

La
FALL 2009

LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



Better Than Ever:
Burke-Hawthorne Is Back



LaLouisiane is often like a jigsaw puzzle. We begin with a bunch of seemingly unrelated pieces. By the time an issue is ready to go to press, they have collectively formed an image of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Take this issue, for example.

- Grad student Gretchen LaCombe Vanicor gives a first-person account of what it was like to compete with 19 other top universities from around the world in the 2009 Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. She's project manager for UL Lafayette's TEAM BeauSoleil. Its solar-powered home earned two major awards – People's Choice and Market Viability– during the decathlon.

- There's an article about freshman Kristen Daniel, who heard that a choreographer was looking for dancers for a "high-profile" singer's music video to be filmed in New Orleans. Daniel, a member of UL Lafayette's Ragin' Jazz dance team, sent an audition tape to the choreographer. A few days later, she learned she would be performing in Carrie Underwood's newest music video. "High-profile" doesn't come close to describing Underwood's popularity.

- Head baseball coach Tony Robichaux is featured, too.

UL Lafayette consistently has a strong baseball program and Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns have competed in the College World Series. Robichaux coaches student-athletes to win and uses the sport to teach them lasting lessons about life.

Put these topics, and others in this issue of *La Louisiane*, together and a picture emerges of a university with students, faculty, coaches and leaders who have the ability and confidence to compete with the best in their fields.

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

– Kathleen Thames

Preserving the Past

Researchers capture history of immigrant shrimping industry



Coastal geographer Dr. Don Davis, left, and UL Lafayette historian Dr. Carl Brasseaux.

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, CHINESE and Filipino immigrants and their descendants harvested and processed shrimp along the Louisiana coast. Their story does not appear in the pages of any history book — yet. But because UL Lafayette scholar Dr. Carl Brasseaux is helping document the details of their day-to-day existence, their story will not be lost.

In the late 1800s, families of Chinese immigrants brought their method of drying shrimp to the Louisiana coast. They lived and worked in the wetlands, building houses on stilts with walkways connected to massive wooden platforms, equivalent in size to one to three acres of land. The platforms had corrugated, undulating surfaces, with furrows and ridges, somewhat like a washboard. The men harvested shrimp

from nearby estuaries, spreading their catch on the drying platforms. Then community members came together to “dance the shrimp,” Brasseaux said. “The people would come along and shuffle their feet over the shrimp to remove the shells.” Coastal winds carried the papery shells away on the breeze, then the dried shrimp were cleaned, packaged and sent to market.

Chinese shrimpers established the trade; Filipino families came to Louisiana in the 1900s. “They have been a neglected footnote to history, even though they were a very important part of the economic development and the industrialization of the coastal wetlands.”

The story of the shrimpers and their drying platforms was available to researchers, but has mostly been ignored, said Brasseaux. “It was mentioned in a couple of obscure publications, but nobody has ever really tried to put flesh on the bones.”

Brasseaux and collaborator Dr. Don Davis, a coastal geographer, are learning more about the dried-shrimp industry by talking to people who know the coastal region best, those who have made their living along the coast for decades. Brasseaux said they are learning more about the daily lives of the shrimping families and about the dried-shrimp industry as a whole.

In researching the history of the dried shrimp industry, Brasseaux and Davis are also combing public and private records to corroborate and supplement information gleaned in interviews. They said they have gained a wider perspective of the industry’s impact.

“Dried shrimp was a major export of the 1900s,” said Brasseaux. Although local customers bought some packaged shrimp, the bulk of the dried-shrimp business relied on Chinese contacts. Producers supplied dried shrimp to Chinatowns in major cities throughout North America. A Louisiana dried-shrimp distributor, Blum

TERRI FENSEL



CHARLES L. FRANCK / FRANK-BERTACCI, THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Above: Filipino workers walk barefoot on shrimp. Top right: Blum and Bergeron continues to export dried shrimp. Right: Workers spread shrimp to dry in about 1910.

and Bergeron, based in Houma, La., “had a monopoly on American dried shrimp exports to China,” Brasseaux said. The company, which remains in operation, has allowed the two researchers access to many of its records.

Davis noted that “the largest single loan made by a bank in Terrebonne Parish was associated with a shrimp-drying platform. The loan was the entire capitalization of the bank.”

Those facts don’t match up with written accounts of the 19th and early 20th century, which often described the wetlands as “a no-man’s land, a region not fit for human habitation. ... That’s simply not the case,” Davis added.

Over the past three years, Brasseaux and Davis have traveled along the entire Louisiana coast, on backroads and waterways stretching from the Pearl River to the Sabine, collecting oral histories. In addition to sharing their stories, people are sharing photographs and other materials.

Their work is supported by Sea Grant, a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. Its mission is to promote stewardship of national wetlands.

This year, Davis and Brasseaux received \$10,000 in federal, state-administered funds. The money covers the cost of fuel for field interviews and preparation of materials collected in the field.

“The dollar amount of the grant is less important than the

coastal residents. If someone doesn’t move quickly to document those changes, then this knowledge will be lost,” Brasseaux said.

Some of their interview subjects are in their 80s and 90s. “They are living encyclopedias. You just can’t get this kind of information anywhere else,” Brasseaux observed.

Because the two men understand the importance of the work they share, they began collecting interviews and images on their own, before funding arrived. They have collected tens of thousands of images documenting the past 150 years of the Louisiana wetlands.

They plan to use the knowledge they glean in two ways: by creating materials such

as books and museum-quality exhibits for the public and by adding to the body of knowledge available to scholars and researchers.

Their ultimate goal is to create a digital database that would include diaries, photography and periodicals, as well as stories. “We are trying to preserve elements that will

have meaning in the future, when perhaps our wetlands are significantly different,” Davis said.

The digital records will be preserved in three places: at UL Lafayette’s Center for Louisiana Studies, at Hill Memorial Library at LSU and at the national headquarters of Sea Grant, in Maryland.

The researchers are exploring trapping, cypress harvesting and the coastal cattle industry. “You don’t know what you’ll learn until you sit down and talk with someone. It is difficult, if not impossible, to write that intangible value into a grant. You can’t identify a measurable outcome, because you don’t necessarily know what you’ll find – but there is a wealth of knowledge out there,” Brasseaux said.

Davis agrees. “The wetlands is a people place. It’s always been a people place,” he said. “But that aspect of the wetlands has not been well documented. It seems as though contemporary people have been almost forgotten.

We’re going to correct that.” ■



fact that Sea Grant recognizes the importance of this work. It shows a commitment to on-the-ground research,” Davis said.

The researchers are trying to interview as many people as possible. Brasseaux noted that “reconstructing history is like creating a mosaic. The more bits of information you have, the more complete the picture. We’re talking to people who worked in offices related to the wetlands, those who ran businesses in the wetlands, as well as people who rolled up their sleeves and went into the marshes to trap muskrat and nutria.”

There is a sense of urgency in their work. “Radical changes have taken place in the

coastal wetlands over the last few decades. And those changes are not necessarily for the best, at least in the eyes of many of the



Dried shrimp meal is an ingredient in fish, bird and animal feed.

Supply-Side Strategy

UL Lafayette team helps Louisiana prepare for mass evacuations

RESearchers at UL Lafayette's National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute are working to improve efficiency and safety during hurricane evacuations.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources awarded NIMSAT \$604,703 to create a fuel-delivery system to be implemented when residents are asked to leave their homes and businesses. DNR manages fuel supplies during emergencies; NIMSAT's goal is to better coordinate government and private industry efforts so that supply can keep up with demand.

In 2005, as an estimated 3.7 million Texas residents fled the Houston area and portions of the Texas coast, some 60 people were killed, not by the storm, but during the evacuation process, according to media reports. Some two million Louisiana residents left their homes in 2008, as Hurricane Gustav made its way through the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall in Texas. In both cases, gas stations ran out of fuel, leaving residents stranded.

NIMSAT Director Dr. Ramesh Kolluru said the institute is creating a plan for Louisiana that will help future evacuations go more smoothly and could potentially save lives. "We want to build a model that is not just a mathematical model. It will take the human element into consideration, as well."

Two UL Lafayette sociology professors, Dr. Robert Gramling and Dr. George Woodell, are creating a survey to find out how south Louisiana



Dr. Ramesh Kolluru

residents respond when an evacuation is ordered. "We want to know: When did they evacuate? When did they fill up with fuel? Did they carry additional fuel with them?" said Kolluru.

"We are talking about the movement of people, which translates into the movement of vehicles, which translates into the amount of gas that is needed during a large-scale evacuation."

The institute is also relying on Dr. Xiaoduan Sun, a civil engineering professor who specializes in highway safety and traffic flow modeling, to create a model of traffic patterns along evacuation routes. Information from both the human-behavior model and traffic-flow model will be used in developing the overall system.

In a separate initia-

'We are talking about the movement of people, which translates into the movement of vehicles, which translates into the amount of gas that is needed during a large-scale evacuation.'

DR. RAMESH KOLLURU

tive, NIMSAT is helping to develop the Louisiana Business Operations Center, which will support businesses and non-profits following a major disaster. As part of that effort, NIMSAT will study the availability of fuel in what Kolluru calls the "platform-to-the-pump" supply chain. That information will be folded into the hurricane-evacuation model as well. "We'll be working with oil and gas companies and fuel distribution companies so that we are able to monitor amounts of available fuel in storage facilities and at gas stations along evacuation routes. We'll be able to correlate that information with the demand for gasoline, which would come out of our model."

"We are taking advantage of all the capabilities we have at UL Lafayette in engineering, and in the social sciences. We want to harness the university's expertise, so that during an emergency, government officials have the tools and the knowledge base needed to help save lives." ■



Another UL Lafayette Researcher Earns Career Award

AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in UL Lafayette's Center for Advanced Computer Studies is exploring ways to make small computer chips even smaller.

Dr. Danella Zhao's work got a boost recently when she received a prestigious award from the National Science Foundation. The \$621,000 NSF Faculty Early Career Development Award will enable her and a team of researchers to explore a new on-chip communication system, called Wireless Network-on-Chip. It would replace wires with chip-based wireless radios. When information travels shorter distances, communication is faster and the risk of errors is reduced. So Zhao's research could ultimately produce a scalable,



Dr. Danella Zhao

cost-efficient, flexible and reusable chip infrastructure that would allow small devices to have more complex functions with fewer errors.

The NSF career award is intended to support junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholar.

Zhao is the third CACS faculty member to receive the award in the past five years.

Dr. Hong-yi Wu, an associate professor, received it in 2004 for streamlining and improving wireless technologies. Dr. Dmitri Perkins, also an associate professor, earned the award in 2005 for his research related to large-scale wireless networking systems.

Since joining the CACS faculty in

2004, Zhao has been the principal investigator for four other awards that total more than \$1.5 million. One of them is an NSF Major Research Instrumentation Program grant. It was used to establish the Nano-Electronics Embedded Computing Laboratory on campus. That lab houses state-of-the-art equipment for prototyping and evaluation activities to demonstrate the applicability and feasibility of Wireless Network-on-Chip.

Dr. Magdy Bayoumi, director of CACS, said Zhao is molding insightful young scientists while creating a pioneering research team that has to prove its ideas and "reach to that higher level of innovation to be able to deliver."

The NSF is an independent federal agency. It was created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense ..." according to its website at www.nsf.gov

UNIVERSITIES WORK TOGETHER TO AID COASTAL RESTORATION

UL Lafayette and three other Louisiana universities have pledged to work together to help halt coastal erosion and restore the state's coastline.

In addition to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the new Coastal Sustainability Consortium includes Louisiana State University, Tulane University and the University of New Orleans. Other higher education institutions may join the group in the future.

The partnership represents "a declaration from four of the major universities that coastal protection and restoration are priorities for the state and will be priorities for our universities as well," said Dr. Robert Stewart, former vice president for Research at UL Lafayette. He is now assistant to the president for special research projects.

Louisiana has lost about 27 square miles per year over the past 50 years due to coastal erosion, according to U.S. Geological Survey data. This is the largest loss of land to open water in the world, according to Stewart.

One of the consortium's goals is to assist federal and state agencies that are sorting through complex options for protection and restoration as they try to determine the best solutions for coastal problems. By coordinating university research, the consortium will serve as a type of clearinghouse.

"In the 2009 legislative session, lawmakers created the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration. They authorized that office to work directly with universities or consortiums of universities," Stewart said.

Gov. Bobby Jindal then signed the legislation into law. "Coastal restoration has been one of his top priorities," Stewart said.

The Coastal Sustainability Consortium will address critical scientific, engineering, social, legal and planning issues related to the design and implementation of coastal restoration and protection projects. It will provide forums for sharing new information, ideas and approaches for coastal restoration and protection.

Each university has areas of expertise – such as computer modeling and environmental law – that can be applied to improve coastal protection and reduce coastal erosion. "Together, we bring world-class capabilities to address this most serious issue of coastal protection and restoration," Stewart said.

The consortium has an executive committee composed of representatives of the four universities, the state of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A former director of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, he is optimistic that some of Louisiana's coast can be rebuilt. "But we have to restore it with the best technologies, engineering and biology that we can."



Serving It Up

Student Union cafeteria gets new look, new menu

THE RECENTLY RENOVATED Cane Break Cafeteria in UL Lafayette's Student Union offers a taste of Louisiana hospitality.

A mural of a cypress bayou beckons, while an expanded menu includes regional comfort foods such as jambalaya, shrimp and crawfish étouffée.

Cane Break Cafeteria, which seats 312 people, serves three meals a day on weekdays. Diners can choose to eat meals there or get their food to go, tucked inside a

Styrofoam® container. On the daily menu: a salad bar, burgers, grilled chicken, pizza, pasta and a variety of desserts. International cuisine choices include stir-fried teriyaki chicken, eggplant parmesan and grilled chicken fajitas.

Sodexo Dining Services operates other eateries on campus, including Café de Lafayette, a small dining room on the second floor of the Student Union that offers a lunch buffet.

Students who live on campus are



The recently renovated Cane Break Cafeteria in the Student Union has a Louisiana theme.

DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

Above: The salad bar at the Cane Break Cafeteria features fresh choices. Left: The comfort-food and international food stations offer a hot meal every day.

Sodexo's Jazzman's Coffee Shop and Bakery opened this fall in the atrium of Edith Garland Dupré Library. It offers specialty coffees, pastries, salads and sandwiches. Jazzman's can seat 42 people; there are outlets for computer laptops as well as wireless Internet service.

Sodexo invested about \$850,000 in the renovation of Cane Break Cafeteria and construction of Jazzman's, according to its general manager, Patrick

required to buy one of four meal plans. Those plans include a declining cash balance that can be used at dining locations across campus.

CAMPUS EATERIES

STUDENT UNION

Cane Break Cafeteria
Café de Lafayette
Sidelines

GUILLORY HALL

Cypress Lake Café

CONFERENCE CENTER

Ragin' Cajun Food Court:
Chick-fil-A
Pizza Hut Express
Simply to Go

NEAR LEGACY PARK

Café Fleur de Lis:
Quizno's Sub Shop
Freshens Smoothies
Ragin' Cajun Grill
Louisiana Wok
Pretzel Logic

NEAR OLIVER HALL

Zeus Café

DUPRÉ LIBRARY

Jazzman's Café and Bakery

Pappion. Sodexo is the second largest company that operates university food service programs in the United States. ■

COFFEE SHOP ADDS JAZZ TO DUPRÉ LIBRARY

The addition of Jazzman's Café and Bakery is just part of a plan to transform the first floor of Dupré Library into a "learning commons."

Dr. Charles Triche, dean of Libraries and a professor of library science, says that term describes a trend in university libraries. The ultimate goal is to make the library as convenient and useful to students as possible.

For starters, the "learning commons" takes away the "Shhhhhh." Triche says students will be encouraged to talk with each other and collaborate on projects, without worrying about making too much noise.

In addition to an existing reference desk, a tutoring center, the English Department's writing lab and a state-of-the-art photocopy center will be located on the first floor.

Students will be able to check out laptop computers for use in the library and there will be a help desk if they need assistance with computer hardware or software.

What will happen to the books that are now on the first floor? They'll "disappear" to the third floor, Triche says.



OCEANNA TRZECIAK-CATES

Captivating Courses

Interesting topics inspire learning



HISTORIC COSTUME



HEROES AND OUTLAWS



COLORS OF THE BLUES



POLITICS AND SHAKESPEARE

EVER WONDER WHAT CLASSES UL Lafayette students are taking?

La Louisiane was curious, too. So Student Editor Oceanna Trzeciak-Cates looked through UL Lafayette's course catalog. She found some elective courses with intriguing titles. Here's a peek at a few of them.

"DESIGNER COUTURE HISTORY/ HISTORIC COSTUME"

"A student can form a relationship between a world event and clothing that makes it meaningful and makes him remember the event," said Dr. Jackie Robeck, professor of apparel design and merchandising. Clothing worn during an era becomes symbolic of the times. For example, during World War II, hemlines were shorter and silhouettes slimmer because cloth was rationed. The style and cut became more militaristic, too, reflecting pro-American sentiments of the war-driven society.

"Historic Costume" is part of a two-course sequence. It covers clothing worn around the world from 3500 B.C. until 1850. "Designer Couture History" begins with the first recognized fashion designer, Charles Worth, who opened a shop in Paris in 1850, and concludes with the study of contemporary designers.

"HEROES AND OUTLAWS"

"I love teaching this course because it encourages students to think about what stories mean, according to who's telling them, when, why and to whom," said Dr. Barry Ancelet, folklorist and head of Modern Languages.

"The purpose of this course is to develop critical thinking across the disciplines and the centuries, from ancient times and texts right into the

BURTON DURAND

contemporary world of popular culture.”

Students may encounter characters from history, literature, film, cartoons, opera, poetry and storytelling. One example: Ancelet asks students to consider the changing reputation of Billy the Kid. The 19th-century gunslinger was considered “a rebel without a cause in the 1950s” and “a counter-culture anti-hero in the 1970s. ... Society transforms and reinvents heroes and outlaws to fit its contemporary needs and notions,” he explained.

Ancelet created the course and has been teaching it for more than 20 years.

“COLORS OF THE BLUES”

Anyone can experience the blues – by listening and responding to another’s expression of it.

“The blues are a multicultural American expression and possibly the most democratic of American art forms,” said Dr. Reginald Young, an associate professor of English.

“Colors of the Blues” isn’t a music ap-

preciation course. Instead, Young uses the blues as a backdrop, encouraging students to find connections among seemingly unrelated art forms. Young wants his students to be able to detect a common note: the echo of the blues in music, literature and art. So they study literary works by Sandra Cisneros, Ernest Gaines and William Faulkner and consider the music of Fleetwood Mac, Damien Rice, and Steve Earle.

Young said students have exposed him to material he uses in the course. As part of a class project, students were asked to find examples of art and music that corresponded to a literary theme. “One of the songs they came up with was new to me: ‘All Hands Against His Own,’ by the Black Keys.”

Young said the course challenges students to see the world as a place “in which people are always influenced by individuals from other cultures with whom they reside as neighbors.”

“POLITICS AND SHAKESPEARE”

“Shakespeare has a remarkable skill

for giving historical events life and making them relevant for us in modernity,” said Casey Sonnier, who took the course in 2007. This course combines literature, politics, and history to provide students with a broad perspective.

The reading material is not a walk in the park, but course creator Dr. Bryan Paul Frost strives to help students understand the language, content and the significance of each play they read.

Frost said the course is built on the fundamentals of education: teaching students to think and write critically. “Shakespeare does the challenging; we’re called to figure out what Shakespeare is trying to teach us.”

Sonnier said he gained a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare and politics in taking the course. “Shakespeare’s plays inform us about the dangers of politics ... riddled with usurpation, revolution and corruption.”

They also teach that “the human condition needs government,” said Sonnier. ■

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Economic Exchange

Acadiana business executives share ideas, information

UL LAFAYETTE BUSINESS LEADERS are helping Acadiana chief financial officers monitor the pulse of the economy. The university hosts quarterly roundtable discussions and has developed a survey to gauge CFOs' economic confidence.

"The CFOs are the ones who determine what a company can and cannot buy ... and where they will borrow the money from: investors, banks, and so forth. So, CFOs sit at a perch in the company that the chief executive officers may not have, which is a first-hand view of the financial health of the economy, by virtue of their company's performance," said Dr. Joby John, dean of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration.

"The goal of the CFO Roundtable is to get people together who are facing similar situations and to exchange ideas on how they're dealing with various problems and issues."

Linus Cortez is the CFO of Stuller Inc., a Lafayette wholesale jewelry manufacturer and distributor. He's a member of the CFO Roundtable's Steering Committee, which determines what topics will be covered during each meeting. He said it selects topics or speakers about six months in advance, to keep the content fresh.

"We're hitting on topics that are current. We're bringing in professionals who are close to the topics, who are sharing their insight at a very specific level, because they're close to the economic issues we are all facing," he said.

CFOs have a chance to talk with College of Business Administration faculty at the quarterly meetings. Dr. Thomas Wilson, head of the Accounting Department; Dr. Rand Ressler, head of the Economics and Finance Department;

and John are ex-officio members of the group, so they're available to provide insight and expertise. Faculty members from the College of Business Administration are also invited to participate.

The morning meetings last 90 minutes and are held at the Lafayette Economic Development Authority's office in University Research Park. Guest speakers have included Tim Barfield, Louisiana's secretary of Labor; Rusty Cloutier, president and CEO of Mid-South Bank; and Dr. Linus Wilson, an assistant professor of finance at UL Lafayette. Linus Wilson's research findings on economic issues, including the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program, have been cited by *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg* and other international media.



Linus Wilson has created the "The Acadiana CFO Roundtable – B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration Sentiment Index," which is being used to survey local CFOs about their perceptions of the overall economy. He said local CFOs are concerned. "There is a clear downward trend in the index since we began circulating the survey in March 2009," he said.

The index has a maximum score of 100. A score of 50 would indicate normal economic conditions. The index has declined each quarter: from 45, to 42, to 39. "As the national recession continues, business leaders surveyed from Acadiana have become increasingly disappointed in current conditions facing their firms and in the regional economy. These CFOs are pessimistic about the business prospects going forward," he said.

On a brighter note, he continued, "most CFOs have seen their costs of borrowing fall and their access to credit improve. If business conditions pick up, they should have the financing to expand their operations."

John modeled UL Lafayette's CFO Roundtable after a similar program he initiated while a professor at Bentley University in Waltham, Mass., one of the nation's leading business schools. The roundtable group at Bentley was composed of chief marketing officers.

He said he hopes to increase participation in the CFO Roundtable and widen its outreach. The roundtable now includes the 40 Acadiana companies with the most employees. "We'd like to expand that number to include the top 100 largest employers," he said. ■

Back To Work

University's former president gives students his unique perspective

AFTER SERVING AS UL LAFAYETTE'S president for more than 30 years, Dr. Ray Authement returned to campus for the Fall 2009 semester to teach his favorite subject – mathematics.

He taught "Linear Algebra," a required upper-level course for students majoring in education, engineering and computer science. Two days a week, he met with 31 students in Maxim Doucet Hall.

Junior Derrick Franchak, a mathematics education major, said he was surprised to find the former president's name on the class schedule. "I wondered 'Is that really him?'"

Authement retired in 2008 after 34 years as the university's top administrator. But it wasn't long before he was ready to return to campus. "I wanted to get back into something that would occupy my mind and keep me active. That's why I decided to ask to teach this course," he said.

Linear algebra is a foundation course for advanced mathematics: more complex forms of algebra, calculus equations and graphing. "It's important, especially for students involved in computing," Authement explained.

He first taught linear algebra in 1962. "I've taught this course under three different titles: 'Linear Algebra,' 'Matrix Theory' and 'Linear Transformations.'"

The former president had to brush up a little as the semester progressed. "Before, I was not bound by any textbook. I like to teach without props or anything else. I can't do that just yet. I'm getting closer to it, but, for now, I'm still referring to the textbook," he noted.

"I tell them, whatever they take out of this class, they will know how to think and how to look at problems analytically and come to a reasonable solution."

DR. RAY P. AUTHEMENT



Dr. Ray P. Authement

Still, it was good to be back among students. Having an opportunity to work with students was the deciding factor in his decision to teach again. "These students are bright. They are well prepared," he observed.

In addition to the required material, Authement offers students his perspective on the importance – and practical beauty – of mathematics.

"I told them at the beginning of the class that mathematics was invaluable to me as an administrator. The logic you're trained to use, and the approaches that you take in solving problems, are two tools that I used often as an administrator, as president.

"I tell them, whatever they take out of this class, they will know how to think and how to look at problems analytically and come to a reasonable solution."

Authement enrolled as a freshman at UL Lafayette in 1947. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics, with a minor in mathematics, in 1950, then went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from Louisiana State University.

Authement's teaching career began at LSU, with stops at McNeese State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UL Lafayette, where he was named professor of mathematics in 1959.

In 1966, he left the classroom to become academic vice president; he was named president of UL Lafayette in 1974. When he retired in 2008, he was the longest sitting president of a public university in the United States. ■

DOUG DUGAS

BUILDING BEARS NAME OF COMPUTER SCIENCE LEADER

The Advanced Computer and Technology Research building has a new name: James R. Oliver Hall.

Oliver is credited with putting UL Lafayette on the national map by establishing one of the first university computer science programs.

"Thanks to his commitment and guidance, UL Lafayette became a pioneer in the field of computer science. Today, the university's computer science program and Center for Advanced Computer Studies maintain national and international reputations for quality and innovation," said UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie during a ceremony on Oct. 30. The event was part of the two-day Louisiana Computing Carnival 2009, which marked 50 years of computer science at UL Lafayette and the 25th anniversary of CACS.

Savoie noted that Oliver's appreciation of computer science "was one of the keys to Lafayette's ultimate development as a community that capitalizes on technology."

He cited the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise in University Research Park as an example. It's the only 3-D visualization facility of its kind that's accessible to private industry in North America. LITE's backbone is a network of supercomputers connected by fiber optic technology.



James R. Oliver



James R. Oliver Hall

Oliver developed UL Lafayette's bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in the 1960s. He obtained a grant from the National Science Foundation to acquire an IBM 1620, the first digital computer used on UL Lafayette's campus, in 1960.

Oliver also formed the first student chapter – in the world – of the Association of Computing Machinery. Today, there are over 500 ACM student chapters in 30 countries.

He retired in 1981, after serving as UL Lafayette's dean of Academic and Financial Planning and vice president for Administrative Affairs. He died July 19, 1998.

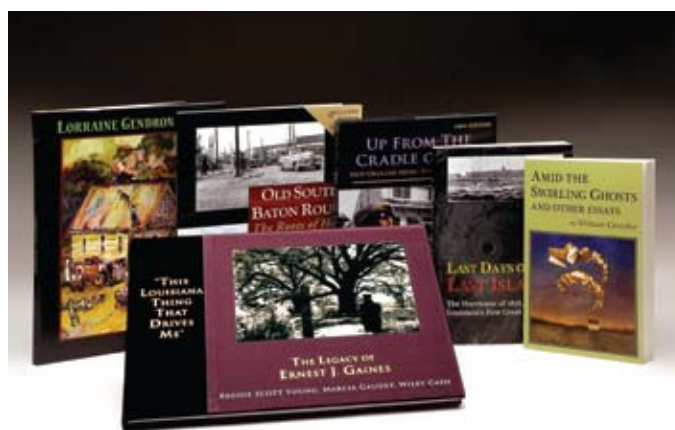
UL Lafayette Well-Represented at State Book Festival

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at Lafayette Press had more titles on the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival program than any other publisher.

The event drew more than 21,000 book lovers to the State Capitol grounds in Baton Rouge in October.

With the recent downturn in the nation's economy, many university presses have been significantly scaled back. But UL Lafayette Press is in the midst of one of its best years ever and continues to be the world's leading publisher of exclusively Louisiana-related books, publishing 10 to 12 new titles annually.

UL Lafayette Press began publishing books as the Center for Louisiana Studies in 1973. It had \$200 in funding and used typewriters to produce its first



books. Nearly 40 years later, the press has become a nationally competitive book publisher.

UL Lafayette Press premiered a volume about author Ernest J. Gaines, UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence emeritus, at this year's Book Festival.

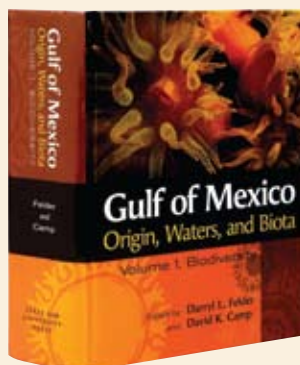
This Louisiana Thing That Drives

Me: The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines is a coffee table book that covers Gaines' life, career and legacy. It was written by Dr. Marcia Gaudet, the Dr. Doris Meriwether/BORSF Professor of English; Dr. Reggie Scott Young, an associate professor of English at UL Lafayette; and Wiley Cash, who earned his doctorate from UL Lafayette.

Proceeds from book sales will help fund the Ernest J. Gaines Center,

which is under construction on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus. Gaines donated a new collection of papers and manuscripts to the center in October. UL Lafayette will have the only complete collection of Ernest J. Gaines scholarship in the world.

GULF OF MEXICO ORIGIN, WATERS AND BIOTA: VOLUME 1, BIODIVERSITY



Edited by Darryl L. Felder
and David K. Camp
Texas A&M University Press

Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters and Biota: Volume 1, Biodiversity is a comprehensive reference book for scientists, researchers and students of marine biology.

As co-editor, Dr. Darryl Felder, professor of biology and head of UL Lafayette's Laboratory for Crustacean Research, has amassed a complete biodiversity inventory of the Gulf of Mexico. The book was also edited by Dr. David W. Camp, a consulting biologist and freelance science editor.

The volume includes information on more than 15,000 species, written by 138 authors from 14 countries. UL Lafayette faculty members, including Dr. Suzanne Fredericq, Dr. Andrei Chistoserdov and Joseph E. Neigel, contributed to the work.

Gulf of Mexico Origin, Waters and Biota is the first of seven volumes supported by the Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. When complete, the multivolume set will capture the state of knowledge about the Gulf of Mexico from the world's foremost scientists to encourage an ecosystem view of the Gulf among scientists, businesses, and policy makers; foster cooperation and collaboration among Mexico, Cuba, and the United States; and provide additional research and funding to increase knowledge and awareness about the Gulf.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE CLASSICS IN AMERICA: GREECE, ROME, AND THE ANTEBELLUM UNITED STATES



Carl J. Richard
Harvard University Press

With publication of *The Golden Age of the Classics in America: Greece, Rome, and the Antebellum United States*, Dr. Carl J. Richard considers the influence of Greek and Roman culture in America's history.

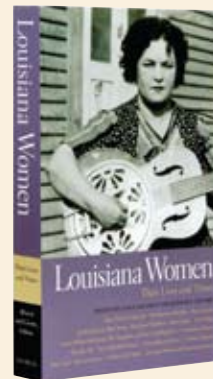
Richard argues the influence of the classics, embraced by the Founding Fathers and widely taught in antebellum schools, was far-reaching. In the book's preface, he notes: "The classics were carried to the very frontiers of American civilization."

In a review, Dr. Caroline Winterer, an associate professor of history at Stanford University, praised his work, calling it "lucid and readable ... (Richard) shows how the ideals of the classical world continued to provide Americans with one of their principal sets of ideological tools well into the nineteenth century. Richard shows that classicism was democratized in nineteenth-century America, reaching more broadly and deeply into American culture than it had in the previous century."

Richard also addresses slavery, which was part of the classics' influence. "Antebellum southerners relied on Aristotle's defense of slavery and on the argument that the institution had served as the foundation of classical civilization to convince both themselves and others that slavery was not just a necessary evil but a positive good," he states.

Richard is a professor of history at UL Lafayette.

LOUISIANA WOMEN: THEIR LIVES AND TIMES



Edited by Judith F. Gentry
and Janet Allured
University of Georgia Press

This collection of essays explores the lives of 17 Louisiana women, from the colonial period to the present day. It is coedited by Dr. Judith F. Gentry, a professor of history at UL Lafayette, and Dr. Janet Allured, an associate professor of history and director of Women's Studies at McNeese State University.

Some of the subjects are familiar, such as author Kate Chopin, primitive painter Clementine Hunter and voodoo priestess Marie Laveau. Others are not, such as Cajun musician Cleoma Breau Falcon, who, along with her husband, Joe, made the first recording of a Cajun song, and Rowena Spencer, Louisiana's first female surgeon.

Although the women whose stories are told in this volume are of different races and have different political and religious affiliations, they share an ability to turn trying circumstances into opportunity.

Two other UL Lafayette faculty members contributed to *Louisiana Women*. Dr. Mary Ann Wilson, professor of English and women's studies and BORSF Endowed Professor in the Humanities, writes about New Orleans literary historian Grace King. Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, associate professor of history and the James D. Wilson/BORSF Professor of Southern Studies, chronicles the life of Sarah Katherine Stone, a Civil War diarist.

Charting a New Course

First-time freshmen immersed in college experience



First-time freshmen will learn about university resources in a course designed especially for them.

DR. THERESA WOZENCRAFT, AN ASSISTANT professor of psychology at UL Lafayette, has helped develop a new course that will be required for first-time freshmen. The one-semester course is designed to help students achieve greater academic success and to prepare them for life after college.

Freshmen will earn two hours of academic credit while they learn about on-campus resources, such as career planning, tutoring and a mentoring program. They will receive training to improve their skills in time and money management. As part of the course, they'll also participate in community service projects, perhaps building homes or working in a community garden.

"I'm a psychologist who thinks about what people need to be successful," Wozencraft said in a recent interview. In considering students' needs, she looked at characteristics of the Millennial generation.

The first Millennials were born in

1982 and began attending college in 2000.

"As a group, they're significantly different from previous generations," she said.

Millennials are tech savvy, goal-oriented, civic-minded multi-taskers. They are team players who were accustomed to having their lives structured by adults. They are confident about their abilities.

"They see themselves as special. These are the kids who were strapped into their car seats ... with the 'Baby on Board' signs stuck on the windows. Their parents organized their lives for them, bringing them to soccer practice, dance lessons. All those activities happened under the structured leadership of an adult.

"So, perhaps the biggest challenge for these students is to learn how to be more independent," Wozencraft said.

"We want to help them make that transition as smooth as possible, to give them the skills they need to be successful while they are in college and after they graduate. To do that, we need to give them access to structure and support."

The course was piloted this fall in six classes. Five were taught in the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration; Wozencraft taught a humanities section of the course.

Each fall, beginning in 2011, the class will be incorporated in the curriculum of an additional college or two. By 2014, the course will be taught to all first-time freshmen. Class size is limited to no more than 25, so that students receive individualized attention.

The staffs of UL Lafayette's Career Counseling Center and the university's

EJ GAYLOR

COURSE ROLLOUT

A new course at UL Lafayette, designed for first-time freshmen, was piloted in six classes during the Fall 2009 semester. Over the next five years, the course will be added to the curricula of UL Lafayette's colleges.

FALL 2010

B.I. Moody III College of
Business Administration

FALL 2011

College of Nursing and
Allied Health Professions
College of Liberal Arts

FALL 2012

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences
College of the Arts

FALL 2013

College of Education
College of Engineering

office of Career Services are working together to serve first-year students. The Career Counseling Center offers career testing and helps students choose a major. Career Services helps students find jobs, internships and cooperative learning programs. Lucy Gammon, coordinator of the Career Counseling Center, and Kim Billeau, director, Career Services, are collaborating to help freshmen create a career plan they can follow while they are in college.

"This course is the perfect vehicle to get students thinking – early on – about their careers," said Gammon. Her office has a self-directed, online assessment tool for first-time freshmen. Called "Focus-2," the software program allows students to identify possible careers, then match those careers with majors offered at UL Lafayette.

"Students create a career portfolio they can maintain while they are here at UL," she said. "Students are able to retest as many times as they wish. They can log in, make changes to their portfolio, update it, they can continue to do research throughout the four or five years they are here." Instructors also have access to the students' reports.

Billeau said she encourages students to see the importance of career planning "through the eyes of a potential

'We talk about the importance of getting involved in student organizations, participating in internships or cooperative education programs – doing what they can during their years at UL so that they can be successful in their career search when they graduate.'

DR. THERESA WOZENCRAFT

employer." Gammon and Billeau speak to students at freshman orientation, and have also given presentations to students taking the pilot courses.

"We talk about the importance of getting involved in student organizations, participating in internships or cooperative education programs – doing what they can during their years at UL so that they can be successful in their career search when they graduate," Billeau said.

She said cooperative education programs are beneficial to students, allowing them to work for a semester in their field of study, without losing their academic student status. "Any scholarship or financial aid can be placed on hold," she explained. "In the meantime, the student gains valuable work experience."

The first-year seminar was developed as part of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan. The QEP emerged as faculty and staff formed commit-

tees, preparing for UL Lafayette's reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The QEP must focus on improving student learning. A university's reaffirmation vote is held every 10 years; the commission will render its decision on UL Lafayette in December 2010. ■



Joshua Adams and Tenaj Jackson help out at Earthshare Community Garden in Lafayette.



Mie Turegano and Lindsey Reed pull water hyacinths from the Bayou Vermilion.

'A Home for Louisiana'

By Gretchen LaCombe Vanicor

(Editor's note: TEAM BeauSoleil, composed of UL Lafayette architecture, engineering and business students, came away from the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Solar Decathlon with two major first-place finishes. The team won the People's Choice Award for its BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home. It also earned first place in the Market Viability category of the competition.)

TEAM BeauSoleil was one of only 20 teams chosen from around the world to each design and build an affordable and attractive solar-powered home on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in October. La Louisiane asked Gretchen LaCombe Vanicor, a UL Lafayette graduate student and TEAM BeauSoleil's project manager, to write about the experience.)

I HAVE CALLED IT AN incredible journey, an unbelievable experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In truth, being part of TEAM BeauSoleil was much more than that.

The project, and the necessary effort to successfully complete it, turned out to be a lot more than I first expected. However, the sense of accomplishment, and the lessons that we can all take with us, are more than any of us could have ever imagined.

We learned so much from the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home because we designed and built it ourselves. And, we have a remarkable sense of achievement

because we took responsibility for our home and made it Louisiana's.

Over the past two years, expectations – our own and others' – changed as we moved ahead. There was a legitimate reason: We had never attempted anything like this.

When 11 other architecture students and I began the initial design, we were in our last semester of undergraduate courses. We had all been part of short-term group projects, but mostly we had worked as individuals, with our own beliefs, schedules and opinions. So, working together to design one house for the Solar Decathlon was a challenge.

As we began to refine the home's design, we spoke with many people about the project and started to realize

the powerful impact this home could make. The wants and needs of homeowners in our region became clear and started becoming a priority.

We took a firm position: This project was not just an entry in a competition. It became a home for Louisiana. That meant that it had to fit our unique culture and enhance the lifestyles of people known for their *joie de vivre*, joy of life.

Being a home for Louisiana also meant that it had to be hurricane resistant. Nearly all TEAM BeauSoleil students are Louisiana residents. We have seen our family, friends and neighbors board up their homes and leave them as hurricanes headed to the coast, not knowing what to expect when they



UL Lafayette's BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home was on the National Mall, between the Washington Monument, shown in the background, and the U.S. Capitol.

CHRISTINE PATTON

would return. It was simply not enough for us to build a solar home that was environmentally sustainable. We felt deeply responsible for building a better home for Louisiana.

As our expectations for the BeauSoleil Home grew, so did our workload, and, thankfully, the size of TEAM BeauSoleil, as well. All-nighters in the architecture studio eventually turned into 10-12 hour days spent outdoors in the typical heat and humidity. Eight of the architecture students who began the project were able to see it through its completion. We were joined by many more design, engineering and business students.

We started to exceed our own expectations by taking leadership roles for various aspects of the project and by learning new skills, such as hanging a cypress rain-screen, welding planters or steel louvers, installing standing-seam roofing, assembling a solar hot water heater and wiring solar panels. TEAM BeauSoleil's confidence grew as the competition drew closer. There was a feeling that we were ready for what lay ahead.

By October, we had detailed schedules and plans, and hard hats and steel-toed boots required by the Department of Energy during the construction phase of the competition. But I do not believe anything could have prepared us for the overwhelming feeling of awe when we arrived in Washington, D.C., for the competition. I will always remember stepping onto the National Mall, facing our Capitol, and thinking, "What in the world am I doing here?!"

The BeauSoleil Home traveled to Washington, D.C., on a flat-bed 18-wheeler. We had flown from Lafayette to the capital, so we arrived first. We would work 24 hours a day to assemble the home, with a night crew and a day crew that would each take 12-hour shifts. I was on the night crew.

When the truck carrying our home arrived at 5 a.m. on Oct. 1, we all cheered as though it had been lost.

At 10:15 a.m., just as we were about to pull the tarp off the house, we heard more cheers. This time, they came from TEAM BeauSoleil's day crew, which had come in early to relieve the night crew. Together, we all unwrapped our Louisiana home.

The 28 days that we spent in Washington, D.C., were an emotional roller coaster.

We experienced problems with water pressure that were frustrating and certainly lowered our ranking in the overall stand-



TEAM BeauSoleil students and faculty celebrate winning first place in the Market Viability category. Clockwise, from bottom left, are: Gretchen LaCombe Vanicor, graduate student and project manager; Geoff Gjertson, associate professor of architecture; and students Chris Dufreche, Denisse Castro, Scott Chappuis and Catherine Guidry.

SOLAR DECATHLON PARTICIPANTS

University of Arizona
Cornell University
University of Illinois
Iowa State University
Mount Royal College in Canada
Ohio State University
Penn State
Rice University
Santa Clara University
Simon Fraser University Ontario
Technische Universitat Darmstadt in Germany
Tufts University
Universidad de Puerto Rico
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
University of Kentucky
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Virginia Tech

ings. But when I think back to our time in D.C., that is not what stands out.

Instead, I remember running from house to house – with only 30 minutes left to pass final inspections necessary to qualify

– trying to find some extra electrical outlets to replace our faulty ones. I remember the joy we felt when the University of Kentucky gave us its extra outlets and then watching in amazement as our TEAM officers and engineering students replaced them in our house in seconds.

And I remember holding my head in my hands as I prayed that the building inspector would check his voice mail and get our message that we had solved our electrical problems. Just then, TEAM BeauSoleil construction manager Jeremy Credeur burst through the BeauSoleil Home's door, signed inspection card in hand, yelling "We're competing!" That will always be one of my favorite memories of the entire project.

Each team went to the Solar Decathlon with different objectives and goals for their home. We felt that our biggest accomplishment would be making the BeauSoleil Home a place that the people of Louisiana would want to go home to every day. That's why we worked so hard for the past two years.

But, winning the People's Choice Award and the Market Viability Award was incredible, too. The Market Viability judges said that our approach to designing the BeauSoleil Home left them "dazzled, eclipsing ... expectations across the board."

I think all of TEAM BeauSoleil would say the same about our own experience. ■

Senior Well-Suited for Career In Engineering

SENIOR KELLY GUIBERTEAU jokes that it's good to know she could land the NASA space shuttle, if she "had to." While working for a NASA contractor recently, she got a chance to land the craft – virtually – in a shuttle flight simulator. "Only a few hundred people in the world get to do this," she observed.

Guiberteau, a mechanical engineering major, was employed by United Space Alliance through its cooperative education program, or co-op. A co-op enables students to work in industries related to their fields of study, a semester at a time, without losing their student status.

Sitting at the controls of the shuttle simulator was a perk; Guiberteau's job was to work with a team of engineers and technicians to maintain the orange Advanced Crew Escape Suits astronauts

wear during launch and re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

Technicians conducted inspections and tests of the spacesuits. Engineers were called in if a problem was found. "We would conduct research, take things apart ... and make judgment calls if a piece of equipment was on the borderline of passing or failing an equipment test," Guiberteau said.

A spacesuit is more than just a garment. It's a one-person spacecraft. Within it, the astronaut must have oxygen maintained at a stable pressure.

As the suit is pressurized, it expands around the astronaut inside, she explained. Attached to the neck ring at the base of the helmet is a hold-down harness. "It's a pulley system. You pull it down and it locks in

Kelly Guiberteau



place while you're blowing up the suit, so that maybe the neck ring only rises a few inches instead of over your head. I was the hold-down harness specialist ... I wrote procedures to repair it."

Guiberteau said working in association with NASA gave her "insight into how a governmental agency works. You have all this red tape, all these regulations. But the red tape is there for a reason ... a focus on safety. Safety comes before everything else."

In the room where she worked, there was a daily reminder of the importance of safety: a photograph of the astronauts who died in 1986, when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded in flight. "You realize how delicate your work is, which makes it that much more important that you get it right."

Guiberteau shares her NASA-related experiences at UL Lafayette events such as Career Day, Engineering Day and student orientation. She is director of Engineering Ambassadors, a group of student engineers who encourage high school seniors to become engineering majors at UL Lafayette.

DANCER DEBUTS IN CARRIE UNDERWOOD'S NO. 1 COUNTRY MUSIC VIDEO

UL LAFAYETTE FRESHMAN Kristin Daniel has added "professional dancer" to her résumé after appearing in a music video for popular country singer Carrie Underwood.

Daniel is one of seven dancers in a video of jazz-inspired "Cowboy Casanova," the lead single from Underwood's latest CD, "Play On." The video was No. 1 on CMT's Top 20 Countdown for three weeks in October.

Underwood is the first country artist in history to have a total of 10 No. 1 singles from first and second albums on country charts. Her phenomenal career began after she won the Season 4 "American Idol" competition in 2005.

Daniel, a hospitality major and member of UL Lafayette's Ragin' Jazz dance team, got a tip in late August that New Orleans choreographer Kim Barnard was assembling dancers for a music video. "I had no idea the video was for

Carrie Underwood. The only description that was given was that it was a high-profile music artist."

Daniel sent Barnard an audition tape. A couple of days later, she learned she had been chosen for the two-day shoot in New Orleans in early September. Daniel said Barnard was impressed with her technical ability, video presence and eagerness to work.

"I really learned a tremendous amount from Kim and I am so glad she saw something in me and gave me a chance to get my career started."

Underwood's latest hit single is a cautionary tale. Its lyrics warn girls not to fall for a "good-time cowboy Casanova."

"The costuming went with the



Kristin Daniel, freshman

theme of the video," Daniel said. "We start off innocent, in our flapper dresses. Then, we get smart and realize that Casanovas aren't the good guys. So, then we get into our tough-girl costumes." In the video, Daniel wears a silver dress, then a blue-and-cream corset and black skirt.

Daniel said she intends to pursue dance as a career. She is a part-time dance instructor at a Lafayette dance studio. While she earns an undergraduate degree, she plans to spend each summer in Los Angeles working with a talent agency to further her career.

Student Editor Prepares for PR Career

A JUNIOR MAJORING in public relations is student editor for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 issues of *La Louisiane*.

Oceanna Trzeciak-Cates holds an associate degree in photography from Oklahoma State University. Her photographic images have been used commercially by Oshkosh Corporation and PetSmart Inc.

"Serving as student editor gives Oceanna a chance to get hands-on experience that supplements her public relations courses. She is involved with almost every aspect of magazine production and contributed some of the photos featured in the Fall



Oceanna Trzeciak-Cates

2009 issue," said Kathleen Thames, editor of *La Louisiane*. "As student editor, she is also a liaison with the UL Lafayette student body."

Trzeciak-Cates is an animal welfare advocate and a volunteer for a couple of animal rescue and advocacy groups, Wildcat Foundation Inc., and Bless the Beasts Inc.

She hopes to open her own public relations firm someday and to continue volunteering her time to help animals. "By having a career and serving the interests of those who cannot speak for themselves, I'll fulfill my most important goals," she said.

Academic Signings Show Top Students' Commitment to UL

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at Lafayette is putting a Ragin' Cajun twist on National Signing Day, the first day a high school athlete can sign a binding letter of intent to play for a college sports team.

In April and May, more than 125 high school seniors from around Acadiana signed up to become UL Lafayette scholars.

"Academic signings provide high-achieving students the same kind of exposure and public recognition that student-athletes receive," said Alterman "Chip" Jackson, director of Enrollment Services. UL Lafayette recruiters travel to local high schools to acknowledge seniors who have accepted academic scholarships, valued at a minimum of \$1,000, to attend UL Lafayette.

Ryan Gonzales, UL Lafayette's senior admissions counselor, suggested the academic signings. Seniors who pledge to attend the university receive a UL Lafayette gift bag and a signed certificate. And, they have a photo taken with UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie. "So, it's just a great day for students and parents," Gonzales said.

This spring, academic-signing ceremonies were held at four area high schools: St. Thomas More High, Northside High and Lafayette High in Lafayette; and Catholic High in New Iberia.

Jackson plans to expand the program. "We are committed to being responsive and attentive first to those schools in our own backyard. We want to make sure we are providing them the highest level of service," he said.

Academic scholarships were offered to more than 1,000 eligible high school freshmen for the Fall 2009 semester, according to Adele Bulliard, director of UL Lafayette's Scholarship Office.



Dr. Joseph Savoie and Patrick Alban Dellinger, a UL Lafayette freshman

POST 9/11 GI BILL BRINGS VETERANS TO CAMPUS



Jouielle Sam

Freshman Jouielle Sam says he feels more mature than many of his peers.

That's not just because, at 22, he is older than most first-time freshmen. A veteran, he served two tours of duty in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sam completed his U.S. Army service in March. This fall, he is one of 80 students attending UL Lafayette with the help of the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Those numbers are likely to increase in the future.

Over the next decade, the federal government plans to spend \$78 billion to provide veterans with free in-state undergraduate tuition and allowances for books and housing.

Sam said that without the funding, he probably would not be in school. "It gives me financial security. If I had to go out and get a job, I think I'd be saying, 'School can wait.'" A criminal justice major, he said he hopes to one day work for the FBI.

Sam is also taking advantage of the Upward Bound program, which provides academic support and counseling services to veterans. And, he is part of UL Lafayette's Mentoring Program, in which a faculty or staff member gives one-on-one support to a student. Sam's mentor is Mary Washington, an administrative assistant in the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration. "That's been a great help," said Sam, "having someone who knows you, encourages you and helps keep you on track."

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is modeled after the original GI Bill, in effect from 1944 to 1956. During that time, half of all World War II veterans attended education and training programs; the legislation helped transform the American workforce and economy.

The new law, which went into effect Aug. 1, applies to veterans who have served at least 90 days on active duty since 9/11 or those who served at least 30 continuous days and were discharged because of a service-related injury.



BETTER THAN EVER

AFTER A 27-YEAR WAIT,
BURKE-HAWTHORNE HALL
HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED

By Sarah Spell

Photography by Doug Dugas





ders, and KRVS radio station – with no choice but to soldier on, year after year.

UL Lafayette persevered because it was driven by more than the desire to make Burke-Hawthorne Hall's environment more pleasant. The project turned on one pivotal point: its commitment to better serve students and the community. And *that* was worth the wait.

'WOW FACTOR'

KRVS began broadcasting from the campus in 1963, pushing 10 watts of power to a coverage area of about six city blocks. A member station of National Public Radio, it now broadcasts at 100,000 watts, reaching 12 Louisiana parishes. Its web site draws a global audience, offering live streaming audio and archived podcasts. NPR programs carried by KRVS reach 36 million listeners each week.

As its capabilities increased, the station outgrew its physical space. Dave Spizale, KRVS Station Manager noted that by the time the expansion and renovation began two years ago, KRVS had been operating without some fundamental office elements,



Previous spread:
From left, Blake Watson, a senior in classical music, and Justin Stevens, a first-year graduate student in guitar performance, in the KRVS performance studio. Above from left: Dr. Mike Maher, Communications Department Head, public relations major Morgan Russell, and journalism major Ryan Broussard. Right: Raoul Breaux's "Blues Box" has aired on KRVS for 23 years. Bottom: Chief Engineer Karl Fontenot records sound.

Over the past two years, Burke-Hawthorne Hall has grown dramatically. Architects managed to almost double its size without encroaching on its neighbors, Judice-Rickels Hall and Cypress Lake.

The original façade, with its red brick and iconic arches, was retained. The building's interior was gutted, floor to ceiling and wall to wall, and then reinvented.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette officials first sought state funding for the renovation and expansion in 1982. The State of Louisiana uses a priority-based system for building construction. Lack of necessary funds left Burke-Hawthorne Hall's four occupants – the Departments of Communication, Theater and Communicative Disor-





events such as Festival International de Louisiane and Festivals Acaadiens et Creoles, both held in Lafayette, and the Zydeco Festival, staged in nearby Plaisance, La. Spizale said KRVS is exploring new ways to share its “authentic” music and message. “Thanks to advanced technology and the Internet, we’re streaming our audio worldwide. We’re being accessed on telephones. People can go to our web site and download podcasts.

Left: Honor students Stuart Leigh, Katie Liberst and Kenneth Cochran talk with KRVS host Judith Meriwether. Below: Musical Director Cecil Doyle’s music library holds a collection of tunes on CD, vinyl, cassette, and 8-track tape.

such as storage and a conference room. Outdated furnishings and overcrowding meant that the station “had no wow factor whatsoever,” he said.

There is plenty of “wow factor” now.

KRVS has more than doubled its footprint, growing from about 2,000 square feet to about 5,000 square feet. The station occupies the ground floor of a new two-story wing. Louisiana art and photography line the walls. An ample conference room provides space for meetings. Outside, a courtyard, tucked between the old and new portions of the building, provides a place for less formal gatherings.

The station now has a performance studio; a performance control room, with control stations for lighting, sound and music production; an interview room; an on-air master control room; a music library; and three editing rooms, where producers can pre-record programs.

There has been a technological shift as well. When KRVS left its former home, it also left analog technology behind. Chief Engineer Karl Fontenot designed the digital upgrade, equipping the space for efficiency and elegance. Throughout the station, digital cables are concealed in conduit and beneath the floor. They converge in Fontenot’s technical operations center. From there, he routes incoming data, which includes syndicated NPR programming. He also can control live and recorded content created by KRVS producers.

“We’re a radio station but our business is content,” said Spizale. “Seventy percent of our programming is local; it’s what makes us unique . . . When people use the Internet to listen to our broadcasts, they’re usually not tuning in for NPR’s ‘All Things Considered’ or ‘Morning Edition.’ What they want to hear is the authenticity of our local programs.”

In addition to regular programming that features performances and interviews with Louisiana musicians, the station produces annual live broadcasts of

‘We’re a radio station, but our business is content. . . Seventy percent of our programming is local; it’s what makes us unique.’

DAVE SPIZALE, KRVS STATION MANAGER



“We’re good storytellers and we’re well-positioned to move into social media, using software applications like Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. We want to do things here that simply can’t be done elsewhere. You might have a Cajun show on in New York, but this is the *vrai* Cajun, *ici* (real Cajun here).”

Below: Graduate students in communicative disorders compare notes in the student workroom. Clockwise from bottom: Katrina Broussard, Stacy Hardy, Kala Doucet and Elizabeth Laperouse.

WE KNOCKED A YEAR OFF THE CONSTRUCTION TIME

Burke-Hawthorne's transformation has been in the works for almost three decades. "I've been here 19 years. This project has been on and off my desk all that time," said Bill Crist, UL Lafayette's facility management director.

The Louisiana Legislature is responsible for constructing state buildings. But the needs and requests for facilities at public colleges and universities far exceed available state monies. So, the legislature establishes priorities and pays for as many projects as it can afford each year.

When it decides to construct a building, it first allocates money for architectural plans. When design work is complete, the building becomes eligible for construction funding. Priorities can shift. As a result, it can take many years for a project to advance to the top of the list.

Construction documents for Burke-Hawthorne Hall, prepared by the Corne-



were badly damaged when the levee that surrounds the Crescent City broke, causing widespread flooding. State officials had to make budget cuts as they grappled with the need to rebuild.

In February 2007, the university accepted a bid by BEO Contractors to carry out the project, but construction costs were still in flux.

"At that time, prices were just escalating out of control," Crist recalled. "It was strictly Hurricane Katrina-related and Hurricane Rita-related. Construction costs went up 25 percent because of those storms. We had to find a way to reduce the cost, without reducing the amount of additional space planned for the building or the quality of the work."

The original plan called for a three-year renovation and expansion project that would be completed without disrupting classes. Faculty, staff and students would be moved out of the building for two years to allow the contractor to work at a faster pace. The exception: KRV5 would remain in place, so that its broadcast signal would not be interrupted.

The university had managed to secure \$9.1 million, but bids came in \$2.8 million over budget. UL Lafayette officials agreed to pay \$1.4 million of the additional amount; state

officials agreed to fund the remainder.

"We knocked a year off the construction time. By negotiating with the contractor, we were able to get everyone back into the building in time for the fall 2009 semester," Crist said.

The result of the project is a seamless blend of old and new. Completed in 1939, the original structure was built by laborers employed by the federal Works Progress Administration, part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The building originally served as the university's Fine Arts Building.

First named for Walter Burke of New Iberia, La., a former member of the state Board of Education, the building was renamed in 1997 to also honor benefactor Doris Hawthorne. Hawthorne established an endowed chair and four endowed professorships in support of UL Lafayette's communicative disorders curriculum.

Burke-Hawthorne Hall's original walls are made of clay blocks covered with wooden strips and plaster. The addition was fashioned with a steel skeleton and concrete floors. Architectural details tie the two together. Familiar red bricks, arched windows and walkways link the modern construction to its older counterpart. Inside, new lighting and floor tiles in earthy tones – creamy white, chocolate brown and ruby red – create a style that's a bit nostalgic, but is also clean and contemporary.

Crist said he's proud of the results. "Any construction that takes place on this campus is something



Lemaire Group of Lafayette, were completed in 2003, but funding was a challenge. Two big reasons: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which struck south Louisiana in 2005, dealing a significant blow to the state's economy. Many public facilities in the New Orleans area, including K-12 schools and colleges and universities,

we know is going to be here for 50 to 100 years. So, every project is critical. ... It's really a challenge to get it right and make sure we improve this campus."

WE'RE NO LONGER LIMITED BY SPACE

Room 229 looks unlike any other in Burke-Hawthorne Hall. That's because it's designed for preschoolers, with tiny tables and chairs and a small-scale, mock kitchen. Beginning in the spring 2010 semester, preschoolers with delayed speech and lan-



guage skills will receive therapy there, but to them, it will be child's play.

"We will integrate children with normal language skills with those who have delays in speech and language," explained Dr. Nancye Roussel, an associate professor who is head of the Communicative Disorders Department. "At that age, language is best acquired in a naturalistic setting. That's what children do, they play with other children and socialize." The room will also be used for group therapy sessions for teenagers and adults.

UL Lafayette's Speech, Language and Hearing Center has a dual mission.

It provides evaluation and therapy services for children, teenagers and adults who have a wide range of communicative disorders. Some clients may have problems with speech and language development, hearing problems or literacy. Others may be suffering from a loss of communication following stroke or other brain injury.

The center is also a lab for UL Lafayette students. Graduate and upper-level undergraduate students receive hands-on training while helping clients. They are supervised and supported by faculty in the clinical setting as they fulfill certification requirements to become speech-language therapists.

The center's 13 therapy rooms have been renovated and its video monitoring and recording system has been replaced with a new, digital system. "Now, it's easier to

locate, record and copy sessions," said Clinic Director Holly Damico. Clinic supervisors use video and audio recording equipment to document therapy sessions. The recorded sessions are used as teaching tools for parents of children who are receiving therapy, adult clients and student-clinicians.

Dr. Jack Damico, a professor, is looking ahead.

The faculty has been rejuvenated. Even though it's our old space, it's been spruced up. It's like a new beginning, so they are ready to move forward in new avenues with their research and their teaching.'

NANCYE ROUSSEL, COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS DEPARTMENT HEAD

COMING SOON



Improvements to the Burke-Hawthorne Theatre will enhance learning for performing arts students.

"The space will be used for teaching costume and scene design, sound and lighting, as well as acting and directing," said Nyalls Hartman, chairman of the Department of Performing Arts.

A backstage addition to Burke-Hawthorne Hall includes a green room, where actors will wait for their cues; dressing rooms, a wig and makeup room; and spaces for students to create costumes and sets.

Other improvements include a university-funded \$100,000 upgrade to the sound and lighting system. A new digital sound system allows technicians to create their own sound cues.

The theater accommodates 206 people in stadium-style seating. ■

Left: Undergraduate students Kathryn Mercer (foreground) and Ashley Faulk (background) work with preschool-age clients in the group therapy room.



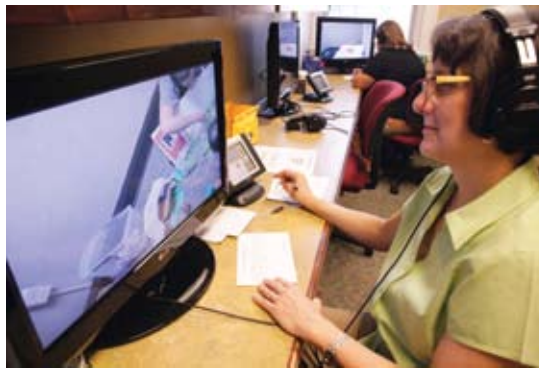
“The department is developing a five-year strategic plan to generate more contact with the community, more service to the community,” he said. Damico is the Doris B. Hawthorne Eminent Scholar in Special Education and Communicative Disorders.



The clinic offers one-on-one therapy sessions and support group sessions for clients who stutter or have other speech difficulties. Damico said he sees the potential to create additional specialty clinics. “Now that we’re no longer limited by space, we’d like to create some interactive therapy groups, as well.”



Top: Dr. Nancye Roussel produces an ultrasound image of graduate student Carolyn Auld’s vocal chords. Right: Clinic supervisor Diane Whittington monitors a therapy session. Far right, top: Doctoral student Sunny Seeberger grades students’ papers in her office. Far right, bottom: Parents may observe while children work with student clinicians. Bottom: Graduate student Amy Braud, at window, welcomes clients in the Communicative Disorders clinic waiting room.



He plans to expand the UL Lafayette Literacy Project, an annual, seven-week summer camp for elementary school-age children. “Hopefully, we’ll be able to expand the number of children we serve and the number of graduate students who work on the project,” he said.

New spaces were created exclusively for students. A workroom overlooking Cypress Lake is a place where graduate students can review confidential client files, conduct research and complete assignments. The department now has office spaces and a conference room to accommodate 15 doctoral students.

Roussel says faculty members are inspired by Burke-Hawthorne’s new look and feel.

“The faculty have been rejuvenated. Even though it’s our old space it’s been spruced up. It’s like a new beginning, so they are ready to move forward in new avenues with their research and their teaching.

“It’s a beautiful building. It makes you happy to come to work, you feel more productive.”

Students are supervised and supported by faculty in the clinical setting as they fulfill certification requirements to become speech-language specialists.

'HAPPY TO BE BACK'

UL Lafayette's Speech and Debate Team is among the best in the nation; in May, the team was ranked 15th by the Cross Examination Debate Association. Before moving back into Burke-Hawthorne Hall, team members often had to cut their practice sessions short.

A typical practice debate takes about 90 minutes, but borrowed classrooms were usually available for an hour at a time, explained Dr. Scott Elliott, an associate professor of communication and the team's coach.

Now, the team has its own suite of offices, which includes a conference room that students have dubbed "the war room." Gathered around a large table there, debaters brainstorm, map out strategies and stage mock debates. Additional spaces include Elliott's office and three more offices – for the varsity, junior varsity, and novice debate teams.

"Now, students have a place to conduct online research," Elliot said. The new quarters have improved "the overall unity of the team. Students have a place where they can do their school work, their debate work, or just hang out with other team members."

Dr. Mike Maher, professor and department head, said the new facilities will allow the Communication Department to expand course offerings to keep pace with the changing world of journalism. "The term 'backpack journalism' refers to the fact that journalists nowadays have to be able to write a print story, shoot still photography, shoot and edit video and post everything to the Web."

The department plans to offer a videography course for students majoring in areas other than broadcast journalism. "That student might be majoring in public relations, print journalism, education, or art. We want to teach the basics: capturing video, editing, adding a soundtrack.

"In the new wing of Burke-Hawthorne Hall we have a lab that will support this new area of instruction," The department recently received a Student Technology Enhancement Program grant to fund the purchase of computers, software and video cameras for the new course.

Additions to the building have allowed two broadcast faculty, Dr. William Davie and John Korbel, to join their colleagues by moving their offices from Wharton Hall to Burke-Hawthorne Hall.

"We're happy to be back in the building after the two-year hiatus," Maher said. ■



Left: A courtyard, created between the existing building and its new wing gives students a new study spot. Below: Dr. Scott Elliott teaches "Communications Law and Ethics" in Burke-Hawthorne's new lecture room.



It's a tough job, but apparently, someone's got to do it: sample boudin from around Acadiana and review it online.

Then, create a Boudin Cook-Off, where area businesses can share their fare and boudin lovers can get their fill of samples.

Celebrate boudin. Heat up the local economy.

That's the link Dr. Robert "Bob" Carriker has created. His web site, boudinlink.com, gets about 6,000 hits each month. More than 4,000 people attended the second annual Boudin Cook-Off in downtown Lafayette in October.

Carriker said he does it all for the love of boudin.



A native of Spokane, Wash., he is head of the Department of History, Geography and Philosophy at UL Lafayette.

"I can trace my first boudin experience to my job interview here," he said. In April 1997, he was visiting the Lafayette area for the first time. Dr. Julia Frederick, now director of the Honors Program, was an associate professor of history. She was Carriker's

weekend host, showing him around the campus and community.

"It was a Sunday afternoon and I had to catch a two o'clock flight," Carriker recalled. There was time for one last stop: Billeaud's Meat and Grocery in Broussard.

"We go in. She says, 'Give me two links.' We get two links, we go out to her car and we sit in the front seat of her car in the parking lot eating this stuff, sucking it out of the casing.

"I grew up in Washington State and went to graduate school in Arizona. I'd never had anything like that before."

Carriker accepted the job offer. He and his wife, Dawn, moved to Lafayette. The Carrikers put down roots in the university community and in Acadiana.

"I knew, when I moved here, I wanted to become part of this community. I'm not content to just sit on the sidelines," he said.

He has shared his professional expertise in public history and cultural heritage tourism, serving as a consultant for the Alexander Mouton House and Lafayette Museum; the Mississippi River Valley Museum at Lafayette's Acadian Village; and the Acadian Museum in Erath. He became department chair in 2003.

Over the years, Carriker continued to bond with boudin. The boudin aficionado has become known as a boudin expert: Carriker was quoted in the April issue of Southwest Airlines' inflight magazine, *Spirit*, in a travel story featuring Cajun Country.

BOUDIN EXPERT RELIES ON CAJUN FARE FOR CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NETWORKING

By Sarah Spell
Photography by Denny Culbert





'Sometimes, the stories behind the boudin are as tasty as the boudin itself.'

Despite the national exposure, he says exploring boudin stops is a down-to-earth, "family affair." Many Saturday mornings, Bob and Dawn; their daughters Ella, 4, and Leona, 3; and the family dog, Callie, can be found cruising Acadiana highways, seeking out as-yet-undiscovered recipes.

"The amazing thing about boudin is its infinite variety. On one hand, I guess you could say, 'It's pork, rice and seasoning stuffed into a casing.' But somehow, every version of the same basic recipe is different from all the rest."

Carriker launched boudinlink.com in 2004. The web site includes boudin reviews, maps, and recipes. He gives each link a grade of A to F, based on six standards of good taste: presentation, casing, meat-to-rice ratio, texture, spice and overall flavor. So far, he's posted 112 reviews of boudin from nine states.

"The idea – a rather tongue-in-cheek idea – was to let people know where the 'best' boudin is," said Carriker. "Of course, 'best' is relative. I'm reviewing the boudin on the basis of what I think is best. The point is ... go try it!"

Although some businesses that sell boudin advertise on the web site, Carriker said the site "generates more good will than revenue." The advertising revenue covers the cost of hosting the site, mileage and boudin purchases. Occasionally,

a good-natured business owner will throw in some free boudin, as *lagniappe*.

Billy and Patsy Frey own two boudin-selling locations, Billy's Mini Mart in Krotz

Springs, and Billy's Boudin and Ray's Boudin in Opelousas, which features a boudin drive-through window.

"When customers say, 'We found you on the web site,' we know they're talking about boudinlink.com, because we don't have a site of our own," said Patsy Frey.

The name of the Opelousas store is somewhat bewildering, said Carriker, unless one knows the history behind it.

He clears it all up on the site: "Some years back Ray sold his business to Billy. Now Billy makes two boudin recipes: Ray's Boudin and Billy's Boudin. In order to further confuse things, Ray (the original) has re-entered the boudin business and is, once again, selling Ray's original boudin at another location. There is, from the looks of it, a veritable Boudin War going on in Opelousas. Don't get caught in the crossfire, but do eat the boudin."

"Sometimes, the stories behind the boudin are as tasty as the boudin itself," he added.

Cajun boudin is the culinary descendant of *boudin blanc* (white boudin), a French dish. Highly perishable, *boudin blanc* is made from pork, chicken and/or veal blended with milk, cognac and spices.

A reference to *boudin blanc* turns up in the journals of Lewis and Clark, said Carriker. The explorers' French Canadian guide, Toussaint Charbonneau, was also an accomplished cook. Along the trail, he made *boudin blanc* with buffalo meat and intestines, boiled it, then fried it in bear fat.

The provenance of Louisiana's boudin is perhaps best summed up in a lyrical line by Nathan Williams of Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas: "Everything on the hog is good."

"When Cajuns and Creoles butcher a hog, they make good use of



Blaine Broussard of NuNu's Fresh Market in Youngsville stirs a pot of boudin ingredients. Broussard and Dr. Bob Carriker sample the finished product, NuNu's award-winning boudin.



2009 BOUDIN COOK-OFF WINNERS



People's Choice

NuNu's Fresh Market, Youngsville
T-Boy's, Mamou

Traditional

Don's Specialty Meats, Scott
Best Stop, Scott
NuNu's Fresh Market, Youngsville and
Janise's Supermarket, Sunset (tie)

Specialty

Mike's Country Corner, Duson
NuNu's Fresh Market, Youngsville
Chadeaux's Cajun Meats, Kinder

Unlinked

Johnson's Boucaniere, Lafayette
Mike's Country Corner, Duson
NuNu's Fresh Market, Youngsville

every single part of the animal," said Carriker. Less-than-choice cuts of meat, seasonings and rice – used as a filler to stretch the recipe – are the basic ingredients of Louisiana boudin. Liver is a key component.

Folks around Acadiana – and visitors to the area – can't seem to get enough of the stuff.

"I don't even know how many places sell boudin. It's almost impossible to keep up with, because new places are opening all the time. I guess there would be a point at which the market would be saturated, but I don't know what that (point) would be," Carriker said.

"I've been exploring boudin places for years – consciously going out looking for



Dr. Robert "Bob" Carriker helped promote the 2009 Boudin Cook-Off.

new stops, and I know I haven't even come close to finding everything that's out there."

Gerald Breaux, executive director of the Lafayette Visitors and Convention Commission, said visitors come to south Louisiana "for the food, the music and the culture."

According to LCVC, a visitor who travels at least 50 miles to Lafayette spends an estimated \$125 per day in the city. "Even if that person isn't occupying a hotel room, he or she is still buying gasoline and food. That visitor definitely makes an impact," he said.

Breaux is relying on Carriker's expertise to help create a "Boudin Trail" brochure that LCVC will produce and distribute. The printed brochure will be available at visitors' centers; an online version will be posted on LafayetteTravel.com and at boudinlink.com.

In 2008, Carriker and about 20 volunteers, including his family and neighbors, created the first-ever Boudin Cook-Off. About 2,000 people attended the inaugural event; more than twice that number showed up this year.

"Vendors definitely see it as an opportunity to promote their businesses," he said. Twenty boudin purveyors set up shop at the Cook-Off this year.

Entry to the event is free to the public;

profits generated from vendor booth fees and the sale of boudin samples and soft drinks are donated the Preservation Alliance of Lafayette, a non-profit organization that promotes the preservation of historic properties. Since 2008, the Boudin Cook-Off has contributed more than \$6,000 to the PAL.

The payoff for boudin makers is bragging rights. A panel of judges determines the best boudin in three categories through blind taste tests: "Traditional," "Speciality," (crawfish or seafood) and "Unlinked" (boudin balls and the like). Cook-Off patrons vote in the "People's Choice" category.

In the days following this year's event, Carriker received a number of e-mails, including one from an out-of-town visitor who said he'd stopped on the way home and picked up 30 pounds of boudin.

"That's just one person," said Carriker. "But it's safe to assume that others did the same thing – stopped somewhere and picked up some boudin. And, the next time they come through the area, they're going to do it again.

"I don't know how many people follow suit, but with 4,000 or so boudin-loving people attending the Cook-Off getting turned on to new businesses, I'd have to say, 'It's working.' " ■

UL LAFAYETTE HEAD BASEBALL COACH TONY Robichaux doesn't brag about his coaching record. He contends that the awards and accolades that others attribute to him – three-time Sun Belt Coach of the Year, four-time Louisiana Coach of the Year and more than 800 career wins – are not his own.

"I've never won a game," he said in a recent interview. "The players have the 800-and-something wins and I have the losses."

To anyone who doesn't know Robichaux, his observation might sound like yet another sports cliché, a bit of public modesty intended to gain fans' favor. But any suspicions of insincere humility disappear when Robichaux talks about what's most important about college baseball.

"The real games are life's personal and professional challenges. I tell my players when they first get here, 'Go home and ask your mom and dad how the curve ball and slider have helped their marriage.' Baseball plays a small part in these students' lives. But holding a player accountable for four years while he's here plays a lot bigger role in his life later on, when he is trying to be a good father or be true to his wife."

ROBICHAUX'S PARENTS, RAY AND SYLVIA ROBICHAUX, taught their children by example.

"My dad was a butcher. We had five boys in our family and we lived eight miles out of Crowley on the way to Kaplan," the coach recalled.

"My dad got up every morning at five o'clock. Every afternoon, he'd get home around five thirty, after standing on his feet all day on a cement floor. He would have a brown paper bag with about a dozen baseballs in it.

"Every afternoon, he'd throw to us. When we had batting practice, he'd catch for us. He instilled

this in us, by example: If you want something, you have to work for it.

"I didn't realize how tired he must have been – not until I was an adult, a parent, looking back on that time. The thing I most respect him for was coming home every night with that brown paper bag. He never said, 'I'm too tired.'"

Robichaux's mother taught by example, too.

"My mom is the most Christian person I've ever seen in my life. She turns the other cheek. I don't know if I've ever heard her say anything negative, her whole life."

ROBICHAUX UNDERSTANDS the lure of college athletic competition and its pitfalls.

"Society glorifies athletes. It's

easy for a kid to get caught up in that. The reality is, the glory will fade. Baseball will come to an end. For some, that happens after college. For others, it's after a career in baseball – but it will end. It's my job to prepare them for life after baseball."

One way he does that is by setting high standards. He tells players: "There are more than 16,000 students here. Only 35 players are going to get to wear our uniform. It's an honor to be one of the 35. You have to treat that as an honor and a privilege."

The NCAA determines the rules of college baseball. But Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® also must abide by "Robe's Rules." Robichaux gives a potential team member – and that student's parents – a copy of those nine rules. The student has two choices: 1) Agree to observe those rules by signing the document. 2) Don't agree to observe the rules and play baseball somewhere else.

"The players know what the rules are, what's expected of them, and they know what the consequences will be if they disobey the rules," Robichaux said.

ROBE'S RULES

HEAD COACH TONY ROBICHAUX PREPARES
PLAYERS FOR THE GAME OF LIFE

Photography by Brad Kemp





Head coach Tony Robichaux, center, talks with the Ragin' Cajuns during the 2000 Collegiate World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Robe's rules cover the biggies: DWI/OWI; arrest; illegal drugs; performance enhancement substances; housing; curfew; gambling; extra benefits; and the Major League Baseball draft.

They are unequivocal. Rule No. 3, for example, states: "Any player involved in doing steroids, having a positive drug test, or engaging in buying or selling of drugs will be immediately suspended for two semesters, not counting the summer or Christmas holiday break. Coaches have the right to test any player at any time. Your scholarship can immediately be reduced or cancelled and practice and playing privileges removed. UL Baseball will not remove the suspension just because someone you know gets the charges dropped."

The four-page document has a place for a player's

signature – by each rule and by a section entitled "Player Acknowledgment."

If signing the document seems like a symbolic gesture, it's worth noting that a few years ago, one of UL Lafayette's top players was arrested on a possession of marijuana charge. He was removed from the team. The charge against the student-athlete was dropped within weeks of his arrest. But he remained suspended from the Ragin' Cajuns baseball team.

Robichaux provided a copy of Robe's Rules at *La Louisiane's* request. He wasn't worried about violating the privacy of the player who signed it. The signature that appears on the document is his son's. Justin Robichaux is a senior who pitches for the Ragin' Cajuns.

ROBICHAUX'S BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ARE reflected in the record books.

One of the obvious pinnacles of his coaching career so far was Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns' appearance in the 2000 College World Series. Clearly, Robichaux and his assistant coaches provided the team with the skills and strategies necessary to play baseball at that level of competition.

It's a difficult sport to master, as evidenced by the number of losses that professional teams compile every season. A Major League team that wins the World Series, for example, may have 50 to 60 losses in a season. Robichaux preaches this to his players: It is the team that can overcome losses that becomes a champion.

When he took over UL Lafayette's baseball program in 1995, the Ragin' Cajuns were on NCAA probation and had lost a scholarship. Few people believed the Ragin' Cajuns would compete in the 2000 College World Series. "But that team believed it would," Robichaux observed. And that's the key to winning, he claims.

"You have to care when everybody else stops caring. You've got to believe when everybody else stops believing. And you've got to hold on when everybody



else is letting go. That's not an easy thing for people to do." And if his players can overcome challenges on the baseball diamond, he added, "they're going to be able to hang on when life gets tough."

DURING HIS 23-YEAR career as a head baseball coach, 13 of Robichaux's players have been named All-Americans; 38 advanced to the Major League draft.

Catcher Jonathan Lucroy played for Robichaux for three seasons, before signing with the minor league Milwaukee Brewers.

"He changed me as a person," said Lucroy of his former coach. "I've always been a self-driven, hard-working player, but Coach Robe turned me into a professional."

Lucroy had been a star athlete at Umatilla High School in Umatilla, Fla. As a college freshman, he joined a Ragin' Cajun team weighted with seasoned players. "All of a sudden, I'm on a team with 16 seniors and I'm the youngest kid on the team," he recalled.

At 18, Lucroy said, he was immature and somewhat impatient, because he wasn't allowed much time on the field during games. He recounted how a heartfelt exchange with Robichaux helped change his coach's outlook – and how an opportunity on the field changed the course of his career as a professional baseball player.

During a 2005 game, Lucroy sat in the dugout, disappointed and frustrated. "Coach Robe came up to me and said, 'Hey, man. Are you all right?'"

"I said, 'I just want to play.'"

"I understand," Robichaux replied. "But you know, there are a lot of seniors ahead of you."

"I said, 'Yes, sir. I understand that. But I see what's going on out there on the field and I know I could make a difference.'"

Later in the season, Robichaux added Lucroy to the batting lineup during a game against Louisiana Tech University. "On my second at-bat, I hit a home run. After that, I played almost every day as a designated hitter. I ended up being a freshman All-American that year."

"He's done more for me in my life than



Above: Tony Robichaux was head coach at McNeese State University, his alma mater, from 1987 to 1994. He's shown here in 1995. Below: Robichaux gives advice during a meeting on the mound.

he could possibly understand. I went from nobody looking at me to being an All-American. He gave me a chance when nobody else would. I'm so thankful for that, and will be for the rest of my life."

ROBICHAUX SPEAKS EASILY about the need for passion in baseball and in life. "That's the biggest challenge in coaching these kids. You have to get them to exchange the words 'hard work' for 'passion,' because if you're passionate about something, it's not work."

His values are simple. "Riches aren't that important to me, relationships are. Possessions aren't important to me, people are."

He tells his players: "What it really comes down to is, what's important to you?"

"If a fan bumps into you five years from now, six years from now, he's not going to remember whether you hit .297 or .342. They're going to remember who you were."

How does Robichaux want to be remembered?

"The one thing nobody's going to say when I'm finished here is that I didn't care. That's the worst thing anybody can say about somebody, that he didn't care." ■

ROBICHAUX STATS

- ONE OF YOUNGEST HEAD COACHES IN NCAA DIVISION 1 HISTORY TO REACH 500 CAREER VICTORIES
- GUIDED LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® TO 7 NCAA REGIONAL APPEARANCES
2 NCAA SUPER REGIONAL APPEARANCES
1 WORLD SERIES APPEARANCE
3 SUNBELT CONFERENCE REGULAR

SEASON CROWNS

- 1 SUNBELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT TITLE
- SUN BELT COACH OF THE YEAR
1997, 2005, 2007
- LOUISIANA COACH OF THE YEAR
1997, 1999, 2000, 2007
- ABCA SOUTH CENTRAL COACH
1999, 2000



Venues Will Sport a New Look

Improvements in the works for four programs



Planned improvements at Alfred and Helen Lamson Ragin' Cajuns Softball Park will double its seating capacity by moving existing bleachers beyond the outfield. Plans call for a wider concourse and expanded concession areas.

MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS are planned for UL Lafayette's softball park, soccer and track complex, and baseball field.

"These enhancements will benefit our fans, student-athletes and coaches. And, we're confident they will support our recruiting efforts, too," said Scott Farmer, senior associate athletic director.

Here's a look at changes that are in the works.

ALFRED AND HELEN LAMSON RAGIN' CAJUNS SOFTBALL PARK

Seating capacity will double for Ragin' Cajun home games. The Alfred and Helen Lamson Ragin' Cajuns Softball Park now has 1,500 mostly bleacher-style seats.

"We will move the current seating, which is behind home plate, and put it along the outfield fence," Farmer said. Covered, chair-back seating will be installed between the dugouts.

Three private sky boxes, each with seating for 12-15 fans, will be added along the top of the new grandstand. Those boxes will have air conditioning and heating. A separate, 40-seat Stadium Club area will enable some fans to sit outdoors during pleasant weather or remain inside a climate-controlled space.

Plans also call for a new scoreboard, new restrooms and larger concession areas. "It will be a more user-friendly, fan-friendly park," Farmer said.

Softball coaches' offices are

The facility will include separate locker rooms for women's track, men's track, and women's soccer. The programs will share a laundry room, training room and equipment room.

now in Earl K. Long gymnasium; when the project is complete, their office space will be on site at the park.

In addition to a new locker room, the team will have covered batting cages.

Protecting the cages from the elements is essential, said Coach Stefni Lotief, because she wants to create videos while players practice. "We already have a computerized video system. We'll be able to install recording equipment in the cages once those areas are covered."

With the digital recording and edit-

SPORTS UPGRADES

Planned improvements for three UL Lafayette athletic facilities are part of the Athletic Department's continual efforts to provide top-drawer environments for student-athletes and Ragin' Cajuns fans.

Here are some other recent or pending improvements.

ATHLETIC COMPLEX

- added four meeting rooms
- quadrupled the size of training room
- enlarged football locker room
- enlarged equipment room

CONFERENCE CENTER

- remodeled the third floor, a residence for male student-athletes
- will soon remodel the second floor, a residence for female student-athletes

EARL K. LONG GYM

- new lounge for student-athletes
- new locker room for volleyball
- new locker room for women's basketball

CULOTTA COURTS

- resurfaced six tennis courts



ARCHITECTS BEAZLEY MOLLIERE

Room for two: A new building will house UL Lafayette's Soccer and Track programs.

ing system, coaches can evaluate game and practice footage – or create virtual matchups of Ragin' Cajun batters and opposing teams' pitchers. A new meeting room, with digital capabilities, will give the team a place to analyze the video it collects and creates.

Farmer said the Athletics Department also kept the media in mind as it planned the improvements. An enlarged press box will include two new radio broadcasting booths and a television broadcasting booth.

If construction progresses according to schedule, the entire project could be complete by the summer of 2010.

RAGIN' CAJUNS SOCCER/TRACK FACILITY

A new multi-purpose building at the Ragin' Cajuns soccer and track complex will "make the facility complete," Farmer said.

It will include separate locker rooms for women's track, men's track and women's soccer. The programs will share a laundry room, training room and equipment room.

There are plans to include an upstairs press room, overlooking the field; it's intended to be used as a conference room, as well.

The facility will also include coaches' offices, a concession area and public restrooms.

Offices for soccer coaches are now in Earl K. Long Gymnasium. The improvements will enable those offices to be moved to the soccer and track complex.

In 2004, workers installed a \$1.4 million combination track and soccer field. The track surrounds the soccer field.

"We already have a beautiful stadium there, a great track surface and a great soccer surface, so these improvements are going to complete the facility," Farmer noted.


The improvements will require the demolition of a small brick building that now houses an office shared by UL Lafayette's five track coaches, a concession stand and restrooms.

M. L. "TIGUE" MOORE FIELD

Ragin' Cajun baseball fans may be spending more time at M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field after the installation of artificial turf is complete.

The field will also have better drainage than natural turf, so fewer games should be canceled due to rain-soaked field conditions. The new playing surface will also reduce maintenance.

And because the field won't require time to "recover" game to game, "The Tigue" will be available for more events, such as youth baseball tournaments. "The overall result will be to bring more people to the field, to make a stronger connection with Ragin' Cajun fans and the Acadiana community," Farmer said. ■

 www.ragincajuns.com

ACADEMICS

■ The Carnegie Foundation has designated UL Lafayette as a "Research University with High Research Activity." That means UL Lafayette is in the same category as Clemson, Auburn, Baylor and Syracuse universities.



■ UL Lafayette offers 78 undergraduate degree programs, 27 master's degree programs and one post-master's certificate program.

■ Doctoral degrees are offered in applied language and speech sciences, biology, cognitive science, English, Francophone studies, mathematics, computer science, computer engineering and educational leadership.

■ Fall 2009 enrollment at UL Lafayette is 16,361.

2008 ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Total spending impact of \$755 million
- Every dollar of state funding invested in UL Lafayette generates an \$8.62 return.
- \$51 million in new external research funding
- 2,100 employees

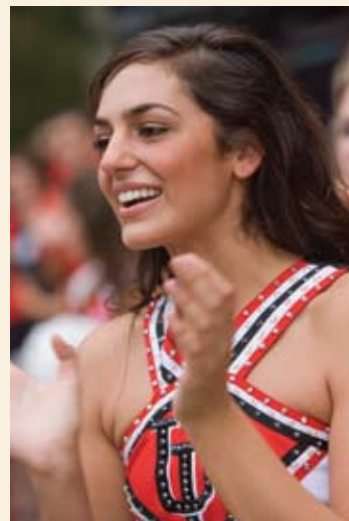


ATHLETICS

■ Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in NCAA Division 1, the highest level of collegiate athletics.

■ Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® sports:

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



NOTEWORTHY

■ UL Lafayette was one of only 20 universities chosen from around the world to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in October. TEAM BeauSoleil earned the People's Choice Award for its BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home and placed first in Market Viability.

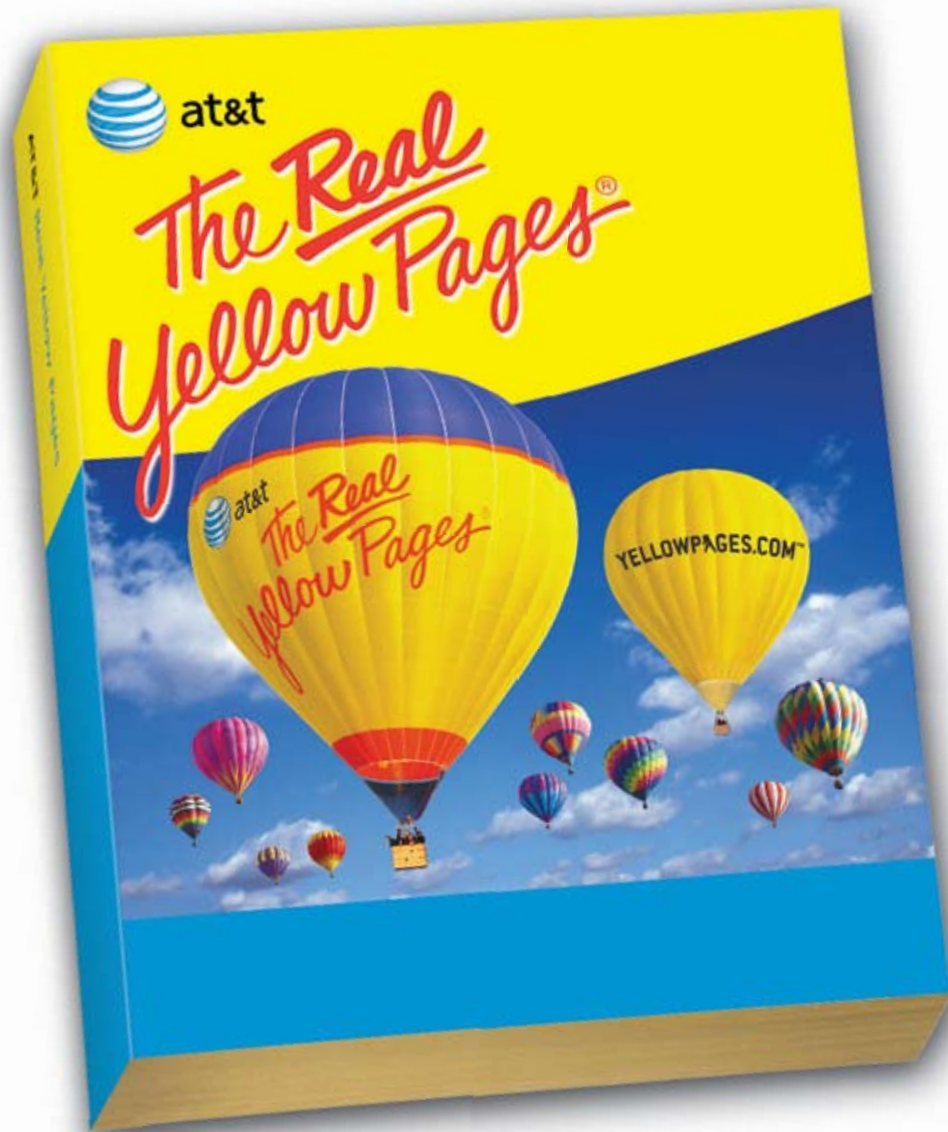
■ An assistant professor in UL Lafayette's Center for Advanced Computer Studies is exploring ways to make small computer chips even smaller. Dr. Danella Zhao's work got a boost recently when she received a prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation. She is the third CACS faculty member to receive the award in the past five years.



■ UL Lafayette's computer science building was recently named in honor of the late James R. Oliver, a faculty member who initiated the school's computer science program in the early 1960s.

■ The Ernest J. Gaines Center in Dupré Library will house the only complete collection of Gaines' scholarship in the world. Gaines, author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying*, is writer-in-residence emeritus.

If it's not this book,
it's not the real book.



Ready to Help

Former leaders stay connected to UL Lafayette

THE UL LAFAYETTE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION has a valuable support group composed of former Association presidents. The Alumni Presidents Council is one of the Association's many chapters.

"The individual and collective experiences of past presidents are an asset for the entire Alumni Association and the

University of Louisiana at Lafayette," said Dan Hare, executive director of the Association.

More than 20 of the Alumni Presidents Council members got together for a luncheon in July to reminisce and show their continued support for UL Lafayette.

Marty Audiffred, Association president for 2007-08, initiated the event.

"We have had some wonderful people from our community play an extremely important part of the Alumni Association. In most organizations, past presidents just go off into the sunset. However, these individuals have a strong understanding of the needs and goals of our alumni and the university," he said.

Mary Galyean's year as Association president ended in June. As the immediate past president, she is automatically the new chair of the Alumni Presidents Council.

"We wanted to welcome Mary into the membership of past presidents and to offer advice to the new alumni president, Darren Guidry," Audiffred said.

As immediate past president of the Association, Galyean will serve a year on the Alumni Executive Board. "I thoroughly enjoyed my year as Alumni Association president, but it did go by too quickly," she said.

Guidry said the gathering of former Association presidents this summer "was of tremendous value to me. It was a phenomenal history lesson."

He said he was particularly encouraged by the group's willingness to help UL Lafayette. "It was impressive to hear so many past presidents say, 'If you need anything, just let us know.' They offered their time, talents and resources to better our university."

Galyean said she hopes to make the past presidents' luncheon a regular event. There is a tentative plan to schedule it during Alumni Leadership Weekend, which is traditionally held in conjunction with UL Lafayette's first home football game each fall.

David Fisher served as Alumni Association president for the 1982-83 term. He recalls that one of his roles as president was to support the university as Louisiana's higher education officials evaluated all academic programs at colleges and universities. He encouraged Association members to write letters on UL Lafayette's behalf.

Fisher attended the luncheon with other past presidents. "I don't consider myself wiser than anyone else," he said, but he recognizes the value of continuity among leaders.

Other past Association presidents who attended the event included Bernard N. Marcantel, Kaliste J. Saloom Jr., Lester Soileau, Louis Gaudet, John Allen Prejean, E. Raymond DesOrmeaux, Kenneth A. Ardoin, John W. Bordelon, Rae D. Robinson, Camille Claibourne, Gene Lognion, Stephen J. Oats, Karren Hays, Jim Doyle, Gerald Abshire, Shawn Wilson and J.D. Morein. ■



Darren Guidry, president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association, and Mary Galyean, immediate past president of the Association and chair of the Alumni Presidents Council

OCEANNA TRZECIAR-CATES



www.louisianaalumni.org

1952

RUSSELL T. DORR has completed two careers, retiring from the U.S. Air Force Reserve with the rank of lieutenant colonel and also from the Federal Aviation Administration, where he worked as an air traffic assistant. He holds a bachelor's degree in commercial art from SLI. Dorr and his wife, Shirley M. Dorr, live in The Woodlands, Texas. They have one son, Russell B. Dorr.

1958

In 2004, **JEROME "JERRY" SIMON** was inducted into the Senior Softball Hall of Fame. He had a nine-year career in minor league baseball, playing in the now-defunct Crowley-Evangeline League and in the Texas League. As a student, Simon served for two years as SLI's baseball coach. In 1989, he retired from Chase Manhattan Bank as regional vice president for the western United States in charge of Visa credit cards and Visa traveler's checks. Simon holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from SLI. He lives in Walnut Creek, Calif. and has one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

1961

KATHLEEN "KAT" A. RICE has retired as chief executive officer of the Phoenix Center, a drug abuse and prevention center in Greenville, S.C. She earned a bachelor's degree in child and family studies from USL and a master's degree in social work from Louisiana State University. Rice is the mother of triplet daughters, Marielena, Cynthia and Susana; and one son, Jon David. She lives in Mandeville, La.

1975

DUNCAN BLUE is global product manager for Surface Logging Services, a division of Baker Hughes, in Houston. He holds three patents and is the developer of a web site, used internally by Surface Logging Services, which tracks the number of rigs in the drilling industry. Blue earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL and also holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix at New Orleans. He is married to Anne S. Blue. They have four children: Katie, Daniel, Robert and Margaret.

1977

JACQUES LASSEIGNE recently published a non-fiction book, *E-Mail Connections: Tragedy and Triumph of The Terms*. His son, Scott, was a member of a Baton Rouge-based rock band, The Terms. Scott and his fellow band members were seriously injured in a car crash in 2006. Lasseigne's book chronicles their recovery. It includes e-mail messages that he sent to update friends and family members. Lasseigne, who holds a bachelor's degree in social studies education from USL, is a regional manager with the Louisiana Department of Labor. He lives in Shreveport, La.

RICHARD A. LEHMAN develops computer software for RSM Services, a data-mining company in Houston, where he is a senior application developer. He is also a financial services professional who holds several licenses through Primerica Financial Services. Lehman earned his bachelor's degree in computer science. He is married to Judith

Elizabeth Bole. They have three children, **ALLISON**, '88, **SARAH**, '90 and **REBECCA**, '92.

1979

A home designed by architect **SAM GUIDRY** was featured in the September issue of *Coastal Living* magazine. It was selected as the magazine's 2009 Idea House. Proceeds from tours of the home benefitted Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina. That organization provides housing, foster care and adoption programs to abused and neglected children. Guidry holds a degree in architecture from USL and has more than 30 years of experience; he has worked with The Coastal Companies® since 1995.

Sisters **MARTHA HEBERT**, '79, '85, and **REBECCA "BECKY" GUIDRY**, '80,



'91, won the top prize of \$10,000 on The Learning Channel's "Ultimate Cake Off." The episode featuring the alumna aired Sept. 28,

2009. Hebert and Guidry created the winning, 5 foot tall cake in nine hours. Hebert holds two bachelor's degrees, in vocational home economics education and in lower education; Guidry holds a bachelor's degree in vocational home economics education and a master's degree in education. Hebert is married to **DANNY HEBERT**, '77, '79. They have three children, **MONIQUE HEBERT SANCHEZ**, '03; Daniel Hebert; and Holly Hebert. Guidry has five children, Jacob, Jared, Jordan, Jewel and Jenna; and three grandchildren.

DR. CHARLES PERNICIARO was named Practitioner of the Year



by the Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery. He has led Bernhardt Laboratories' Dermatopa-

thology Division since 2001. A former consultant for the Mayo Clinic, Perniciaro has served on the faculties of the University of Florida; Shands Jacksonville Medical Center; the Mayo Medical School in Rochester, Minn.; LSU School of Medicine; and Tulane University School of Medicine. Perniciaro holds a bachelor's degree in biology-chemistry. He earned his doctorate of medicine at Louisiana State University School of Medicine.

JOHN J. SULLIVAN is owner and chief executive officer of Independence Chiropractic in Lafayette. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from USL and a chiropractic degree from Life University. He is certified in Z-Health, an exercise system used in rehabilitation and athletic conditioning. He also is a Russian kettlebell certified trainer.

1900-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

1960-1999

University of Southwestern Louisiana

1999-PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Alumna Singing Song of Success

WHAT DO POP DIVAS Beyoncé, Jessica Simpson and Demi Lovato have in common? They've all been coached by UL Lafayette alumna Linda Septien, '76.

She was featured in a September episode of "ABC Nightline, Enroll Yourself in the Genius Factory." Nightline producers chose to tell her story because she is a subject of journalist Daniel Coyle's book, *The Talent Code*. Coyle contends that talent is a learned skill, rather than an innate gift. He points to Septien as an exemplary teacher.

Septien, a vocal coach and entrepreneur, established Septien Entertainment Group, an artist development school, in 1986. More than 100 students from ages 9 to 29 are pursuing careers in pop, rock, jazz, country, R&B, Christian/Gospel, alternative and musical theater. "We've launched 40 artists," she said.

Septien said she didn't start with a plan to produce pop stars. Instead, harsh words from a Nashville producer inspired her to learn more about talent, performance skills and the entertainment industry.

She explained that after graduating with a bachelor's degree in education of the voice, she began a professional career



Linda Septien

as an opera singer, performing in Russia, Italy and Eastern Europe. She returned to the United States to record an album in a Nashville studio.

"I was singing and the producers didn't say much. I thought, 'Wow, they must be stunned by this great voice.'"

Instead, one of the producers gave an honest appraisal. "He said, 'Well, that just really sucked. You have no passion. You can't just sing. You've got to feel. You've got to make an audience want to watch you. Your songs have to come alive.'"

She took the criticism as a challenge. "So, I went about learning that. I took notes on how people study, how people are entertainers. How they work, what goes on. When you really see the great artists and how they work, it's amazing. There's an art to it. And I just began teaching that art."

Septien often returns to the Acadiana area, keeping in touch with her Delta Delta Delta sorority sisters. "I also keep up with all my friends who were in the music department, because we just got so close," she said.

There's talk of more television exposure for the USL grad: Oxygen Network plans to air a reality show featuring Septien and her top students, called "Pop School." ■

Kettlebells are free weights used in strength and cardiovascular training. He is a professionally rated skydiver and jumpmaster and a certified scuba instructor. He and his wife, Julia, live in Lafayette; he has two children, Debbie Manco and Sean Sullivan.

1982

NORMAN H. GERMAN is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University whose novel, *A Savage Wisdom*, was published by Thunder Rain Publishing in 2008. It is based on the life of Toni Jo Henry, the only woman executed in Louisiana's electric chair. German earned a bachelor's degree in history/pre-law at McNeese State University and a master's degree in English and philosophy from the University of Texas. He holds a doctoral degree in English from USL. German and his wife, Raejean Clark, live in Lake Charles, La.

1983

LAURIE JANKOWER JAMES and **KENNETH D. JAMES, '90**, live in Lafayette. Laurie James is an independent director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. She has earned national sales awards for four consecutive years. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. Kenneth James teaches physical education at Breau Bridge Elementary. He previously coached track and field at Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grand Coteau, where he was selected District 2-A Coach of the Year by the Louisiana High School Athletics Association. While earning a bachelor's degree in kinesiology at USL, he was equipment manager for the New Orleans Saints.



1985

GREG MOCEK is a partner with McDermott Will & Emery LLP law firm in Washington, D.C. He previously worked for 10 years with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Mocek holds a bachelor's degree in finance. His wife, Avery Miller, is the producer of ABC News' "World News Tonight." The Moceks have two children.

1986

BERNARD GOODLY earned a doctorate in organization and management from Capella University in 2008. He is a deputy director with the U.S. Department of Defense, Missile Defense Agency and a supervisory engineer with the U.S. Army Research



Development and Engineering Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Goodly holds a bachelor's degree from USL and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He and his wife, **MELISSA '86**, have four children.

1987

SEA TACK FRANCIS GOH is a civil engineer at Kian Hwa Construction in Labuan, Malaysia. He is responsible for pavement construction and management. Goh earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from USL.

JOHN SWEET is the owner of Sweet Sheldon Homes Inc. in Naples, Fla. The general contracting firm specializes in custom home building and renovations. He earned a bachelor's degree in home economics. Sweet has two children, Brennan and Landon.

1991

JOHN J. FRISCO III is an associate/senior project architect for RTKL and Associates Inc., in Chicago. A licensed architect with more than 18 years of experience,



Frisco has designed hospitals and other healthcare facilities, as well as residential and retail projects. He provides professional support to the UL Lafayette School of Architecture and also serves on the Dean's Advisory Council for UL Lafayette's College of the Arts. Frisco and his wife, Jennifer, have one son, John Joseph "Jake" IV.

ELLEN FOLEY WRIGHT, '91, '93, and her husband, Salmon "Sam" Wright, own The Wright Group. The company, based in Crowley, La., supplies and blends vitamins for companies such as Kellogg's, Coca Cola, Nabisco and Nestlé. The Wright Group was established in 1956 and is in its fourth generation of family ownership and operation. Wright earned a bachelor's degree in general business and master's degree in business administration. The Wrights live in Lafayette.

1992

An illustration created by **DENISE GALLAGHER** was selected by the international Society of Illustrators for its 51st annual exhibition and awards ceremony. The image, "Drip. Dot. Swirl," was created as a book illustration. It was one of 300 images selected from thousands of entries worldwide. Gallagher is senior art director for BBR Creative, a Lafayette-based advertising firm.

1993

DWANA R. CALHOUN-EAMES is working to improve the health of Maryland residents. She serves as the state's administrator of diabetes control and prevention programs in the Office of Chronic Disease Prevention. She collaborates with academic medical institutions, healthcare facilities, national advocacy groups, primary care organizations and

A Look Back



1950

During "Rush Week," social sororities host a series of parties for potential members. When this photo was taken in 1955, there were eight sororities on campus: Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Epsilon Nu, Delta Sigma Delta, Delta Sigma Kappa, Delta Theta Sigma, Nu Sigma Kappa, Phi Delta Epsilon and Sigma Sigma Sigma.

professional associations. After earning a bachelor's degree in biology from USL, Calhoun-Eames studied public health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Md. She earned her master of science degree in community health/health promotion at Old Dominion University. She has two daughters, Alexis and Ashley.

1996

SARAH HAMILTON BERTHELOT



serves on the board of directors for the Association of Junior Leagues International. A former president of the Junior League of Lafayette, she is chief philanthropy officer of United Way of Acadiana. While attending UL Lafayette, Berthelot was president of the Student Government Association. She holds a bach-

elor's degree in interpersonal communication.

CONSEULA FRANCIS is an associate professor and director of African-American Studies at the College of Charleston. Her book, *Conversations with Octavia Butler*, was recently published by University Press of Mississippi. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from USL and a doctoral degree in English from the University of Washington. She and her husband, Brian McCann, have two children, Catherine and Frances.

JEFFREY P. MILLER is a nuclear pharmacist at Cardinal Health in Lafayette, where he compounds and dispenses radiopharmaceuticals to Acadiana hospitals, imaging centers and physicians' offices. He holds a bachelor's degree in general studies and earned his doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Miller and his wife, Shanna, have one daughter, Kaitlyn.

JENNIFER R. VELTSOS is an assistant professor of technical communication at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in business administration from USL. She holds a doctoral degree in rhetoric and professional communication from Iowa State University. She and her husband, **CHRISTOPHE '94, '96**, live in North Mankato, Minn.

1998

STACEY SINGLETON has been named president of the Acadiana chapter of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants. The LCPA was organized in 1911 and represents more than 6,300 certified public accountants. Singleton holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. He is a partner with the



ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

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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

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CPA firm of Broussard, Poché, Lewis & Breaux, LLP, of Lafayette.

1999

MICHAEL DAVIS is regional vice president for Ambling Management Company in Valdosta, Ga.



He manages nine student apartment communities throughout Louisiana, Texas and Missouri. He is also responsible for

new business development. He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications and a master's degree in communications. Davis volunteers as the budget and payroll administrator for after-school and summer enrichment programs and a pre-K program for low-income children. His wife, **DELTRICE MIGUEL DAVIS**, '00, earned a bachelor's degree in marketing. They have three children: Michael, Veronica and Joelle.

DR. DAVID B. DICKERSON recently opened a private practice, Performance Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, in Toms River, N. J. He is an orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine injuries. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from USL and a medical degree from LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport.

2001

JEN WORTHAM is an associate professor at the University of



Tampa, where she teaches anatomy and physiology, and marine biology. She conducts research on crustacean

behaviors and morphology; her research subjects include varieties of shrimp and spider crabs. Wortham earned her doctoral degree in evolutionary and environmental biology from UL Lafayette.

2004

ASHLEY M. HEBERT is lead mitigation specialist for the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency. He is responsible for engineering feasibility and benefit cost analyses. Hebert earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and is a certified floodplain manager. He and his wife **ANDREA**, '03, live in LaPlace, La.

2005

JONATHAN P. PEARCE was appointed to serve on the board of directors of the Childcare Association of Louisiana, a non-profit professional association representing licensed childcare centers throughout Louisiana. Pearce is president of Sugar 'n Spice Preschools Inc., which includes five licensed centers in Acadiana. He holds a bachelor's degree in business management. Pearce and his wife, **ANGELLE BERTRAND**, '09, live in Lafayette.

UL Lafayette Alumni Association

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2006

CHEREE CARTER GOMEZ is the author of *Glitz, Glamour and God*, a recently published inspirational book for young women. She is an eighth-grade language arts teacher in LaPlace, La. Gomez holds a bachelor's degree in education, with a concentration in English for middle school. While attending UL Lafayette, Carter served as student editor of *La Louisiane* magazine and was a member of Chi Alpha campus ministry. She is married to Jorge Gomez.

2008

MEGAN LORENZ recently graduated from AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Pacific Region, wrapping up 10 months of national community service. During her graduation ceremony, Lorenz was honored for providing support to victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike.

IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET CHAUVIN STEEN VILLEMEZ, '39, died Sept. 20, 2009, at age 83. A native of Gueydan, La., she was the longest-serving member of the UL Lafayette Foundation.



As an SLI student, Villemetz was first maid of the first Camellia Pageant, in 1934, and served on the Camellia Court the following year. She also was a member of the Red Jackets, the women's pep squad established in 1937. After earning a bachelor's degree in education, she taught elementary students in SLI's lab school. She was married twice, first to John Wesley Steen, who died in 1983, and then to Dr. Edward R. Villemetz, who died in 1995.

Villemetz and her family have supported UL Lafayette and its students with scholarships and endowments, including the J. Wesley Steen Scholarship for Abbeville High School; the J. Wesley Steen Endowed Scholarship in Commerce; the J. Wesley Steen Memorial Professorship in Business Administration; and the Margaret Chauvin Steen Villemetz Endowed Professorship in Music. Villamez was named Outstanding Alumna of 1982 by the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. She is survived by a son, Wesley W.

Steen; a daughter, Margaret Steen Wunsch; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

WANDA HEARD THOM, '47, died June 22, 2009, in Baton Rouge, La. She was 86. Thom held a bachelor's degree in upper elementary education from SLI. A retired educator, she taught elementary school in Cecilia, DeRidder, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge, La. She was an accomplished musician who played the xylophone, trumpet and drums in the SLI band. She also played the piano and organ during her retirement. She was married to E. George Thom, who preceded her in death in 1980. Thom is survived by two daughters, Carolyn LaRose of San Antonio, Texas, and Linda Hunter of Baton Rouge; five grandsons; and four great-grandchildren.

AUBURN BRUCE STRATTMAN, '50, died April 19, 2009 in Bonham, Texas, at the age of 84. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He worked as a civil engineer for the City of New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, Farnsworth and Chambers Construction Company in Houston, and Gulf Oil Company. He also had a 27-year career with the U.S. Air Force, working at Barksdale Air Force Base and with the Air Force Regional Civil Engineers in Dallas. Strattman retired in 1984. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **YVONNE COUMES STRATTMAN**, '48, and a son, Stephen Coumes Strattman.

DONALD L. LYTLE JR., '51, '73, died Aug. 21, 2009. He was 81 years old. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from SLI and an educational specialist degree from USL. Born in Chicago, Lytle was a long-time resident of Lafayette. A veteran of the Korean conflict, he served 26 years in the U.S. Navy in active and reserve duty, retiring as a chief warrant officer. He was a member of the U.S. Navy band. A pilot and instructor with the Civil Air Patrol, he assisted with search-and-rescue missions. He was a lay reader at Ascension Episcopal Church in Lafayette, a Mason, and a member of the Lafayette Rotary Club. He was member of the Soundwaves, a community choir, and played bass violin with the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra for 50 years. He is survived by his sister, **MARGARET "PEGGY" GAIENNIE**, '69, '71; two sons, David Lytle and Shannon Lytle; and three grandchildren.

DEBORAH SUE STRATTMAN ALARIO PASCHAL, '70, died Nov. 17, 2008, at the age of 60. She held a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL and a master's degree in library science from the University of North Texas. In 2004, she retired as a librarian with the Dallas Independent School District. She is survived by her mother, **YVONNE COUMES STRATTMAN**, '48, a son, Nicholas Alario Paschal; a daughter, Adrienne Paschal Anderson; and three granddaughters.

ELIZABETH "BETH" RICKEY, '78, who has been credited for derailing former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke's political career, died Sept. 12, 2009, in Santa Fe, N.M. She was 53 years old.

After Duke was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1989, Rickey helped refute Duke's claims that he had renounced neo-Nazi ties. She audio-taped him making a racist speech at a national neo-Nazi convention in Chicago, Ill., bought anti-Semitic books at his legislative office, and recorded and publicized racist comments he made to her in late-night telephone calls. Joining with Jewish activists, Christian ministers, and conservative and liberal political leaders, Rickey helped create the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism; the organization's political ads and publicity effort brought international media attention to Duke's statements. Duke lost his 1991 bid for Louisiana governor to Edwin Edwards.

In 2000, Rickey was inducted into the Louisiana Center for Women in Government's Hall of Fame. A native of Lafayette, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from USL. Survivors include a brother, Robert Rickey of Crediton, England.

SUE LYLES EAKIN, '80, died Sept. 17, 2009, at her home in Bunkie, La. She was 90. She spent her professional life researching and writing about the history of the South, with an emphasis on Louisiana's plantation era.

Eakin earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Louisiana State University. She worked as a freelance writer and columnist for several Louisiana newspapers. From 1957 to 1959, she and her husband, Paul, owned the *Bunkie Record*. In 1980, at age 60, she received her doctorate in

history from USL. She then began a 25-year teaching career at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. She continued writing and conducting research after her retirement.

Eakin's best-known work is an edited 1968 version of a diary written by Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave*. Eakin also co-authored a history textbook, *Louisiana: The Land and Its People*.

She is survived by four children, Paul, Sara, Sam and Frank; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Betty McGowen, Manie Culbertson, JoAnn White, Grace Uffman, Nancy Durham and Kitty Coleman.

PATRICIA KENNEDY RICKELS, professor emeritus of English and director of the Honors Program at UL Lafayette for 28 years, died at her home in Lafayette on Sept. 15, 2009.



Rickels joined the university's faculty in 1957. She introduced courses in folklore and African-American literature in UL Lafayette's English Department and established a national reputation as a scholar in these areas.

"Dr. Pat," as she was known throughout campus, helped found UL Lafayette's Honors Program in 1970 and became its director in 1979. She retired in 2007 after 50 years of service.

She and her husband, Milton Rickels, were named Louisiana Humanists of the Year in 1990 by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Milton Rickels taught English for 29 years; he died in 1997. The Rickels were recognized for their longtime work for civil rights, particularly their service on the Louisiana Council on Human Rights. The Council named her Humanitarian of the Year in 1975.

Rickels held a bachelor's degree in the University of Washington in 1948 and received master's and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University. She is survived by a brother, Ed Kennedy.



Sweet Spot

After 28 years as a Foundation property, Borden's gets new owners and a cool facelift

KACKIE LERILLE, THE NEW BOSS AT Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe, said the best part of her job is the clientele's attitude.

"Everybody who comes in here is happy. Everybody. I've never met one unhappy person coming to get ice cream," she said.

Generations of customers, including untold numbers of Ragin' Cajun alums, have propped their elbows on the Borden's counter and settled into its red leather booths to enjoy a scoop, cone, sundae or malt.

The shop, at the corner of Johnston and Jefferson streets in downtown Lafayette, was opened in 1940. It is believed to

'We wouldn't have bought it if we couldn't have kept it as Borden's. That's what it is. It can't be anything else. It's part of Lafayette.'

KACKIE LERILLE

be the last remaining Borden's ice cream parlor, according to Wayne Tucker, general manager of Borden Dairy. "At one time, there were 63 retail stores, one at every

Borden's commercial location. But over the years, the company sold off the properties," he said.

The UL Lafayette Foundation became the owner of the Lafayette store in 1981, when Flora Levy, a member of a prominent Lafayette family and a former bank employee, died. Levy left most of her estate, including the Borden's property, to the Foundation. Borden Dairy continued to lease the property until April of this year, when Lerille's father and business partner, Red Lerille, bought the iconic shop.

Proceeds from the \$215,000 sale went to the Flora Levy Fund, which supports a lecture



Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe, at the intersection of Johnston and Jefferson streets, is a Lafayette landmark.

TRAVIS GAUTHIER



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

From left, Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation; Ella Meaux, long-time Borden's employee; Wayne Tucker, general manager of Borden Dairy; and Kackie Lerille, co-owner of Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe.

series in UL Lafayette's English Department. "That's been a very good program all these years and now it's just strengthened further with the additional dollars put into the fund from the sale of the property," said Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Falgout said the Foundation's board wanted to be sure the local landmark would remain a historic icon.

"We've had offers in the past for the purchase of the property, with the possibility of it becoming a pharmacy, a bank and some other alternatives. But we've always felt, in the interest of the community, it should remain Borden's," she said.

Kackie Lerille said that was her plan – and her dad's – all along.

"We wouldn't have bought it if we couldn't have kept it as Borden's. That's what it is. It can't be anything else. It's part of Lafayette," she said.

So is Red Lerille. A UL grad and former Mr. America, he has owned and operated Red Lerille's Health and Racquet Club since 1963. He holds an associate degree in general studies from UL Lafayette, which he earned in 1987.

"I've wanted to own the building for about 30 years. It's a great place. It's a great business. And it holds lots of memories for a lot of people, including me. ... I'd go in and get a scoop of pineapple sherbet," he recalled.

Kackie Lerille said she welcomes the challenge of being an independent business

and installing a first for Borden's: a drive-through window.

One familiar fixture won't change: customers will still find long-time Borden's employee Ella Meaux dishing out ice cream from the behind the counter.

"I came to work here in 1961 because I needed money to buy a refrigerator," Meaux recalled.

Said Kackie Lerille, "It just wouldn't be Borden's without her."

Borden's has remained open during the remodeling. "It's been a little bit of a challenge, but it's been worth it," said Kackie Lerille. "Customers have been able to see our progress."

Sweet memories are still being made – and collected – there. A red leather journal sits on the Borden's counter, where customers may write a note or jot down a memory. Among the entries, "My first date was here during World War II," "Dad loved coming here. He is in heaven now. But I give this dip cone to him."

And a UL Lafayette student's confession; "P.S. I'm late for class but I needed Borden's ice cream."

For information about donating real estate to the UL Lafayette Foundation, visit www.ullafayettefoundation.org ■



GUS CARWILE

Ella Meaux has worked behind the counter of Borden's for 48 years.

owner. "There are not many mom-and-pop operations around anymore. I think it's important, as a business owner, to set that kind of example."

A professional photographer, she



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

A student walks through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's north gate, at the intersection of Johnston Street and University Avenue. Photographer Travis Gauthier of Lafayette used a modified infrared digital camera to create this high-contrast image.

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To some, it's just another event.



TO OTHERS, IT'S ABOUT HONORING THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.

IT'S ALSO ABOUT REMEMBERING HOW THEY GOT HERE,

AS WELL AS WHERE THEY'VE BEEN.

MOST OF ALL, IT'S ABOUT CELEBRATING THE LIFE THEY SHARED TOGETHER.

YEA, WE GET IT.



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