futurist think tank in Colorado. Top right: Dr. E. Joseph Savoie and former UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement. Bottom left: Fireworks were lit in celebration of Savoie's investiture. Bottom right: Grace Savoie of Sulphur, La., celebrated the inauguration of her son, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, as the new president of UL Lafayette.

"I AM INDEED FORTUNATE TO COME TO THIS POSITION AT A TIME WHEN OUR FOUNDATION IS FIRM AND OUR FUTURE BRIGHT. AND IF WE WORK TOGETHER, ALL OF US AS PARTNERS IN PROGRESS, WE WILL LEAVE A LEGACY WHICH OTHERS WILL RECOUNT IN THE 22ND CENTURY. AND I PROMISE YOU WE WILL HAVE FUN ALONG THE WAY."

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE, PRESIDENT

Irma Thomas, soul queen of New Orleans, performed during the "We Are Louisiana" party at the Cajundome Thursday night. Joining her at the end of Aretha Franklin's classic, "Respect," were UL Lafayette's Pride of Acadiana Marching Band, student-athletes, spirit groups and members of student organizations. Other performers included Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience, Rockin' Dopsie Jr. and the Zydeco Twisters, and The Molly Ringwalds.



"We are Louisiana" Celebration



PROFILE OF A PRESIDENT: DR. JOSEPH SAVOIE

FOR GAIL SAVOIE, THE INAUGURATION OF HER HUSBAND THIS FALL AS PRESIDENT of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette must have seemed a bit surreal. • It was a reminder that, sometimes, it's impossible to predict the future. • She was 16 when she met and began dating Joseph "T-Joe" Savoie. He was 17. • They attended the same high school in Sulphur, La. She was a cheerleader. He was a rascal, by all accounts. • Gail Savoie remembers vividly the night of their first date. They had planned to go out after a home football game. She was on the sidelines, cheering for her team. "I look up in the stands and see the principal, Mr. Moses, in a suit, running down the bleachers, running after T-Joe, trying to catch him." • Whatever offense Savoie was suspected of committing that night has probably been forgotten. But former elementary and high school classmates fondly recall that he was a charismatic leader at an early age. • "He was funny. Kind of wild. And I liked him immediately," said Maria Hart, a high school classmate. • Peggy Ducote, another high school classmate, remembers his devil-may-care attitude. "T-Joe was just out there, you know? Whenever he would come up with an idea that was so creative, he could get anybody to follow him. The leadership qualities were there." • In an interview in October, Gail Savoie said that when Savoie graduated from high school, she thought he might become a lawyer. • "I'm still in a state of shock because I never dreamed, when I watched him go off to college, that he would end up being president of a university. Believe me, that was the last thing on *his* mind. I can tell you that right now," she said, with a laugh.

JOSEPH SAVOIE WAS BORN IN SULPHUR, LA., A BLUE-COLLAR town about 10 miles west of Lake Charles, La.

As a child, he was given his nickname, "T-Joe," by his French-speaking grandmother, who was known as "T-Ma." "It just kind of followed him all the way through school and that's the only way I know him," Gail Savoie said.

He was the fifth of seven children. His mother was a teacher and his father was a businessman.

In an interview with *La Louisiane*, Savoie spoke about his parents' influence on his life.

"I was taught, and began to believe at an early age, that each of us has a responsibility to the greater good and that we ought to use whatever talents that we have to contribute to the greater good in some fashion," he said. "My parents, each in their own way, were role models for that philosophy."

As a teenager, Savoie played bass guitar in a rock band, Five Stories High. Some of the other band members played football. Savoie stopped playing his sophomore year. "He didn't want to get hurt," Gail Savoie

BY KATHLEEN THAMES



PHILIP GOULD



deadpanned, until she could no longer repress a chuckle.

At Sulphur High, Savoie was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, a member of the debate team and was Charlie Brown in a school play. He also had a lot of fun.

It was apparent even then, Gail Savoie said, that he had a gift. "He was a born leader. He doesn't like to draw attention to himself, but he's the type of person that people are attracted to."

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH school, Savoie entered the University of Southwestern Louisiana. As a freshman, he joined Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Chip Purpera, is one of Savoie's close friends and a Kappa Sigma brother.

Like most fraternities, Purpera said, Kappa Sigma was created "for people to take care of each other and help each other. They were intended to help students be better students, to do benevolent things on campus. . . T-Joe took all of that seriously. And that's the part that he wants to see keep going. He believes in the real reason why those organizations got started."

Savoie, who served on the Union Program Council and the Student Government Association, was a dormitory counselor when Kappa Sigma got kicked off campus for an infraction. A handful of fraternity members weren't present during the incident



Gail Heinbach and Joseph Savoie attended the Sulphur High School prom in 1977.

that prompted disciplinary action. One of them was Savoie; he soon became president and worked to keep the fraternity together. He was president of Kappa Sigma for nearly three years. In his senior year, he became president of the Interfraternity Council.

Gail and Joseph Savoie married in 1977 and he went to work for Schilling Distributors. About a year later, Raymond Blanco hired him as assistant dean of student personnel. Savoie began taking classes at night, working toward earning a master's degree in educational administration.

In 1980, Savoie also became program director for Union Program Council and student government advisor.

The Savoie's daughter, Blaire, was born in 1981.

IN 1981, SAVOIE EARNED HIS MASTER'S degree and became executive director of the USL Alumni Association and director of Alumni Affairs. The association had about 350 members and limited visibility. By the time he became director of University Advancement about 10 years later, there were about 8,000 members.

Kathleen Blanco, who is a USL Lafayette graduate, describes the transformation:

"When T-Joe became the alumni director, you saw the Alumni Association take a huge leap, a different direction. We became like alumni of other campuses. In fact, more like some alumni of private campuses," she said. Blanco noted that at the time Savoie became the association's director, public universities did not routinely ask for contributions from their graduates.

But, under Savoie's direction, she continued, "alumni were reorganized and not just invited to party with us, because we can all do that extremely well, but also to make targeted contributions, to raise money, to go out and ask people to be an invested member of the university community, to put some money back into the school that gave you the tools to get where you are. And that has paid big dividends."

Dr. Camille Claibourne graduated from USL in 1978. She said it took a leader to convince alumni to take time from their busy schedules to "contribute back to the university. T-Joe did that for me." She went on to serve as Alumni Association president from 1996 to 1997.

IN THE EARLY 1980s, USL PRESIDENT Dr. Ray P. Authement assigned Savoie and Jimmy Clarke, dean of Student Person-

nel at the university, to handle legislative relations in Baton Rouge. Their first assignment: lobby to change USL's name to a name that better reflected its national, rather than regional influence.

Savoie and Clarke rented a room where they could make their pitch, set up an overhead projector for a presentation and invited legislators. "We were proud of ourselves. But it was all for naught. We learned very quickly that there was a whole lot more to politics than overhead projectors and what we thought were the facts of the matter," Clarke said.

Savoie became an ardent student of the political process. "I mean, when the legislature was in session, he was *there*," Clarke noted.

With the help of several legislators, Savoie began to learn his way around the state capitol. He gradually made a name for himself as someone who did his homework, was fair and could be trusted. The education he received in the House and Senate would serve him well in years to come. He also continued to take classes at the university in the evenings.

In 1992, Authement appointed Savoie as vice president for University Advancement.

Adam Savoie was born in 1993. Four months later, Savoie began to pursue a doctorate from Columbia University's Teacher's College in New York City. Gail Savoie is candid about the sacrifice that was required for him to earn a doctoral degree.

"It was tough. He would leave in the summers and live in New York. I was on my own with a 4-month-old and a 10-year-old. But it was much harder on him than it was on me, because he hated leaving his family.

"He would come home in the fall and then every six weeks he would fly out on a Thursday to New York and stay until a Sunday night or Monday morning and come back. He never stopped working at UL while pursuing his doctorate," she said. That last year, after the kids were put to bed, he studied every night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Savoie's dissertation topic focused on the development of a service learning program at USL.

Over the next decade, Savoie also became involved with national higher education organizations. He served on the boards of the Southern Regional Education Board, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and as chairman of the board of the national association of State

Higher Education Executive Officers. In 2005, he was chosen by the National Governors Association as one of six national experts to help governors from across the country develop progressive educational policies. That networking and exposure, like his legislative experience, would prove to be invaluable.

Savoie received a doctorate in educational leadership and administration from Columbia University's Teacher's College in the spring of 1995.

In 1995, M. J. "Mike" Foster, a Franklin, La., businessman, was elected governor of Louisiana. He fully grasped the importance of higher education to the state's economy.

Foster appointed Savoie first to his higher education transition team and in 1996 encouraged the Louisiana Board of Regents to hire him as interim commissioner of higher education.

SAVOIE TOOK A LEAVE of absence from USL, assuming he would spend just a few months in Baton Rouge, La., as interim commissioner.

The Board of Regents soon offered the state's highest education position to Savoie on a permanent basis.

"When I hired Joe, I was looking for somebody that could do the job of taking the (Board of) Regents and giving them back their constitutional mission, which was to coordinate all the colleges in the state," Foster said in an interview in October.

Kathleen Blanco was lieutenant governor then. She had served as a state representative and a member of the Public Service Commission.

Blanco describes what the higher education environment was like in the early to mid-1990s:

"The colleges that got the money were the colleges that had legislators in high and important positions. It was fast and furious. There was nothing systematic. There was nothing but strong-arm politics that decided funding, campus by campus. There was base funding, but there was all kind



PHILIP GOULD



Top: Dr. Joseph Savoie meets Robert Reichert, a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity during an ice cream social held on his first day on campus as UL Lafayette's president. As a student, Savoie was president of Kappa Sigma for three years. Bottom: Dr. Joseph Savoie, left, began his career as assistant dean of student personnel at UL Lafayette. As the university's president, he continues to make student success a priority.

of jockeying for extra money for this, that, and the other, with no real sense of priority, just power politics."

Savoie knew that environment well because of his experience as the university's lobbyist.

In an interview in October, Dr. William Jenkins, former president of the LSU system, commented on Savoie's political prowess. "T-Joe understood the machinery of state government and how the state capitol operated and, at the same time, he understood the nuances. He understood the political overtones, and political relationships. He is a master of that, a master.

Dr. Leon Tarver II, former president

of the Southern University System, recalled Savoie's early days as commissioner: "He was a listener... He talked to a lot of people and he listened to a lot of people. I think that in the process he began to crystallize an idea of where higher education should be going. . ."

Savoie earned points for keeping an open mind, Tarver said. "He had no predilection about what the answer ought to be. He always felt that the answer was somewhere in the discussion, in the debate. And his job was to find it."

One of Savoie's first tasks was to eliminate dozens of unnecessarily duplicated academic programs.

The Board of Regents had been working on that project for more than a year. "It was in total chaos because every school was jockeying to maintain their programs, to cut somebody else's programs. I got on the road and started visiting campuses," Savoie said in a recent interview.

"I met with campus administrators and told them, 'I have to eliminate X number of programs. This is what's on your list. What do you absolutely have to have and what can you give up? Instead of dictating a result, I tried to work with the campuses on their individual needs and circumstances. It worked. We eliminated 100 duplicate programs – more than the number targeted.'"

His administrative style, which is to include as many viewpoints as feasible, is one reason for his success. But Savoie is quick to point out that having Foster's trust was also key in the early days of his career as commissioner. The governor let others know that Savoie was in charge. Savoie worked with two more governors after Foster and stayed in charge.

AT ONE POINT IN HIS EARLY DAYS AS commissioner of higher education, Savoie and his wife had to make an important decision. Would they move from Lafayette to Baton Rouge? Rather than uproot his family from their home, Savoie chose to commute to Baton Rouge every day.

Gail Savoie said that having her husband on the road so much was stressful. "Between his mother and me, there were lots of prayers. . ."

"There were many times when we were very worried because he was driving across the basin in bad weather. But he wanted to



Dr. Joseph Savoie testifies before the Louisiana House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee. Under his leadership as state commissioner of higher education, monetary support for public colleges and universities nearly tripled.

be home in the morning to see his son wake up and he wanted to be there in the evening to kiss him goodnight. He wanted us to stay in our community because we love Lafayette so much. That's the kind of person he is. He is very, very giving."

SOON AFTER HE BECAME COMMISSIONER of higher education, Savoie received a letter from Zawonnica Mitchell, a student at a middle school in Shreveport. Her class was studying government. Zawonnica's teacher had assigned her to write a letter to Savoie to invite him to visit their school.

Savoie accepted the invitation and instead of a quick visit, spent most of the day there.

Gail Savoie said Zawonnica was extremely shy. "When T-Joe first met her, she spoke softly and would keep her head down. She wouldn't make eye contact."

Zawonnica was a good student and Savoie promised her that if she kept her grades up through high school, he would make sure she could go to college. He stayed in touch with her, attending school performances, encouraging her and sending her books to read that he thought she would enjoy.

Zawonnica graduated from high school and received a scholarship to Southern University. She recently earned a degree in political science and is now working toward teacher certification.

"She still calls him to discuss career

options and they have a real good relationship," Gail Savoie said. "I think he made a difference in this little girl's life."

FORMER GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO said in a recent interview that Savoie became "the commissioner who has had the most positive influence on all of education in Louisiana."

Blanco explained that he convinced legislators that everything related to higher education should be handled through the Board of Regents. And, "Dr. Savoie sat down the leaders of the university campuses and convinced them that cooperative activity, going to the legislature with one message, a message for higher education, would be far, far better than the back-biting going on."

"THE MIRACULOUS THING THAT HE WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WAS TO CREATE A MODEL, A UNIQUE MODEL IN THE UNITED STATES AT THAT TIME, THAT EDUCATION IS ONE CONTINUUM FROM PRE-K THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION,"

FORMER GOVERNOR KATHLEEN BLANCO

But that was just the start of dramatic education reform.

"The miraculous thing that he was able to accomplish was to create a model, a unique model in the United States at that time, that education is one continuum from pre-K through higher education," Blanco said. "Dr. Savoie worked with Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard, day in and day out, to make sure that each part of the educational process worked together and was relevant for the individual student and that nothing would be lost in between."

As a result of this partnership, high school graduation rates improved, college attendance grew, ACT scores increased, teacher education programs at colleges across the state were redesigned and the number of certified teachers being produced by the state's colleges increased significantly.

In addition, under Savoie's leadership as commissioner:

- higher education governance was restructured;
- a statewide community and technical college system was created;
- a master plan for public postsecondary education, which included admissions criteria for universities, was implemented;
- the state's first need-based financial aid program was established;
- college graduation rates improved;
- federal research grants doubled;
- national accreditation of academic programs statewide reached nearly 100 percent;
- monetary support for public colleges and universities nearly tripled; and
- education became a key component of Louisiana's efforts to improve its economy and its residents' quality of life.

Savoie guided universities as they strengthened their admissions criteria and helped establish new community colleges.

Blanco noted that many of the changes were controversial and politically challenging, but they were made "with the least amount of noise and antagonism that one could ever imagine."

ON AUG. 29, 2005, HURRICANE Katrina hit south Louisiana. At first, it seemed as if damage was minimal. Then levees around New Orleans began to fail, allowing surrounding water to inundate much of the Crescent City.

Savoie responded immediately by calling the state's higher education leadership

FIRST LADY TO BE AMBASSADOR FOR UL

Although Gail Savoie's husband has a new job, she doesn't expect her own public role to be much different.

She predicts that it will be similar to her role as the wife of the former commissioner of higher education. "I don't think there is going to be any real change."

Savoie said she always felt like an ambassador for Louisiana when she and Dr. Joseph Savoie would attend social functions with political leaders, board members and other commissioners of higher education from around the nation. Acting as a representative of the state in general, and south Louisiana specifically, comes naturally to her because Lafayette has been her home since she attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana in the 1970s.

In a recent interview, she recalled tailgating at Cajun Field before the Ragin' Cajuns' game against Arkansas State in mid-October. "I was sitting there, having a conversation, when I looked around and realized I was surrounded by Arkansas State fans. They were in the midst of all these Ragin' Cajuns and they were having a ball. The hospitality here is just so incredible. I don't know of another place like it."

Savoie grew up in Sulphur, La., but chose not to attend nearby McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La. "McNeese is a wonderful college but it was close to home and I just wanted a new experience."

"I remember my first time walking on this campus at orientation. I could not believe that people would actually look at you in the face, smile and say 'Hi,' and they didn't know who the heck you were. I had never experienced that and it was just great. I knew I had found home. I didn't want to be anywhere else and, to this day, you can walk on this campus and still have that same feeling of acceptance."

Savoie joined Delta Delta Delta sorority as a USL student. "To this day, I still keep up with my tri-Delt sisters. In fact, there is a group of us that gets together at least once a year. We call ourselves the 'Delta Roses.'" She was also a UL cheer-



Gail Heinbach Savoie

leader and remains an avid fan of Ragin' Cajun athletics.

Gail and Joseph Savoie married after she graduated from UL Lafayette with a degree in education.

Savoie said she had always wanted to teach. Her first teaching job was at St. Ignatius, a small Catholic school in Grand Coteau, La. "I was the fifth grade teacher and I taught there for about three years," she said. Savoie also taught at St. Antoine Elementary School in Lafayette. She spent the last 10 years of her career as a third grade teacher at Woodvale Elementary, which is near the Savoies' home.

"The cool thing about it was that I taught a lot of my college friends' children. And I can't begin to tell you how many kids I've taught who lived up and down the street where we live. That has been a real joy for me to watch these kids grow up."

The Savoies have a son, Adam, and a daughter, Blaire. Adam is a sophomore in high school.

Blair married Aaron Saulnier in April; they live in Baton Rouge.

When Adam was in sixth grade, he took art lessons. But it was his mom who became an artist.

Savoie describes how that happened: "He was playing around with paints and I thought, 'I can play around with paint.' So I just started messing around and it became a joy."

She primarily paints Louisiana primitives, using acrylics in bright colors. She has sold her paintings in Lafayette and Baton Rouge.

Savoie produced a fleur de lis painting for her husband's new office in Martin Hall. It was reproduced on small canvases that were gifts to special guests who attended an Inauguration Day luncheon held in October.

Savoie said she is looking forward to serving as first lady of UL Lafayette.

"I really and truly feel honored and blessed to now be an ambassador for the university. To have a part in working to support UL Lafayette is exciting to me because the university gave me so much." ■

together and setting priorities.

"The first thing we focused on were people issues," he said in a recent interview. "We contacted campus presidents to check on their safety and get their assessments of impacted students, faculty and staff. It was soon apparent that over a dozen college and university campuses in the New Orleans area were shut down and probably wouldn't be able to open any time soon.

More than 80,000 college students were displaced. Within 24 hours, websites were created to help students and faculty.

"We put in place a policy that students could move to any other campus that was operational – without any bureaucracy, without the necessity of records and files because those were under water, and without any additional costs. If they had paid tuition at their home institutions, then they would not have to pay anything else. We set up a locator and placement system for displaced faculty so they could work at functioning campuses and help teach displaced students," he continued.

"We guaranteed faculty that they weren't going to lose their jobs immediately, that we would find some placement for them and we then issued a public statement which guaranteed employment at least through the end of the calendar year for all affected employees. I took some legislative heat for that, but the worst thing that could have happened to people who lost their homes was to have their jobs taken away from them as well.

"It was over a week before we were able to physically get to any of the campus-



Odie Terry, left, associate publisher of The Independent Weekly, talks with Dr. Joseph Savoie.

es and they were still under water. Just as we were getting a good handle on things, Hurricane Rita came and re-flooded everything in New Orleans and took out McNeese State University and Sowela Technical Community College in Lake Charles."

Savoie worked with the Congressional delegation and managed to obtain an initial emergency allocation of \$85 million from the federal government to stabilize many of the campuses. That allowed universities to pay salaries, for example. The funds also allowed the state to make a \$1,000 "Return to Learn" scholarship available for each college student who had been displaced.

One of the state's challenges was keeping its finances stable in the immediate aftermath of the hurricanes and flooding. State agencies were asked to cut their budgets. Higher education had about a week to carve out \$75 million.

"We tried to do that strategically so that we would do the least damage to campuses that were not directly affected and who had absorbed 20,000 new students," Savoie said.

He summarized the Board of Regents' role after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck: "We just took control and started doing things, always focused on people first, infrastructure second, working around rules and regulations third, and politics not at all. Once people saw that's what we were doing, they were willing to stay out of the way and let us take care of our business."

In 2006, Savoie continued to work on hurricane recovery and rebuilding Louisiana's higher education system. When the state's economy began to rebound with a post-hurricane spending frenzy, he was able to secure from the legislature not only the \$75 million that had been cut from the budget the previous year, but an additional \$160 million.

IN 2007, DR. RAY P. AUTHEMENT announced he would retire, after serving as UL Lafayette's president for 34 years. The University of Louisiana System made the selection process for his replacement as transparent as possible. So, every applicant's name and background information were made public.

Savoie was one of the last to apply.

Dr. Steve Landry, vice president for Academic Affairs at UL Lafayette, was one of the contenders. He is well respected and popular with faculty and staff. In public



Adam Savoie, right, checks with his dad, UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie, at an ecumenical prayer service.

"T-JOE UNDERSTOOD THE MACHINERY OF STATE GOVERNMENT AND HOW THE STATE CAPITOL OPERATED AND, AT THE SAME TIME, HE UNDERSTOOD THE NUANCES. HE UNDERSTOOD THE POLITICAL OVERTONES, AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE IS A MASTER OF THAT, A MASTER."

DR. WILLIAM JENKINS,

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LSU SYSTEM

interviews conducted by the board, he was articulate and enthusiastic.

Savoie, on the other hand, seemed ambivalent about seeking the position.

Did he not want the university president's duties? Or, was he reluctant to leave his position as commissioner because he thought there was more he could accomplish?

In an interview after his inauguration, Savoie answered those questions candidly.

"I very much enjoyed the work that I did at the Board of Regents. I felt like the state had made some significant progress and I felt good about my role in that progress. One of the issues that I struggled with was, where could I contribute the most?"

"Ultimately, it came down to some ego deflating. (I realized) that if I had done my job properly, then the board and the staff and my successor would be able to continue the momentum and build on it even further. Progress wasn't dependent on me personally. But I would have been happy to stay in the commissioner's role for the rest of my career. Now that I am here, I feel the same way about being at UL."

There was a more pragmatic consideration, as well. He had been commuting from Lafayette to Baton Rouge for about 12 years. The university presidency offered a chance to work closer to his home and family. "My 15-year-old son still likes to talk to me. I want to be around before that's gone," he said.

The UL System Board of Supervisors selected Savoie, although Landry was a strong contender. The tipping point seemed to be his state experience and exposure at the national level.

Andre Coudrain, a member of the UL System Board of Supervisors from Hammond, La., observed: "We've had strong local candidates in some searches and strong national candidates in others. For this one, we have the best of both worlds."

Savoie's first day on campus as president was July 2. A crowd of faculty, staff and students were waiting to welcome him warmly. One of his first moves was to appoint Dr. Steve Landry as provost, his second in command.

The new president wanted to wait until Homecoming week for inauguration events and his investiture ceremony. Some universities hold weeklong inaugurations. Savoie's was just one day and the ceremonies and activities were funded by private donations.

Savoie's address at his investiture



PHILIP GOULD



PHILIP GOULD

Top: Liz Landry, executive assistant to the president, pins a boutonniere onto Dr. Joseph Savoie's lapel on the morning of his inauguration. Bottom: John Broderick, left, manager of ground services at UL Lafayette, and President Dr. Joseph Savoie chat in the shade of oaks along St. Mary Boulevard.

ceremony gave the public a chance to learn more about him and his goals for UL Lafayette.

Wearing his Ivy League doctoral robe from Columbia University, he walked over to the podium on a stage in the Cajundome and introduced himself to the audience: "Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "Joe the president."

It was a funny line, delivered with his impeccable sense of timing. With only six words, Savoie managed to associate his

status as a university president with Joe the Plumber, who had become sort of a contemporary symbol of middle class America during debates between Barack Obama and John McCain.

The subtle, and probably unintentional, message: Savoie is every man and he is his own man.

It was the first inauguration in the university's 110-year history. In his inaugural address, Savoie explained why it was held.

"Universities are one of the glories of human imagination and of human promise. For over a thousand years, universities have celebrated pride in their past and their hope for a better future. I thought this ceremony was important because this university deserves no less of an opportunity to express its pride and to celebrate its future than any other university in Louisiana or the United States. I want you to pay attention to things like this because they are the shape of things to come," he said.

Savoie spent much of his address reviewing accomplishments of the five presidents who preceded him. He is a history buff and especially knowledgeable about UL Lafayette's past.

And, although the university's strategic plan had not been completed yet, he cited a few "strategic imperatives" for the future:

"We will sharpen our focus on and improve student success. We will more strongly engage our students in a broad and meaningful university experience and facilitate not only technical competencies for job preparation, but the ethics and civic responsibility that are necessary for them to apply their skills in a responsible fashion.

"We will broaden our graduate school and our research capacity, both to inform intellectual curiosity and to foster economic growth and development. We will be good stewards of place

by engaging our community partners to improve the economic, social, cultural and educational development of our community, our region, our state and our nation.

"We will secure our physical facilities and our strategic space by improving and modernizing our facilities and strategically acquire new space so that we and future generations can continue to build. We will create an institution that our stakeholders and our observers will highly regard." ■

PASSPORT TO EUROPE

With Megan Broussard

PHOTOS BY MEGAN BROUSSARD, JUSTIN GREENLEAF, RENEE JUDICE, AND ALEX LANDRY

SEE OTHER COUNTRIES and seize the opportunity of a lifetime. Those were the thoughts that prompted me to study abroad. I wanted to learn about other cultures and acquire a competitive edge before graduating. Little did I know that I would learn more about myself and my country in the process. Although I experienced a few funny cultural misunderstandings, one fact was certainly not lost in translation: Europeans love the Ragin' Cajuns!

The travel bug first bit in my freshman year at UL Lafayette. I was itching to grab a few friends and backpack through Europe. But two questions stood between my dream and me: How would I ever get enough money? And, since I planned to take classes at UL Lafayette in the summers, when would I find time to travel?

Fate answered my questions through a flyer on campus that advertised UL Lafayette's Summer 2008 Study Abroad Program. There it was: a chance to travel to Europe with university faculty for course credit and the possibility of obtaining a scholarship to help pay for the trip. Quicker than anyone could say "bon voyage," I had climbed four flights of stairs in



This photo was taken on our first night in Paris. Shown from left are Hannah Gerard; me, Megan Broussard; Renee Judice; Alex Landry; Katelyn Porubsky; and Elyse Marks.

Griffin Hall, run straight to the Study Abroad Office and filled out an application.

France was my country of choice, not because I'm obsessed with French *crêpes*, (which I am), but because I speak a little French. Paris was also a strategic choice because of its central location in Europe. I could travel to England, Switzerland, Rome, the Netherlands and Belgium on weekends.

The program offered courses I needed to graduate, including an art history elective and an international marketing class.

Three months before our departure in June, 39 classmates and I began taking the state-side portion of our mandatory French culture class. We learned the basic differences between the USA and France, while preparing ourselves for a six-week, PDA-filled adventure – *sans* air conditioning. We were also warned not to draw attention to ourselves while in Europe.

Because of the war in Iraq, America already occupied center stage in the international arena. The upcoming Democratic primary race between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama was drawing even more attention, since many Europeans favor the Democratic Party.

Anyone who was disbelieving or daydreaming during this lecture was in for a rude awakening.

Finally, the day came to say goodbye to our families and friends, as we boarded a plane for a nine-hour flight to the City of Light. As an only child leaving my parents for the first time, I promised post cards, photos and lots of phone calls, all the while fighting back a few, embarrassing tears.

The thought of arriving in Paris kept me awake during the flight. While everyone around me slept peacefully, I wrote the first entry in my travel journal and prayed jet lag wouldn't be as bad as people had described it.

But it was. When we landed at Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris, I was disoriented. I couldn't read any signs posted in the terminal! I blamed it on delirium caused by sleep deprivation until I realized that the foreign words meant I was nearly 5,000 miles from home and about to walk down the streets of the most romantic city in the world.

On the bus ride to our dorm, I could hardly believe the blur of picturesque clichés coming to life around me. There were smoky cafés on almost every corner, small poodles following their sophisticated-looking owners, and bicyclists carrying freshly baked *baguettes*.

Our class split into pairs and settled quickly into the dorm for the summer. We received meal tickets, which we put to good use immediately. Traditional French cuisine was a bit underwhelming for our Tabasco®-loving taste buds.

But, *c'est la vie*! There was always the safe option of steak and *frites*, and plenty of cafés and boulangeries selling cheap and scrumptious *croque monsieurs* (the French version of the American grilled cheese sandwich) along with popular North African kebabs.

Glacière is the main metro (subway) stop and our gateway to most Parisian attractions. Our *cartes oranges* served as our summer metro passes. We used them on the day we arrived to visit the Eiffel Tower for the first time.

Crammed into the metro car, I realized just how easily Americans could be spotted. I vowed to blend in by exchanging tennis shoes and bright logos for chic European staples, like linen pants and scarves, as soon as I could find time to shop. I also noticed that Parisian women wear little makeup, so I tried to wear less than usual, too.

My classmates and I were also careful not to smile too much, take too many photos or talk too loudly in public places. Despite our efforts, politically charged Parisians called us out.

Our first encounter came just before we arrived at the Eiffel Tower. A scruffy metro passenger picked up on our accents and interrupted our conversations. He began by bashing American



Above: I'm standing by the Seine River just before boarding a boat for a tour of the City of Light. Left: In the garden of famous French artist Auguste Rodin, Hannah Gerard and I mimic the famous pose of *The Thinker*.

foreign policies and ended by spitting in our direction.

Though it wasn't the warmest welcome, finally standing in front of the Eiffel Tower was the perfect "Bienvenue à Paris!" The scene was so

beautiful that it felt as if I had stepped inside a painting.

The next six weeks in Paris were just as magical. We studied while seated on blankets in nearby parks, perused open-air markets and toured everything from Napoleon's Arc de Triomphe to King Louis XIV's Versailles. We visited many museums, but in addition to the Louvre, one stood out.

Palais de Tokyo held a special, multi-room exhibit that depicted contrasting uses of the New Orleans Superdome, ranging from Rolling Stones concerts to providing shelter for Hurricane Katrina victims. This, along with a few other artistic interpretations of the Crescent City around Paris, reminded me of the unique French connection with Louisiana that still exists. Although they may disagree with American politics, it seems that the French still have a soft spot in their hearts for the Bayou State.



London

LONDON WAS FIRST ON MY LIST OF WEEKEND EXCURSIONS. THE Channel Tunnel, or Chunnel, under the English Channel, connects Paris and London by rail. Our train ride was swift and smooth.

Within an hour, we had reached the usually foggy city on a rare sunny morning. We instantly felt a greater sense of belonging than we had in Paris. We were excited to hear English spoken all around us, although the British accent made it sound like James Bond speaking in code.

We tried to see as much of London as we could in two days. We took a bike tour to all the major sites, like Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park, Trafalgar Square



Left: Tiffany Landry and me in front of Big Ben. Above: I'm surrounded by friends in a British phone booth. Clockwise, from left, are Daniel Allemond, Jason Emert, Hannah Gerard and Renee Judice.

and Big Ben, which we learned is not the name of the famous clock, but the name of a nearby bell.

We ate fish and chips while waiting outside the gates of Buckingham Palace to watch Changing the Guard and a practice run of the queen's upcoming birthday parade. We got a glimpse of Prince Charles but, to my dismay, Prince William and Prince Harry weren't there.

Around teatime, a Beef Eater, a ceremonial guardian of the Tower of London, gave us a tour of torture chambers and told royal tales of betrayal. Afterward, I asked if he would stand by me while a friend took our photo. While posing, he asked me where I was from.

When I replied, "Louisiana," he smiled and responded with a question: "Who is better, Terrance Simien or D. L. Menard?" Surprised by the question, I said I didn't know.

"That was a trick question; they're both incredible," he continued. "I visit South Louisiana often, mainly for the music and food, but also for the hospitality."



Interlaken

THE NEXT STOP FOR THE RAGIN' CAJUN CREW was Interlaken, Switzerland. Although our classes in Paris were stimulating, we were ready to get our hearts pumping in the town world-renowned for its extreme sports.

Interlaken is tiny, with a population of only 5,700. It's invaded every summer by American college students looking for adventure while

Some of my classmates and I decided to go canyoning. This photo was taken just after I jumped from the top of a waterfall in Interlaken, Switzerland.



studying abroad.

We had booked rooms in a hostel. After unpacking our bags, we went downstairs to the recreation office to see what activities it offered. Half of our group signed up for skydiving, while those of us who are saner signed up for canyoning, which involves rappelling down canyons and sliding down waterfalls.

The clerk failed to tell us the water would be so cold that we had to wear wetsuits. Nevertheless, canyoning was amazing and I recommend it to anyone who ever wants the chance to feel like Indiana Jones for a while.

My friend Alex and I decided to spend our last day there leisurely, so we rented bikes and rode slowly throughout Interlaken and its outskirts. At one point, we realized that we needed to hurry back to Interlaken to return our rental bikes on time.

While cutting through an adjacent town, I had to stop to fix my bike's tire, which had become warped. As I was working on it, I glanced up and saw a surprised look on Alex's face. She had spotted a poster across the street that showed an unflattering photo of President Bush, along with the word "reform" in German. A man, who must have seen us looking at the poster, started walking toward us. We began to

walk away to avoid a potential discussion about American politics. But he yelled for us to wait, adding that he had tools to fix my bike. We stopped.

When he was near us, he asked a peculiar question. "How does Switzerland compare to home?" Assuming that his question was politically motivated, we didn't answer. Instead, we just shrugged. Then he pointed to Alex's UL Lafayette sweatshirt and said, "Come on. You should be proud of your home. Louisiana is beautiful and the beignets are fantastic!"



Loire Valley

DR. DAVID BAKER, A UL LAFAYETTE MARKETING instructor for the 2008 Study Abroad program, had told us about a class trip we would take to the Loire Valley.

That region of France is best known for its wine, breathtaking vineyards and stunning chateaus. And, as if visiting the quintessential medieval towns of Saumur, Chinon and Azy-le-Rideau wouldn't be enough of a treat, he promised a visit with a successful UL Lafayette alumnus, Ted Breaux.

Breaux is the founder of Jade Liqueurs, whose brands of absinthe, including his best-known American product, Lucid, is made in a small distillery in Saumur.

Breaux gave us a tour of the historical Combier Distillery, which houses antique copper equipment designed by Gustav Eiffel, the engineer of the Eiffel Tower, in the 1830s. The distillery looked more like Willy Wonka's chocolate factory, with its wacky spiral staircase in the center of the main room.

After completing a sensational wine tasting session, we set off to tour the castle atop the hill, where past kings of France had overlooked Saumur's townspeople so many centuries ago. It was like stepping into a storybook as we walked along cobblestone roads, staring up at the cold stone fortress and down on the town's red rooftops.

Chinon, our next stop along the Loire River, was the sequel to Saumur's fairy tale. One afternoon, stuffed with French food, we decided to get a little French-style exercise by renting bikes and venturing out into the vineyard-filled countryside. It was hot, but we stayed cool by joyriding 20 miles up and down hills on the outskirts of town.

On both sides of the road sprawled open fields, farmlands, vineyards and the most beautiful summer homes I could never have imagined before.

We formed a single line on the winding road, trying to steer the bikes with one hand and balance our cameras in the other.

Aside from the occasional passing car, the only sounds we heard were the chirping of birds and the warm greeting, "Bonjour!" from French neighbors.



Rome

THE COOL BREEZE OF FRANCE'S LOIRE VALLEY WAS replaced with the sweltering heat of Roma the next weekend. Our instructors had warned that the sun would be almost unbearable, but I was skeptical. After all, I'm Cajun! My ancestors survived the heat and stifling humidity of Louisiana's mosquito-infested swamps. I didn't think the temperature would bother me.

Was I wrong. I was thankful that I had bought

The Coliseum was first on our list of Roman landmarks to visit. From left are Elyse Marks, Tiffany Landry, Catherine Calhoun, Brittnee Ulmer, Alex Landry and me.



Top left: Dr. David Baker leads us on a 20-mile bike ride through the picturesque vineyards of Chinon, France. Top right: I explore the grounds of the Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau in Touraine, France. Left: Ted Breaux, founder of Jade Liqueurs and a UL Lafayette alum, gives us a tour of the Combier Distillery in Samur, France.

two sundresses the day before we boarded a train for a 14-hour ride to Rome. We were in a sleeper car stacked with bunk beds called *couchettes*.

I have to admit that, although I am a Cajun, I am an air-conditioned Cajun. And, while the air conditioning units work on the train, they – like many others in Europe – aren't as powerful as the ones we are accustomed to in the

United States. We were fanning ourselves while practically hanging our heads out of the windows to cool off. But more than heat drew us to the windows. The rolling hills of Italy held our attention. It was as if we were watching scenes from *Under the Tuscan Sun* and we were afraid to tear our eyes away for fear of missing an important piece of the plot.

Upon our arrival, we were greeted by Italian graffiti-filled walls, which were mostly illegible except for repeated references to "Bush." We braced ourselves for an unwelcoming weekend, but to our surprise, the Italians were the nicest yet!

Most spoke English, going out of their way to help us with directions



and recommending their favorite restaurants.

But some Italians didn't speak or understand English well or at all. Sometimes, I could speak Spanish, my second minor at UL Lafayette, to get around. It was such an amazing feeling to ask a question in Spanish, receive the answer in Italian, and actually understand it.

Our first stroll through the city, we were too distracted by ancient architecture to notice the 104-degree heat.

First on our list of places to see was the Coliseum. I had seen lots of photos of Rome's historic icon before this trip, but not even Google Earth could have prepared me for this first-person encounter. I stood still for at least 10 minutes, staring up in awe of this famous structure before I could grasp that I was standing where advanced civilization began.

From there, we practically ran along narrow, cobblestone sidewalks and weaved in and out of traffic jams to see the rest of Rome in two days.

We visited the Vatican, the pope's holy city inside of a city; saw Michelangelo's ceiling masterpiece in the Sistine Chapel; and traipsed through many Roman ruins, including the steps where Caesar was supposedly stabbed.

One morning, making sure our shoulders and knees were covered with shawls and conservative dresses, my girlfriends and I attended mass with the pope presiding at St. Peter's Basilica. Theresa Frederick, the UL France Study Abroad Program on-site director, had arranged for an exclusive guided tour of the pope's private gardens afterward.

When we weren't sightseeing, we lived by the saying, "When In Rome, do as the Romans do," by eating as the Romans eat. I made sure to get in all the important Italian food groups, like spaghetti, ravioli, pizza and delicious Italian desserts like *conollis*, pastries stuffed with creamy fillings, and *gelato*, Italian ice cream.



WE SPENT OUR LAST WEEKEND IN Europe in places with a much slower pace. We toured Amsterdam's canals by boat and traveled by horse-drawn carriages through the medieval town of Bruges, Belgium.

At some point, between taking a picture of the Netherlands' famous windmills and ordering the Belgian delicacy of French fries and mayonnaise, I realized that I had left my camera on one of the trains that



Above: Up at 6 a.m., Allie Roth and I hurry to catch a train in Gare de Nord, Paris' busiest train station. Lower left: Despite the dreary weather, Hannah Gerard, Alex Landry and I were all smiles in London's famous Trafalgar Square. Lower right: Study Abroad students always made sure to show their Ragin' Cajun pride during visits to the Eiffel Tower.



travels back and forth on a rail line from Amsterdam to Brussels.

I was devastated. Two and a half weeks of memories from Loire Valley that were on that camera were gone. I filled out reports, mostly *en français*, in every city where the train had stopped that day. I held onto a sliver of hope that someone would turn it in, but I knew I would probably never see it again.

I tried to enjoy the last week in Paris before our trip home. But I was distracted. I took the metro to the train station alone every day to check the lost and found.

Friends and family tried to console me by telling me that the memories I made were more important than the photos I took. I didn't believe them.

But now, I can honestly say that they were right. A scrapbook of portraits in front of famous European landmarks only skims the surface of my adventures. This wasn't just a trip. It was a journey, one with many lessons that led to self-discovery.

I learned that I am more independent than I give myself credit for. By riding the metro alone or managing to buy stamps at the post office using only a French phrase book, I proved this to myself too many times to count.

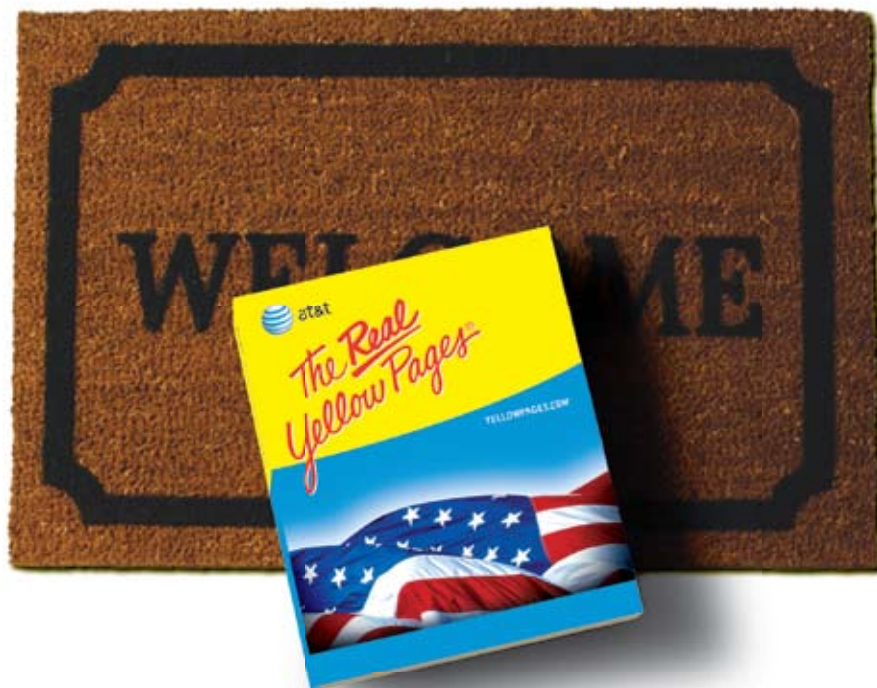
I also learned that as an American, I have political

and cultural beliefs that may offend some Europeans, but as a Cajun, I am often welcome because of my culture's French connection and a world-renowned reputation for being friendly, fun and food-loving.



Now when I think of my study abroad, I remember shopping in Parisian flea markets, dancing in the streets at the Fête de la Musique and sipping coffee in small cafés. Those were the simplest and most special times of the experience. And I was too busy laughing, singing, and listening to everything around me to even think about taking my camera out of its case.

Those are the moments that really count. And, this article is a journal of some of those special memories that can't be put in a scrapbook. ■



Coming to doorsteps everywhere

This year's edition of the most referenced directory in the Southeast¹ is now delivering in Lafayette. Page for page, AT&T Real Yellow Pages has better information than any other directory. Look for it on your doorstep soon. **The new AT&T.** Your world. Delivered.

PIVOTAL PITCHES

By Kathleen Thames • Illustrations by Burton Durand

BELIEVE. EXECUTE. PITCH BY PITCH. For the Ragin' Cajuns, those words were a mantra and, ultimately, a verbal map that kept them on a path to the 2008 Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City in May. *La Louisiane* asked co-head coaches Stefni and Michael Lotief to identify six of the most significant pitches – by either UL Lafayette or its opponents – during its journey. Some of those pitches propelled the Ragin' Cajuns toward Oklahoma City, while others revealed why they deserved to be there. *La Louisiane* presents the coaches' choices in chronological order.



No. 1 Throughout the spring, the Women's National Team was tuning up for its appearance in the Olympic Games in Beijing in August. It toured the United States, competing against some of the best college softball teams in exhibition games.

UL Lafayette had the chance to play Team USA twice. The first match was in March during the Judi Garmin Classic in Fullerton, Calif. This game against softball's elite would show UL Lafayette's strengths and uncover any weaknesses.

The Cajuns were led by the "Killer Bs," a phenomenal trio of pitchers: Brittany Cuevas, Ashley Brignac and Donna Bourgeois. As a sophomore, Cuevas was the veteran. Bourgeois and Brignac were freshmen.

In 2007, Cuevas set records for freshmen Ragin' Cajun pitchers, with 31 wins and 303 strikeouts, and was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year.

On this spring day in California, UL Lafayette kept Team USA scoreless for the

first six innings. In the bottom of the seventh, Cuevas faced the legendary Lisa Fernandez.

"Lisa Fernandez is softball," Stefni Lotief said in an interview in September. "She is the icon that I think most people think of when they talk of dominance on the softball field."

Fernandez led the UCLA Bruins to two national championships. A four-time, first-team All-American pitcher, she was a member of the 1996, 2000 and 2004 USA teams that earned Olympic gold medals.

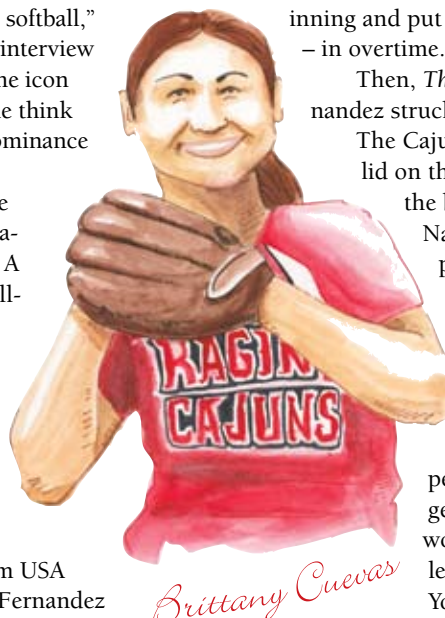
But Fernandez didn't intimidate Cuevas. With two Team USA members already out, Fernandez

stepped into the batter's box. After three pitches, the count was one ball and two strikes. One more strike would close the inning and put UL Lafayette at bat again – in overtime.

Then, *The Pitch* by Cuevas. Fernandez struck out.

The Cajuns managed to keep a lid on the eighth inning. But in the bottom of the ninth, the National Team's Jenny Topping got an RBI single that ended the game, 1-0.

Michael Lotief said Cuevas' third strike against Fernandez showed that she "was able to focus and compete pitch by pitch. She can get the best hitters in the world out. That's one of the lessons we try to teach. . . You must believe in yourself



and you have to play the game with a lot of confidence. If you do that, if you let your ability shine through, then you can defeat the best in the world.”

No. 2 AND No. 3 After winning the Sun Belt Conference Championship and the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, the Ragin’ Cajuns traveled to Baton Rouge for the NCAA Regionals in May. They won the first game, against East Carolina, 2-1.

Their reward was a matchup the next day with in-state rival LSU – on the Tiger’s turf.

Yvette Girouard, LSU’s head coach, started UL Lafayette’s softball program in 1980. Under her direction, it flourished and the Ragin’ Cajuns became nationally competitive.

In 1993, the Cajuns went to their first Women’s College World Series. They would return twice – in 1995 and 1996 – before Girouard accepted the LSU head coaching job in 2000. Stefni Lotief, a two-time All-American pitcher, played for UL Lafayette from 1987 to 1990. She replaced Girouard as the Ragin’ Cajuns head coach. Lotief’s husband, Michael, later joined the coaching staff, first as a volunteer and then full time.

GAME 1 When he recalls highlights of the 2008 season, Michael Lotief immediately cites a grand slam by UL Lafayette’s Melissa Verde in the first game of the double-elimination Regionals.

Both teams were scoreless in the third inning. LSU pitcher Cody Trahan intentionally walked Holly Tankersley. Tankersley had racked up 19 home runs during the regular season. Better to send the home run queen to first base than risk having her knock the ball out of the park.

Walking Tankersley loaded the bases and brought Verde up to bat.

Trahan delivered *The Pitch*.

In a magical moment, Verde hit the third grand slam of her career. It put the Cajuns ahead, 4-0.

Without that grand slam, Michael Lotief said, UL Lafayette probably would not have advanced to the Super Regionals in Houston. Verde’s hit gave the Ragin’ Cajuns an edge – momentum – that they needed to win. Final score: UL Lafayette 9, LSU 4.

But Verde’s grand slam off Trahan’s pitch was significant for another reason: It showed how badly she wanted to win.

“She was in significant pain,” Michael Lotief noted.

Verde, the Cajuns third baseman, had torn her left anterior cruciate ligament in March, during an exhibition game with the USA Team. The ACL provides rotational stability to the knee. A torn ACL is often excruciating and usually ends a player’s season because it requires surgical repair or intensive, long-term rehabilitation.

When Verde was injured, Stefni and Michael Lotief urged her to have surgery. “We said, ‘Look, get it fixed. Softball is not that important. . . Take care of yourself,’” Stefni Lotief said.

But Verde’s physician said surgery could be postponed if she would wear a brace to play.

When Verde relayed that assessment, Stefni Lotief responded candidly. “I asked her, ‘Do you understand that if you brace up and you’re not at a certain level of performance, you still may not play?’”

Lotief chuckled, recalling Verde’s resolve. “Well, that was never an issue. She was even that much more focused. . . She was not going to miss one opportunity. I’ve never had a kid play with that injury.

I’ve never seen any kid play with it before.”

The UL Lafayette coaches worked with Verde during the regular season to find ways to adapt to the damaged ligament.

And, when the Ragin’ Cajuns needed a big play to continue their march to Oklahoma City, Verde came through.

GAME 2 The game between UL Lafayette and LSU the next day has a back story, too.

From childhood, Ragin’ Cajun senior Vanessa Soto

had dreamed of competing in the Women’s College World Series. She played first and second base for LSU for three years. But LSU couldn’t get past the NCAA Super Regionals when Soto was a sophomore and a junior.

After Gir-

ouard released Soto from her scholarship in May

2007, she transferred to UL Lafayette for her final year of eligibility. The Ragin’ Cajuns welcomed her and she quickly became a valued member of the team. She was named Sun Belt Conference Newcomer of the Year and earned a place on the First Team All-Sun Belt Conference.

Michael Lotief watched Soto mature during the season. “She learned from her mistakes. And the beautiful thing about it all was that she would take some of those experiences and share them with some of the younger players on our team,” he said.

Now, for the second time in the NCAA Regionals, Soto’s former teammates were her opponents.

By the seventh inning, the game was almost over. UL Lafayette was ahead, 6 to 3.

Ashley Brignac was in the pitcher’s circle. With two Tigers already out, Rachel Mitchell, an All-SEC outfielder, was at bat.

Then, *The Pitch* by Brignac.

Mitchell sent a grounder in the direction of first base. “The ball went toward Gabby (Ragin’ Cajun first baseman Gabrielle Bridges), ricocheted and went straight to Vanessa. Vanessa gets the ball up and throws it to Gabby to record the last out,” Michael Lotief recounted. Soto inched closer to fulfilling her dream of competing in the World Series.

“It was apropos that Vanessa had the



Vanessa Soto



SUPER STATS

6TH

The Ragin' Cajuns' national rank after the Women's College World Series.

2ND AND 3RD

Co-head coaches Stefni and Michael Lotief's preseason ranking on the NCAA Division 1 list of "Winningest Active Coaches," based on percentage of victories.

327

Number of strikeouts by freshman pitcher Ashley Brignac in the 2008 season. Previous record of strikeouts by a freshman – 303 – was set in 2007 by teammate Brittany Cuevas.

1

Number of Ragin' Cajuns named to the 2008 WCWS All-Tournament Team. Holly Tankersley earned that honor. She hit two home runs in the Series.

399

Number of runs scored by Ragin' Cajuns in 2008.

117

Number of runs scored by UL Lafayette opponents in 2008.

64,072

Total attendance at Ragin' Cajuns softball games in 2008.

5

Number of times UL Lafayette has competed in the Women's College World Series: 1993, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2008.

8

Players who were named Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America Scholar-Athletes for the 2007-08 season: Ashley Brignac, Brooke Brodhead, Kelly Cormier, Meagan Godwin, Christi Orgeron, Shari Sigur, Vanessa Soto and Courtney Trahan.

last putout. It was like the softball gods wanted it to be that way," Michael Lotief said. "They were shining upon her."

No. 4 After defeating LSU twice to win the NCAA Regional competition, the Ragin' Cajuns headed to Houston for the NCAA Super Regionals. There, they would go up against the University of Houston, coached by Kyla Hall Holas, a Ragin' Cajun pitching ace from 1991 to 1994. She was the first three-time All-American in the Cajun softball program's history.

Senior Angel Shamblin, who had just been named Conference USA's Pitcher of the Year – for the third straight year – led Houston's Cougars.

By the fifth inning of the first game, the Cajuns were trailing.

"The Cougars had gone up, 4 to 1," Michael Lotief said. "In the next inning, Lana Bowers, our catcher, hit a three-run home run and put us right back in the series."

The Cajuns went on to win, 6-4. They lost the second game the next day, when Houston collected six runs to UL Lafayette's three.

But a 4-0 victory over the Cougars in the third contest sent the Ragin' Cajuns to the World Series for the fifth time. It would be Stefni and Michael Lotief's second appearance there as UL Lafayette coaches.

No. 5 AND 6 The Ragin' Cajuns faced a formidable gatekeeper at the Women's College World Series. In the Series' first game, they were pitted against the University of Florida Gators, the No. 1 team in the nation.

The Gators were making their first-ever appearance in Oklahoma City.

Behind the arm of All-American Stacey Nelson, the Florida team had compiled a 67-4 record. During the entire 2008 season, only one batter was able to turn one of Nelson's pitches into a home run.

The nationally televised World Series



Holly Tankersley

game was tied, 2 to 2, at the top of the eighth inning when Holly Tankersley stepped up to bat for the Ragin' Cajuns. She was Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association's All-America first team. A senior, she had already racked up 21 home runs, 72 RBIs and a .452 batting average.

Then, *The Pitch* by Nelson.

It takes roughly two seconds for a softball to travel from the hand of a master pitcher, like Nelson, to home plate. A batter has under four-tenths of one second – less time than it takes the human eye to blink – to react.

But Tankersley didn't blink. Instead, "I took my chances, closed my eyes and swung," she later told reporters.

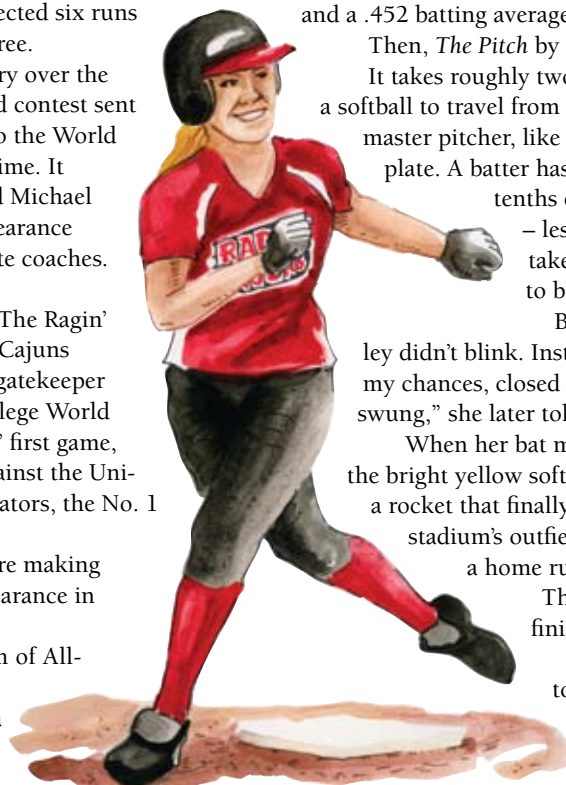
When her bat made contact, the bright yellow softball turned into a rocket that finally landed in the stadium's outfield bleachers for a home run.

The Cajuns weren't finished.

At the bottom of the eighth, UL Lafayette pitcher Ashley Brignac and Florida catcher

Tiffany DeFelice became locked in a battle of skill and grit.

The count was three balls and one strike.



Lana Bowers

WORLD CLASS FANS

Co-head coach Stefni Lotief sometimes gets emotional when she describes what happened after the Ragin' Cajuns played their final game at the 2008 Women's College World Series.

UL Lafayette had lost to the University of Alabama, 3 to 1. Due to a 97-minute rain delay, the game had not ended until a little past midnight. The Ragin' Cajuns lingered on the field after the stadium emptied. By the time they were ready to leave, custodians were picking up trash in the bleachers.

UL Lafayette's chartered bus was parked in a secluded area that enables teams to enter and leave the field quickly.

"We got on the bus, headed to our hotel," Lotief recalled in an interview with *La Louisiane*. "When we turned the corner, there must have been 300 or 400 people waiting! It was about 2 o'clock in the morning and they were still waiting for those girls to come out of the stadium. I've never seen anything like that. It was unbelievable!"

"They weren't going home until they told the girls 'Thanks' and congratulated them. They were yelling 'Ragin' Cajuns!' I still get teary-eyed," she said, wiping her eyes. "This university is such a special place. This community is such a special place. . .

"People ask me, 'How can you get these incredible recruits? How do you get girls to come to this program?' And I just tell them,



"If I can get them here, to a game on campus, I know I have a shot because they can feel the atmosphere here. They see the energy at game time. They get to meet our girls and get to see what it's like on the field."

Lotief summarized the relationship between the Ragin' Cajuns and their fans this way: "Our girls absolutely adore our fans and the fans love them."

Co-head coach Michael Lotief noted that UL Lafayette fans outnumbered LSU fans, two to one, in the NCAA Regionals in Baton Rouge, La. At the NCAA Super Regionals in Houston, Ragin' Cajun fans outnumbered Cougar supporters, three to one.

"Our fans are the best in the world," he said. "They continue to give to the program and they believe in these kids and in their dreams. The program belongs to the fans and this community. Not just last year, but for the past 25 years." ■

Then Brignac threw *The Pitch*. DeFelice took a swing. Foul ball.

And so began a remarkable pas de deaux between pitcher and batter. Sixteen more pitches. Sixteen more foul balls. On Brignac's 21st consecutive pitch, DeFelice finally delivered the ball to center field. Ragin' Cajun Karli Hubbard



Ashley Brignac

made the catch to send DeFelice back to the dugout.

Brignac threw a total of 187 pitches in her first World Series game. After the final inning, an ESPN field reporter interviewed her on air. The reporter asked what was going through Brignac's mind at one point in the game when Florida had loaded the bases.

"Just our motto, 'Pitch by pitch.' The next pitch. Win that one. There are going to be people on base but you have to fight and know the defense is behind you. So it's just pitch by pitch," the freshman Ragin' Cajun replied.

EPILOGUE It doesn't get much better than defeating the No. 1 team in the nation in the first game of the Women's College World Series.

The next day, UL Lafayette lost its first game of the double-elimination series. Texas A&M eked out an RBI single at the top of the seventh inning to win, 1-0.

The Ragin' Cajuns had one more chance to grab a victory that would keep them in the Series. They went up against the University of Alabama. The Crimson Tide was ahead, 3 to 1, when Mother Nature interfered. The game was suspended for 97 minutes due to lightning. A little past midnight, the game ended. The score was still 3 to 1. The Ragin' Cajuns' season was over.

But just six key pitches illustrated why the team deserved its final ranking: sixth in the nation. ■

Fantastic Fenroy

One of nation's leading rushers takes accolades in stride • *by Bruce Brown*

FORGET THE THOUSANDS OF YARDS, dozens of touchdowns, rewritten record book and bruised defenders he'll leave in his wake.

Tyrell Fenroy knows what he wants



Tyrell Fenroy is one of only seven players in NCAA history to record four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons.

people to remember about his career with Louisiana's Ragin' Cajun football program. "When I'm done," Fenroy said, "I want people to say that I came out every day and gave everything I had, on and off the field."

The shattered records? They're evidence of being the most prolific yardage machine in UL history, as well as in the Sun Belt Conference.

During UL Lafayette's 49-20 Homecoming win over Florida International University, Fenroy became only the seventh player in NCAA history to record four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. His total yardage for the 2008 season was 1,051 at the end of that victory – with four regular season games remaining – and increased his own new career record total to 4,322. Fenroy had raced past Brian Mitchell's previous mark of 3,335 early this fall.

In the Cajuns' Homecoming game, Fenroy also collected three rushing touchdowns, for a total of 44 in his career. That's a Sun Belt Conference career rushing touchdown record. He needs only four more rushing touchdowns to break Mitchell's school record.

So, what about all the numbers?

"I look at it every now and then," said Fenroy. "They tell me what I've done, I look, and then I prepare for the next game. I'll look at them all after the season's over."

It's clearly not the numbers that drive Fenroy, although he is proud of the ever-growing totals.

"What drives me is to see my teammates play hard," he said. "That gives me motivation, and to see our running back group get better and want to win. If I see 90 guys playing with heart, why not step on board and do the same thing?"

Running backs coach Brian Jenkins said Fenroy doesn't separate himself from others. "He doesn't have the mindset of 'I'm the guy.' He doesn't like the limelight. He's the same old Tyrell he was when he got here

DOUG DUGAS



Senior Tyrell Fenroy is majoring in criminal justice, but it's likely that he'll be selected in the NFL draft.

“When I’m done . . . I want people to say that I came out every day and gave everything I had, on and off the field.”

TYRELL FENROY

four years ago. That’s why his teammates respect him so. He walks around like he’s just a common guy.”

Offensive lineman Ian Burks said teammates “take a lot of pride in all the numbers Tyrell puts up. He doesn’t say much, but he gets fired up after a big run. And, that gets everybody else fired up.”

When Fenroy scored the winning touchdown in a thrilling 28-23 comeback win over Arkansas State on Oct. 18, it was clear how the team feeds off his energy.

“You get the same thing at practice every day from Tyrell,” head coach Rickey Bustle said. “He goes 100 mph in a game and in practice. You know what you’re getting every day.”

What the Cajuns and their fans are



Fans congratulate the Ragin’ Cajuns’ top rusher.

getting is a player grounded in solid principles from parents Melvin and Ann Fenroy back home in LaPlace, La., a player who became known as the T-Train at St. Charles Catholic but somehow maintained his equilibrium despite the adulation.

“It’s hard for any teenager to have that kind of hype and those fans,” Fenroy said. “It was a little bit hard. But I had a solid background at home. My parents stayed on me.

“I was always taught to be respectful to my elders, and to handle my business – not run the streets but be inside, doing my homework.”

St. Charles Catholic coach Frank Monica talks of Fenroy’s humility. “That’s the first thing that comes to mind. He was raised correctly. He’s very quiet – socially introverted, actually. But he’s extroverted on the field, in

that he throws his body around out there. He has started to come out of his shell a little bit with the college experience.”

Monica said Fenroy’s dad still goes to St. Charles Catholic’s Quarterback Club every Tuesday. “We get him up in front of the crowd, and he keeps us informed of how Tyrell is doing. That’s how we’ve been able to stay in touch with him. The whole (coaching) staff is going up there to see him play in a couple of weeks. We want to see him play before he graduates.”

Fenroy was lightly recruited as a senior, which baffled Monica and delighted Bustle.

“We always felt good about him,” Bustle said. “He’s been such a joy. He started from Day One, and all of a sudden you started seeing special things from him, and saw how he works to be a better player. He’s a more complete player today because he works so hard.”

Monica said Fenroy plays with a little chip on his shoulder. “We were trying to sell him to the big programs, but they weren’t interested. They thought he wasn’t quick enough, but

they didn't realize how explosive he is. They questioned his height. He only had one legitimate offer, and that was from UL. Even though he ran for 5,200 yards and scored 72 touchdowns in high school, that wasn't enough."

Without a trace of bitterness in his voice, Fenroy said he wasn't surprised that more schools didn't try to recruit him. "We were a Class 3A school, and there was a 5A school down the road. They had me rated too small. But I love it. It gives me motivation. A lot of people were not counting on me to succeed."

So that chip on the shoulder is there, under the surface, but Fenroy doesn't talk much about it. He'd rather let his 44 career rushing touchdowns – the most in Sun Belt history – speak for him.

He also shredded UL Monroe for a school-record 297 yards this season; touchdown bursts of 89, 52 and 80 yards are fresh evidence of his improved speed, earning Walter Camp National Player of the Week notice.

"Tyrell is a great kid to work with," Jenkins said. "He goes hard and he works hard. The only negative is, he doesn't say anything. You ask, 'Are you OK?' and he'll nod. You ask 'Is something wrong?' and he'll shake his head 'no.' It's like cracking a nutshell to get him to talk".

When he does talk, Fenroy chooses his words with sometimes surprising candor.

"A guy from ESPN asked him what he wanted to be doing next year,"



Tyrell Fenroy set a Sun Belt Conference career rushing touchdown record this fall.

GOOD COMPANY

Tyrell Fenroy is only the seventh player in NCAA history to have four 1,000-yard seasons. He has rushed for 1,051 yards in 2008 with four regular season games left, after previously gaining 1,053 as a freshman in 2005, 1,197 in 2006 and 1,021 in 2007.

He joined Heisman Trophy winner Tony Dorsett of Pitt (1973-76), Amos Lawrence of North Carolina (1977-80), Dennis Manns of New Mexico State (1995-98), Heisman Trophy winner Ron Dayne of Wisconsin (1996-99), Cedric Benson of Texas (2001-2004) and DonTrell Moore of New Mexico (2002-2005) with four 1,000-yard seasons.

Some of college football's biggest names – Archie Griffin, Bo Jackson, Emmitt Smith, Barry Sanders and Ricky Williams – are not on the list.

Fenroy, who has 21 100-yard games in his career, is already the leading rusher in UL and Sun Belt Conference history with 4,322 yards.

TYRELL FENROY CAREER RUSHING

YEAR	ATT	YARDS	AVG.	TD
2005	179	1,053	5.9	12
2006	223	1,197	5.4	10
2007	180	1,021	5.7	7
2008*	152	1,051	7.5	15
TOTAL	734	4,322	5.9	44

* Through eight games.

Bustle said, "and Tyrell told him he might want to be a police officer. The guy was stunned. He asked him about the NFL, and Tyrell said, 'That would be nice.'"

Fenroy smiled at the story. "I do think about it," he said of the NFL. "Everybody wants to play in the NFL. That's why I'm out here every day working. But I put that on my backside. I'm going to get my degree in criminal justice next spring, and if things don't work out in the NFL, I'll have something to fall back on."

NFL scouts have elevated Fenroy from a prospect who might get his foot in the door at training camp, to one with a good chance of being selected in the league's draft. They also hope to get him in the scouting combine to cure his still overlooked status.

Those who know him don't need convincing.

"I'm never surprised at what he's able to accomplish because he works so hard," Jenkins said. "If he gained 400 yards in a game, I wouldn't be surprised. That work ethic was established at home, and he wears that every day on his chest."

Bustle agreed that Fenroy's work ethic is key.

"What makes this more special is that everything he's getting now, he deserves." ■

Bruce Brown is senior reporter for *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper.

Worth the Wait

Custom equipment maximizes workout space

IT'S ONE OF THE BEST MIDSIZE WEIGHT rooms in the country."

That's how Rob Phillips, UL Lafayette's strength and conditioning coordinator, describes the Ragin' Cajuns' workout

"We had seven multipurpose stations, seven dumbbell stations and 10 Olympic platforms that took up 85 to 90 percent of the space. Now we have 10 of each that take up less than 50 percent of our space," Phillips said. "Also, we had about 10 specialized accessory pieces and now we have around 40."

Lana Bowers, catcher for the Ragin' Cajuns softball team, said the weight room is "very organized and more people can be in there at once and not get in each other's way. There are also new TV screens with our sport-specific workouts posted on them."

Those television screens enable strength and conditioning coaches to post new workouts quickly when one group of student-athletes leaves and another arrives. The coaches can also use them for presentations when they are recruiting student-athletes.

All Ragin' Cajun athletic teams train in the weight room on a staggered schedule.

"The number one thing any athlete can have, other than the specific skill of that sport, is strength. It's important for so

many reasons, from injury prevention to injury rehab," said Scott Farmer, the university's senior associate athletic director.

UL Lafayette recently hired a second full-time assistant strength coach.

"We concentrate on giving our coaches what they need to recruit quality student-athletes and we concentrate on giving our student-athletes what they need to be successful in the classroom and on the fields and courts of play," Farmer said. ■



Thanks to customized equipment, the weight room can accommodate more student-athletes simultaneously.




Members of the softball team work out.

area in the Athletic Center on Reinhardt Drive.

In the spring, the facility was overhauled from top to bottom. Light fixtures were replaced; multipurpose, staph-resistant flooring was installed; and the room was repainted. Over the summer, the area was filled with new customized equipment that uses space more efficiently.

BRAD KEMP/THE ADVERTISER

BRAD KEMP/THE ADVERTISER

 www.ragincajuns.com

Transformed

Landscaped Alumni Center grounds provide peaceful setting

THREE YEARS AGO, A CORNER OF THE Alumni Center grounds was overgrown with bushes, vines and weeds. Today, it has been transformed into a tranquil place with a walking path, gazebo, lighted fountain and memorial.

A \$100,000 grant from the Louisiana Governor's 2004 Recreational Trails Program was the catalyst for the project.

"The grant provided an opportunity for us to beautify the area," said Dan Hare, executive director of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. A second grant, also totaling \$100,000, was awarded in 2007 to enhance and complete the project.

This portion of the Alumni Center grounds is at the intersection of St. Mary Boulevard and Girard Park Drive, which is considered a gateway to campus. It's near the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum and UL Lafayette Foundation office.

A walkway of brick pavers was laid that enables pedestrians to stroll in shade around a natural pond. A brick gazebo incorporates the main campus' signature arches. Underground electrical lines were installed to provide power for the gazebo and a lighted fountain in the pond.

The trail is the primary attraction, but Hare said the additional enhancements made the area versatile.

Near the gazebo, a memorial commemorates lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001. On that day, terrorists hijacked three jetliners and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and an empty field in Pennsylvania.

Robert Hymel, a 1969 USL graduate and decorated Vietnam War veteran, was killed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, as he worked as a civilian.

The late Lester J. Guidry, commander of Stanley Martin-Felix Ducrest American Legion Post 69 at the time, obtained a limestone shard from the Pentagon wreckage. He donated it to UL Lafayette to honor Hymel and others killed that day in the terrorist assault. The late Dr. Robert Fontenot, also of American Legion Post 69, pursued the project after Guidry's death.

The development of the trailway provided an appropriate setting for the tribute, Hare said. ■



TERRI FENSEL



TERRI FENSEL



TERRI FENSEL

Top: A brick gazebo will have multiple uses. Left: A student wends her way around the grounds on a path that incorporates a small footbridge. Above: A memorial honors Americans killed in terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.



www.louisianaalumni.org

ALUMNI

1945

FAY GAUTREAU BROWN published *Come Into My World*, a book about her late son's mental illness, in March. She is a retired editor of the *St. Mary and Franklin Banner-Tribune*. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in English education from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. She and her husband, the late Dr. Hilton J. Brown, had two sons, Patrick R. Brown and the late Robert A. Brown. She lives in Franklin, La.

1980

GREGORY A. DAGIAN recently received a master of laws degree, with a specialization in criminology and criminal justice, from the University of London. Princess



Anne, chancellor of the university, presided over the commencement ceremony. DaGian and his wife, Gwenett Hillestad DaGian, practice law together and live in Abbeville, Ala.

DEBORAH MCKINNIE DUNN earned a doctorate in educational administration from Georgia Southern University in May. She is a mathematics instructional



coach for the DeKalb County School System's Office of School Improvement in Decatur, Ga. She holds certification in educational leadership from Kennesaw State University and an educational specialist degree in mathematics and science from Brenau University. She earned a master's degree

in education from Brenau and a bachelor's degree in statistics from USL. In 2000, Dunn was named Peachtree Middle School's Teacher of the Year, DeKalb County School System's Middle School Teacher of the Year and DeKalb County School's System-wide Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Freddie Dunn Jr., have a son, Freddie L. Dunn III, and a daughter, Desirae T. Dunn.

1984

CHUCK GEMAYEL is vice president, principle and regional manager of the Shelby Township, Mich., office of Soil and Materials Engineers Inc. He is lead engineer



for transportation and pavement-related projects. Gemayel recently served as president of the board of directors of the South Oakland County Municipal Engineers. A registered professional engineer in Michigan, he holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from USL and a master's degree in civil engineering from Arizona State University.

MORGAN REED was recently honored for designing and developing an airborne laser system called FLI-MAP®, which stands for Faster Laser Imaging-Mapping and Profiling. The helicopter-based system is used for terrain mapping, primarily by the utility, transportation and rail industries. FLI-MAP® was used to conduct damage assessment surveys on more than 400 miles of levees in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Reed is LIDAR development manager at John Chance

Land Surveys Inc. of Lafayette. That company is a member of the international Fugro group of companies, which has about 12,000 staff members in more than 50 countries. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from USL.

1985

STEPHANIE T. LYNCH represents District 7 on the Caddo Parish Commission in Shreveport, La. She was elected to a second term for 2008-12. Lynch is vice president of the 12-member commission. In April, the National Organization of Black County Officials presented her with its Chairman's Award for Outstanding County Commissioner. She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. While attending the university, she served as president of the African-American Culture Committee and a Student Government Association senator.

1987

MARGARET D. BAUER received East Carolina University's Five-Year Research/Creative Activity Award earlier this year. A professor of English, she was named one of ECU's 10 Women of Distinction in 2007. Bauer holds the Ralph Hardee Rives Chair of Southern Literature and is editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review*. She is writing a book about Louisiana novelist Tim Gautreaux to be published by the University of South Carolina Press. Bauer holds a master's degree in English from USL.

PHILLIP HEBERT, an electrical engineer at NASA Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Miss., recently received NASA's Excep-



tional Service Medal. The award recognizes extraordinary initiative or creative ability that contributes to NASA's mission.

Hebert improved processes and procedures related to a fuel line that delivers liquid hydrogen to the space shuttle's main engine. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from USL.

1990

ROBBIE FENN was named 2007 Realtor® of the Year for Destin, Fla. She was chosen by her peers to receive the honor for her community service and involvement with the local and state Realtor® associations. Fenn is an associate broker for RE/MAX® Paradise Properties in Destin. Fenn received a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL. She and her husband, **BRAD M. FENN, '90**, have three children, Hadley, Alex and Bradley.

1900-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

1960-1999

University of Southwestern Louisiana

1999-PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

If you enjoy reading about where your former classmates are now and what they're doing, consider this: They'd like to read about you, too. Please fill out the form below and mail it back to UL Lafayette or go to www.louisiana.edu/louisiane to submit the information online.

NAME

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

ADDRESS

STREET OR BOX

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE

HOME OFFICE

E-MAIL

FAX

MAJOR & DATE OF GRADUATION

OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY

CURRENT JOB TITLE

BUSINESS NAME

BUSINESS ADDRESS

PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SPOUSE'S NAME

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

SPOUSE'S USL OR UL LAFAYETTE GRADUATION DATE

AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT

CHILDREN

(IF ANY ARE UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS OR USL GRADUATES, PLEASE INDICATE)

CURRENT DATE

Please mail this form to *La Louisiane*, Box 41009, Lafayette, LA 70504-1009 or send it online at www.louisiana.edu/louisiane

1993

DAVE A. AMATO is sales manager of PrimeSource Building Products Inc. in Fredericksburg, Va. PrimeSource is one of the largest building supply distributors in North America. Amato holds a bachelor's degree in general studies. He is married to Mary Booth-Amato. They have a son, Braeden Booth, and a daughter, Riley Madison Amato.

2001

JENNIFER GAUTREAUX DUHON is a clinical dietitian and director of Nutrition Services at Acadian Medical Center in Eunice, La. She is also a diabetes educator for a Eunice



health care center. Duhon received Acadian Medical Center's 2008 Mercy Award for volunteerism. She was elected secretary for the Louisiana Dietetic Association for 2008-10. In 2007, Lynch earned the LDA's Young Dietitian of the Year Award. She holds a bachelor's degree in dietetics and a master's degree in human resources from UL Lafayette. Lynch is married to **WILLIAM DUHON, '00**. They have two children, Rhett and Lauren.

2002

APRIL L. FOSTER received a master's degree in nurse anesthesia in December 2007 from Texas Christian University. As a graduate student there, she received the Harriet Waring Award for dedication to the profession of nurse anesthesia. Foster, who holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from UL Lafayette, is a certified registered nurse anesthetist for Northstar Anesthesia in Georgetown, Texas. She is married to **DANIEL FOSTER, '00**.

2003

ALLEN CLEMENTS is a digital media specialist and owner of Otaku Motion Digital Media Group in Lancaster, Pa. The company recently won a Healthcare Advertising Award presented by Healthcare Marketing Report. Clements received a bachelor's degree in business administration/marketing from UL Lafayette.

JENNIFER N. LOUVIERE recently completed U.S. Navy basic training with honors at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. She was then promoted to the rank of petty officer 3rd class. Louviere received a bachelor's degree in insurance and risk management from UL Lafayette.

GRACER A. MOTH is manager of GoRecroot in Danvers, Mass., which provides staffing services web ware for specialized online job recruitment. He holds a bachelor's degree in human resources from UL Lafayette.

2004

RYAN PETTICREW was named marketing and events manager of Downtown Lafayette Unlimited in June. The nonprofit organization is focused on the preservation and vitality of the downtown district. Petticrew will promote downtown as an arts and cultural hub, foster partnerships and support upcoming branding efforts. Petticrew earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from UL Lafayette.



2006

ELIZABETH T. BROOKS is participating in City Hall Fellows, a new public policy program in Houston. As a special project assistant, she is developing and implementing public policies and initiatives related to some of the city's most pressing issues. Brooks graduated *cum laude* from UL Lafayette with bachelor's degrees in modern languages and environmental and sustainable resources.

IN MEMORIAM

AGNES ANGELLE HARDY, '28, died April 10, 2008, in Baton Rouge, La., at the age of 103. At the time of her death, she was the second oldest teacher receiving retirement benefits in Louisiana. During her career, Hardy also served as a school principal. She was an active member of the St. Joseph's Ladies Altar Society and the Catholic Daughters of America and held several offices in those organizations. She is survived by a daughter.

ter, **MARY AGNES BELLEAU**, '63, of Baton Rouge; two sons, former Louisiana Lt. Gov. **PAUL HARDY**, '65, and Louisiana State Archivist **DR. FLORENT HARDY JR.**, '66, both of Baton Rouge; two granddaughters, Monique Breaux of Lafayette and **YVETTE GROSS**, '97, of Baton Rouge; two grandsons, Dr. A. J. delaHoussaye IV of Houma, La., and Gregory Hardy of Lafayette; one great-grandson; and two great-granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Florent Hardy.

MARGARET STEPHENS JOCHEM, '32, died July 25, 2007, in Fairfax, Va., after a brief illness. She was 94. Stephens was the daughter of Edwin L. Stephens, first president of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now known as UL Lafayette) and Beverly Stephens, one of SLII's first faculty members. Jochem received a bachelor's degree from SLI and a master's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tenn. She was a teacher for many years and also worked as the Reading Room Supervisor at the Folgers Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. Jochem is survived by a granddaughter, Molly Jochem of Portland, Ore.; a niece; and two nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frederick Jochem, and a son, Frederick Stephens Jochem.

NELIA MYRHAUGEN, '72, died June 22, 2008, in Lafayette. She was 87. Myrhaugen held a bachelor's degree in home economics from USL. She was honored as an outstanding alumna by the Home Economics Department and the College of Applied Life Sciences. Myrhaugen created an endowed scholarship in memory of one of her sons, Lance Cpl. Daniel Lewis. Survivors include two daughters, Joyce Lewis of Houma, La., and Evelyn Lewis of Harrisburg, Miss.; one sister; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

MICHAEL LEE BOUDREAU, '76, died April 14, 2008, in a motorcycle accident in Aguanga, Ga. He held a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL. At the time of his death, he was a principal of Morse-Boudreaux Architects in Newport Beach, Calif. Boudreaux developed a storm drain debris

barrier that is used throughout Orange County to intercept trash before it reaches the ocean.

ELEMORE MORGAN JR., an acclaimed artist and UL Lafayette professor emeritus, died May 18, 2008. He was 77. Morgan is best known for his paintings of Acadiana prairie landscapes. He taught at the university from 1965 until 1998. This year, he was presented the SPARK Lifetime Achievement Award by UL Lafayette's College of the Arts. His art was shown in galleries in the United States and Europe. Morgan received a bachelor's degree in art from LSU in Baton Rouge, La., before serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He then earned a CFA at The Ruskin School of Fine Arts at the University of Oxford. Survivors include his wife, Mary Morgan of St. Martinville, La.; three daughters, Lucia Saperstein of Jacksonville, Fla., Olivia Morgan of St. Martinville and Emily Morgan of Leroy, La.; and three grandchildren.

ALBERT "BERT" FIELDS, head of USL's English Department from

A Look Back



1925 Lafayette businessman Maurice Heymann is surrounded by volunteers who helped raise funds in 1925 to build a new football stadium for SLI's 25th birthday.

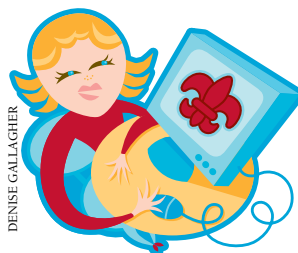


1975 to 1986, died June 2, 2008. He was named a Distinguished Professor by the UL Lafayette Foundation in 1971 and was editor of USL's Levy Humanities Series from 1977 to 1983. Fields was an officer and board member of many professional associations and represented the United States at several international academic conferences. He served in the U.S. Army before earning a degree from Centre College in Kentucky.

Fields received a doctorate in English and philosophy from the University of Kentucky. He is survived by his wife, JoAn Fields of Jamestown, Ky.; two sons, Christopher Fields of Costa Rica and Anthony Fields of New Mexico; a daughter, Sarah Beth Fields of California; two sisters; a brother; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

**LOUISIANA'S
RAGIN' CAJUNS**
www.athleticnetwork.net

UL Lafayette Alumni Association Become a Member Because It Matters



Join Online or Contact Us:
Phone: (337) 482-0900
Fax: (337) 482-0931

Email:
alumni@louisiana.edu
Website:
www.LOUISIANAalumni.org

Major Makeover

New website design offers convenience, expanded content

SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at Lafayette is easier than ever. The UL Lafayette Foundation's upgraded web site enables donors to make contributions securely via the Internet. But that's just one of its features.



Users can obtain information about the Foundation's programs, events and leadership. There are also links to other university web sites.

Julie Falgout, executive director of the Foundation, said the web site was developed with two groups in mind – the public and members of the Foundation's board of trustees.

"We wanted a flexible, sophisticated web site that would enable us to easily

keep information current. We also wanted it to be a useful tool for our trustees, whose commitment of time and expertise is invaluable to us," she said.

The Foundation staff first determined what elements were needed to make the web site a comprehensive resource. It then hired a Lafayette firm to create a design that would be visually appealing and user friendly.

To make a contribution to the Foundation, for example, a user clicks the "Donate" button. After setting up an account, he or she can indicate how the contribution is to be used.

"It allows an individual to donate to a particular college or program or to the university in general," Falgout said. The donor gets an automatic e-mail confirmation receipt and can request additional information online.

The site relies on PCI DSS, which stands for Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. It ensures that the Foundation is following established procedures that prevent credit card fraud and make online financial transactions secure.

Foundation trustees can securely obtain information related to their duties. "It will also allow them to communicate with each other," Falgout said.

The web site redesign dovetails with a new accounting system the Foundation recently implemented. "It has totally integrated our entire endowment portfolio. It has actually made many of our business processes much more efficient," Falgout said.

The system can analyze data in "real time." So, members of Foundation committees can obtain up-to-the-minute information that can help them make sound financial decisions. "In today's world, it's even more important for us to have the capability to do that," Falgout said. ■



www.ullafayettefoundation.org

Get in gear!

Ragin' Cajuns® apparel and merchandise are manufactured by more than 220 licensees nationwide. More than 20 local companies are licensed to produce products bearing UL Lafayette trademarks and logos. For a list of licensed manufacturers, visit www.louisiana.edu/Advancement/PRNS/licensing



Support



by Wearing Red



Local retailers that sell Ragin' Cajuns® merchandise include:

Academy Sports and Outdoors
4533 Johnston Street

Albertsons
2678 Johnston Street
4400 Ambassador Caffery
2863 Ambassador Caffery
1818 NE Evangeline Thruway

Bell's Sporting Goods
4313 Johnston Street

Busch Fireplaces
406 Settler's Trace

Follett's—The Book Store
210 E. St. Mary Boulevard
www.efollett.com

Golfballs.com
126 Arnould Boulevard

LIDS
Acadiana Mall
5725 Johnston Street
www.LIDS.com

Louisiana Hot Stuff
4409 Ambassador Caffery

Pieces of Eight
902 Coolidge Boulevard

Sports Avenue
Acadiana Mall

Teche Drugs and Gifts
501 Jefferson Street

University Bookstore
600 McKinley
www.louisiana.edu/bookstore

Walgreens
2700 Johnston St.
2822 Ambassador Caffery
1850 W. Pinhook
3747 Moss St.
2517 Kaliste Saloom

Wal-Mart
2428 W. Pinhook Road
3142 Ambassador Caffery
1229 NW Evangeline Thruway

Make a Pass **Get Down** Come See

Translation: Drop by for a visit. In Cajun country,
we'll make you feel right at home - whether you prefer
to dance at a festival or catch a sunset over the cypress trees.

With Zydeco rhythms, Cajun & Creole flavors,

Louisiana scenery and Southern hospitality

you'll agree – there's no place like **Lafayette.**



Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission
www.lafayette.travel 337.232.3737 800.346.1958

LaLOUISIANE

P.O. Box 41009

Lafayette, LA 70504-1009

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Burlington, VT 05401
Permit No. 329