

La
SPRING 2008

LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

TECHKNOWLEDGE:

From cell phones to CajunBot II,
students' world is high-tech





I glanced over at the doctor as he reviewed my latest test results. His face was impassive. No clues there.

Finally, after what seemed like a long time, he spoke.

"You could live to be 120 years old," he said.

I smiled because I thought he was joking. "I'm not sure I *want* to be 120 years old," I replied, flippantly.

"You're assuming that you would be 120 and have some sort of impairment. What if your quality of life were still good?" he countered, with an earnestness that surprised me.

It took me a second to grasp that he was serious. He went on to say that he believes it might be possible to live much longer than we can imagine right now.

The timing of our conversation was apropos, because I've been thinking about the passage of time a lot as we have prepared this issue.

An article about the new Ernest J. Gaines Center, for instance, reminded me that the first cover story I wrote for *La Louisiane*, in Fall 1993, was about Ernest Gaines. He told me that he would always be loyal to the university because of the opportunity it had given him to concentrate on his writing. Like one of the honorable characters in his novels, he has kept his word.

This issue also has an update on Dr. Darrell Bourque, UL Lafayette professor of English emeritus, who was named Louisiana's poet laureate in November. *La Louisiane* featured him on the cover of its Fall 1997 issue. He was way cool even then, with rimless glasses and a ponytail. We reprinted one of his poems, "Le Courir de Mardi Gras."

*"Early in the morning all the men
of the grand courir line up
behind our leader, dressed in passion's
red. . ."* it began.

And, the "In Memoriam" section includes entries for two alumni with special ties to the university: Glynn Abel, a former dean of men who is often cited for his role in the peaceful desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute in the 1950s, and Robert Trahan, a generous and devoted UL Lafayette supporter. They will be missed.

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

— Kathleen Thames

Working Together

Public, private groups team up for disaster management • Christine Payton

A NEW INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY of Louisiana at Lafayette is tackling disaster management full force.

The National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute is set to empower national, state and local incident managers during catastrophic times.

After witnessing the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and other disasters that followed, NIMSAT leaders knew questions about management, homeland security, private sector supply chains and critical infrastructures needed to be addressed.

“At the foundations of NIMSAT are efforts to enhance the understanding of threats and vulnerabilities to the nation’s critical infrastructure and improve the resiliency of private sector supply chains that fuel the national economy,” said Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, NIMSAT’s executive director.

“NIMSAT will do this by processing and analyzing data using supercomputing and visualization technologies. The Institute is built on the expertise of researchers from UL Lafayette’s Colleges of Business Administration, Science, Liberal Arts and Engineering, along with those of its national partners.”

These national-scale partners include James Lee Witt Associates – a part of GlobalOptions Group, WalMart, SGI, Priority 5, CISCO, Tulane University,

San Diego State University and many others. At NIMSAT’s core is a partnership between the public, private and governmental sectors leading to cross-cultural

collaborations that could fundamentally impact the way the nation manages disasters – regardless of their cause.

“NIMSAT is a key public-private partnership working to prepare us for the next disaster that strikes, be it natural or manmade. Its state-of-the-art technology provides the kind of testing we need to simulate disasters and smartly direct the response of government and the private sector,” said U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu. “I am proud that Lafayette is the home for this institute – bringing together the best

and brightest to bolster our homeland security. I will continue to work to ensure UL Lafayette and NIMSAT have the funding they need to continue their success.”

By leveraging the expertise of its 20 public and private sector partners from across 10 states, NIMSAT is pursuing an all-hazards approach to homeland security and disaster lifecycle. Plans are to conduct research, develop applications, prepare the next generation workforce of homeland security and provide operational and decision support to enhance the nation’s

“NIMSAT is a key public-private partnership working to prepare us for the next disaster that strikes, be it natural or manmade. Its state-of-the-art technology provides the kind of testing we need to simulate disasters and smartly direct the response of government and the private sector.”

SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU

ability to manage incidents on any governmental level.

NIMSAT will tap into supercomputing systems across the nation, including the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) and the National LambdaRail (NLR).

In addition, the Institute has formed a partnership with the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) at UL Lafayette. The facility is one of the world’s most advanced technology resources for industry, government and research. LITE’s supercomputers – 160-processor SGI Altix 4700 – feature 4.1 trillion bytes and can compute and visualize complex disaster models, data and scenarios.

“Public-private partnerships are essential in facing many of the challenges in preparing for disaster. NIMSAT will be vital in the creation of these partnerships,” said James Lee Witt, chief executive officer of James Lee Witt Associates, one of the Institute’s partners. “NIMSAT will bring together stakeholders and encourage the real-time coordination needed during a crisis to improve situational awareness and make good decisions.”

NIMSAT seeks to contribute to the mission of saving human lives, strengthening the private-sector supply chains that drive the national economy and providing the nation’s critical infrastructure and key resources that support the economy and everyday life. ■

NIMSAT’s National Level Partnerships
(Unified by the National Lambda Rail)



ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS:

1. University of Louisiana at Lafayette
2. Louisiana State University (LSU/Ag Center)
3. Tulane University
4. San Diego State University (SDSU)
5. University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
6. UC, Santa Barbara (UCSB)
7. Texas A&M University System (TAMU)
8. Arkansas Tech University (ATU)
9. Mississippi State University (MSU)
10. University of Alabama (UA)

ORGANIZATIONS/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS:

11. Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE)
12. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
13. James Lee Witt Associates (JLWA)
14. Priority 5
15. Idaho National Lab (INL)
16. SGI, Inc.
17. CISCO, Inc.
18. Wal-Mart
19. Rextag Strategies Corp.

Latest Addition

Picard Center will focus on making children's lives better

THE CECIL J. PICARD CENTER for Child Development will bring together several groups who share a common goal: improving Louisiana by meeting the needs of its children.

It's under construction in University Research Park, adjacent to the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise on East Devalcourt Street.

Named in honor of Louisiana's superintendent of education from 1996-2007, the 40,000-square-foot building is expected to be completed within two years at a cost of about \$7.2 million.

The complex will house the university's:

- Center for Innovative Learning and Assessment Technologies;
- Educational Counseling unit;
- Educational Foundation and Leadership Department;
- Center for Gifted Education; and
- Department of Psychology.

The new facility will also include:

- the Loyd J. Rockhold Distance Education Conference Center;
- a research library; and
- a data and technology analysis unit.

The Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development was established in 2005 at UL Lafayette after five years of development. Now in temporary offices in O.K. Allen Hall, it employs about 20 evaluation and research professionals who concentrate on issues such as early childhood and k-12 education, health and lifelong learning.

The center's staff is probably best known for evaluating programs, such as LA 4, the state's early childhood education initiative, and Reading First, which is intended to help schools improve children's reading achievement by using scientifically proven instruction methods.

National collaborations include work with the RAND Corporation to

track schools' short-term and long-term assistance to children displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

As the center expands the scope of its work, it will focus on tracking children's educational progress in Louisiana from birth to age 25.

"We are well on our way to becoming the national model for child development centers," said Dr. Billy Stokes, the center's director. "With the access to data we currently have, we are undoubtedly the best resource for educational information in Louisiana."

The center's financial support has included donations by Loyd J. Rockhold and the Special Children's Foundation, and includes:

- the Loyd J. Rockhold Endowed Chair
- the Paula Chavers Rockhold Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Child Development;



Cecil J. Picard

- the Special Children's Endowed Professorship; and

- a \$2 million donation earmarked for building the facility. The center also receives support from the Cecil Picard Endowment through the Community Foundation of Acadiana.

Then-Gov. Kathleen Blanco spoke at a groundbreaking ceremony in December. "I

can think of no better way to cement Cecil Picard's legacy than to continue the groundbreaking work he began with early childhood education," she said.

Picard had the third-longest tenure of a state superintendent of education in Louisiana and was the catalyst for many nationally recognized educational initiatives.

He was a teacher, coach and principal in Vermilion Parish and later served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and Louisiana Senate. ■

 ccd-web.louisiana.edu



Construction of the Cecil J. Picard Center began in December.

Engineers Study Alternative Energy

A \$1 MILLION SATURN diesel turbine generator has given biofuel research at UL Lafayette a boost.

It was donated to the College of Engineering by Solar Turbines in Lafayette. The company, which is owned by Caterpillar, has corporate headquarters in San Diego.

"The new equipment positions UL Lafayette's engineering program with a developmental capability not found at many colleges. It will be used in conjunction with other donated

equipment to form the cornerstone for a fast-growing alternative energy research focus within the College of Engineering," said Dr. William Emblom, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

The new equipment will be used by several faculty members who are working with area industries to make Acadiana a leader in



This Saturn diesel turbine generator can power about 700 homes.

energy management. For example, they are studying the use of biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from vegetable oil, to power the turbine generator. Their goal is to assess economic and technical benefits derived through the use of biodiesel.

"Other related work includes the use of the solar turbine and generator system in conjunction with the Combined Heating and Power Process," Emblom said. "The CHP process is being used by companies across the nation to reduce energy

costs by first generating electricity and then using the waste heat to provide cooling or heating for buildings and other applications."

The turbine generator is capable of producing enough electricity to power about 700 homes. Along with an electrical generator, it's permanently mounted inside a tractor-trailer that is fully transportable.

FISH DNA MAY YIELD VALUABLE CLUES

DOES THE DNA of the electric fish hold secrets that could someday advance the treatment of human spinal cord injuries?

Dr. James Albert, an assistant professor of biology at UL Lafayette, is intrigued by the possibility. The eel-like, electric fish may also help scientists develop bio-

fish frequently bite off the tails of this species; the electric fishes have responded by growing back what has been removed.

"You can cut off the back third of the body and they will regenerate everything, including the spinal cord," Albert stated in *Nature News* in February.

If scientists can figure out which genes are responsible for an organism's ability to generate electricity, the information might also be useful in the treatment of medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and muscular dystrophy.

Albert and some colleagues have started genome sequencing of the electric fish to try to get the information they need.

"Sequencing gives you the pieces of the puzzle. But you have to sequence it 10 times over and then do a lot of analysis of the data to put the puzzle back together," he said. A proposal to sequence the whole genome of the *Electrophorus electricus* is being reviewed by the Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute.



Electrophorus electricus

batteries that could repair and replace themselves.

South American electric fishes, found only in the Amazon Basin, hold so much promise because they have an exceptional ability to regenerate. Electro-sensing cat-

Reach the Right People.

Successful businesses reach the right people at the right time. Let the award-winning university magazine, *La Louisiane*, do the reaching for you. Advertise your business and connect with more than 70,000 readers, including more than 50,000 college graduates.

For more information, contact Kathleen Thames at (337) 482-6397.



Among The Elite

UL Lafayette earns a place in the nation's 'solar village'

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT Lafayette is one of only 20 colleges and universities from around the world chosen to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's fourth Solar Decathlon.

Teams from those schools will each design, build and operate a small energy-efficient house that's powered entirely by the sun. Their entries will form a "solar village" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in Fall 2009. UL Lafayette is the only Louisiana university represented in the decathlon.

Other participants include Cornell University, Penn State, Technische Universität Darmstadt in Germany and Ohio State.

UL Lafayette's BeauSoleil Team will design and build the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home over the next two years. BeauSoleil means "beautiful sun" or "sunshine" in French.

"It's kind of our CajunBot," said Geoff Gjertson, an associate professor in architecture at UL Lafayette and team coordinator. CajunBot is the university's autonomous land

vehicle, which has competed in three prestigious, national contests sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The BeauSoleil Team represents col-



laboration among the UL Lafayette School of Architecture and Design, the College of Engineering and the College of Business. Architecture, design, business and engineering students, along with Louisiana System Built Homes and other community partners, will design and build the BeauSoleil Home over the next two years.

The Solar Decathlon gets its name from 10 specific areas of competition: architecture, engineering, market viability, communications, comfort, appliances, hot water, lighting, energy balance and transportation. Each house must produce enough electricity and hot water to perform all the functions of a home, including cooking and washing clothes. A house may earn extra points by generating a surplus of energy. The team that earns the most points is the winner.

There are three main criteria for the BeauSoleil Home. It must represent the region, be a marketable prototype and have a balanced hybrid of passive and active systems.

The team's name, inspired by the Grammy-winning Cajun band, reflects the team's intent to relate the project to its Cajun roots.

"We'll bring our own kind of Louisiana,



By early April, several designs were under consideration for the BeauSoleil Home. One will be chosen by the end of the spring semester in May. Shown, from left, are students Chris Leger, Jean Paul Accomando, Chris Dufreche, Cat Guidry, Denisse Castro, Tim Dumatrait, Jeremy Cradeur and Dr. Geoff Gjertson, an assistant professor and BeauSoleil Team coordinator.



Geoff Gjertson

Cajun flavor to it. The competition includes a cultural aspect. It requires a team to serve a meal, prepared in its solar home, to other teams, something we're perfectly suited to do," Gjertson said.

"We figure we've got that portion of

Each house must produce enough electricity and hot water to perform all the functions of a home, including cooking and washing clothes. A house may earn extra points by generating a surplus of energy.

the contest won," he added, tongue-in-cheek.

Gjertson noted that UL Lafayette was drawn to the solar decathlon, in part, because it requires more than meeting technical specifications. "It's really got a lot of subjective things about living in a house and what a Louisiana house means," he said.

In addition to promoting Louisiana's culture, the BeauSoleil Home is intended to be affordable and practical.

"We're trying to make it a marketable and viable housing alternative, rather than a very high-tech toy that's beyond reach of most people," Gjertson said.

The BeauSoleil Team has done its homework. It cites 2005 census statistics that show the median household income in Louisiana was \$36,729. According to federal guidelines, a family with that income could afford a house that costs a maximum of \$100,000. So the cost of a 700-square-foot solar house could not exceed about \$145 per square foot.

UL Lafayette's interest in energy-efficient designs that complement Louisiana's landscape and culture is not new. "It's not a fashionable thing. It's part of our program," Gjertson said.

For example, two of its architecture professors, Edward J. Cazayoux and Hector LaSala, designed and built a solar house on university property more than 20 years ago. Their innovative design won an award from the U.S. Department of Energy and the house continues to be used as a teaching tool.

Faculty and students prepared UL Lafayette's application to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. Forty universities applied; only 20 were chosen.

Gjertson said UL Lafayette wasn't intimidated by the caliber of the other applicants. "We may not have the resources of some schools that may be able to throw millions of dollars at a project, but we really make the most of what we have," he said.

"First and foremost, the design has to be there and it has to be an educational tool for students."

At press time, 12 UL Lafayette students were working on several possible designs for the BeauSoleil Home. They were scheduled to hold a charette, or public meeting, in early April to get feedback. One design will be chosen by the end of the spring semester in May.

In addition to working on its design, the BeauSoleil Team is busy raising funds. The U.S. Department of Energy provided \$100,000 to each of the 20 schools competing in the decathlon. But the BeauSoleil Team needs an additional \$300,000 to pay for research, construction material and transporting the home to Washington, D.C.

"We've been trying to get the word out far and wide and to develop partnerships and relationships with all kinds of different

VEHICLE SHOWS STUDENTS HOW TO GO GREEN

Some UL Lafayette students are tinkering with an SUV to learn how solar power can be harnessed as a practical energy source.

It's a solar utility vehicle donated by BP, a global oil, gas and chemicals company. Glenn DaGian, a 1972 graduate of USL, (now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette), presented it to the university in February. He's director of Government Affairs for BP in Texas.

The SUV is equipped with two electric motors totaling 30 horsepower and more than 170 pound-feet of torque, which makes it one of the most powerful all-terrain vehicles available. BP's 185-watt solar panel, which augments the vehicle's battery system and gives the SUV more range, is mounted on top. The four-wheel drive vehicle is capable of seating four people, can carry up to 880 pounds and can maintain a speed of 20 miles per hour. It has a 30-mile range.

"Very few schools can touch this type of technology," said Dr. Mark Zappi, dean of the College of Engineering. "Students will be able to study it and drive it. The benefits will go on for many years."

DaGian, a political science graduate, said the vehicle's



A Bad Boy Buggies representative demonstrated the solar utility vehicle's power by using its reverse gear to climb the outdoor stairs of Martin Hall.

silent operation is an advantage. "The solar utility vehicle is primarily useful for wildlife parks, areas where noise or pollution is a problem," he said.

Current uses for the solar buggy include wildlife areas, such as Yellowstone National Park and the Sandy Point State National Park in Maryland. DaGian said the solar panel could be adapted to applications involving boats.

DaGian and BP are also working on a charging station that uses solar panels to recharge the SUV when its not in use, eliminating the need to have an electrical source to charge the buggy.

DaGian developed the solar panel and attached it

to the vehicle, which was manufactured by Bad Boy Buggies in Natchez, Miss. The SUV given to UL Lafayette was the 14th developed by DeGian, BP and Bad Boy Buggies. ■



Scott Chappuis checks out a proposed design.

people. For example, we're looking at a partnership with Catholic University of America, which is in Washington, D.C., because it would be a great help for the logistics of the competition up there. Maybe it could help us collaborate on part of the project," Gjertson said.

Many state and local leaders have expressed interest in the BeauSoleil Home, he continued. The BeauSoleil Team is working with them to see how they can help.

In addition to benefiting UL Lafayette students, the BeauSoleil Home will draw national and international attention to the university.

In 2007, about 120,000 people toured homes in the "solar village" on the National Mall.

But Gjertson said public exposure is also measured by "impressions," which refers to the number of people who read published information about a project or see coverage by broadcast media.

"In 2007, decathlon officials calculated that there were over 600 million impressions, which means that 600 million people were exposed to the project," he said. That number is expected to grow to a billion after documentaries about the decathlon are completed and distributed.

Gordon Brooks is dean of UL Lafayette's College of the Arts, which encompasses the School of Architecture. He said the potential impact of the BeauSoleil House is huge.

"Every now and again, a project comes along that has transformative powers. This is one of them." ■

beausoleilhome.org

PR Major Earns Student Editor Post

A JUNIOR MAJORING in public relations is the newest student editor of *La Louisiane*.

Megan Broussard of Lafayette began her magazine duties in March. She will also serve as student editor for the Fall 2008 issue.

The position gives a UL Lafayette student the chance to be involved in

member of several honor societies.

"I have worked with Megan in her role as president of the Public Relations Student Society of America and she is a dedicated leader who has the ability to make deadlines under pressure," said Dr. Dedria Givens-Carroll, an assistant professor in UL Lafayette's Communication Department.

Broussard serves in the legislative branch of UL Lafayette's Student Government Association. Each college has elected representatives: a president and a minimum of two senators. She is SGA's Liberal Arts president.

Earlier this year, Broussard arranged the Liberal Arts Career Day Job Fair and conducted a fund-raiser for the Public Relations Student Society of America. In 2007, she was in charge of a fund-raiser for Kappa Delta and coordinated an International Coffee Hour to help UL Lafayette international students become integrated into college life.

Broussard has worked part-time at Le Centre International de Lafayette. She was an intern for the Bobby Jindal Campaign for Governor and for the American Heart Association's office in Lafayette. She is a former reporter for the *Vermilion*, UL Lafayette's

student newspaper.

This summer, Broussard will spend six weeks in France as a participant in UL Lafayette's Study Abroad Program.

After graduation, she plans to pursue agency work in the field of public relations and eventually enter into corporate public relations, applying the writing skills she honed while working for *La Louisiane*.

"In public relations, it is important to know all styles of writing," Broussard said. "At *La Louisiane*, I'm learning techniques specific to magazines that will make me a more well-rounded writer and, in turn, a more effective public relations practitioner."



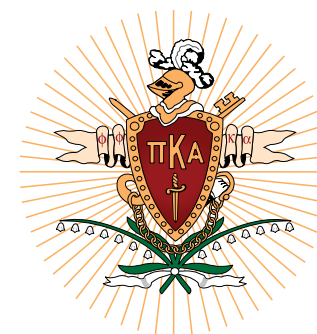
Megan Broussard

almost every aspect of magazine production, from planning content to editing articles to checking print quality during press runs. The student editor also serves as a liaison between the student body and *La Louisiane*.

"Megan's resumé is already lengthy and impressive. It reflects active participation in campus organizations and events, leadership skills and a strong work ethic," said Kathleen Thames, editor of *La Louisiane*.

Broussard is president of the Lafayette chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is a

Fraternity Returns With Larger Membership



PI KAPPA ALPHA Fraternity has reclaimed its place on campus.

The Zeta Omega chapter voluntarily disbanded in 1990 after its membership dwindled. It was founded in 1968.

Two years ago, it got a fresh start. "We were colonized as the second largest fraternity on campus in 2006 and continue to grow our numbers," said Noah Brandon, a UL Lafayette senior who is Pike's recruitment chairman. That was a major step toward earning a charter in 2007.

This year, UL Lafayette's chapter has 51 members. It occupies the former Sigma Nu house on Fraternity Row.

"The men of Pi Kappa Alpha have worked two long years to reestablish their fraternity on campus," said Roquee A. Forson, UL Lafayette's assistant dean of students. "They are a welcome addition to our Greek family."

Brandon said many Pike alumni have told him they're pleased about the chapter's return to campus and are "impressed with the quality of men we have recruited and the successes they've achieved on and off campus."

For example, PKA received an academic achievement award last year presented by UL Lafayette's Office of Greek Affairs.

The fraternity supports Faith House, a local shelter for battered women. It has raised \$4,000 for the agency last year and \$10,000 this year.

Andrew Bullock, president of the Zeta Omega chapter, said members helped renovate the shelter last year. "We also held a candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence in Louisiana, raising awareness of the issue and of Faith House," he said.

The Zeta Omega chapter is one of five PIKE chapters at Louisiana universities.

Fresh design earns accolades for senior student

THIS IS NOT YOUR mother's fruit bowl.

UL Lafayette senior Sarah O'Brien's innovative bowl expands and contracts to store and display various types and sizes of fruit. It features separate compartments that help minimize bruising and significantly reduce the transfer of ethylene gas that causes over-ripening.

"I made the model out of thin polypropylene cutting boards," O'Brien told *La Louisiane*. A patent on her design is pending.

O'Brien named the bowl, "Elizabowl." The name, she said, is "a nod to the collars worn during the Elizabethan Period, which I believe the bowl resembles."

Her design placed first in the 15th annual Student Design Competition held by the International Housewares Association. A total of 215 project entries were submitted from 27 International Design Society of America-affiliated design schools.

Her prizes: \$2,400 and an all-expense-paid trip to the International Home + Housewares Show in Chicago



A patent is pending for Sarah O'Brien's innovative fruit bowl.

in March.

For students like O'Brien, who is majoring in industrial design, the housewares show offers the opportunity to meet potential employers or representatives of companies that might produce their designs. This year, it attracted about 60,000 visitors from more than 100 countries, who were all focused on buying and selling the latest products.

"Winning projects are selected for their innovation, understanding of production and marketing principles, and

quality of entry materials. All winners will be recommended as candidates for design internship positions for IHA member companies," said an IHA spokesman.

The Elizabowl was O'Brien's second entry in the IHA competition. She received an honorable mention in 2006 for a candelabra that's size is adjustable.

Two other projects have earned her honorable mentions in a national competition. They were chairs constructed of cardboard for the American Institute of Architecture Students' Chair Affair competition.

Earlier this spring, O'Brien presented her work at the IDSA district conference in Savannah, Ga. She and some classmates had presented their portfolios to a panel of three design professionals. O'Brien was chosen to represent UL Lafayette's program, along with student representatives from eight other universities.



www.obrien-design.com

DEBATE TEAMS WILL REMEMBER NEWCOMERS FROM UL LAFAYETTE



Shown, from left: Ezekias Mondesir, Josh Vercher, Jordan Landry, Samantha Marks, Dustin Domangue, Justin Canten. Not shown: Brandy Stanton, Chapman Matis

The UL Lafayette Policy Debate Team had fewer members than many of its opponents, said Dr. Scott Elliot, its coach. "It was common for as many as 10 coaches from other schools to 'scout' UL debaters in preliminary rounds in an attempt to figure out how such a small program could be beating such well-established teams," he said.

UL Lafayette's new Policy Debate Team has made a name for itself already.

The six-month-old group participated in the Novice National Championships this spring.

Two UL Lafayette students, Justin Cantu and Dustin Domangue, placed fourth out of more than 100 teams from around the nation. They claimed an upset victory over Binghamton University in octo-finals. That was significant because Binghamton was ranked as the No. 1 debate program in the country at the start of the competition.

During the championships, UL Lafayette defeated teams from Cornell University, the United States Military Academy, New York University and other schools across the nation.

ZEUS CAFÉ TO BRING MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOR TO CAMPUS

Students will soon have another dining option on campus: Zeus On the Geaux.

Zeus Café, a popular Lafayette restaurant that serves Greek and Lebanese food, will operate the new takeout eatery. It will be located next to Rougeou Hall, in a small building known as On The Geaux.

On the Geaux was constructed in 2005. It replaced the former Snack Hut, which had served meals for several decades. On the Geaux housed vending machines for snacks and soft drinks. It was closed earlier this year, due to consistently low sales.

"I think Zeus Café will be very successful at our university," said Patrick Pappion, general manager of Sodexho, the university's food service provider. "It is a favorite among American and inter-



Zeus's specially prepared hummus

national students alike, as well as faculty and staff. If it attracts the business we expect, Zeus may even be allowed to open on other campuses in the UL System."

Zeus Café has four locations in Lafayette.

Zeus On the Geaux is expected to offer an abridged version of Zeus Café's menu, including its popular Chicken Sharwerma dish and a Gyros plate.

Hours of operation are tentatively set for 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays. Students will be able to dine indoors or in a patio area next to the café. Zeus On the Geaux will accept the Cajun Card for payment of meals. The Cajun Card is like a debit card for UL Lafayette students.

According to an agreement signed in February, Sodexho and UL Lafayette will each receive a percentage of Zeus On the Geaux's net profit. The restaurant will also pay the university a monthly fee.

Pappion said UL Lafayette students have expressed an interest in eating healthier and more diverse food than what has traditionally been served on campus.

According to the American Heart Association, most of the fats in a typical Mediterranean diet are monounsaturated fats, which don't tend to raise blood cholesterol levels as much as saturated fats.

There is less heart disease in Mediterranean countries than in the United States, according to the AHA. But the difference may not all be attributable to diet; lifestyle factors may also play a role.

A study funded by the National Institutes of Health suggested that a Greek-Mediterranean dietary pattern has significant potential for cancer prevention.

Students 'Work With Their Hands and Give With Their Hearts'

SOME UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS spent their spring break working on a Habitat for Humanity project that will provide 12 homes for families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

UL Lafayette hosted the 2008 X-treme Spring Break in late March. It was joined by students from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. Also lending a hand were members of UL Lafayette's AmeriCorps program, some university personnel, and Habitat for Humanity volunteers and staff.

The workers began constructing 10 sheds near Kaplan, La. The units were to be used to store building materials during a Habitat for Humanity blitz in April. Six houses were to be built in less than two weeks. Six more residences are scheduled to be built there this summer.

"You have really made a tremendous difference," Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, executive vice president of the University of Louisiana System, told volunteers at the construction site.

"When students and young people work with their hands and give with their hearts, then we know that our next generation, and the generation that will come afterward, will continue to make an enor-

the volunteers for their service. "Without these sheds, our jobs would be a lot more difficult," she said.

Some of the college students were housed in Bourgeois Hall on UL Lafayette's campus during the six-day project.

Candace Urbanowski, president of the UL Lafayette Student Government Association and a senior majoring in public relations, was coordinator of this year's X-Treme Spring Break.

"We've learned how to swing a hammer appropriately, how to cut safely and how to make sure our measurements are right," she told *The Advocate* newspaper in Baton Rouge.

X-treme Spring Break is a UL System initiative that started in 2006 with McNeese State University and Southeastern Louisiana University. Nicholls State University hosted last year's event.



UL Lafayette students Kim Wooten and Matt Carlini were busy hammering nails and sawing boards during Spring Break.

mous difference in our state and our nation," she said.

Melinda Taylor, executive director of Habitat for Humanity in Lafayette, thanked

National Leader

New laboratory in Wharton Hall gives College of Nursing an edge • by Christine Payton



Dr. Lisa Broussard, an assistant professor of nursing, is director of the new Maternal/Child Life Skills laboratory.

A NEW LAB IN WHARTON HALL THAT mirrors a hospital pediatric, newborn and labor/delivery unit is about as real as it can get.

The Maternal/Child Life Skills lab is equipped with some of the latest technology, including lifelike, computerized patient simulators.

There, senior nursing students test and implement nursing theories and interventions on four infant simulators and two pediatric simulators that are about the size of pre-K children. The lab also has two birth-

ing simulators; newborn simulators will be added later this year.

“UL Lafayette is the only university in Louisiana and in the country, to our knowledge, that has a simulated neonatal, pediatric and labor/delivery unit,” said Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, head of the Nursing Department.

Interactive patient simulators provide immediate feedback for each nursing decision. Students begin with assessment, which includes checking temperatures and listening to and interpreting heart sounds. Later, they treat symptoms for bronchiolitis



Shown, from left, are: Emily Broussard; Dr. Lisa Broussard, assistant professor of nursing and lab director; Kimberly Bell; Cathy Boutte; and Miranda Blanchard.

(respiratory infection), hyperbilirubinemia (jaundice) and cellulitis (skin inflammation), and perform newborn stabilization.

With the birthing simulators, students can administer nursing care for preterm labor, preeclampsia (high blood pressure) and conduct general assessments related to labor and delivery.

“We try to make this experience for the students as realistic as possible,” said Dr. Lisa Broussard, assistant professor of nursing and lab director. “Before we opened the lab, faculty members created different nursing scenarios for the simulators. Each semester, we’re going to build on those scenarios and create new ones.”

Instructors also can use hand-held devices for “on the fly” changes while students are administering care. “Faculty like the ‘on the fly’ method because it gives them the opportunity to challenge students based on immediate changes in a patient’s status,” Broussard said.

The simulators can mimic real-world hospital situations that students may not otherwise experience. “These scenarios can be played out in a safe environment where students can still make mistakes without putting anyone in danger,” Broussard said.

The Maternal/Child Skills lab is the second nursing lab at UL Lafayette that uses sophisticated patient simulators. A lab that resembles a high-tech, hospital intensive care unit opened two years ago. It is equipped with adult-size simulators.

“Simulation is sweeping the country as a new pedagogy in nursing education. We have been ahead of the simulation integration curve at UL Lafayette and we think this gives our program a distinct advantage in several ways,” Oberleitner said.

“It solidifies our positioning as a national leader in the integration of simulation technologies in nursing. It is a very

Damon Fontenot, a senior nursing major, has spent time in the lab this semester. “The simulators are like real children and babies,” he said.

The future nurses have a chance to play different roles during each scenario. Some may be nurses, some may be doctors and others may be parents. Between 50 and 60 nursing students will work through the simulation lab each semester.

impressive area to highlight in recruiting prospective faculty and it has been a fantastic student recruitment tool for us.”

The high-tech environment sends powerful messages, she continued.

“It tells the students that we put them and their learning first. This investment also tells prospective employers of our graduates that our students will graduate from this program having utilized and mastered the most advanced and sophisticated technologies that they are likely to encounter in hospitals and other health care settings across the U.S. today.”

The benefits of students’ training on patient simulators is apparent to Michelle Crain, interim chief nursing officer at Our

Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center. She’s a 1990 and 1998 graduate of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions and is a certified nurse practitioner.

“I think what the Sim labs have allowed for students is a greater sense of critical thinking. They come out of college and still have a need to master some skills, but they can work quicker through this because of their experiences in the lab,”

Crain said.

“I believe the simulation lab gives students real-world experience. They are still in a lab with simulators, but the patient response is so realistic. The students don’t need as much coaxing when they’re starting out (in the workplace) because they have confidence in their skills. It’s phenomenal.”

In 2005, the National League for Nursing named UL Lafayette’s College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions a Center of Excellence for Nursing Education. UL Lafayette is one of only 10 such centers in the country. ■



Instructors use computers to program patient simulators’ behavior.



Kimberly Bell, a senior, is shown in the newest lab in Wharton Hall.

Home for Good

Author's work will be preserved in new center in Dupré Library

NOT LONG AFTER ERNEST GAINES became writer-in-residence at UL Lafayette in 1983, a colleague in the English Department asked about the status of his original manuscripts.

The author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* responded that his papers were stored in several trunks in San Francisco, where he had lived before moving to Lafayette.

"What are you going to do with them?" asked the colleague, Dr. Joseph Riehl, a professor of English.

"I don't know. No one has asked me (for them)," Gaines replied.

"Well, I'm asking you," Riehl said.

So the trunks were shipped from California to Lafayette. Their contents became the foundation of a newly established international center for Ernest Gaines studies, which will be built in a now-unfinished section of the third floor of Dupré Library.

Gaines recounted the story during an event held at the library in early March to celebrate creation of the center. Now writer-in-residence emeritus, he and his wife, Dianne, had traveled from their home in Pointe Coupee Parish near Baton Rouge, La.

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

His work has been trans-

lated into at least 17 languages and has earned him a National Book Critics Circle Award, National Humanities Medal and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, popularly known as "the genius award." *A Lesson Before Dying* was chosen by talk show host Oprah Winfrey as an Oprah Book Club selection in 1997.

Gaines' relationship with UL Lafayette began in 1981 when he accepted an invitation to serve as a visiting professor of creative writing for one year.

"For 25 years, the university's

faculty and students, and the people of Louisiana have had the privilege of having Ernest Gaines here and being able to interact with him on campus. With this center, his legacy will remain here," said Dr. Marcia Gaudet, head of UL Lafayette's English Department. She proposed the center and will serve as its interim director.

UL Lafayette will initially provide \$250,000 for the center. Future funding sources include donations, grants, and royalties from a book about Gaines

to be published by the university's Center for Louisiana Studies.

Manuscripts and memorabilia, such as handwritten drafts of some of his published work and the pens he used to write *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *Of Love and Dust*, have been preserved in the library's Special Collections Department.

According to Gaudet, the new center will also include "all books, journal articles, essays, interviews, theses and dissertations on Ernest Gaines and his work." It will have a complete collection of all published translations of his writing. The center "would anticipate, as well, the eventual donation/acquisition of the remaining Ernest J. Gaines papers to the university. It would be the site of the only complete collection of



Some of Ernest Gaines' original manuscripts are displayed in Dupré Library, along with pens he used to write them.

PHILIP GOULD

Ernest Gaines scholarship in the world," she said.

The center will coordinate research related to Gaines and possibly other African-American writers in Louisiana. There are already plans to conduct an Ernest J. Gaines Scholars Conference at UL Lafayette in Spring 2010. Gaudet envisions the Ernest J. Gaines Speakers and Writers Series in 2011, which would draw major scholars and writers to UL Lafayette.

"The availability of the author's papers will provide students with the opportunity to understand first hand the workings of literary genius," she stated in a proposal for the center that was approved by the University of Louisiana System and the Louisiana Board of Regents. The collection will also "enhance the university's historic commitment to diversity," she continued.

The Ernest J. Gaines Center will pursue publishing ventures in cooperation with UL Lafayette's Center for Louisiana Studies, Gaudet said. One of the first projects will help raise funds for the center.

This Louisiana Thing That Drives Me: The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines is in press at the Center for Louisiana Studies. It is a coffee-table book of photographs that was compiled, edited and introduced by Gaudet; Reggie Young, an associate professor of English at UL Lafayette; and Wiley Cash, a doctoral student at UL Lafayette. The photos are accompanied by quotations from Gaines' fiction, essays and interviews. The first 100 copies will be

OPRAH BACKS OBAMA

Did Miss Jane Pittman, a fictional character in a popular novel, and celebrity Oprah Winfrey influence the outcome of Sen. Barack Obama's bid to become the first black president of the United States?

That's a question sure to be asked by scholars who will analyze every facet of the historic contest between Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton, who wants to be the nation's first female president.

Named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people for the past four years, Winfrey stepped onto the national campaign trail for two days in December to stump for Obama. The Illinois senator and former first lady are seeking the Democratic nomination in August.

In her introduction of Obama at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, Winfrey referred to *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, written by Ernest Gaines, UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence emeritus. Published in 1971, his fictional story of a lame, 110-year-old former slave earned critical praise and became

required reading in schools across the country. In it, Pittman survived the Civil War, was subsequently emancipated from slavery and lived long enough to enjoy a taste of the freedom promised by the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

Near the end of her life, Pittman was living on a Louisiana plantation. She and other blacks there hoped for someone who could lead the black race. "Anytime a child is born, the old people look in his face and ask him if he's the One," Gaines wrote in the last chapter.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman was made into an Emmy Award-winning television movie, starring Cicely Tyson, that was first broadcast on Jan. 31, 1974. Winfrey told the more than 18,000 people gathered in

Des Moines that the movie made "a huge impression on me" when she saw it many years ago.

"I can't even remember how old I was when I was watching that movie. But I do remember when Jane Pittman would encounter young people throughout that film, and she would ask, 'Are you the one? Are you the one?'"

Winfrey recalled a scene with Pittman and a newborn, Jimmy Aaron. "I remember her standing in the doorway, her body bowed, frail, old, and holding the baby in her arms, and saying, 'Are you the one, Jimmy? Are you the one?'"

"Well, I believe in '08, I have found the answer to Miss Pittman's question.



Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama, wife of Sen. Barack Obama

ASSOCIATED PRESS

I have found the answer. It is the same question that our nation is asking: 'Are you the one? Are you the one?' I am here to tell you, Iowa, he is the one. He is the one. Barack Obama."

Winfrey's 17-minute speech in Des Moines was posted in two parts on YouTube, a popular web site where people share video clips. By early April, the part in which she refers to Gaines' character had been watched more than 36,000 times.

A total of about 66,000 people attended rallies featuring Winfrey in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina.

A poll conducted in December by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press showed that 60 percent of respondents said Winfrey's support would help Obama's candidacy. ■



Ernest J. Gaines and Dr. Marcia Gaudet at the future site of the Ernest J. Gaines Center in Dupré Library.

PHILIP GOULD

AN EXCERPT

This Louisiana Thing That Drives Me:
The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines

(Editor's note: The following is the introduction to a new book published by UL Lafayette's Center for Louisiana Studies.)

By Marcia Gaudet

*When I read Gaines, the poet said,
The sky is not gray, but gold.*
— Isaac J. Black

On Super Bowl Sunday 1981, Ernest J. Gaines received a telegram from the University of Southwestern Louisiana offering him a position. When he decided to return to Louisiana as our Visiting Writer-in-Residence, the sky was certainly gold over our community. For the last twenty-seven years, we have been privileged to be major benefactors of Ernest Gaines' time, energy, and generosity. He has contributed immeasurably to Creative Writing at (the) University of Louisiana at Lafayette while continuing to build an international reputation on the merits of his artistic accomplishments.

Gaines' reputation as a writer and artist is secure. Equally secure is his reputation as a man, as a teacher, as a colleague, as a friend, as a person passionately devoted to his people and his home state. He has deep concern for the land and the people who provide him with the roots of his artistic vision.

This concern is apparent in his quiet activism in preserving and refurbishing the cemetery on River Lake Plantation where his ancestors, friends, and a brother are buried. He and his wife, Dianne, serve as President and Secretary of the Mount Zion River Lake Cemetery Association in Cherie Quarters, Oscar, Louisiana. They ask friends, family, and students to join them for a graveyard homecoming, or beautification day, at the cemetery on the last Saturday of October each year, the weekend before All Saints Day. In a traditional gathering, people come together to pull weeds, plant flowers, whitewash the tombs, eat, drink, and talk among the graves – re-

membering the past and rejoicing in its connection with the community of the present. The cemetery is a peaceful sanctuary, surrounded by sugarcane fields. This is also the time known as grinding, the sugarcane harvest in southern Louisiana. Ernest Gaines may peel a few stalks of sugarcane and instruct a young child or a new graduate student on the proper way to chew it and spit out the pulp, something he remembers from his own childhood growing up in the plantation quarters.

Ernest Gaines has said that his great obsession was to get the property where his ancestors are buried and to maintain the cemetery, where he wants to be buried among the unmarked graves of his people. His writing has given him the power to determine how his people will be remembered. Gaines' narratives of his people have become stories of identity, stories of one's people. Gaines recognized the injustices to his people, and he addressed those injustices in his writing with a gentle but powerful anger. Perhaps more importantly, he recognized the worth of his people. He saw in them something worth writing about, something worth remembering – their character, their concern for others, their ability to survive with dignity, their belief in him and what his future could be. Gaines' stories give us a cultural narrative of the people he knew so well, a history of their lives and who they really were.

Along with his culture's legacy of poverty and injustice, Gaines also received a strong legacy of personal dignity. Using the language of his community, he has made this place and these people a model for the simple but universal rights to one's own humanity, one's own dignity, one's own voice. By giving voice to those who traditionally had no voice outside of the ex-slave quarters, Gaines continues to fulfill his intent from the beginning of his writing career: to give voice to an unvoiced people, giving them the power to affirm their own existence. ■

signed collector's editions to be given to donors who contribute at least \$1,000 each to the Ernest J. Gaines Center.

Gaudet proposed the center in conjunction with Gaines' retirement in 2005. But the plan was shelved when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated parts of south Louisiana later that year. State government temporarily suspended creation of new university centers until the hurricanes' economic impact could be assessed.

Gaudet said scholars from across the globe will conduct research at the Ernest J. Gaines Center. Last year, a professor from Japan and a doctoral student from Egypt traveled to UL Lafayette to view Gaines' papers.

Gaines' work has been the subject of 15 doctoral dissertations at various universities. More than 200 scholarly articles have been written and 12 books published about him.

Gaines told the group gathered at Dupré Library in early March that he owes much of his professional success to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

He described his circumstances when he was invited in 1981 to teach at the university for a year. "I was living hand to mouth. I had just published *In My Father's House* three years earlier. I didn't make any money. Everybody lost money on that book."

In 1983, the university asked him to be its writer-in-residence. He would be required to teach only one course a year and could live in a house in Arbolada Subdivision, adjacent to campus, which had been provided by Ray Mouton, an attorney and UL Lafayette graduate.

"When I first came to Arbolada, that first night, I didn't believe this was happening to me. This house was too beautiful. The furniture was so wonderful. There were flowers in the yard, pine trees, oak trees."

Gaines' good fortune was real. "I was in that house from 1983 to 2003, there in Arbolada," he said.

"Sometimes, I wonder if what's happening today is happening. I wonder if it is not a dream.

"If it's *not* a dream, and it is actually happening to me, I'm one of the luckiest men on the face of the earth for all the things I've gone through, places I've been and returning home. I thank you very much." ■

New Direction

'Creative, innovative things happen when you cross boundaries'

THE DEAN OF THE B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration is exploring ways to partner with other colleges on campus and to strengthen three specialized business programs.

Dr. Joby John began his post on July 1, 2007. He replaced Dr. Lewis Gale, who left the university in 2004.

Before he was hired by UL Lafayette, John served for eight years as a full professor and chair of the Department of Marketing at Bentley College near Boston, one of the largest private business schools in the United States.

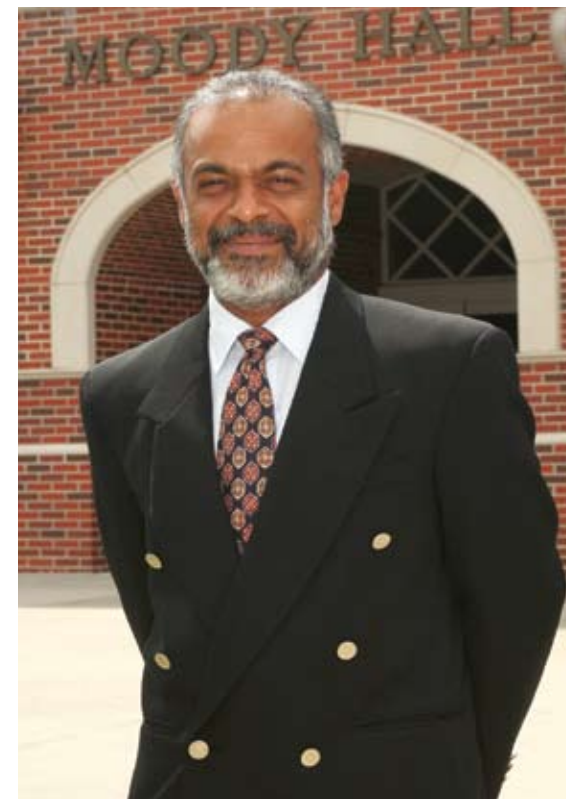
In a recent interview, John said the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration has "solid programs. We have a cadre of excellent teachers in every department."

UL Lafayette has six traditional business programs: accounting, management information systems, economics, finance, management and marketing. Because the college's core offerings are so strong, he can concentrate on developing interdisciplinary programs.

"The interesting things in academia are really happening at the cusp or boundaries of disciplines. It's not within disciplines. The creative, innovative things happen when you cross boundaries.

"Industry is clamoring for that. It's saying, 'We don't want a cookie-cutter person to do cookie-cutter things that we've always done. We're not going to compete that way. We want to progress and progress comes from being creative and innovative.'"

UL Lafayette has three programs



Dr. Joby John

rarely found at the roughly 2,000 business schools in the United States: insurance and risk management, hospitality management, and professional land and resource management.

John estimates that about 25 American business schools have insurance and risk management programs; about 10 have hospitality management programs. Only four business schools in North America have professional land and resource management programs.

UL Lafayette's specialized programs were created to meet particular needs in Louisiana, John said. So, he wants to be able to provide more graduates in those fields and to capitalize on what other colleges can contribute. "There are ways

in which other departments could support any one of these three."

John noted that the College of Business Administration has paid more attention to international business in the past couple of years. An international business concentration was added, for example. And, it now offers minors in French or Hispanic language and culture.

John has been getting to know key business and community leaders in Acadiana, in part, by serving on boards or committees for organizations such as Rotary, Le Centre International and Lafayette General Medical Center.

Through those contacts, he has learned there is a need among small businesses in Acadiana for professional development. "So, we want to find a way to deliver professional development workshops for small businesses, either through UL Lafayette's Small Business Development Center or through the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration," he said.

John has also created the Acadiana Chief Financial Officers' Roundtable with 35 participants from the largest companies in Acadiana. It convened for the first time in March; it will meet quarterly.

"Its purpose is to exchange ideas. We benefit by being able to hear what their needs are. As CFOs, they see the entire business picture for their companies.

"It turns out that their major problem right now is labor. They're not able to hire the people they need. We're in the business of providing an educated work force. I'm hoping this forum can help us keep our curriculum relevant in the region," he said. ■

 cobweb.louisiana.edu

First On Campus

New 440-space parking garage ready for business

UL LAFAYETTE'S FIRST PARKING garage may not be its last. It was not even open yet this spring when university officials began trying to determine the best site for another one.

The Taft Street Parking Garage, nestled among trees at the intersection of Taft Street and St. Mary Boulevard, has room for 440 vehicles.

The four-and-a-half-story structure will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. There

is a minimum \$1 fee for up to an hour. After the first hour, it will cost 25 cents for each additional 15 minutes.

The parking garage and parking



DOUG DUGAS

lots on campus are open to the public, as well as students, faculty and staff.

Students will be able to pay cash or use their Cajun Cards to park in the new facility. A Cajun Card, which doubles as a UL Lafayette identification card, is like a debit card.

Simon Broussard, director of parking and transit at UL Lafayette, said the parking garage can be used after hours for university-related special events. It's adjacent to Angelle Hall, which has a theater. It's also near the Paul and Lulu



DOUG DUGAS

Hilliard University Art Museum and the UL Lafayette Alumni Center.

Broussard said an additional 5,000 parking spaces would be needed on campus to accommodate demand. About 3,500 students park their vehicles at Cajun Field and take a shuttle bus to campus and back. Others pay to park in nearby private lots.

In 2002, UL Lafayette students voted to pay an extra \$25 per fall and spring semester for construction of the parking garage and other improvements to the parking and transit system.

The original plan was to provide parking spaces for 500 vehicles, but in 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita drove up the cost of materials. So, the number of parking slots was reduced to stay within the university's budget. ■

Barras Mueschke Architects of Lafayette's design of a new parking garage accommodates several trees.

ONE GENERATION AT A TIME



Barry Ancelet, Philip Gould
Center for Louisiana Studies

Dr. Barry Ancelet was a University of Southwestern Louisiana student in 1974 when he helped organize the first Tribute to Cajun Music, precursor of the music component of Festivals Acadiens.

Photographer Philip Gould had just arrived from California to begin working at the daily newspaper in New Iberia, La. One of his assignments was to shoot the Tribute, which was held in USL's Blackham Coliseum.

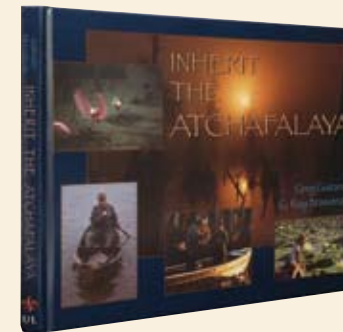
For the past 30 years, Ancelet and Gould have participated in and observed the annual event. In *One Generation at a Time*, they chronicle the evolution of Festival de Musique Acadienne, one part of the popular three-day Festivals Acadiens.

Ancelet, now a professor of French at UL Lafayette, offers details about each year's event and explains the significance of the Festival's adaptations over the decades.

Gould's photos document the festival's musicians, audiences, dancers, dust and, sometimes, mud. The most poignant images are of legendary musicians who have since died, such as Dewey Balfa, Clifton Chenier and Canray Fontenot.

Ancelet cites Balfa's observations that "a culture is preserved one generation at a time" and that tradition is an ever-changing process. *One Generation At A Time*, Ancelet notes, "is a working history of the Festival de Musique Acadienne. . ."

INHERIT THE ATCHAFALAYA



Greg Guirard, C. Ray Brassieur
Center for Louisiana Studies

Inherit the Atchafalaya is the first printed collection of Greg Guirard's full-color photographs in over 12 years. Most of the images have never before appeared in print.

The photos were chosen to help convey the stories of Guirard's fellow Atchafalaya Basin inhabitants – ordinary individuals who make a living from the 595,000-acre wetland.

"Through Greg's stunning visual artistry and through the narratives he and his Atchafalaya acquaintances share, we are treated to intimate glimpses of the Basin as only an insider could see it," writes Dr. C. Ray Brassieur, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in the book's 40-page introduction.

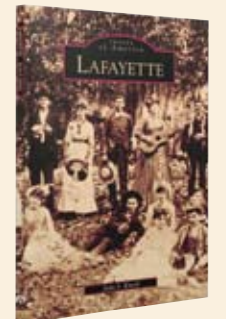
Brassieur puts Guirard's work into historical and cultural contexts, providing supplemental maps, timelines, and profiles of boat styles and boat builders.

Together, Brassieur and Guirard make a compelling case for the need to preserve a national and natural treasure that the U.S. Geological Survey calls "one of the last great river swamps left in the nation."

Brassieur observes: "Through the everyday experiences of people over time, a common wetland heritage has been forged in the Atchafalaya. We are the inheritors of that great heritage and it falls to us to insure that it has a chance to pass down for many generations to come."

LAFAYETTE

Jean Kiesel
Arcadia Publishing



Jean Kiesel's careful selection of more than 200 images shows Lafayette's progress from its founding in 1822 as Vermilionville through the beginning of the 21st century.

Lafayette is part of Arcadia Publishing Company's "Images of America" series, which focuses on individual towns and cities, large and small.

Kiesel is the Louisiana Room librarian in the Special Collections Department of UL Lafayette's Dupré Library.

She has worked with historical material related to Lafayette's history for more than 20 years. For *Lafayette*, she used that familiarity to put together a mix of photos that depict key people, places and events.

Kiesel will donate profits from sales of the book to Dupré Library.

HISTORIC LAFAYETTE

Michael S. Martin
Historical Publishing Network

Historic Lafayette: An Illustrated History of Lafayette and Lafayette Parish gives readers an overview that stretches from pre-Columbian inhabitants to the year 2006.

Dr. Michael Martin, an assistant professor of history at UL Lafayette, has organized the content by era. Sections include, for example, the Territorial and Antebellum period, 1803-1860; the Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861 to 1877; and New South, 1878-1900.

Historic Lafayette also has profiles of local businesses.

This publication is a fundraiser for the Vermilionville Living History Museum Foundation Board. The board helps support Vermilionville, a Cajun and Creole living history museum on Bayou Vermilion that recreates life in Acadiana from 1765 to 1890.



Getting Ready

Team to offer recommendations to UL Lafayette's new president

A TRANSITION TEAM is helping Dr. E. Joseph Savoie prepare to become the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's sixth president later this year.

Savoie, Louisiana's commissioner of higher education, will succeed Dr. Ray P. Authement, who will soon retire after 34 years as UL Lafayette's president. Savoie was chosen for the university's top post by the University of Louisiana System in December after a seven-month national search.

The transition team was formed primarily "to make sure that we don't disrupt the momentum of the university," Savoie said, in a recent interview. He has spent time each week on UL Lafayette's campus, meeting with a variety of groups to learn more about the school's strengths and areas that need improvement.

"The university is very solid, academically and financially," Savoie said.

In January, he appointed Jerry Luke LeBlanc to lead his transition team. LeBlanc was commissioner of administration during former Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco's administration, from January 2004 through December 2007. He had previously served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was chairman of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations.

In 1996, LeBlanc authored legislation that established performance-based budgeting, a method of measuring the value produced by public services and programs. Louisiana was the

first state to implement performance-based budgeting. That accountability system earned LeBlanc the Public Official of the Year award presented by *Governing Magazine*.

As the state's chief financial and administrative officer, LeBlanc was in charge of a \$30 billion budget.

Savoie said LeBlanc "made strategic investments to improve quality of life in the state. He managed that through the greatest natural and man-made disaster in American history and left over a billion dollar surplus in the process."

"He's extremely competent, well-tested and I trust him."

Last fall, a panel of national education specialists spent several weeks eval-

uating UL Lafayette. Such assessments are routinely conducted in conjunction with a leadership change.

The panel was led by Dr. James L. Fisher, president emeritus of Towson University and president emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

The panel's recommendations range from student program requirements to faculty hiring to fund raising.

In April, Savoie formed presidential transition advisory teams composed of volunteer community and business leaders. They will examine six general areas: academics and faculty; economic development and research; university advancement; facilities and

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie's connection with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is strong and his experience in higher education is broad.

"The university has been a very important part of not only my life, but my family's. My mother finished here in the 1940s. I came here as a high school student on debate trips. I was so enamored with it that I decided to stay," he said in a recent interview.

"I think my professional experiences have prepared me for the responsibility (of president). But my commitment is more than a professional commitment. It's a personal commitment."

Savoie is a 1976 graduate of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known as UL Lafayette.

Before becoming the state's commissioner of higher education in 1996, he served as the university's vice president for University Advancement, executive director of the Alumni Association, program director for the Union Program Council, and Stu-

dent Government advisor. He was also an adjunct assistant professor.

Savoie received bachelor's and master's degrees in education from USL. He earned a doctor of education in educational leadership and administration from Columbia University Teacher's College in New York, a nationally recognized graduate school of education.

He has held many state, regional and national positions. Former Govs.

M. J. "Mike" Foster, Edwin Edwards and Kathleen Blanco tapped him for higher education committees and commissions during their administrations. Savoie was a cabinet member in three governors' administrations – Foster's, Blanco's and Bobby Jindal's. His regional and national affiliations include the



Dr. E. Joseph Savoie

Southern Regional Education Board, the national State Higher Education Executive Officers, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and the American Association of School Administrators.

His awards and honors include the 2007 CASE District IV Chief Executive Leadership Award, which was renamed the "Dr. E. Joseph Savoie Chief Executive Leadership Award"; the 2004 University of Louisiana at Lafayette Outstanding

Alumnus Award; and the 2000 Henry Mason Award, which is presented by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Savoie and his wife, Gail, have a daughter, Jennifer Blaire Saulnier, and a son, Adam Savoie. ■



Dr. E. Joseph Savoie and his wife, Gail, are shown at the University of Louisiana System meeting in December, where he was named UL Lafayette's next president.

PHILIP GOULD

property; students; and athletics.

"I want this to be a collaborative, participatory process. . . These work groups will help us focus in on specifics. I'm anxious to hear from them," Savoie said.

They are a natural result of two decades of underfunding.

"Longer term, we have to solidify the university's academic status, such as its designation by the Carnegie Foundation as

'Longer term, we have to solidify the university's academic status, such as its designation by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with High Research Activity. One way we'll do that is by continuing to develop our graduate programs.'

DR. E. JOSEPH SAVOIE

The groups will complete their reports before he takes office "so we can hit the floor running," he said.

Savoie won't develop a long-term strategic plan until he can gather more information and opinions from the public and UL Lafayette students, faculty and staff. But he already has a few overall goals in mind.

"I think one thing we can do really quickly is address some physical issues on campus, such as the appearance and conditions of facilities. It is no one's fault.

a Research University with High Research Activity. One way we'll do that is by continuing to develop our graduate programs.

"We will focus on student success. The university has begun doing some of those things and we can build on that. We will take a very comprehensive approach to student success."

Savoie said it's important that "there be regular and open communications, not only in the university community but the broader community."

He has long-standing relationships with many key leaders in Acadiana. "We will make sure that we work together to improve the community at large," he said.

Savoie described universities as "stabilizers" in communities. "They have existed for 1,200 years. They have lived through the creation and destruction of dozens of countries.

"UL Lafayette is over 100 years old. It has seen any number of changes and crises and progress. It has provided educational opportunities, created economic opportunities and improved the quality of life of people in the region and it will continue to do that."

The role of a university president is to make sure the assets of the university are being used for the greatest benefit of the people it serves, he continued. At the same time, the president must "always have an eye out for what the university will need 10 years from now, 20 years from now.

"Thinking about the future is as important as responding to the present. Obviously Dr. Authement has done that. I hope I can do as good a job." ■

Ragin' Red® Locks Down Its Name

THERE'S ONLY ONE Ragin' Red®.

The name of the custom blend of seasoning became federally registered in February.

"The federal registration is noteworthy because it provides national protection for the name. We had previously obtained state-wide registration," said Matthew Tarver, UL Lafayette's assistant director for trademark licensing. "The extra level of protection provided by the federal registration makes Ragin' Red® the only seasoning with that name in the country."

Ragin' Red® is the first food product in the university's line of "branded merchandise," licensed items that bear the school's logo or name. The university's licensing program promotes UL Lafayette,



DOUG DUGAS

while protecting its trademark rights. Through the program, more than 210 licensed manufacturers nationwide produce quality products which support the university.

A local licensee, Fred Credeur of Credeur's Specialties in Opelousas, La., and UL Lafayette worked with Targil Spices of Opelousas to develop the custom blend of seasoning. "Ragin' Red® is a mild seasoning with reduced sodium that's an all-purpose product," Credeur said.

Ragin' Red® seasoning can be purchased at several locations in Acadiana, including Adrien's, Albertsons, Champagne's, Super One and Fresh Market. The seasoning is also available at the University Bookstore and at RaginCajunGear.com

Full Court Press Raises Grad School Enrollment

A PUSH TO RECRUIT more graduate students paid off this spring.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Graduate School enrollment rose nearly 11 percent, from 1,300 in Spring 2007 to 1,400 in Spring 2008.

"This increase is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Graduate School staff and each graduate department at the university," said Dr. C. Eddie Palmer, dean of the Graduate School. "We implemented a 'recruiters all' mission. Everyone is helping to grow the Graduate School."

That includes UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement. "We added 50 new assistantships and increased stipends by \$2,000 per year," the president said. Thanks to the pay raise, grad students in master's programs now earn \$7,500 per year; students in Ph.D. programs earn \$12,000 per year.

Other recruitment tactics included:

- advertising UL Lafayette's graduate programs nationwide via the Internet;
- revamping marketing materials;
- hosting workshops to provide information to students interested in seeking advanced degrees; and
- enabling students to apply for Grad School and pay a \$25 application fee online.

Palmer said the entire university benefited when 50 assistantships were added. "Graduate students are the people who assist with teaching courses and help with research projects," he explained. So UL Lafayette could offer more undergraduate classes and give more faculty members a hand.

UL Lafayette's Graduate School has 24 master's degree programs; a post master's certificate program; eight doctor of philosophy degrees; and a doctor of education degree.



BOURQUE TEACHES NOW AS POET LAUREATE

A UL LAFAYETTE PROFESSOR emeritus of English is Louisiana's new poet laureate.

Dr. Darrell Bourque, former head of the English Department and Friends of the Humanities/BORSF Endowed Professor of the Humanities, was given a two-year appointment by former Gov. Kathleen Blanco in November. The Louisiana Senate confirmed the appointment.

Louisiana's poet laureate traditionally delivers readings across the state.

In an Associated Press article published in November, Bourque said poetry is a vital part of a people and their culture. "The ideas that we have about art, that we have about the world we live in, that we have about our human mission are interrelated and connected to the geography that we grow out of," he stated. "The whole of Louisiana is connected on some basic level that to me is almost poetry."

Bourque's published collections of poetry include *The Blue Boat*, *Burnt Water Suite*, *Where Land Meets Sky*, *The Doors Between Us* and *Plainsongs*. He has directed the Deep South Writer's Conference and was project director for Significant Voices, a reading series featuring poetry by young African-American writers in Louisiana.

Bourque received the UL Lafayette Foundation's Distinguished Professor Award in 1997.



TERRI FENSEL

Dr. Darrell Bourque

ECONOMIST WEIGHS IN ON FARMERS' STRIKE

WHEN NBC NIGHTLY NEWS looked into Louisiana crawfish farmers' economic woes in March, it sought the opinion of a UL Lafayette economist.



NBC News producer Al Henkel, center, interviews Dr. Rand Ressler, a UL Lafayette economics professor, on campus.

NBC News producer Al Henkel interviewed Dr. Rand Ressler, an economics professor, to get his views on the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association's attempts to get paid more for their harvests.

Reporter Don Teague incorporated part of that interview in a story that was broadcast March 17.

Teague told viewers that the state's "\$100 million crawfish industry is in crisis," noting that the wholesale price for

mudbugs fell to \$1 a pound early in the season. Since it costs farmers about \$500 to produce 500 pounds of crawfish, they can't make a profit when the wholesale price is so low.

"Earlier this month, Louisiana farmers borrowed a page from OPEC's playbook in an effort to drive up prices," Teague reported. "They decided not to harvest crawfish two days a week."

Teague asked Ressler if the tactic would work. "If they are successful, I don't expect it to last very long," Ressler replied. "I expect intrigue and cheating

will push that price right back down."

Rand holds the Edward G. Schlieder Educational Foundation/BORSF Professorship in Money and Banking at UL Lafayette.

In a blog posted March 14, Henkel previewed the story that would be aired on March 17. "Think OPEC on a much smaller scale," he wrote. "... On a personal note, I love crawfish. I wish we could bring you smell-a-vision."

PROFESSOR CONTRIBUTES TO PBS DOCUMENTARY

THE HEAD OF UL Lafayette's English Department was in Washington, D.C., in late March for the screening of a PBS documentary, "Triumph at Carville," at the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

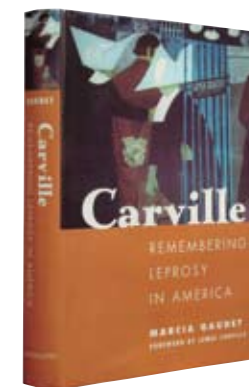
Dr. Marcia Gaudet, the university's Dr. Doris Meriwether/BORSF Professor of English, was a consultant for the documentary about the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, La. Her book, *Carville: Remembering Leprosy in America*, won the 2005 Chicago Folklore Prize. That prize is awarded by the University of Chicago each year for the best book on folklore published worldwide.

From 1894 to 1999, the center was the only inpatient hospital in the nation for the treatment of Hansen's disease. Until the 1960s, Americans diagnosed with the disease were legally quarantined there.

The web site for the PBS program features an image of "Medicine in Louisiana" a mural on the first floor of UL Lafayette's Dupré Library.



pbs.org/triumphatcarville/



Template Simplifies Obtaining Facts About Universities

HOW DOES THE UNIVERSITY of Louisiana at Lafayette stack up against other higher education institutions?

A new, web-based program makes it easier for prospective students to compare what universities offer. The Voluntary System of Accountability uses a standardized format to present useful information, such as graduation rates and students' opinions. A "Cost Calculator" enables prospective students to estimate expenses.

The University of Louisiana System, which is composed of UL Lafayette and seven other universities, was the first in the United States to sign up to participate in the program. "There's a heightened national and state interest in accountability and transparency, and that is what we are all about," said UL System President Sally Clausen.

Anyone interested in attending UL Lafayette can access the VSA's consumer-friendly College Portrait through the prospective students link on the university's web site, www.louisiana.edu. The College Portrait concisely presents five pages of information about UL Lafayette's status in the 2006-07 academic year. It shows, for example:

- 16,345 students are enrolled; 58 percent are female and 42 percent are male;

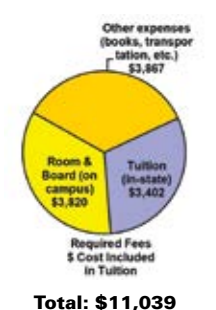
- 62 percent of undergraduate classes have fewer than 30 students; and
- 94 percent of seniors who participated in a national survey said UL Lafayette provides support for student success.

The VSA is a joint effort of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.



<http://instres.louisiana.edu/VSA/VSA.pdf>

Typical Undergraduate Costs per Year Without Financial Aid (Full-Time, In-State Students)



TECH KNOWLEDGE

K If that single letter “K” doesn’t mean anything, you probably haven’t been keeping up with communication technology. Although e-mail is still around, college students have moved on to a faster method of exchanging information: text messaging. It doesn’t require a stationary computer, so it’s perfect for a population that seems to always be on the move. All that’s needed is a cell phone or PDA (that’s short for personal digital assistant) with built-in wireless telecommunication. “K”, by the way, is text message speak for “OK.”



E.J. GAYLOR



E.J. GAYLOR



E.J. GAYLOR



DOUG DUGAS



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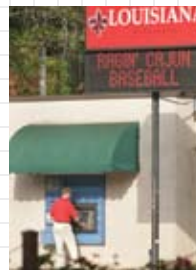
F. J. GAYLOR



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DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

Cell phones are everywhere on campus. Apple iPods are ubiquitous, too. Treadmills at Bourgeois Hall keep track of calories expended during a brisk “walk” on an elliptical machine. And, CajunBot II, an autonomous land vehicle, is still a high-tech teacher, as shown on the previous page.

Using digital cameras, which have made film practically extinct, professional photographers have documented some of the ways UL Lafayette students use technology to learn and have a little fun.

“It is increasingly evident that the influence of technology on higher education will be more profound than any previous circumstance or resource that has impacted teaching and learning in recent history. Both the method and organization which currently characterize universities are being transformed. This transformation is accelerated by rapid and continuous advancements in communication technologies, changing population demographics, and the expectations of the market place. The advancement of UL Lafayette will depend largely on its ability to anticipate and accommodate these changes. The University must be prepared to compete nationally, and eventually globally, for a growing nontraditional technologically astute clientele. To do so effectively and economically will require a product-oriented organizational structure marked by cooperation and by a dynamic plan of action: The implementation of which will help define UL Lafayette as an Information Age University.”

Source: 2002 SGA Student Technology Enhancement Program Plan



DOUG DUGAS



Monday through Friday, Ray Lucas is responsible for the safety of what is essentially a small city.

- He's chief of University Police at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the second largest university in the state. With 16,345 students and about 1,900 employees, it begins to approach the size of Opelousas, La.
- Numbers aside, a university is different than a municipality in many ways. Take crime, for instance.
- "The amount of violent crime that happens on college campuses nationwide is lower than that of cities and towns of comparable size," Lucas noted in a recent interview.
- Security on campus became a hot-button issue across the United States after a disturbed student shot and killed 32 students on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life last year. That tragedy had a chilling twist: The

shooter killed two people at a dorm, then seemed to drop out of sight. Two and a half hours later, he resurfaced on campus and killed 30 people in an academic building.

Virginia Tech administrators sent an e-mail alert to students after the first shooting. But a review panel that studied the crime said they could have done more.

The second-guessing that followed the Virginia Tech slayings galvanized colleges and universities across the country into examining their own responses to emergencies on campus.

Unlike most small cities, UL Lafayette is geographically compact. When a significant incident is reported on campus, University Police officers' goal is to get to the scene in less than four minutes.

Although the campus is densely populated, it presents a challenge to university officials who need to communicate quickly with students, faculty and staff.

"We have learned that to be effective, multiple overlapping technologies must be used," said Joey Pons, director of Environmental Health and Safety at UL Lafayette.

In March, the university implemented another tier of its emergency notification plan. It activated FirstCall, an interactive communications network that uses voice, e-mail and text to alert registered users to emergencies on campus.

"Should an emergency develop on campus, this system would simultaneously begin notifying students, faculty and staff via phone calls, text messaging and e-mail alerts," Pons said.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG DUGAS

Students, faculty and staff can provide additional e-mail addresses and phone numbers for emergency voice and/or text messages. For instance, a student may choose to include his parents' home phone number as an additional contact number.

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

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette was one of the first in the state to implement emergency messaging when it rolled out a plan with Mobile Campus in 2007. This system uses text messaging to notify subscribers to events on campus. Although FirstCall will now be the university's emergency text messaging service, Mobile Campus will continue to serve as a mobile communications tool for campus organizations and students.

The more than 3,000 subscribers to MobileCampus.com should check the online registration page for FirstCall – ens.louisiana.edu – to add or confirm their contact information.

"The missions of these companies are different and we think this is an ideal way for them to coexist on campus," said Pons.

Other tiers of UL Lafayette's emergency notification plan include the following.

- **Departmental Radio Receivers** These emergency radio receivers broadcast alerts through the National Weather Service Network. These alerts – known as local area emergency alerts – can be broadcast to more than 125 emergency radio receivers that have been placed in offices throughout campus.

- **Campus Hotline** In case of an emergency, a recorded message is played on the university's hotline: 482-2222. This hotline has been in operation for several years. It has primarily been used to distribute information related to severe weather but it can be used for any emergency announcement. UL Lafayette has a backup campus hotline that's out of state.

- **University Web Site** A text-only web site has been developed to automatically replace the university's home page – www.louisiana.edu – in case of an emergency.

"The safety of our students and our campus community is our priority," said Della Bonnette, vice president for Information Technology. "These different forms of technology help us better prepare for emergencies."

UL Lafayette uses technology for campus security in several ways that are not related to emergencies.

For instance, it has started securing buildings after regular



TOP: Cpl. Thad Efferson is shown at University Police headquarters on Hebrard Boulevard. UP operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ABOVE: Nicole Bell uses her Cajun Card to enter Advanced Computer Technology and Research Hall after regular business hours. Controlled access to some buildings is supplemented by surveillance cameras. PREVIOUS SPREAD: Officer Daniel Nickola on patrol. Officers make rounds on bikes, on foot and in vehicles. Bikes are effective because they can reach certain areas more quickly than vehicles.

business hours by requiring access with a Cajun Card. And, it is installing surveillance cameras at key locations.

The Cajun Card, which serves as official identification at UL Lafayette, is a multipurpose card issued to all students, faculty and staff.

Lucien Gastineau, director of the Cajun Card System, said the

card will drastically reduce the number of keys to university buildings that are issued to UL Lafayette personnel.

Equipment that enables Cajun Card access to buildings has been installed at all residence halls, Fletcher Hall and the new Advanced Computer Technology and Research Hall. Installation of the equipment is under way at Madison Hall and Angelle Hall.

"The goal is to have Cajun Card access at every building," Gastineau said.

Surveillance cameras also are being installed gradually. About 90 were in operation at press time.

Gastineau said the Cajun Card system provides a record when a Cajun Card is used to enter a building; that information is supplemented by surveillance cameras. "I can tell whose card was used, but closed caption TV shows who used the card," he explained.

Steve Mahler, director of Information Networks at UL Lafayette, has implemented another safety feature that uses technology. PE911 makes it faster and easier to identify a phone used on campus to place a call to 911.

Mahler explained that a main trunk line delivers phone service to campus. Wiring then branches off to phones in



TOP: Through FirstCall, emergency alerts can be transmitted to cell phones via text message. CENTER: Code Blue emergency phones are on every floor of the new Taft Street Parking Garage. BELOW: Ray Lucas, chief of University Police.



Unlike most small cities, UL Lafayette is geographically compact. When a significant incident is reported on campus, University Police officers' goal is to get to the scene in less than four minutes.

buildings. The 911 system worked well if the person calling for assistance could speak and state his or her location on campus. But if, for any reason, the caller couldn't speak, the 911 dispatcher could not determine the source of the call. Ultimately, the call could be traced by Mahler, but it was a time-consuming process. So he came up with PE911.

"We have built a database of every university phone number, on and off campus, the physical building and room it's located in, the street address of the building, the building's official name and its common name. We're adding the longitude and latitude of all the locations now," he said.

Mahler has configured the main telephone switch so that it provides the telephone number where the 911 call is originating to the 911 operator. The 911 operator can then obtain location information from the PE911 database to send help to the correct location. The PE911 database can also be used for calls made directly to University Police.

There are Code Blue phones at nine locations across campus. Most of those phones are on poles that have blue lights attached. The Code Blue phones are secured to walls on each floor of the new Taft Street Parking Garage.

"You hit a button and it automatically calls University Police. It's just like a speaker phone. We can talk to you, you can talk to us. There's a light on the top of the pole that flashes blue when someone activates it. We automatically dispatch an officer when a Code Blue is alerted," Lucas said.

When a student calls University Police on a cell phone, it takes a little longer to respond because the dispatcher has to determine the caller's location. "With Code Blue, the dispatcher knows exactly which phone is being used."

Lucas, who is also an attorney, noted that although campus security is a top priority, any steps the university takes to keep students safe must be weighed carefully.

"It's an open campus. We're an open society. There's a tradeoff between security and openness.

"We are an institution of higher education and we have to be open to the free exchange of ideas and also the free movement of people. It has to be that way. We have to balance those two competing needs. I think we do that very well." ■

Faux Grass

Artificial turf will take mud out of The Swamp

LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® WILL have already defeated one powerful opponent – Mother Nature – by the time they play their first home game on Sept. 20.

Installation of artificial turf this summer will take away her ability to affect Cajun Field's playing surface.

Scott Farmer, UL Lafayette's senior associate athletic director, said switching from natural grass to artificial grass will ensure that the gridiron remains in optimum shape and always looks its best. "This field will become a showcase for our university, for our Athletic Department," he said.

Farmer ranks the artificial turf as the second most important athletic facility improvement at UL Lafayette in recent years. The first, he said, was construction of the huge Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility, which opened in Fall 2007. It enables all Ragin' Cajun teams to stay dry and safe when they must practice during inclement weather.

"There's no doubt that the No. 1 strength in the Athletic Department today is the indoor practice facility because no one else in the Sun Belt Conference has that. It sets us apart," Farmer said.

He offered several ways artificial turf at Cajun Field will benefit the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

When I heard of the switch to arti-

IT'S CHEAPER
Maintaining a natural surface requires equipment, supplies and labor. For instance, crews use gasoline-powered lawnmowers and string trimmers. Water, weed

killers and fertilizer are needed to keep grass healthy. Paint is used for stripes and logos on the field.

The new field will cost about \$700,000. It is expected to have a 10-year life, with minimal maintenance costs.

"When you add up all the costs associated with a natural grass playing field, it's more economical to put in artificial turf," Farmer said.

LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® WILL GAIN ANOTHER PRACTICE FIELD

There's already an outdoor practice field next to the Alfred and Helen Lamson Ragin' Cajun Softball Park. When it rains, the football team heads for the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility. "But when we put 120 guys on that field at one time, it

gets crowded in a hurry," Farmer said. Depending on the season, rains can be brief. The artificial turf will be ready for practice as soon as rain ends. Cajun Field's proximity to the newly renovated weight room in the Cox Communications Athletic Center is a plus; it's convenient for strength coaches to use to condition student-athletes.

CAJUN FIELD CAN BE USED FOR MORE THAN FOOTBALL

To make sure the natural grass surface stayed in the best condition possible, the Athletic Department rarely granted requests by other teams or organizations to use Cajun Field during football season. The artificial surface, Farmer said, "will enable us to say 'Yes' more often." For example, UL Lafayette's Pride of Acadiana

Marching Band could use it for practices on occasion. Events such as Kiwanis Jamboree, an area high school football tournament, could be held at Cajun Field without the risk of damaging the playing field.

IT'S AN IMAGE THING

"This field will look great every day of the year. It's something that our coaches can use to recruit every day," Farmer said.

Recruitment is the lifeblood of collegiate athletics, he explained.

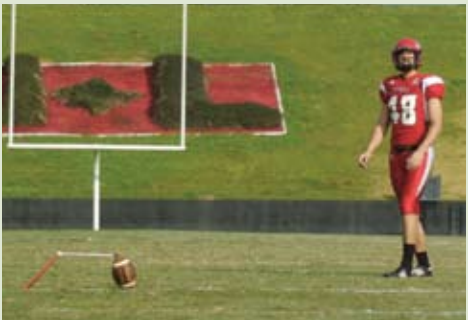
The new field will also make a positive impression on potential students – not just student-athletes – and on potential donors and athletic event sponsors, he continued.

"It's an image thing. It will help strengthen the image of our Athletic Department."

IT TAKES A TEAM TO SCORE A FIELD GOAL • BY DREW EDMISTON



I line up my kick with where I want it to go, taking into consideration wind, rain and field conditions.



Before every kick, I look up, picture the ball going through the uprights, take a deep breath, then nod to the holder to tell him I'm ready.



This is the most important part of my kick. A good plant into the ground with my left foot keeps me balanced and directs where the ball will go.



My head is down and I kick the ball at a steep angle to get the lift and distance it needs. My goal is to, after a second or two, look up and see the ball right where I pictured it.

(Editor's note: La Louisiane asked Drew Edmiston, Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® kicker, how he expects artificial turf at Cajun Field to affect his kick and to describe what's needed for a successful field goal. A senior, he has made 21 career field goals.)

THE SWAMP" HAS ALWAYS BEEN my favorite place to play. Maybe it's the uniqueness of competing on a field that's two feet below sea level. Or maybe it's the excitement of hearing the echoes of teammates yelling and cleats clacking as we walk down the long, dark tunnel to the field. Either way, once a Cajun plays in the Swamp, anywhere else just isn't home.

When I heard of the switch to arti-

cial turf, I was excited. I have practiced a lot in the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility, which has artificial turf, as did my alma mater, Owasso High School in Owasso, Okla. It is a great surface to play on and it helps me out a lot at my position. I will be able to kick without worrying so much about sticking my "plant foot" firmly into the ground without it slipping out from underneath me mid-kick due to bad field conditions.

As much as I love Cajun Field, a little bit of rain can turn it into a mud pit, even with its underground drainage system. About two hours before every game, I have walked the field, scoping out all the hazards and planning how I would approach a kick if the ball happened to be placed in a little bayou on the field. Since the artificial turf will be more consistent, I could almost

do away with my pre-game field check ritual, but I'll probably still do it out of habit.

The condition of the field and foot placement are important, but there is a lot more involved in the success of a field goal. It's my name that is printed in the newspaper after a game winner, but a kicker's success depends a lot on efforts from other team members.

Once the offense has gotten the ball in field goal range, the coach can elect to go for a field goal. There has to be great protection from the line blocking the opposing team. A small miscue there can result in a blocked kick and turnover, which ultimately could mean points for the other team.

There has to be a good snap to the holder so that he can make a good hold. Even a small variation in the way the ball is

placed for the kick can send it in the wrong direction. Any kicker will tell you that the hold can make or break you, so there has to be a lot of trust and confidence between holder and kicker. The last part of an effective field goal is the kick.

Thankfully, I have been blessed in my kicking career with always having a group of guys that I can count on whenever I'm called onto the field. The new artificial turf will relieve some nerves for me and will have many benefits for some of our other players as well, but we will all remember the days when "The Swamp" truly was a swamp.

48

ARTIFICIAL TURF PROVIDES A CONSISTENT PLAYING SURFACE

“Student-athletes are looking for consistency and that’s what it will provide,” Farmer said. There’s a natural tendency for a student-athlete to be tentative if he doesn’t know whether his feet will slip while making a play, for example. “And usually, in athletics, when you’re tentative, bad things can happen. That’s when you get hit and you get hurt. This artificial turf will give them a little piece of mind.”

ARTIFICIAL TURF HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST DECADE

The principle remains the same as when it was introduced in the 1960s: plastic fibers that look like blades of grass are attached to a backing. Instead of dirt, a synthetic material is used to form a cushion.

But the filler between the plastic fibers has improved dramatically, Farmer said. In the past, it was often made of rubber tires that had been ground into tiny pieces.

The artificial turf at Cajun Field will be cushioned by sand granules coated in silicon dioxide to make them round. “The importance of it being round is that it doesn’t compact,” Farmer said.

The light-color granules don’t absorb as much of the sun’s heat as black rubber fill material. And, moisture filters through the coated particles – and runs into an underground drainage system – faster than it filters through dirt. That means less humidity on the field.

Early artificial turf was blamed for some serious injuries suffered by football players. “The bad knee injuries, and sometimes the bad lower leg injuries, came from when your foot got locked down in the artificial turf and your body was still trying to move. Your cleats would dig in and that’s when you would really hurt your knee or leg. I don’t think there’s ever been a documented case where a person’s foot got locked into this surface. That’s because part of the artificial turf is sand and



Cajun Field’s playing surface will require minimal maintenance to stay in top condition.

sand will give,” Farmer said.

The early artificial turf also caused skin abrasions. “Literally, they were carpet burns. This new material does not cause burns,” he noted.

Installation of the artificial turf at Cajun Field will take about 90 days. Farmer explained what will happen:

“The current field, like most natural grass fields, has a crown on it. That means the center of the field is about 18 inches higher than the two sidelines. That mound is pretty significant but that’s what helps it to drain. The field for the artificial turf will only have about a 4-inch crown.

“So first, the installers will remove the sod. Then they will remove the area down the center part of the field to bring that crown down. We are going to use that dirt, by the way, to build up our

outdoor practice field, to build a larger crown on it so it drains better.”

The sand-like material will be spread and covered with a mat. At the same time, installers will link the new surface to an existing drainage system. An eight-foot cement pad will be poured around the field.

“That pad serves several purposes. For example, water drains down a football stadium, unfortunately, and it all ends up on the field. This cement pad will have drains in it. So when the water comes down, bringing peanut shells, popcorn and sunflower seeds from the seating area, it will have a place to go and not just dump on the field.

“It will enable us to park carts by the field. And, it’s also where you connect the artificial turf.”

The only maintenance required is to lightly vacuum the artificial turf to remove any debris.

Cajun Field’s nickname is “The Swamp,” primarily because the gridiron is two feet below sea level. A sophisticated underground drainage system has kept the grass field in playing condition, even during rainstorms.

Farmer said the manufacturer of the artificial turf claims that it can drain about four inches of rain an hour.

“If it rains any more than that, we’re not going to have anyone in the stands anyway,” he joked. ■

2008 LOUISIANA’S RAGIN’ CAJUNS® FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Aug. 30	Southern Miss	Hattiesburg, Miss.	TBA
Sept. 13	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
SEPT. 20	KENT STATE	CAJUN FIELD	6 p.m.
8th Annual Herbert Heymann Football Classic			
Sept. 27	Kansas State	Manhattan, Kan.	TBA
Oct. 4	Louisiana-Monroe*	Monroe, La.	TBA
Oct. 11	North Texas*	Denton, Texas	TBA
OCT. 18	ARKANSAS STATE*	CAJUN FIELD	6 p.m.
NOV. 1	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL*	CAJUN FIELD	4 p.m.
63rd Homecoming			
NOV. 8	UT AT EL PASO	CAJUN FIELD	TBA
Nov. 15	Florida Atlantic*	Boca Raton, Fla.	3 p.m.
Nov. 22	Troy*	Troy, Ala.	TBA
DEC. 3	MIDDLE TENNESSEE*	CAJUN FIELD	TBA

* Sun Belt Conference Games

STUDENT-ATHLETES EARN SOLID SCORES

ALMOST HALF OF UL LAFAYETTE’S student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher – on a 4.0 scale – during the Fall 2007 semester.

An academic report showed that 173 of a total of 383 Ragin’ Cajuns – or 45 percent – racked up 3.0 or better GPAs.

Twenty-two Cajuns earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the fall semester, including Michael Desormeaux, starting quarterback; Stephanie Lynch, All-Sun Belt women’s soccer performer; and Ashley Brignac, Gatorade National High School Softball Player of the Year. Desormeaux was one of only five starting quarterbacks in the Football Bowl Subdivision to earn a 4.0.

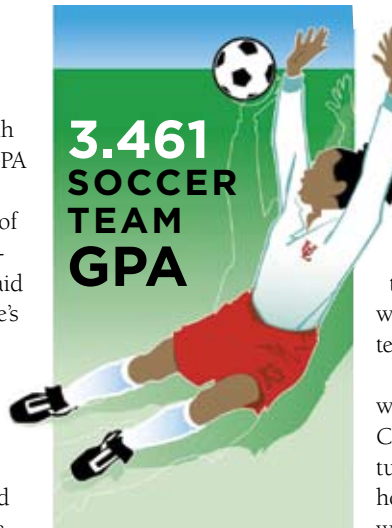
An additional 55 student-athletes earned a 3.50-3.99, while 96 more logged between a 3.0-3.49.

The combined GPA of all of Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® was 2.76.

The student-athletes’ grades were only one-tenth of a point from the best GPA ever recorded by the Cajuns. “We are very proud of our student-athletes’ commitment to academics,” said Scott Farmer, UL Lafayette’s senior associate athletics director.

When the statistics are broken down by gender, females with a 3.0 or higher outnumbered males with equal academic scores, but only slightly. Eighty-nine of UL Lafayette’s 148 female student-athletes – or over 60 percent – had GPAs of 3.0 or higher, while 85 male student-athletes matched those grades.

The women’s soccer team captured the



best team GPA, with a 3.461. This was the 10th consecutive semester that the team earned a 3.0 or higher GPA.

The women’s volleyball team posted a 3.185 GPA. It was the sixth consecutive semester that it had at least a 3.0.

The men’s golf team, which won the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Tournament, captured the highest academic honor for men’s programs, with a 3.086 GPA.

Six Ragin’ Cajun teams posted a team GPA greater than 3.0; 10 had a team GPA of at least 2.75.

Women’s tennis holds the highest recorded GPA for any team in the last decade – 3.762 in the Spring of 2005.

Tailgaters Show Their Ragin’ Cajun Pride With New Look



The university has teamed up with some Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® fans to create a special look for tailgaters.

It has designed two logos that enable tailgating groups to add their names to elements of Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® logos.

“To our knowledge, no other university has ever co-branded with its fans in this way,” said Julie Simon-Dronet, director of UL Lafayette’s Office of Public Relations and News Services and the university’s trademark licensing program. “With these designs, tailgaters can personalize parts of the university’s official logos. It’s a new, distinctive way to show their Ragin’ Cajun pride.”



One design features a university flag bearing the round Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® symbol. The other spotlights a pennant, which is a common symbol for a successful athletic tradition.

The flag and pennant logos each have versions that incorporate either the round, primary Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® mark; the Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® word mark; or the interlocking initials “UL.” “Fans are drawn to different logos, so we decided to offer them choices of three of our most popular marks,” Simon-Dronet said. “A tailgating group can add its name to these de-

signs. But the new logos look sharp without a name, too. So tailgaters who don’t belong to organized groups, or whose groups don’t have official names, will also be able to use them to identify themselves as proud Ragin’ Cajun fans,” Simon-Dronet said.

“We have 20 local licensed manufacturers who own the right to reproduce the logos, so all tailgaters need to do is go to one of them and order what they would like,” Simon-Dronet said. The new tailgating logos can be reproduced on t-shirts, caps, flags and any other items that licensed manufacturers offer. A list of those manufacturers is posted on the university’s web site: louisiana.edu/Advancement/PRNS/licensing/

The university’s licensing program was created to positively promote UL Lafayette, while protecting its trademark rights. Through the program, licensed manufacturers produce quality products which support the university and offer fans an opportunity to show their affiliation.

“This is another phase of our branding strategy. It’s inspiring to have such loyal tailgaters who want to show pride in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette,” Simon-Dronet said.

More than 175 official tailgating sites near Cajun Field are filled for each home football game and there is a waiting list. Lots of tailgaters also turn out to support Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® baseball. M.L. “Tigue” Moore Field consistently ranks in the top 30 nationally in attendance among all 296 Division I baseball programs, according to yearly attendance figures released by the NCAA.

Giving More

Members show support for university through Annual Fund



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE
ANNUAL FUND RECEIVE:

- Alumni Association membership
- Recognition in publications
- *La Louisiane* magazine
- *Alumni Accents* newsletter
- Association voting privileges
- Travel program offerings
- Homecoming, reunion, and special events invitations
- Edith Garland Dupré Library privileges
- National discounts
- Discounts at UL Lafayette and Follett's bookstores
- Discounts from Lafayette area businesses
- Discounts to Performing Arts Department events
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Membership card
- Recognition gifts
- Discounted membership to the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum
- Complimentary entrance to Alumni Association's hospitality tent at all home Ragin' Cajun football games

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE year, the UL Lafayette Alumni Association's Annual Fund has raised a record-breaking amount.

"Prior to last year, the largest dollar amount was in 1996, right after the Ragin' Cajuns defeated A&M," said Dan Hare, executive director of the Alumni Association. "The Annual Fund peaked again in 2006. This past year, it surpassed that amount. So we are pleased that the past two years have been record breakers."

The 2007 Annual Fund brought in about \$343,000, according to Association records.

Through the Annual Fund, donors can contribute to any area of the university, such as an academic college.

There's a built-in incentive to donate: membership in the UL Alumni Association. A couple can join with a \$60 donation to the Annual Fund; an individual can join with a \$40 contribution. Recent UL Lafayette graduates only need to contribute \$20 to become an Association member.

"Membership matters," Hare said. "The Association exists to support the university, while strengthening the ties between alumni and their alma mater."

In addition to the satisfaction of helping the university, Association members enjoy some specific benefits, such as discounts from area businesses and national companies, discounts on tickets to UL Lafayette's Performing Arts Department events and complimentary entry to the Association's hospitality tent at all Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® home football games.

Association members are eli-

gible for discounts from Dell Computers, for example. "We've had people tell us that the discount on the Dell computer they purchased was more than what they paid to be a member of the Alumni Association," Hare said.

In the past few years, the Association has taken some steps to increase its membership, such as making it more convenient for some graduates to join. It set up payroll deduction for UL Lafayette employees and extended the reduced membership cost for new graduates to five years, for example.


The Association works continually to improve its programs and services, such as scholarships. Its scholarships are funded, in part, by the Annual Fund. Scholarships are also supported by the sale of prestige license plates.

"We recently doubled our 10 scholarship endowments. In the past, we had \$10,000 endowments that would each generate a \$500 scholarship annually. They are now \$20,000 endowments that each generate \$1,000 a year," Hare said.

At its annual Spring Gala in April, the Association announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship in honor of the university's president and his wife: the Dr. and Mrs. Ray Authement Endowed Scholarship for a First Generation Student.

"While Annual Fund contributions for the past two years have surpassed previous years' successes, the Alumni Association's membership represents only 9 percent of our alumni base," Hare said. "We are thankful for the supporters that we have and encourage others to join them in their support to enable us to maintain and continue to improve our programs and services."

For more information about Alumni Association membership, call (337) 482-0900.

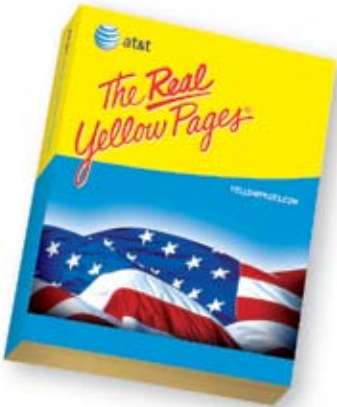
 www.louisianaalumni.org



Find your seat

With the Community Information Pages in AT&T Real Yellow Pages, you'll find seating charts for major sports and entertainment venues in your area. And on YELLOWPAGES.COM™ you can find detailed maps and directions. Find your seat and the theatre with AT&T Real Yellow Pages and YELLOWPAGES.COM.

The new AT&T. Your world. Delivered.



ALUMNI

1951

A.J. ANTOINE is a retired educator with 52 years of service. He was a science and math teacher, principal, supervisor of science and math, and director

of secondary education for the Lafayette Parish School System for 38 years before retiring in 1986. Antoine then joined UL Lafayette's faculty, where he was an adjunct supervisor of student teachers in math and science for 14 years. During his career, he was president of several professional associations, president of the Lafayette Area Football Officials Association and chairman of the Lafayette Parish Vocational Education Advisory Committee. Antoine received the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Educator Award in 1989. He holds a bachelor's degree in science education from SLI and a master's degree in administration and supervision from USL. He and his wife, Sally, have been married for 57 years. They have four children, who all attended UL Lafayette, **MICHAEL ANTOINE**; **MARK ANTOINE**; **DAVID G. ANTOINE**, '79; and **LISA ANTOINE COLOMB**, '80.

1954

DR. JAMES V. BURNETT is a dentist in Fort Worth, Texas, who specializes in prosthodontics. He is a fellow in the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. In 1983, he was named Texas Dentist of the Year by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry. He has also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Fort Worth

District Dental Society and the Texas Dental Association. A U.S. Navy veteran, Burnett was on active duty in World War II and the Korean War; he served in the Naval Reserve for 34 years. He is a Rotarian, Mason and Shriner. He helped establish the Salt and Light Charity Dental Clinic. Burnett received a bachelor's degree in biology from SLI and a doctor of dental surgery degree from Baylor Dental College. He and his wife, Janie, have a daughter, four sons and nine grandchildren.

1956

ROSE M. GIGLIO BRYAN, a Realtor®, established Bryan Realty in March 2007 in Farmers Branch, Texas, near Dallas-Forth Worth. She has achieved the designation of Graduate Realtor® Institute and is a certified real estate specialist. Bryan earned a bachelor's degree in secretarial science from Southwest Louisiana Institute. She has two children, Paul A. Billings and Herbert E. Billings.

1961

JEROME A. LANDRY recently retired as president and chief executive officer of Frontier Technology Inc., an information technology company in Reston, Va. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1994 as a brigadier general. Landry is a former senior vice president at BDM International and TRW. He holds a bachelor of science degree in liberal arts from USL and a master's degree from Auburn University. Landry and his wife, Theresa, live in Hollidaysburg, Pa. The couple have four children, Jerome H. Landry, Courtney Cochrane, Bernadette Landry and Jerome Landry Jr.

1966

GAY ANN PATIN BRASHER was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Forensic League Debate and Speech Honor Society. She directs the

forensics program at Leland High School in San Jose, Calif. That school's debate team is the largest in the United States, with more than 300 members. Leland High School named its new auditorium in Brasher's honor. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from USL, where she was a member of the university's speech and debate team. She is married to **THOMAS BRASHER**, '70. Their daughter, **CAROLE LYNN BRASHER HEINEN**, '86, is a third-grade teacher who lives with her husband and two sons in San Jose.

1969

WARREN A. PERRIN was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame by the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation in July 2007. The Hall of Fame was created in 2005 to honor members of law enforcement, the judiciary and related fields. Perrin received a bachelor's degree from USL and a *juris doctor* from Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU. He is an attorney with the firm Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, Dartez and Ouellet in Lafayette. He is a former president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. Perrin is married to **MARY B. PERRIN**, '70.

1970

MARY B. PERRIN was recently honored at the 13th annual Women of Excellence award ceremony. She has helped promote Louisiana's native crafts, art and culture and has been instrumental in helping artists, especially Creoles and Houma Indians, market their work. She is the only Louisiana artist represented in the prestigious 20th anniversary Artist Book Exhibit at the National Museum of Women Artists in Washington, D.C. She earned a bachelor's of fine arts degree from USL and a master of fine arts degree from Vermont College. She and her husband, **WARREN PERRIN**, '69, live in Lafayette.

1972

JOSEPH WINSTON FONTENOT has a real estate investment company in Euless, Texas. He is a former assistant vice president of Bank of America in Addison, Texas. During his career, Fontenot has been a senior information technol-

ogy manager and a consultant to some Fortune 500 companies. He received a bachelor's degree in management from USL. He is married to Margaret Chaplain Fontenot.

1973

DIANNE BROWN WHITTINGTON is a clinical instructor in communicative disorders at UL Lafayette. She holds a bachelor's degree in communicative disorders from USL and a master's degree in communicative disorders from Bowling Green State University.

Whittington and her husband, **JAMES WHITTINGTON JR.**, '69, have a daughter, **RACHEL WHITTINGTON SAFFO**, '02, who is married to **DAVID SAFFO**, '04; and two sons, **MATTHEW WHITTINGTON**, '03, who is married to **GISELLE LUQUETTE**, '03, and **PAUL WHITTINGTON**, who was accepted into LSU School of Veterinary Medicine after completing his third year at UL Lafayette. Paul Whittington is expected to earn his degree in veterinary medicine in May.

1974

KAROLYN BROUSSARD is president of Region 1 of QHR Management Services. She oversees ongoing client service and new business development in the Eastern

and midwestern sections of the United States. She also manages a team of QHR regional executives who advise hospital management teams and boards on hospital operations. Broussard received a bachelor's degree in medical records science and a master's degree in business administration from USL. She lives in Nashville.

LOWELL HINCHEE recently earned the designation of master certified flight instructor – acrobatic, which is held by only 15 of the 91,000 certified flight instructors in the United States. He learned to fly in 1969 while serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Lewis, Wash. After completing his military service, Hinchee received a bachelor's degree in agronomy from USL. He flew crop dusters and later taught aviation at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He left the teaching post to pursue development of specialized aviation training. In 1999, Hinchee established Foundation Flyers Inc. in Winter Haven, Fla. It offers specialized pilot training in lifesaving, unusual altitude recovery techniques. Hinchee is also a Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team representative.

1975

DAPHNE CAGLE was named the



Sacramento City Unified School District Teacher of the Year in June 2007. She teaches students at Sutter Middle School in Sacramento, Calif., who are communicatively handicapped. She also provides assistance to teachers there who are in the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program. Cagle holds a bachelor's degree in speech and hearing therapy and a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from USL. She is married to Elliot Mulberg; the couple have a son, Jonathan.

1976

JACK LANGLOIS is one of three attorneys establishing a Houston office for DLA Piper, the nation's largest law firm. He was formerly head of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP's energy projects practice in Houston. Langlois received a bachelor's degree in prelaw from USL and a *juris doctor* from Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU.

TOM SANDAHL was named president emeritus and director of carrier relations of Wright and Percy Insurance in February. The company is based in Baton Rouge, La. Sandahl earned a degree in business administration from USL.

1977

MICHAEL LANGSTON, a U.S. Navy chaplain, recently returned from a two-year tour of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. This summer, he will become the new commanding officer of the Naval Chaplain School in Newport, R.I. It's the only commanding officer position for chaplains in the U.S. Navy. He will have seven weeks of specialized training prior to assuming his new post. Langston

A Look Back



1946

Jeff DeBlanc, '46, was the first SLI alumnus to receive the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award. President Harry S. Truman is shown presenting the medal during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. In an air battle over the Pacific during World War II, DeBlanc risked his own life to help fellow fighter pilots. He died in November 2007.

www.louisiana.edu/Advancement/PRNS/lala/2001-SPRG/alumni.pdf

was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns football team from 1973-77. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Michael and Jeff, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

1980

THOMAS COTTEN was recently reelected to a two-year term as a board member-at-large for the Society of Louisiana CPAs. He graduated *cum laude* from

UL Lafayette with a degree in marketing. Cotten operates his own consulting and tax firm in Baton Rouge. Cotten serves on the boards of directors for the Baton Rouge Area Foundation and The Center for Planning Excellence.

LEIGH HENNESSY was recently inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame at the national gymnastics championships held in San Jose, Calif. She was a world



champion trampolinist while a student at USL. Her father, Jeff Hennessy, was the gymnastics and trampoline coach at USL for over 25

years. He was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1992. The Hennessys are the only father and daughter team inducted into the Hall of Fame. Leigh

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 PROFILE: CYNDIE GUIDRY WILKINS

She's a Big Wheel on Campus

CYNDIE GUIDRY WILKINS, '73, learned to ride a unicycle when she was 10 years old in Rayne, La.

It's a skill she uses today as a sixth-grade and seventh-grade family and consumer sciences teacher at Fairhope Middle School in Fairhope, Ala.

"At the beginning of my course each year, I ride my unicycle for my students to reinforce the importance of setting goals and working very hard to reach them," she told *La Louisiane*.

In 2006, Wilkins was looking for a way to encourage kids to get more exercise after hearing a news report that Alabama had the highest rate of childhood obesity in the nation. So when her students expressed interest in unicycling, she decided to start a club. The group has since tripled its membership.

"We ride in parades, at pep rallies and for various community events," Wilkins said.

The Fairhope Middle School Unicycle Club is the first of its kind in the Alabama public school system. Wilkins also wrote and implemented the first middle school unicycle physical education curriculum in the state.

This year, she obtained a \$2,000 grant to purchase 25 unicycles and gear for the school's Physical Education Department.

In June, she was chosen Teacher of the Year by the faculty at Fairhope Middle School.

Wilkins holds a bachelor's degree in vocational home economics education from USL. She is married to Mason Wilkins. ■



Hennessy graduated *summa cum laude* from USL with a bachelor's degree in speech and audiology. She earned a master's degree in communication from USL two years later. Now a movie stunt-woman, Hennessy lives in Van Nuys, Calif.

1981

MARY ELLEN ROY, was recently featured in the 2007 "Louisiana Super Lawyers" publication as an expert in First Amendment law. She is a partner in the commercial litigation group of the New Orleans office of Phelps-Dunbar law firm. She also specializes in intellectual property law and business litigation. Roy

is a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents and a former chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association Intellectual Property Law Section. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL and a *juris doctor* from Harvard Law School. Roy is married to John Harkins; they have two children, Madeleine and David.

RUSSELL WILLIAMS is a sound engineer and mixer for "Fox Morning News" and "Good Day LA" in Los Angeles. He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from USL. Williams and his wife, Kimberli Williams, have a six-year-old daughter, Nora Elizabeth.

1983

JOSEPH J. (JIM) GUIDROZ III is senior associate at BSA LifeStructures, an architectural firm that designs health care, education, research and technology facilities. He works in the firm's Indianapolis office. Guidroz earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL.

KEVIN D. HEBERT is a hydrogeologist for Southwest Ground-water Consultants Inc. of Phoenix, Ariz. His professional duties include project management and groundwater studies. Hebert holds a degree in geology from USL. He is married to Cheryl Pantea Hebert. They have a daughter, Dayle, and a son, Ben.

1984

TODD S. CLEMONS recently opened the law firm of Todd Clemons and Associates in Lake Charles, La., where he has practiced law for 20 years. He has served as a prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice, as an assistant district attorney for Calcasieu Parish and as a law clerk for Henry L. Yelverton of the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Third Circuit. Clemons earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL and graduated *summa cum laude* from Southern University Law Center. He is a member of the board of directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana.

JOHN N. FELSHER was recently promoted from managing editor to associate editor of *Sport Fishing* magazine, based in Orlando, Fla. In this new capacity, he does more

writing for the magazine, which is dedicated to salt water fishing. As a freelance writer, he has published more than 1,100 articles in more than 90 publications and contributed to four books. He also manages an e-zine, www.JohnNFelsher.com. Felsher holds a bachelor's degree in English



from USL and a master's degree from Webster University. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Winter Springs, Fla., with their two sons.

1986

J. MORRIS ARDOIN is director of communication of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in New York City. The oldest migration organization in the nation, HIAS has helped rescue and resettle more than 4.5 million people escaping persecution since it was founded in 1881. "Today, we are in the thick of Comprehensive Immigration Reform Advocacy and work with refugees all over the world, including Darfur, where we are operating in five of the Darfur refugee camps in Chad, helping refugees develop emotional/psychological survival skills," he told *La Louisiane*. Ardoin has lived and worked in New Orleans, London and Warsaw, Poland. In Warsaw, he taught public relations to students in Poland's first private university. He received a master's degree in communication from USL.

SUSAN CONNOR BEGNAUD is executive director of United Blood Services in Louisiana, where she has been employed for 19 years. She oversees operations for the community blood center, which has offices in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Thibodaux, Morgan City and Slidell. She also serves as district director for a tri-state area for the South Central Association of Blood Banks. Begnaud received a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL. She and her husband, Kevin, have a daughter, Courtney. They live in Lafayette.

ANITA ZIMMER was recently promoted to manager in the Litigation Support and Business Valuation division of Wegmann Dazet and Company, a New Orleans



CPA and consulting firm. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. Zimmer, a CPA, is accredited in business valuation by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

1989

DANIEL SILAS is general manager of Hampton Inn Springfield-South in Springfield, Mo. He holds a Certified Hotel Administrator designation from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute. Silas received a bachelor's degree in restaurant administration from USL. He has three children, London, Sterling and Grace.

1991

CHRISTINE RASPBERRY DUNN, a CPA, recently became the 2007-08 president of the Acadiana chapter of the Society of Louisiana CPAs. She will serve a one-year term. Dunn earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. She is an audit manager with Wright, Moore, Dehart, Dupuis and Hutchinson LLC in Lafayette.

TARA G. RICHARD is a partner in Jones Walker's litigation practice. She joined the New Orleans firm in 2000 after completing a clerkship with Catherine D. Kimball, associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Richard primarily practices in the fields of bankruptcy, creditors and debtors rights, environmental law and energy law. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from USL and a *juris doctor* from Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU.

1996

STACY ANN BROWN is senior administrative project coordinator for Ochsner Health System's Center for Health Research in New Orleans. Brown is a part-time inpatient medical records coder for Slidell Memorial Hospital. A registered nurse, she works part time in the intensive care unit of Touro Hospital in New Orleans. Brown holds a bachelor's degree in health information management from USL and a master's degree in health care systems management from Loyola University in New Orleans.

ALONZO FRANK is a gospel rap artist known as ZO. Drove Entertainment's Gospel Division released his debut CD, "Fully Committed," in the fall of 2007. "My main focus on this CD is providing the youth with music that will impact their lives in a positive way," Frank

stated in a press release. He is a youth director at the Spirit and Truth Church in Lafayette. Frank received a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL.

BRENDA HEBERT MELANCON will earn alternative teaching certification in secondary family and consumer science this spring. Melancon received a bachelor's degree in child and family studies and a master's degree in education from UL Lafayette. She lives in Breaux Bridge, La. Melancon's daughter, KIERA ROWLAND, and son, LUKAS ROWLAND, attend UL Lafayette.

1997

SIDNEY "JAY" BIENVENU, works at EPCI Systems in Verona, Wisc., where he develops software programs for the health care industry. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer engineering and a master's degree in telecommunications from USL.

1999

MARGARET BIENVENU is a concierge at Walt Disney World's Yacht and Beach Resort and its Port Orleans Resort in Orlando, Fla. She also leads "Adventures by Disney" tours in London and Paris. Bienvenu received a bachelor's degree in sociology from USL.

ANDREW PERRIN recently opened an architecture firm, Andrew Perrin Design LLC, in Lafayette. He received a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL and a master's degree in architecture from Syracuse University.

2001

PATRICE M. GREIG, a fourth-grade teacher, was named Teacher of the Year at Teche Elementary School in Cecilia, La., for 2006-2007. She has served as fourth-grade 4-H leader for three years. Greig is enrolled in the master's of Gifted Education Program at UL Lafayette. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education, grades 1-8, from UL Lafayette.

2002

ALI M. AL-ALAWI is an electrical engineer in Manama, Bahrain. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from UL Lafayette.

2003

SARAH BOLDING was recently chosen to serve on the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants' first Young CPA board. That board represents the more than 800 LCPA members who are ages 35 and younger. Bolding received a bachelor's degree

in business administration from UL Lafayette. A CPA, she is a staff accountant with Broussard, Poché, Lewis and Breaux LLP in Lafayette.

NADINE DUNBAR is chief attorney and chief executive officer of the Law Office of Nadine Dunbar in Lake Charles, La. She is also a

Would you like to send your best wishes to Dr. Ray Authement?



More than 65,000 men and women have graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette while Dr. Ray Authement has been its president.

He's the longest-sitting president of any public university in the United States.

Authement will retire this spring after serving as UL Lafayette's president since 1974. Under his leadership, the

university has made impressive progress. For instance, it:

- implemented selective admissions;
- was designated by the Carnegie Foundation as a "Research University with High Research Activity";
- joined NCAA Division I, the highest level of collegiate athletic competition;
- flourished despite repeated state budget cuts;
- helped diversify the local and Louisiana economies after the statewide Oil Bust of the 1980s;
- developed University Research Park; and
- raised its gifted assets from about \$500,000 to almost \$150 million.

One of his biggest accomplishments was relentlessly pursuing a name change for the university. In 1999, the University of Southwestern Louisiana became the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a name that more accurately reflects its status as an institution with statewide and national, rather than regional, influence.

If you're a UL Lafayette graduate, attended the university or just appreciate Authement's many contributions to Lafayette, Acadiana and Louisiana, you are invited to send him your best wishes.

You can send a letter or card to this address:

ATTN: RETIREMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND NEWS SERVICES

UL LAFAYETTE
P. O. BOX 41009
LAFAYETTE, LA 70504

Or, you can email a message to him at prns@louisiana.edu

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/lalouisiane 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/lalouisiane

member of Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's staff. She focuses on initiatives related to people with disabilities. She served in that capacity in former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco's administration. Dunbar, who holds a bachelor's degree in political science (pre-law) from UL Lafayette, received a *juris doctor* from Southern University Law Center.

2004
HEIDI A. FISHER is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Sepracor Inc. She holds a bachelor's degree in health information management from UL Lafayette and is a registered health information administrator. Fisher lives in Lafayette.

IN MEMORIAM

JEANETTE PITRE DOUCET, '27, died May 24, 2007, at age 100 in Opelousas, La. She graduated from SLI with a degree in education. Doucet taught in several St. Landry Parish schools before retiring from W. B. Prescott Elementary School in Opelousas in 1962. She was an active member of the St. Landry Parish Retired Teachers' Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She is survived by two stepsons, Charles Doucet and J.C. Doucet; one stepdaughter, Emma Lou Moory; and many nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren. Doucet was preceded in death by her husband, Marshall J. Doucet; a sister, **OLIVE P. THOMS,**

'28; and two brothers, Lawrence Pitre and Floyd Pitre.

OLIVE PITRE THOMS, '28, died in Opelousas, La., on Dec. 29, 2006. She was 98. A longtime resident of Rosa, La., Thoms was a retired teacher and past member of VFW

Auxiliary Post No. 2483. She held a degree in education from SLI. Survivors include two daughters, Eugenia T. "Genie" Doucet and **ELIZABETH T. "BETTY" DUGAL, '52**; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; and several stepgreat-grandchildren. Thoms was preceded in death by her husband, Hicks Thoms; one daughter, Muriel Elgie T. Sutton; and two brothers, Joseph Floyd Pitre and Lawrence Pitre. Her sister, **JEANETTE PITRE DOUCET, '27**, died May 24, 2007.

EDGAR GLYNN ABEL, '39, former dean of men at UL Lafayette, died March 22, 2008, in Lafayette. While a student at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, he was vice

president of the student body and president of the Blue Key National Honorary Fraternity. He also lettered in track, football, and baseball. After graduating from SLI, he was named its assistant dean of men. Abel served in the U.S. Navy during World War II from 1942 to 1945. He was the command-

ing officer of a mine sweeper in the Gulf of Mexico and executive officer of a mine sweeper in the South Pacific Ocean. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserve for 31 years. After his discharge from active duty, Abel earned a master's degree in educational administration from Stanford University. From 1946 until 1969, he was dean of men at USL. He often been cited for his key role in the peaceful desegregation of the university in the mid-1950s. He was manager of the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium from 1969 to 1972. He then served as the city's director of Community Affairs. Abel was a 1983 recipient of the Civic Cup Award of Lafayette and coordinator of The Lafayette Centennial Celebration. Survivors include his sister, Freda Abel Harper; a son, Daniel Glynn Abel of New Orleans; two grandchildren, Shane M. Gates and Christine E. Hymel of New Orleans; and one great-grandson, Grafton Gabriel Gates of New Orleans.

LUCIEN BERNARD 'FRENCHY' GOVERNALE died Jan. 8, 2006, at his residence in DeRidder, La. He was 87. While attending SLI from 1937 to 1940, Governale was a pitcher for the SLI Bulldogs and ran track. After college, he played in professional baseball's minor league. Governale joined the U.S. Army and served in five battle campaigns during World War II, including the Invasion of Normandy. He later worked for Crosby Chemicals and was employed by Brown and Root Construction when he retired. He was honored by several organizations for his work with athletic programs for youth. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Sethie Cole Governale of DeRidder, La.; one son, **GARY B. GOVERNALE SR., '69**; three daughters, Barbara Governale, Jackie Schulz and Debra Lockerman; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

JEFFERSON J. DEBLANC SR., '47, Louisiana's last World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, died Nov. 22, 2007, in Lafayette. He was 86. As a Marine Corps fighter pilot, he earned the Medal

of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." In January 1943, he was leading a section of six fighter planes during aerial operations against Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands. He continued fighting even after he realized his plane no longer had enough fuel to return him to his military base in Guadalcanal. After destroying five Japanese aircraft, he was forced to bail out of his damaged plane into shark-infested waters. Despite injuries, he swam to an enemy-occupied island and managed to survive until he could be picked up by a U.S. military plane several days later. After the war, DeBlanc earned a bachelor's degree from LSU, two master's degrees from LSU and a doctorate in education from McNeese State University. He taught mathematics and science in St. Martinville, La., and was supervisor of math and school transportation. He also taught in New Iberia, La., and was employed by South Central Bell for several years. He is survived by a daughter, **BARBARA DEBLANC ROMERO, '70**; four sons, Jefferson DeBlanc Jr., Richard DeBlanc, **FRANK DEBLANC, '79, '87** and **MICHAEL DEBLANC, '82**; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Louise DeBlanc.

LEE J. PITRE JR., '59, died Sept. 13, 2007, in St. Petersburg, Fla., at the age of 70. He was an electrical engineer who worked on the Apollo 11 mission at Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. During his career, he was employed by Westinghouse, General Electric and Martin Marietta. Pitre held a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from SLI. Survivors include his wife, Judith Pitre Jr.; two daughters, Kathryn Driver and Karen Becker; a sister, Mary Barton; and three grandchildren.

KENNETH DOYLE FUNK, '60, died Nov. 15, 2006, in Alexandria, La. He held a bachelor's degree in animal science from Southwestern Louisiana Institute and a doctor of veterinary medicine from Texas A&M. Funk had a private veterinary practice in Houston. He was retired from the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Reserve. Funk has two children, Geoffrey and Kate.

ROBERT TRAHAN, '68, died Feb. 23, 2008, in Lafayette. He was 61. In 2004, UL Lafayette presented him with an honorary degree of humanities. The president and chairman

of the board of Lafayette Motors Co. Inc., he was named the 2004 Dealer of the Year by the Louisiana Auto Dealers Association. A longtime supporter of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® athletics, Trahan was a founding member of Louisiana Classics Inc., created the Quarterback Club and was president of the Rebounders Club. He also served as president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. Trahan chaired fund-raising campaigns for United Way, St. Thomas More High School, Cathedral-Carmel Elementary School and the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. He was a founding member of the Miles Perret Cancer Center and the Games of Acadiana Inc. He also served as president of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Trahan received the Lafayette Civic Cup Award for outstanding community service, the Bishop's Medal, and Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Parish honors for distinguished service. He held a bachelor's degree from USL. Trahan is survived by his wife, Connie Roy Trahan; five children, **ALLYSON TRAHAN HEBERT, '96**, **TODD TRAHAN, '90**, **HUNTER TRAHAN, '94**, **ASHLEY TRAHAN GUIDRY, '98** and **BRANDON TRAHAN, '99**; 12 grandchildren; two sisters, Carole Champagne and Annette Leblanc; and a brother, Matthew Trahan. Contributions in Trahan's honor can be made to the Robert Trahan Internship Fund at Miles Perret Cancer Services, the Cathedral Carmel Foundation or the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation.

MICHELLE FORET SLOVER, '70, of Knoxville, Tenn., died Feb. 11, 2007. She was a buyer for Miller's and Proffitt's Department Stores; she was also IT manager for Proffitt's. Slover received a degree in home economics from USL. She is survived by her husband, Mike Slover; two sons, David Slover and Bret Slover; three brothers, Jim Foret, John Foret and Jeff Foret; and six sisters, Renee En-

zee, Marcelle Langlinais, Yvette Yandall, Marie Broussard, Celeste Garborino and Adrienne Foret; a grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

JAMES PATRICK DUGAL, '74, died in June 2007 at the age of 56. He worked for UL Lafayette for 30 years. For the past eight years, he was director of Computing Support Services. Dugal received a bachelor's degree from LSU in Baton Rouge, La., and a master's degree in computer science from USL. He is survived by his parents, Paul and Mary Ann Dugal of Opelousas, La.; his grandmother, Irene B. Dugal; two sisters, Claudia Ann Dugal and Catherine Lynn Cahanin; one brother, Mark Dugal; one niece; three nephews; and two great-nieces.

BRYAN WOODWARD, '93, died Oct. 27, 2007, at the age of 38. He was director of bariatric operations at the Metabolic Surgery Center at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. Woodward held a bachelor's degree in exercise science from USL, where he was president of Theta Xi fraternity. A licensed clinical exercise physiologist, he received a master of public health degree in nutrition from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Survivors include his wife, Deidre Estapa Woodward; a son, Wesley Woodward; a daughter, Laura Woodward; his parents, Minor Q. "Buddy" Woodward and Laura Colgnet Woodward; and a brother, Steven Woodward.

JOHN DAVID DELOUCHE, '03, died Dec. 30, 2007, at age 38. He was employed by C.W. Technical Services in Lafayette. DeLouche received a bachelor's degree in business administration from UL Lafayette. He is survived by his father, Cliff E. DeLouche; his mother, Darlene M. Marr; his stepfather, Robert Owens; two sisters, Renee DeLouche and Darlene DeLouche-Cox; two nephews, Evan and Christopher Cox; and his maternal grandmother, Marie Marr.

42

LA LOUISIANE | SPRING 2008

LA LOUISIANE | SPRING 2008

43

Teaching Honor

Foundation says 'Thanks' to university president in a lasting way

WHEN THE UL LAFAYETTE FOUNDATION was established in 1957, Dr. Ray Authement was just beginning his career at the university as an associate professor of mathematics.

After 50 years of service – the past 34 as president – he will retire this spring. The Foundation has named its annual Excellence in Teaching Award in his honor.

Dr. L. Dwyann Lafleur, a physics pro-

fessor, is the first recipient of the Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

Lafleur was one of Authement's students in the 1960s. But the committee of faculty members that chose Lafleur for the teaching award was unaware of that connection.

Recipients of the Foundation's 2008 Distinguished Professor Award are John Hathorn, a professor of visual arts; Hector Lasala, a professor of architecture; and Dr. Ardith Sudduth, an assistant professor of nursing.

Authement was responsible, in a sense, for the Foundation's coming of age in the 1980s. During its first 25 years, its board of trustees primarily managed contributions to the university. In 1981, the university's president asked the late Alfred Lamson, an independent oilman in Lafayette, to lead a major fund drive. That campaign raised \$10 million.

"Since then, we've grown tremendously, in terms of our support for university capital projects and sophisticated investment fund management. We have a diversified portfolio due to the strength of our investment committees and the expertise of board members over the years," said Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the Foundation.

By the late 1990s, the university's endowments had reached about \$45 million. The *Investing in Our Future* campaign, held in conjunction with UL Lafayette's 100th birthday in 2000, substantially boosted that amount. Today, the university's gifted assets total more than \$130 million.

Falgout said the Foundation's board of trustees will honor Authement in other ways. "But the board was especially interested in finding a way to convey to future generations that he was, first, an extraordinary teacher," Falgout said. So it named its Excellence in Teaching Award.

The UL Lafayette Foundation has presented the Distinguished Professor Award since 1965 and the Excellence in Teaching Award since 1992.

PROFESSOR CREDITS OTHERS FOR HIS SUCCESS

Dr. L. Dwyann Lafleur

Sitting on a shelf in Dr. L. Dwyann Lafleur's office in Broussard Hall is a copy of the manual of the first digital computer on campus.

Having taught in the physics department since 1970, Lafleur said he has kept the manual of the IBM 1620 to remind him how far the university and the department have come. The manual is also a symbol for Lafleur of how computers and research have progressed over the past four decades.

A native of Jennings, La., Lafleur graduated from UL Lafayette in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in physics. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Houston in 1969 and returned to Lafayette shortly after to begin what is now a 38-year teaching career.

Lafleur has taught nearly every undergraduate physics class at UL Lafayette as well as several graduate-level courses. He is the recipient of the Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

Besides his teaching duties, Lafleur also performs research in computational acoustics and ultrasonics. His research involves penetrating the earth's surface with sound for various purposes, including locating buried objects and measuring the quality and properties of different sediment in wetlands or coastal regions.

Lafleur said computer advancements have greatly reduced the time required to complete research. He vividly remembers the days when punch cards were the latest technology that allowed for one or two computations a day. And he remembers when the IBM 1620's memory – a whopping 20K or 20,000 words – was considered "high-tech" in the 1960s.

"I'm not a patient person," he joked.

"Now, you can run your simulations rapidly and get answers rapidly, doing calculations in a few minutes and producing graphics to illustrate the results."

Despite the appeal of computers, Lafleur said teaching students is what he enjoys the most about his profession.

"When you're teaching it, you're learning it," he said. "I'm learning this stuff all over again, or really, some of it for the first time. That's the part I really like about it."

Spending whatever time it takes to ensure students are learning the material is something Lafleur said he learned from his professors at UL Lafayette, including University President Dr. Ray Authement, who

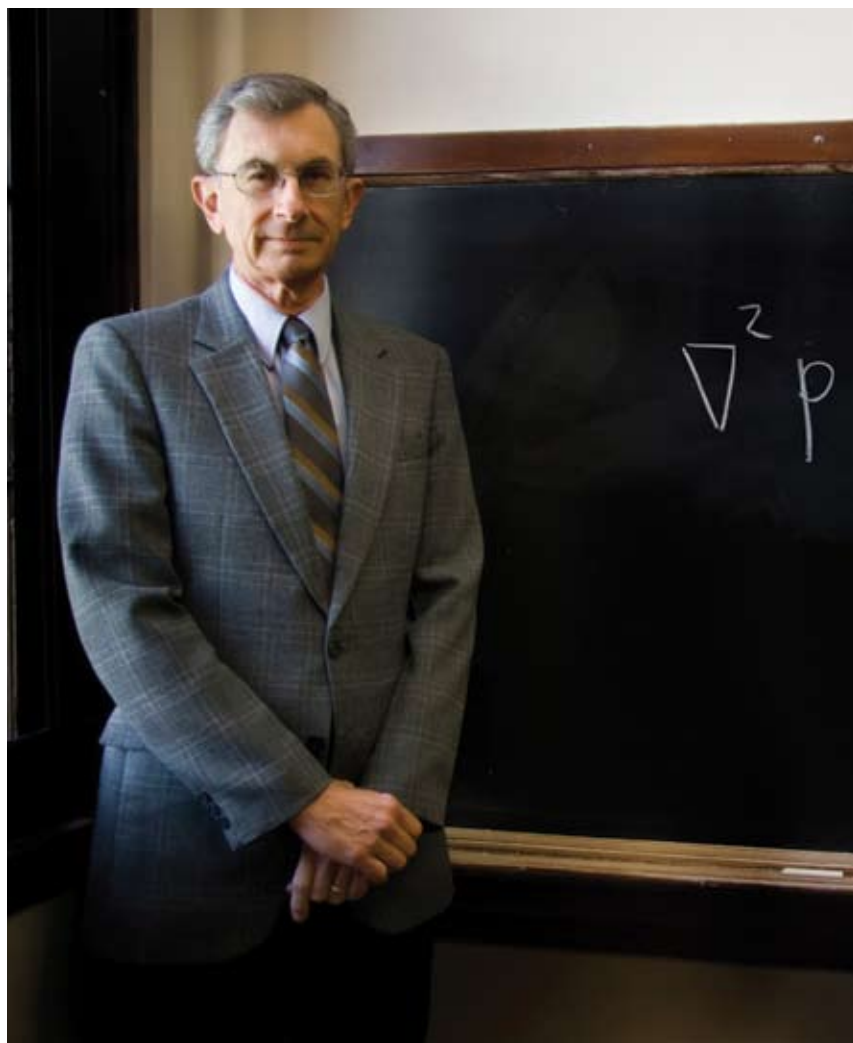
PROFESSOR, STUDENTS TEACH EACH OTHER

John Hathorn

For John Hathorn, teaching and creating his own art are inextricably intertwined.

The professor of visual arts teaches painting and drawing. He is also the senior project coordinator for the Visual Arts Department.

Hathorn has exhibited regularly in Dallas, Houston and New Orleans galleries. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions in university and museum venues in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. His paintings



Dr. L. Dwyann Lafleur

LUCIUS FONTENOT



Dr. John Hathorn

LUCIUS FONTENOT

taught a modern algebra class that Lafleur took in the early 1960s. Lafleur noted that Authement's class was held in metal buildings in "little Abbeville," an area of campus near Rougeou and Griffin Hall that was considered the outskirts of the university 40 years ago.

"He was such a good teacher. I think back and I've had three or four teachers that made me, and he's one of them," Lafleur said of Authement.

have been included in numerous national group exhibitions and are represented in many private and public collections.

Gordon Brooks, dean of UL Lafayette's College of the Arts, said Hathorn's priorities are clear. "Student work first, personal work last."

Hathorn, a recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Professor Award, said he considers it a privilege to teach. "It's a huge opportunity to instill all kinds of things, in terms

of confidence and work ethic,” he said.

Hathorn recently wrote a brief essay about teaching. In it, he noted that teaching requires a capacity to listen, and listening carries an obligation to nurture students’ talents.

“The capacity to listen and to observe what others may not hear or see in themselves, furthermore to shed some temporary light toward developing insight and confidence, is what distinguishes a good listener – one truly willing to assume the privilege and obligation of what is heard,” he wrote.

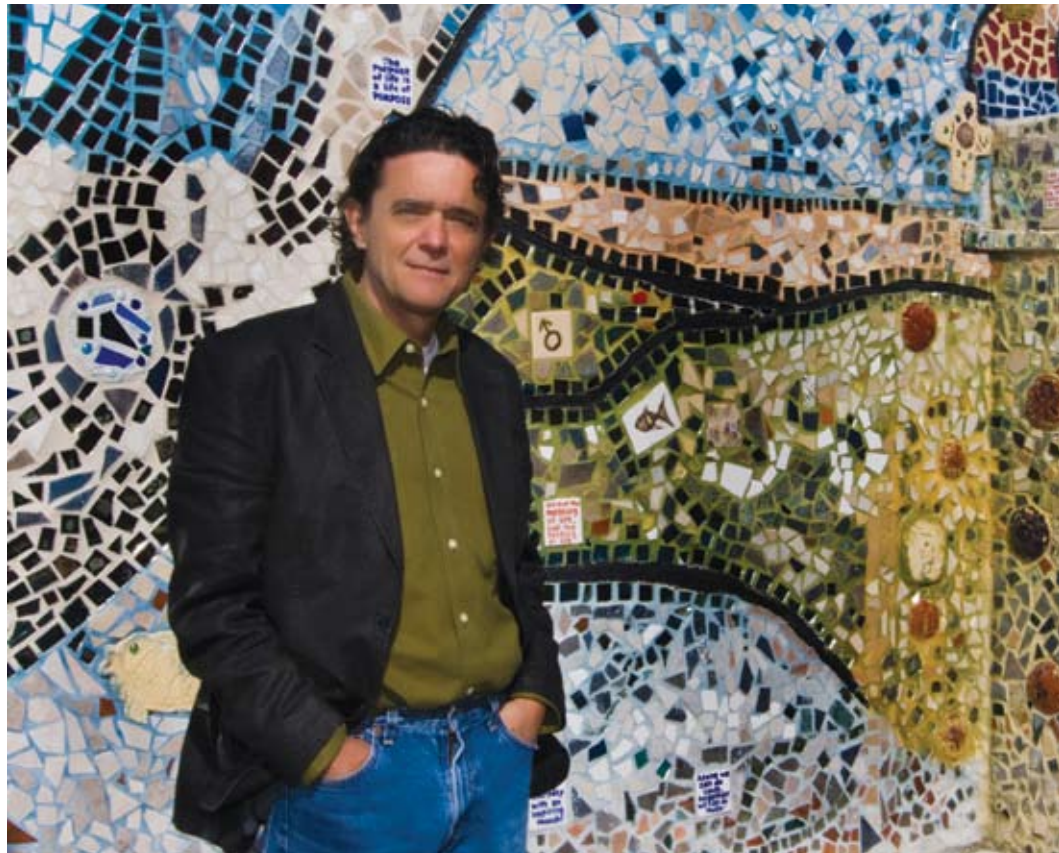
Hathorn’s students learn about the history of art and study the master painters. “At the same time, I encourage them to call all that into question.

And, in the same light, I want them to call much of what they receive from me into question,” he said.

He also challenges his students to explore what is unfamiliar, pressing each one to become a “visual archaeologist. We charge a student to excavate layers of possibilities, layers of information, to get something that is really meaningful to him.” It is at that point, he continued, when a student finds his own voice.

The professor said he learns from his students. “There are plenty of times when I wake up in the middle of the night thinking about a student’s work as well as my own,” he said. When that happens, he is reminded of the connection between teaching and his own work.

In addition to teaching, Hathorn takes an active role in Department of Visual Arts’ activities. Brian Kelly, head of that department, credits him as “a major voice in our department developing into one of the premier visual arts program in the country. . . John possesses an endless amount of energy and freely devotes that energy for the betterment and support of the department’s and university’s educational mission.”



Hector LaSala

Over the past 16 years, Hathorn has led 17 trips by faculty and students to Houston art museums. He and a colleague, Allan Jones, obtained UL Lafayette Instructional Improvement Mini-Grants to help finance 12 of those trips.

YOUNG ARCHITECTS LEARN BY SERVING OTHERS

Hector LaSala

Professor Hector LaSala wants his students to learn more than how to design buildings on a computer screen. He encourages them to get their hands dirty by working on construction jobs. And, he shows by example how they can use their talents to change lives.

“Above all, I hope our program allows students to experience the fulfillment of pro bono work. My main mission is to graduate students who realize their responsibility to be not just architects, but citizen architects,” he said.

His work has earned him the 2008 Distinguished Professor Award from the UL Lafayette Foundation. He received its Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001.

LaSala and colleague Geoff Gj-

ertson are co-directors of the College of the Arts’ Building Institute, which enables students to turn theories into hands-on experience. Through the institute, they earn course credit by working on community service projects.

Over the past five years, for example, more than 200 architecture students have worked on projects at the Acadiana Outreach Center in downtown Lafayette, which provides shelter and assistance to homeless and poor clients. Projects include a communal amphitheater, a gazebo, a meditation park and transforming an existing warehouse into a distribution center for free clothing.

Through the Building Institute, architecture majors have also assisted one of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lafayette by building playground equipment, benches and a canopy over its basketball court.

Gordon Brooks, dean of the College of the Arts, said one of its goals is to encourage collaboration across disciplines.

“Hector is a prime example of a faculty member who takes this seriously,” he said.

Since 1994, LaSala has brought students from all departments of the

college to design and build stages and props for plays performed at Burke Hall on campus. He is also set designer for the Summer Youth Shakespeare Ensemble.

LaSala is an advocate for energy-efficient architecture and urban housing for downtown Lafayette.

In 1983, he and UL Lafayette architecture professor emeritus Edward Cazayoux built an energy-efficient home on university property. Their work received the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Design Innovation Award. Both are members of the university’s BeauSoleil Team, which is participating in the U.S. Department of Energy’s fourth Solar Decathlon.

Last year, LaSala learned that the Building Institute’s Outreach Center project received \$280,000 in federal funds to buy property and plan the conversion of a 14,000-square-foot warehouse adjacent to the center into a multi-story complex that will incorporate apartments and commercial space.

He said he values the opportunity that UL Lafayette gives him to pursue his many professional interests.

“I am so grateful for the creative freedom I am allowed in my teaching. My research exists because of it,” he said.

HEEDING MOM’S ADVICE LED TO REWARDING CAREER

Dr. Ardith Sudduth

Dr. Ardith Sudduth can’t pinpoint why she became a nurse. But after decades in the profession, she’d have it no other way.

“My mother was a great motivator because she insisted my sister and I go to college. She didn’t care what our choice of major was – just that we went to college and graduated,” said Sudduth, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

At the time, most female college students sought degrees in teaching or nursing, Sudduth said. Her sister became a teacher, while she became a nurse.

Sudduth earned a bachelor’s degree, two master’s degrees and a doctorate. She is a nationally certified family nurse practitioner. In December, she completed

a certificate program as a geriatric nurse practitioner.

“Learning is a lifelong adventure, especially in nursing and health care,” Sudduth said. “I want to excite young students about nursing and let them know that nursing is a profession that provides caring and competent care to all who need it.”

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, head of the Nursing Department, said Sudduth is popular with students, who describe her as “a clinical expert who is approachable, engaging and a great instructor. They often comment on her helpfulness and on her caring for students as individuals.”

Sudduth sometimes incorporates games into her lessons to engage her students. For instance, she has them participate in a game that helps them learn what

Sudduth excels in research as well as teaching. Most recently, she and nursing colleague Dr. Sudah Patel presented their findings from a study on student stressors following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

“We realized that our students were feeling the effects of the hurricanes and that we could help alleviate some of their stressors,” said Sudduth. “We encouraged them to talk with friends and family and also told them about free resources on campus like counseling. We wanted them to take advantage of these offerings so their studies wouldn’t suffer.”

The two presented their findings at the prestigious World Psychiatric Association International Congress late last year.

Sudduth received the Outstanding Volunteer Award for her work as a nurse



Dr. Ardith Sudduth

it’s like to age and to be forced to deal with age-related conditions.

“They go through different stages of aging, like walking with a cane or wearing glasses that depict eyesight with macular degeneration. They really get a sense of what aging feels like,” she said.

practitioner at the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic. Sudduth also received the Col. Jean Migliorino and Lt. Col. Philip Piccione 1951 Commemorative Endowed Nursing Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. She holds the Hamilton Group Endowed Professorship in Nursing. ■

ACADEMICS



- 100 percent of all undergraduate programs at UL Lafayette that are eligible for accreditation by professional agencies are accredited.
- The Carnegie Foundation has designated UL Lafayette as a "Research University with High Research Activity." That puts UL Lafayette in the same category as Clemson, Auburn and Baylor universities.
- UL Lafayette is a public, selective admissions university.
- The university offers 80 undergraduate degree programs.
- There are 29 master's degree programs and one post master's certificate program.
- Doctor of Philosophy degrees are offered in applied language and speech sciences, biology, cognitive science, English, Francophone studies, mathematics, computer science and computer engineering. A joint doctor of education degree is offered in educational leadership by UL Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana University.
- About 1,100 students are graduated each fall and spring.
- UL Lafayette has 10 colleges and schools:

- College of the Arts
- B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of General Studies
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions
- College of Sciences
- Graduate School
- University College

STUDENTS

- Total Fall 2007 enrollment* was 16,345, including 1,414 graduate students.

Other Fall 2007 statistics:

- Students represented 48 states and possessions, and 95 foreign countries.
- There were 651 international students.
- Female students, 58%
Male students, 42%

**The number of students attending in the fall semester is a university's official enrollment.*



ATHLETICS

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in NCAA Division 1, the highest level of collegiate athletics. Football is a member of Division 1A.

- Almost half of UL Lafayette's student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher – on a 4.0 scale – during the Fall 2007 semester.



- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® sports:

- Football
- Baseball
- Softball
- Basketball
- Track and Field
- Golf
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Soccer

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in the Sun Belt Conference.

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® used the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility for the first time in Fall 2007. The new facility has a 120-yard practice field with drop-down batting cages and a separate wing for a basketball court.

NOTEWORTHY

- UL Lafayette's Mathematics Department is one of the Top 100 university math departments in the nation, according to the National Science Foundation. The university's Computer Science Department is among the top 60 university computer science departments. Those rankings are based on the amount of external research funding a department receives.

- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has established the Ernest J. Gaines Center in Dupré Library on campus. It will be an international center for studies of Gaines' work. One of the most significant American authors of the 20th century, he is UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence emeritus. His novels include *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.

- UL Lafayette's Ragin' Jazz is one of the top 10 college dance teams in the nation. It ranked ninth in the Division 1-A jazz category competition at the annual Universal Dance Association College Dance Team Championship in January. The Ragin' Jazz ranked 12th in the country in Hip Hop among Division 1-A universities. The competition was held in Orlando, Fla.

- UL Lafayette is included in the Princeton Review's 2008 edition of *Best 366 Colleges*.

- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is one of the most affordable universities in the nation, thanks to comprehensive scholarship and financial aid programs, including out-of-state fee waivers to qualified students.

- CAPE1, a small satellite, was sent into orbit from a site in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2007. It's the first satellite to be designed, built and launched by students at a Louisiana university.

