

La
FALL 2015

LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



Earthly Delights

Museum Brings Science Alive

Sound Waves

Gulf Researchers Listen in on Marine Life

Ebola Vaccine

Help for Apes in the Wild

Home Improvements

Campus Upgrades Enhance a Sense of Place



One of the biggest challenges we grapple with when determining *La Louisiane's* content is not what to include. It's what to leave out.

For a writer, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is like a giant playground. It's filled with interesting people who have amazing stories. For a photographer, it's a beautiful place that changes like a kaleidoscope every day.

I've been especially aware of this bounty as we have put together this issue.

Flip through it and you'll find an article about a 2012 graduate who builds 3-D printers and uses them to make prosthetic hands that he gives away to people who need them. Read about a nursing student who spent time this summer caring for Jokia, a sweet, intelligent elephant living in a sanctuary in Thailand after surviving years of cruelty at the hands of her former masters.

Learn about people's reaction to UL Lafayette's new craft beer, Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale. Its cool label and packaging, by the way, were designed by Courtney Jeffries, *La Louisiane's* art director.

Feast on photographer Doug Dugas' images that were taken when he accompanied a group of researchers who eavesdropped on whales and dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. And, be sure to check out his photos of the University's new Welcome Wall, Student Union and completely redesigned Quadrangle.

It's challenging enough, in general, to decide on *La Louisiane* content. But there is so much more we want to tell and show readers about the people and places inside this issue.

Thanks to a new *La Louisiane* app for smartphones and tablets, we can. Throughout this issue, a little red icon alerts you to bonus content that's available via the app, such as photo slideshows, videos and some fun treats.

But think of the *La Louisiane* app as a gateway to what you want to know about the University. From that one app, you can access a news feed, social media, videos, a weekly e-newsletter, Ragin' Cajuns sports, and UL Lafayette's website, which has been optimized for mobile devices.

It's free and easy to download. Really.

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

– Kathleen Thames



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ON THE COVER: Geology graduate student Leslie Valentine touches up a carnivorous dinosaur bone replica on display at the Lafayette Science Museum. She works part time in the lab preparing specimens.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Grant Wood, American Gothic, 1930, Oil on Beaver Board, 78 x 65.3 cm (30 3/4 x 25 3/4 in.), Friends of American Art Collection, 1930.934, The Art Institute of Chicago.
ILLUSTRATION: Courtney Jeffries

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Dr. Joseph Savoie
President
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Aaron Martin
Director
Communications and Marketing

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Kathleen Thames
Editor

Sandra Sarr
Assistant Editor

Mary Cormaci
Student Editor

Courtney Jeffries
Art Director

Charlie Bier
Contributing Writer

Doug Dugas, Philip Gould, Brad Kemp
Photographers

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Helping Others

Vaccine study could help protect primates in the wild

In a recent *New York Times* op-ed piece, Peter Walsh succinctly summed up a paradox arising from a change in the Endangered Species Act. The revision classifies all captive chimpanzees as endangered. Endangered chimpanzees cannot be used for biomedical research.

“This might seem like good news. But this action to protect the welfare of captive chimpanzees by classifying them as endangered could unintentionally deliver a serious blow to wild apes. Efforts to develop and deploy vaccines against Ebola and other infectious diseases ravaging these animals could grind to a halt,” he wrote.

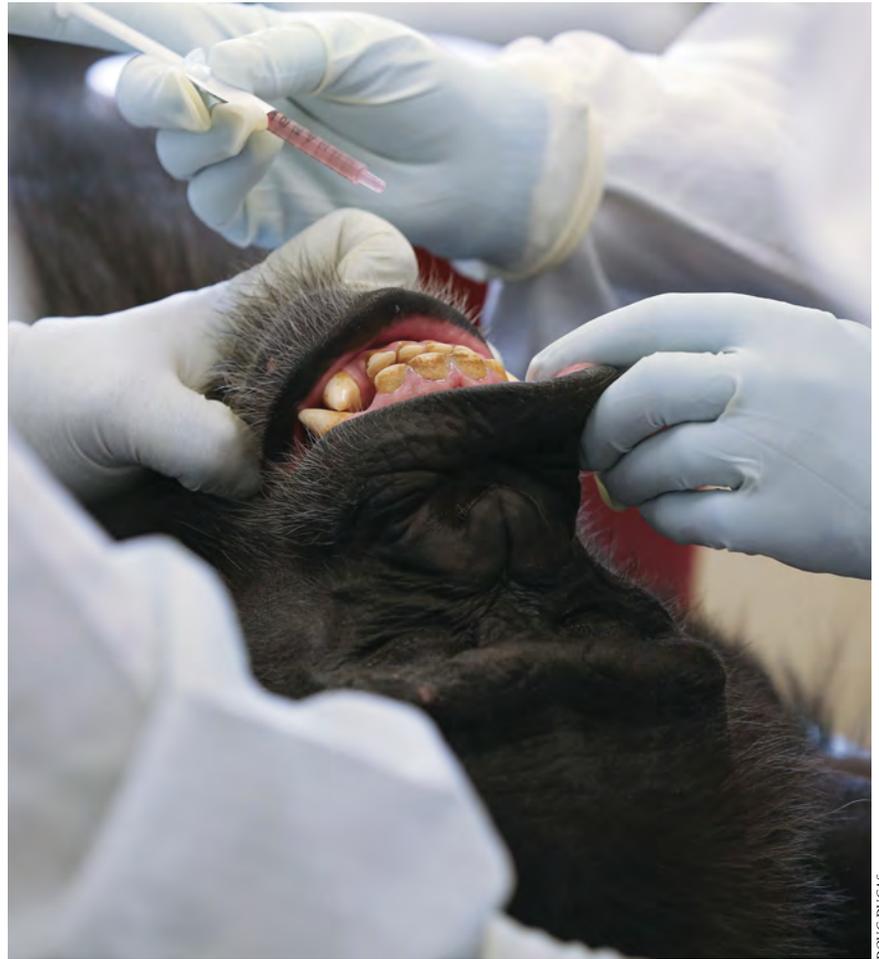
Walsh is a lecturer in primate quantitative ecology at the University of Cambridge and president of Apes Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to African ape conservation.

He worked with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s New Iberia Research Center this summer to test a promising vaccine that could help protect primates living in the wild from contracting Ebola and other infectious diseases. The vaccinations concluded before the ban on using captive chimpanzees for biomedical research went into effect on Sept. 14.

In 2011, the NIRC had collaborated with Walsh on testing another Ebola vaccine. Results were encouraging but the vaccine required three injections, which is impractical for use in the wild.

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, vice president for Research at UL Lafayette, said the trial this summer “addressed what has become an international health concern for both humans and animals.”

It focused on an oral vaccine that could be ingested by chimpanzees and



The Ebola vaccine was placed inside both cheeks and under the tongue of some sedated chimpanzees. Other chimpanzees received it by intramuscular injection.

gorillas. It is similar to a rabies vaccine that has been successful in virtually eradicating rabies in Western Europe, and to immunize animals, including foxes, coyotes, raccoons and skunks.

The Ebola virus is highly lethal. It’s spread through contact with contaminated body fluids and, in some human cases, by eating tainted meat of wild animals.

In 2014, an outbreak of the Zaire strain of the Ebola virus in West Africa claimed the lives of 11,298 people, according to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ebola is also one of the leading killers of gorillas and chimpanzees. Up to one-third of the world’s populations of gorillas, according to some estimates, and a large number of chimpanzees,

have been wiped out by it. Other threats include habitat loss and poaching. Wild apes are also susceptible to a host of other pathogens, including malaria and simian immunodeficiency virus.

As part of the latest vaccine testing conducted at NIRC, researchers are evaluating chimpanzee responses to a protein, called a glycoprotein. Because the glycoprotein is only a fragment of the Ebola virus genome, it is incapable of replicating and causing disease. However, it should induce an immune response, which will protect against the Ebola virus.

Ten chimpanzees at NIRC were part of the vaccine trial. Some were inoculated by intramuscular injection. Others were immunized with doses of the vaccine that were placed inside their cheeks and under their tongues while they were sedated.

The study was coordinated with Dr. Matthias Schnell, director of the Jefferson Vaccine Center at Thomas Jefferson University, who developed the vaccine. Schnell said oral vaccines would be administered at bait stations, by placing it in fruit or other foods.

“If we can determine that chimpanzees are able to develop antibodies, oral vaccination would be an effective way to immunize animals in the wild,” he said.

Jane Fontenot, head of the Division of Research Resources at NIRC, said that facility was the most appropriate environment for the vaccine trial. “We were able to control every aspect of this study, with the one variable of the vaccine and the immune response to that vaccine, which is really a perfectly designed study in this particular situation.” The only long-term effect is that the primates who received the vaccine will have antibodies against Ebola, she added.

Kolluru noted that the NIRC took financial responsibility for much of the vaccine testing. “The NIRC provided the staff expertise, materials, and facilities to conduct the entire study at our cost, because we believed it was the right thing to do for chimpanzees.”

Walsh said if the oral vaccination proves effective, “the next step will be a pilot study on orally vaccinating wild gorillas in the Republic of Congo.”

Development of an oral vaccine for primates could pave the way for an oral vaccine for humans.



DOUG DUGAS

Dr. Matthias Schnell, director of the Jefferson Vaccine Center at Thomas Jefferson University, prepares the Ebola vaccine.



DOUG DUGAS

Chimpanzees were given physical exams before an Ebola vaccine was administered at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s New Iberia Research Center.

Although the revised Endangered Species Act now prohibits using captive chimpanzees for biomedical research, there is an exception. “Permits will be issued for these activities only for scientific purposes that benefit the species in the wild, or to enhance the propagation or survival of chimpanzees, including habitat restoration and research on chimpanzees in the wild

that contributes to improved management and recovery,” according to a press release issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which oversees the Endangered Species Act.

At presstime, NIRC officials had not yet decided whether to seek such a permit for continued vaccine testing.

Power Station

'Gator fat, rice hulls and algae generate energy in new ways

Two banks of giant solar panels at the Cleco Alternative Energy Center in Crowley, La., move gradually, following the sun's path across the sky.

The sunlight they capture heats water inside long tubes that run beneath the panels. The steam that's produced powers a turbine that generates electricity.

At first glance, the mirrored, parabolic-shaped panels, which can be tilted at just the right angle to catch the sun's rays, seem out of place, at the edge of a patch of farmland where rice and soybeans are planted. They are, however, right at home. Solar thermal is just one of several alternative energy technologies being researched at the center, a contemporary structure of metal and wood that houses millions of dollars worth of industrial grade equipment and a cutting-edge analytical laboratory.

The Cleco Alternative Energy Center was created in response to a directive from the Louisiana Public Service Commission to the state's power producers to evaluate technical and economic aspects of producing electricity from sustainable materials rather than fossil fuels.

More than 10 research projects are underway at the Center, resulting in the production of electricity that's

fed into the regional Cleco power grid. In addition to sunlight, energy sources include everything from rice hulls to algae to alligator fat.

It's also a learning environment for University of Louisiana at Lafayette and South Louisiana Community College students, who observe systems operations and processes, and participate in testing and research. Projects include the production of methane using Louisiana food industry wastes, and recycling waste gas.

Dr. Mark Zappi, dean of the University's College of Engineering, said the Center is more than a massive test tube. It's a hub for economic development, one that's generating interest from energy industry leaders, foreign companies, other universities, and the federal government.

U.S. Army officials visited the center to check out its gasifier, a hulking labyrinth of pipes and valves capable of converting three tons of biomass — agricultural or animal waste — into either power or chemicals through the production of synthesis gas, for example.

"For years, Louisiana's been known as the energy state. And when we say that, we've always thought about petroleum. What we're doing now will

only further entrench Louisiana as the energy state — including petroleum and alternatives," Zappi said.

The Cleco Alternative Energy Center is attracting business to Louisiana. A case in point: NFR BioEnergy relocated its headquarters from Plandome, N.Y., to White Castle, La., with plans to invest more than \$300 million to build 10 biorefineries near sugar cane mills in the state. Bagasse, or remnants of stalks of sugarcane after the juice has been extracted, will be converted from agricultural waste into hardened energy pellets through a process aided by research at the alternative energy center. The pellets will supply electricity providers in Europe.

Louisiana Economic Development estimates the project will result in a total of 450 new direct jobs and an additional 1,903 new indirect jobs in the state.

Cleco paid about 70 percent of the cost of the \$8 million Center. The state Department of Natural Resources, working with the U.S. Department of Energy, provided about 20 percent; UL Lafayette contributed about 10 percent. The Acadia Parish Police Jury helped acquire the land in Crowley Industrial Park by trading property with the UL Lafayette Foundation.



DOUG DUGAS

Above: Solar panels at the Center are designed to withstand hurricane-force winds of up to 135 mph.

Right: The gasifier, a towering network of tanks and pipes, converts agricultural or animal waste into either power or chemicals through the production of synthesis gas. Alligator fat and algae have been successfully used as fuel sources.



DOUG DUGAS

Undergrad's curiosity uncovers rare strain of 'Zombie fungus'

On a summer day in 2014, Stephen Saltamachia stepped outside the Acadiana Park Nature Station where he's worked for 10 years and spotted something new. A queen carpenter ant "with something sticking out of its neck" was on the boardwalk in broad daylight. Upon closer inspection and meticulous research, he confirmed he'd discovered an extremely rare species of what's known as "zombie fungus"—only the fourth specimen of its kind found in the world.



DOUG DUGAS

A "zombie fungus" can infect carpenter ants like this one found in Lafayette.

The senior microbiology major surface-sterilized and incubated the ant. After a few days, furry fungal growth billowed from the corpse, his first clue that the queen wasn't infected with just any "zombie fungus."

Archives marks 50th year

University Archives and Special Collections in Dupré Library on campus is celebrating its 50th birthday.

It preserves records that are vital to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Acadiana and Louisiana. So it's a treasure trove for researchers, historians and writers. There's an assortment of priceless, irreplaceable items tucked away on its shelves.

Among notable holdings are:

- notebooks that detail when and where Dr. Edwin Stephens, the school's first president, planted oak seedlings on campus;
- mimeographs of letters written by Dr. Joel L. Fletcher Jr., the University's third president, to students and faculty members who were serving in the military during World War II; and
- the papers of Richard Putnam, a Lafayette judge who oversaw desegregation of Lafayette public schools in the 1970s.

Dr. Henry Dethloff was founding director of the archives. He recalls that Dupré Library was still in its formative stage when he arrived to teach in the 1960s.

"There were some manuscripts stashed around the library in cardboard boxes and other containers, and I thought those should be organized and archived. The librarian agreed and as part of my teaching duties I began creating an archival program," Dethloff stated.

"About this time, Ambassador Jefferson Caffery, (a UL Lafayette alumnus) retired from his career. He had a large collection of personal papers of considerable significance and needed a place to house them. The University's archives became that place."

Seeking answers, he reached out to the international mycologist community through venues such as ResearchGate. A *Newsweek* article about Saltamachia's find cited David Hughes, a researcher at Pennsylvania State University who specializes in zombie ant fungi. He said the strain of fungi Saltamachia found had been "missed by mycologists and entomologists" for almost 100 years. Saltamachia searched the National Center for Bioinformation and Genbank database of genetic data published in journals internationally. He found only three published records of the species.

"It's so rare, it's like a living ancestor of the more common strains of 'zombie fungus,'" Saltamachia said. "I couldn't accept that nobody could answer my questions. So I decided to answer them myself."

He took to the lab and isolated the fungus' DNA to determine the order of molecules that made up its DNA and compared it with other organisms'.

"At first I thought I'd made a mistake. So I repeated the process with the same result," he said.

Saltamachia is interested in the human application of his discovery.

"Studies have demonstrated the anti-tumor properties of closely related fungi. Scientists also have found antioxidant and anti-malarial properties. This rare 'zombie fungus' shows a lot of promise for medicinal purposes," he said.

With plans to publish his findings, pursue graduate studies, teach and conduct research at a university, Saltamachia believes he has discovered the basis for his life's work by following where curiosity takes him.



DOUG DUGAS

Dr. Bruce Turner

Dr. Bruce Turner is assistant dean for Special Collections at UL Lafayette. He's been in charge of the Archives since 1983.

Turner said he has focused on making collections accessible. He has also concentrated on increasing holdings that feature the contributions of local women, such as the works of Mary Alice Fontenot, a popular author of children's books; Mary Dichmann, a former dean of the University's College of Liberal Arts; and Ollie Osborn of Lafayette, a women's rights activist.

There are over 300 collections of personal or family papers, business or organizational records, photograph collections, oral histories, and other material related to the Acadiana region.

on campus

Seasoned Worker

Sixty years of serving and she's not done yet

Angelina Narcisse, 92, has worked at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette longer than many of its employees have been alive.

During her 60-year tenure of serving up food and friendship within three successive dining halls, she has performed her duties during four of the six University presidential administrations, experienced the University's evolution from a college to a university, and witnessed many historic changes, such as campus desegregation.

"Working is my exercise. A lot of times it takes two young women to do the job I do," Narcisse said, matter-of-factly, in a recent interview.

When she first started working at the University, in 1954, all students with a meal plan received identical plates of food and cartons of milk. Today, students have an abundance of food choices.

Narcisse serves a wide variety of fresh foods in Cypress Lake Dining Room in the new Student Union, often chatting with French-speaking students in her native language. "Now, I make those students a pretty plate with nice vegetables—yellow ones, green, red, and a little meat," she said with a smile.

"I think of the students as my children," Narcisse said. "Sometimes they come looking down and I tell them, 'Life is hard. Whatever you do, keep climbing.' Oh, I cheer them up. One kind word is all you need."

Her supervisors' faces light up when they talk about her. They say they enjoy seeing her converse in French with some students and how brawny football players hug her and call her Mom.

"She's loved by everyone. She enjoys life and is a pleasure to be around. She never has a negative thing to say," said Steve Wells, executive chef of Sodexo Dining Services.

Dining Services built an herb garden on a flat roof of the Student Union to grow fresh produce for meals. Narcisse's supervisors say she'll lend her gardening prowess to their effort.

Before working together in the dining hall, Narcisse and her husband, Dolton, worked side-by-side in fields where they grew cotton, corn, beans, and potatoes. When he died after 29 years of marriage, she supported their 10 children—three of whom are UL Lafayette graduates—on the salary she earned at the University.



Angelina Narcisse dispenses food with a side of joy.

"Now it's just me and my dog, Lil' Gus," she said of her Pomeranian.

For more than 25 years, she walked four miles a day – from her home to campus and back – carrying a raincoat and umbrella in her purse. "Oh, yeah, I was ready for whatever came," she said.

Now Narcisse drives her car to work, as she has since 1979. She recently renewed her driver's license – for six more years – without a hitch. In excellent health, she remains an ardent gardener, growing native and medicinal plants from the region, including Le Monguilier and Job's tears.

"We were raised on the monguilier tree. She gave us the boiled-leaf tea to drink when we had a cold or fever. It tastes terrible, but it works," said one of her daughters, Belva Narcisse Marsh, '90.

Narcisse will still brew a batch of tea for co-workers who request it for themselves or their sick children.

DOUG DUGAS



Narcisse is the mother of 10 children; three are UL Lafayette graduates.

She never learned to read or write. The daughter of a local sugar cane farmer, she dreamed of becoming a nurse. While playing “cooking” with grass and dirt in her yard, she could see other children playing on swing sets and monkey bars at a school down the street. But only white children could attend.

At 13, Narcisse entered an informal school established to teach black children to read. Lessons took place in a house in a pasture. She didn’t stay. “I had to learn English before I could learn to read,” she said. “The children would laugh at me because I spoke only French.”

South Louisiana children were punished routinely for speaking French in school during the earlier part of the 20th century. “She was spit on as a child and marginalized because she was black and spoke French,” said another daughter, Angelina Narcisse Morgan, ’76, herself a mother of two UL Lafayette graduates.

“Sometimes they come looking down and I tell them, ‘Life is hard. Whatever you do, keep climbing.’ Oh, I cheer them up. One kind word is all you need.”

– Angelina Narcisse

A devout Catholic, Narcisse says two rosaries each morning. She said she gets along with others because she tends to her own business and doesn’t worry about what others say or do.

“If you stir your own pot, it won’t burn. If you stir someone else’s pot, yours will burn,” she observed.

Every Sunday, she cooks a meal for family, friends, and neighbors. On the table are fresh flowers brought weekly for the past six



Narcisse says two rosaries each morning. She has served countless meals to students, faculty, staff and guests in three successive dining halls. Along with nourishment, she offers a kind word to students who seem to need some encouragement and a few kind words.



Narcisse often converses with students in her native French.

years by her 95-year-old suitor. She serves them shrimp and okra gumbo or a hen and red beans and rice, along with her own fig preserves and a Friendship Cake.

Narcisse looked forward to working in the new Student Union, which opened in late summer.

“I see more of that campus than my own house. It’s my home, too,” she said.

L'Acadien Online

Yearbooks convey campus life since 1912



L'Acadien yearbooks are now accessible online. Every volume, beginning with the first published in 1912, is fully digitized, thanks \$7,000 grant awarded by the Student Technology Enhancement Program.

Dr. Bruce Turner, assistant dean of Special Instruction Services at Dupré Library on campus, teamed with Lyrasis, a company that specializes in digitizing documents. The process began in the collection of nearly 100 yearbooks was shipped to Princeton, N. J., and scanned into a database, page by page. It took about three months to complete the project.

Turner said work is in progress to enhance the search-by-name function.

The earliest yearbooks reflect a tight-knit campus zeitgeist, with whole pages devoted to individual students. Volumes include photos of the 1912 *Vermilion* student newspaper staff and members of the undefeated 1938 Southwestern Louisiana Institute's boxing team. The 1960 edition includes a shot of students skating on a frozen Cypress Lake; the image was also published in *Life*, a popular national magazine at the time.

The yearbook was not published in 1915. *L'Acadien* ceased publication from 1917-21. After the five-year gap, the 1922 edition proclaimed, "Hats off to '22! She has the honor of producing the first edition of *L'Acadien* since the great world war." No editions were published in 1925 and 1928.

L'Acadien can be accessed online at louisiana.edu/yearbook



Finals? No sweat. This resourceful student hung a hammock from some oaks outside Madison Hall, climbed in with his laptop and wrote a paper plain air.

DOUG DUGAS



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The *La Louisiane* app, a gateway to campus, is now available in app stores.



Expanded magazine content



UL Lafayette news and events



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LouisianaDancehalls.com

Folklorist captures the heartbeat of some Acadiana communities

When John Sharp asks Louisianians about dance halls, he gets an earful of more than just music and dance. He hears the stories of life, moments that unfolded inside these intergenerational community gathering places – some gone, some still dotting the Louisiana landscape.

“I started asking people about these places and it didn’t take long before I realized that, basically, I was saying, ‘Tell me about your best times,’” said Sharp, assistant director for research at UL Lafayette’s Center for Louisiana Studies. He’s also chronicler of what he calls “the great cultural phenomenon that is the Louisiana dance hall.”

Embedded in the stories is rich information about Louisiana’s food ways, local history, religious beliefs and practices, and race relations.

Initially curious about the origins of song titles within the Center’s extensive Archive of Cajun and Creole Folklore, Sharp noticed several shared names with dance halls. He learned the songs were often written in homage to the place, owner, and clientele of certain halls.

He found lots of information about the establishments, but no one had ever attempted to organize it in one place.

“I thought, ‘This is important.’ It’s a vital part of the culture and community, where people visited, got news, fell in love and married, and brought their children,” Sharp said.

So, he created LouisianaDancehalls.com, which presents and solicits information about more than 1,600 dance halls statewide. Most are concentrated in Acadiana, a 22-parish area of south Louisiana known for its sizable Cajun and Creole populations.

For his purposes, Sharp defines dance halls as establishments that frequently offer live music and dancing as the main source of entertainment. This broad definition covers house dances, pavilions, teen centers, meeting halls, nightclubs, and some festivals.

Sharp started sifting through old newspapers, scouring library archives, gathering oral histories, and collecting photographs. He interviewed musicians, dancers, club owners, and historians, and tracked leads online.

“When I started looking deeper, the material snowballed,” Sharp said. He decided to make a full-length documentary, “Dance halls of Louisiana,” which he hopes to have



PHILIP GOULD

Hamilton’s Place on Verot School Road was a popular zydeco dance hall in Lafayette. It had been in business for 49 years before it closed in 2005.



‘All you have to do is scratch the surface and all the stories come out.’

Sharp eventually would like to develop a “trail” that would direct tourists to dance hall sites. The self-guided tour would include businesses still operating, such as El Sid O’s Zydeco Blues Club in Lafayette, and to places now closed, such as Bourque’s in Lewisburg, its jukebox still filled with records like the Balfa Brothers’ “Coeur Criminel.” Others, such as Boo Boo’s on the Breaux Bridge Highway, have vanished entirely from the landscape but live on in patrons’ vivid stories.

Often, buildings were first used for other purposes. For example, a grocery store opened a counter where men could drink a beer after work. When more money was made at the bar, the grocery store was phased out. Next, the bar evolved into a dance hall, where the whole family could gather, food could be served, and a bigger profit could be made.

ready to screen early next year. It’s supported by \$20,000 from the Louisiana Film-makers Grant Fund Program. The website is sponsored by the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission, which developed a tourism brochure based on his research.

Typically located in rural communities where people farmed a little and did whatever else it took to get by, the dance hall offered respite from drudgery.

“You’d better be ready to go all the way if a fight started at a dance hall in Marais Bouler. Stakes were high in the legendary fights between some of the rough and rugged people who frequented some of these early dance halls. These hardworking people felt they had little to lose,” Sharp said, explaining the extreme violence that took place in some halls, like Marais Bouler, near the Bosco Oil Field in Acadia Parish.

“Marais Bouler was the kind of place where a man would take off his hat with one hand, stick a knife in the wall with the other, and hang his hat on the knife handle.”

Sharp wants to hear from as many people as possible to get a multifaceted view of these places. “People loved and still love dance halls. A big part of their life happened there,” Sharp said. “It’s a really powerful thing. All you have to do is scratch the surface and all the stories come out.”

Have a story you’d like to share? Go to LouisianaDancehalls.com and add your voice to the ongoing narrative.

[Click here to see a list of songs named after Louisiana Dancehalls.](#)



Carefully Crafted

New Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale leaves its fans thirsty for more

When Schilling Distributing Company Inc. stocked Cajun Field with beer before the first home football game in September, marketing manager Kody Thompson thought 15 barrels of Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale would be enough. After all, the craft beer had only been available for two days at seven local establishments and at Downtown Alive! the day before.

It wasn't even available in bottles yet, just on tap.

But the barrels drained quickly. "We went back and got six more," Thompson said. Those promptly emptied, too.

Aaron Martin, director of UL Lafayette's Office of Communications and Marketing, said Ragin' Cajuns fans' appreciation of the new brew was gratifying. "Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale has a French slogan, 'ça va mieux avec des amis,' which means 'It goes better with friends.' Sales at Cajun Field for the first home game supported that claim."

Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale is the result of a partnership between Bayou Teche Brewing of Arnaudville, La., and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

UL Lafayette already had a successful beverage and food line that includes Ragin' Red®, a custom blend of seasonings; Ragin' Cajuns Strong Championship Blend coffee, produced by Mello Joy; and the Ragin' Cajun Burger, which is sold exclusively by local Sonic Drive-Ins.

But Martin said something was missing.

"We were looking for a product that would be suitable for tailgating before Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns games. A craft beer is exactly what we needed."

When the University began looking for a company to produce a craft beer that could bear the Ragin' Cajuns' name, it wanted a Louisiana brewery, preferably one in Acadiana. The ideal prospective partner would be able to offer an original recipe, not just put a label on an existing product.

"We were also interested in companies that could distribute the new beer in other states, Canada and France," Martin said. "Bayou Teche Brewing met all of our criteria."

Karlos Knott, president of Bayou Teche Brewing, said the new beer was inspired by a staple ingredient that's grown in Louisiana: rice. Other ingredients are barley and multiple additions of German-grown, noble hops. The combination, he said, is "a magnificent balance of hop bitterness, taste and aroma.

"It is an easy drinking beer perfect for tailgating in our hot and humid climate."

Thompson concisely defined a tailgating beer as one that lets fans "drink and eat, drink and eat, and drink and eat." Gatherings of Ragin' Cajuns fans before a sporting event are all about sharing food with old and new friends, including fans of opposing teams on occasion.

Knott said Ragin' Cajuns™ Genuine Louisiana Ale is "an incredibly hard beer to brew. An easy-drinking beer is one of the most difficult beers. You have to really be on your game and baby a beer like this throughout its fermentation."

That special attention obviously paid off. Thompson and Knott agree that early sales far exceeded their expectations.

"We had no idea how popular this beer would be," Knott said. "Bayou Teche Brewing has a few brands that we sell more barrels of, but we've had those in the market for nearly six years and they've steadily grown in market share. We've never experienced anything like this with an initial beer release."

Soon after the craft beer was introduced, Knott began getting phone calls from members of the media who wanted to write about it. Those inquiries came from writers for publications such as *All About Beer*, America's leading beer

magazine, and the *Denver Post*.

At presstime, Knott was hoping to have a bottled version of the brew available by late November.

Martin said part of the proceeds from the new craft beer sales will be used to support the University's academic, research and athletics programs.

UL Lafayette has allowed beer to be sold during football games at Cajun Field since 2009. Today, more than 30 universities allow beer sales in their football stadiums. Beer had been sold for many years at UL Lafayette basketball and baseball games prior to 2009.

Schilling Distributing Company Inc. is the official beer distributor of Ragin' Cajuns® Athletics.



New app lets *La Louisiane* expand content, extend reach

A new app makes it easy to read *La Louisiane: The Magazine of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette* on smartphones and tablets. It also enables readers to access expanded magazine content and stay up to date with what's happening on campus.

The free app is available for Apple and Android.

"*La Louisiane* is as close as your cell phone or tablet. By embracing the latest technology for mobile devices, we can offer supplemental content," said Aaron Martin, director of UL Lafayette's Office of Communications and Marketing.

The *La Louisiane* app also offers the University's news feed, as well as links to videos, social media, the University's website and Ragin' Cajuns Athletics.

UL Lafayette upgraded its websites earlier this year to better display information on mobile devices. Aimée Bullinger, the University's associate director of Web Communications,

summed up the changes: "We've made it easier for the user to move around on the site. We've also made sure that the most important information appears at the top of the screen."



Look for this icon in the App Store or Google Play.

Martin said the app is enabling *La Louisiane* to reach out to a wider audience.

"We haven't been able to mail copies to alumni who live outside the United States because of postage costs. This approach makes *La Louisiane* accessible to alumni around the world.

"And, the magazine has a lot to offer the general public, beyond the University. So we encourage faculty and students to tell

others about the *La Louisiane* app."

The magazine covers all aspects of the University, including research, campus development, student life, athletics and alumni. It also covers topics related to Louisiana's culture, environment, and economic development.

La Louisiane reaches over 80,000 readers via direct mail and distribution on campus. Its readership includes students, alumni and other University supporters. It's also mailed to high school guidance counselors across the state.

"It helps alumni stay connected to their alma mater and helps the University recruit top students. Ultimately, increased visibility through *La Louisiane* helps UL Lafayette grow in stature, which increases the value of the University's academic degrees," Martin added.

There are plans to redesign *La Louisiane*. "It's likely that the app will have some influence on the changes we'll make to the print version," he said.

New Doctorate

Nursing grads put research findings into practice

Two graduate students from Alexandria, La., were the first to earn a doctor of nursing practice degree from UL Lafayette earlier this year.

The new advanced degree program prepares nurse clinicians to offer the highest level of patient care. Robyn Ray and Linda Green completed a rigorous course of study, including synthesis projects that required them to put research results into clinical practice.

Ray's project focused on a way to make HIV screening more available. In 2008, she had treated a female patient with recurring pneumonia. The woman didn't appear to be at high risk for HIV infection, but Ray checked for the virus anyway. Test results showed the patient was HIV positive; further testing revealed her husband also was HIV positive.

"If the wife had been screened earlier, much suffering could have been avoided," Ray said.

Ray created a plan to implement government and professional association guidelines at Cenla Occupational Medicine Services. HIV screening is now part of the Pineville, La., clinic's routine intake process and could serve as a blueprint for other medical facilities.

Ray coordinates the Family Nurse Practitioner program and teaches at Northwestern State University, in addition to holding two part-time jobs as a clinical practitioner.

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, associate dean of UL Lafayette's College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, said the DNP program prepares its graduates to be leaders and make systemic change. "Robyn's work is a perfect example of how that happens."

Green's project examined the relationship between ethical nursing behaviors and patient satisfaction survey scores. Patient satisfaction is



Robyn Ray



Linda Green

tied directly to Medicare hospital reimbursement rates.

"When nurses are functioning at a high level of moral behavior, they provide better care and patients are more satisfied and healthier," said Green, a nurse for 41 years with extensive experience in leadership roles.

Oberleitner said nurses pursue the DNP degree for a variety of reasons. "Overall, they want advanced knowledge and expertise to do what's best for patients."

Nurses with a DNP degree can make a difference in health care, she added.

"If we can close the gap between the time best practices are developed and the time they're implemented, it'll have a real impact on our nation's health."

\$10 million raised for scholarships

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette raised over \$10.2 million dollars through its Campaign for Scholarships, more than double its initial goal.

The historic campaign, UL Lafayette's first fund drive dedicated to raising money exclusively for scholarships, was launched publicly in April 2011.

The goal of \$4.5 million was reached 15 months later — more than two years ahead of schedule. That success led University President Dr. Joseph Savoie to reset the goal at \$6.5 million.

The campaign ultimately topped \$10 million.

"It's a testament to the University's generous, devoted alumni and supporters. More than 180 new scholarships

have been established," said David Comeaux, interim director of the University's Office of Development. Most of those new scholarships are endowed. A minimum of \$10,000

is required to establish an endowed scholarship. Endow-

ments are perpetual sources of funding because the principal is invested; only a portion of the interest earned is spent.

Some donors added to existing endowed scholarships or created non-endowed scholarships during the campaign.

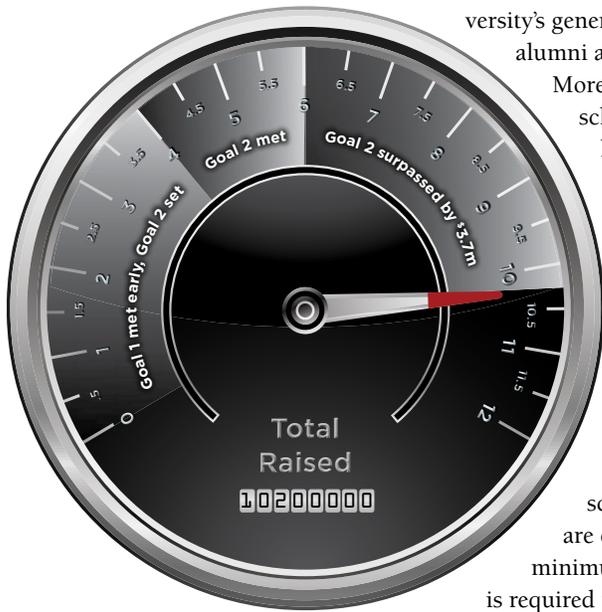
Comeaux said a donor determines whether a gift will be allocated for an endowed or non-endowed scholarship.

Tanya Yentzen, an alum with a degree in education who participated in the Campaign for Scholarships, has helped to establish two endowed scholarships, one for business students, and another for arts students.

"I just really believe in UL, and I think it's important to provide opportunities to help students earn a college degree," Yentzen said.

Scholarships are as important as ever. Higher education in Louisiana has sustained about \$700 million in state funding reductions since fiscal year 2008-09. As a result, tuition has increased at most University of Louisiana System schools.

UL Lafayette has been one of the most affordable universities in Louisiana for several years, according to the U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency List. The last list was released in 2014.



Blohm leads Advancement

It didn't take long for John Blohm to grasp the strong connection between the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the surrounding community.

"Acadiana and the University are interrelated. Most importantly, people want this institution and this region of the country to continue to advance and progress," said UL Lafayette's new vice president for University Advancement.



PHILIP GOULD

The Advancement division supports the University by enhancing its image; keeping alumni involved; maintaining accurate information about alumni, donors, and friends of the University; and coordinating all fundraising activities on its behalf.

UL Lafayette's alumni are a key component of the symbiotic relationship between the University and area community, according to Blohm (pronounced bloom.)

"We want to expand the opportunities our alums have to become engaged with the University. We want to continue to invite conversations about the University, and we want to create bigger and more connections between our alums to develop more meaningful ways to partner with the University," he said.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie noted that Blohm, who joined his administration in January, has over 30 years of experience in higher education philanthropy.

"He has extensive knowledge of development and plans to improve operations to maximize fundraising and outreach across the University. He's eager to advance the University's growing national reputation and further developing a 'culture of giving' at UL Lafayette."

Blohm was previously interim vice president for Advancement at the University of New Haven. His career in institutional advancement spans universities across the Southeast.

Prior to his tenure at New Haven, Blohm was vice president for Development and Alumni Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has had advancement leadership roles at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Emory University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of Florida.

Away from work, Blohm, a former marathon and 10K runner, likes to stay active by playing golf. He also enjoys woodworking, something he calls "measurement art." "My dad worked in construction, and I guess I inherited his sense of tinkering and problem solving. I like fixing things and being a handyman," Blohm said.

Freshman class contributes to record enrollment

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette hit an enrollment trifecta for the Fall 2015 semester.

It scored a record enrollment of 19,033, which includes 17,508 degree-seeking students; the largest freshman class in school history; and an historic level of academic achievement by first-time freshmen.

“We also have a record number of high school valedictorians in this freshman class – 111. And, we have a significant boost in the number of first-time freshmen who have an ACT composite score of at least 25, with a 26 percent increase over last year,” said Dr. DeWayne Bowie, vice president for Enrollment Management.

It’s the second year in a row that UL Lafayette has set a total enrollment record and a record for the size of its freshman class.

Enrollment in degree-seeking programs is 2 percent higher than Fall 2014 numbers.

The freshman class has 3,179 students, a 9 percent surge compared to the Fall 2014 freshman class.

The Fall 2015 freshman class posted an average ACT composite score of 23.4 and an average high school cumulative GPA of 3.32. In Fall 2014, the freshman class had an average ACT composite score of 23.1; the average high school cumulative GPA was 3.3.

More UL Lafayette students are pursuing advanced degrees. The number of students pursuing master’s degrees has jumped 22 percent over the past five years, Bowie reported. The number of students working toward doctorates has grown 18 percent in the same timeframe.

This year’s student body is more diverse. According to Bowie, there are 15 percent more Hispanic students, 5 percent more African-American students and 3 percent more female students, compared to the Fall 2014 semester.



Members of the record-setting Class of 2019 and University administrators gathered in the Quadrangle at the start of the fall semester.

“The University continues to have representation and interest from all over the State of Louisiana,” Bowie said. He cited leaps in applications for admission from the following areas, compared to last year:

- Baton Rouge, 21 percent;
- Jefferson Parish, 21 percent;
- Orleans Parish, 25 percent; and
- St. Landry Parish, 21 percent.

Applications from high school graduates in Lafayette Parish were up 5 percent.

According to Bowie, UL Lafayette has boosted its out-of-state recruitment efforts. “That paid off, with an overall 4 percent increase in out-of-state applications for admission,” he said. “We’re seeing significant increases in first-time freshman applications from several states, including Florida, 20 percent; Mississippi, 8 percent; and Illinois, 59 percent.

“At one time we were called the best-kept secret. Well, the secret is out and more and more people like what they see and hear about the University.”

University labeled ‘wild’ campus

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has the “wildest” campus in Louisiana.

That’s according to the National Wildlife Federation’s campus habitat guide.

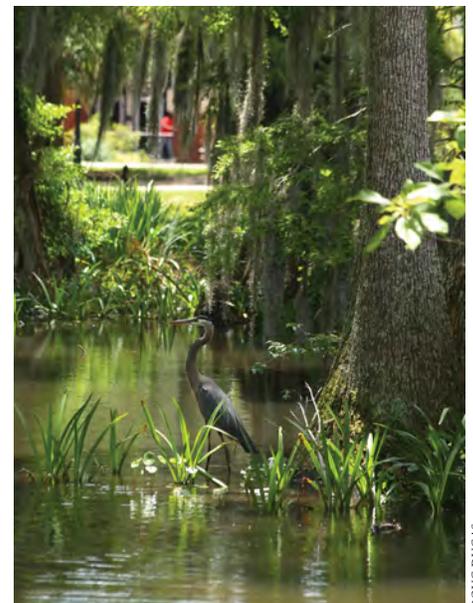
UL Lafayette is one of 85 colleges and universities, and the only university in the state, profiled in “The Campus Wild: How College and University Green Landscapes Provide Havens for Wildlife and ‘Lands-on’ Experiences for Students.”

The guide singles out schools that “are playing a dynamic role in protecting wildlife and restoring habitats,” according to information at www.nwf.org.

A profile about the University in “The Campus Wild” highlights Cypress Lake, a two-acre microcosm of the nearby Atchafalaya River Basin. A photo of a great egret standing near the edge of the lake also is featured.

Cypress Lake offers more than an attractive setting in the heart of campus. The diverse ecosystem provides students, including biology students who study in adjacent Wharton Hall, with learning opportunities.

It is home to alligators, several species of turtles, and fish such as bass, sunfish, and garfish. Birds, such as hawks, nest in the lake’s cypress trees, and water birds, such as egrets and herons, wade its shores.



Students

Labor of Love

Young blacksmith helps keep ancient craft alive while seeking degree

Industrial design major Sam Riehl pulls a length of steel about as thick as a wooden yardstick from a small mound of coal burning inside a blacksmith's forge.

He places it, glowing the same orange as the flame he's just drawn it from, atop an anvil. Riehl then brings a rounding hammer down on the soft metal, sending a shower of sparks in all directions.

The 19-year-old is creating a small bottle opener in the shape of a horse's head. He is also practicing a trade that, before the Industrial Revolution, was as vital to a community as a physician. Blacksmiths, who create objects by forging, molding and cutting steel or iron, once made "everything from forks to armor," explained Riehl, a polite, articulate sophomore.

While blacksmithing's heyday is long gone, Riehl's been proving since he was a child that it isn't exactly a dying art.

His introduction to the craft came at age 7, when he accompanied his mom, Angela, a lampworker who shapes glass melted with a torch into jewelry beads, to a Pyromania festival sponsored by the Lafayette Art Association. After helping set up her display of wares, Riehl wandered over to a blacksmith's demonstration, and was transfixed.

"I just stood there for hours and watched those guys work," he said.

Riehl pleaded with one of the artisans, Richard Delahoussaye, to let him in on the action. Delahoussaye told him that he wasn't wearing the proper attire—including work boots and safety glasses. Undeterred, Riehl returned the next day with the requisite gear. Delahoussaye and the other blacksmiths let him crank the blower, a piece of equipment that stokes the fire in a forge.

Riehl was hooked.

At age 8, he became the youngest person ever to join the Louisiana Metalsmiths Association, a non-profit of about 100 members that's

Sparks fly in Black Foot Forge in Carencro, La.



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

Sam Riehl forges a bottle opener in the shape of a horse's head from white-hot steel.

focused on spreading the word about blacksmithing, and its history and traditions.

Today, Riehl is the association's vice president, and Delahoussaye, 51, its president.

Riehl's first blacksmith shop was in a shed behind his parents' home, where he kept a small forge and a makeshift anvil fashioned from a section of railroad track. He also spent ample time at Delahoussaye's Black Foot Forge in Carencro, La., a dim workshop filled with anvils, vices and dozens of hammers of varying size and shape manufactured by the two over the years.

At first, Delahoussaye thought the young Riehl's interest in blacksmithing was a passing whim that would fade, but "he just kept coming around.

"So I finally started working with him."

Riehl, who as far as he knows is the youngest professional blacksmith in Louisiana, says Delahoussaye's early mentoring went beyond teaching him the ins and outs of the trade.

"Richard would call it 'our shop,'" Riehl said. "That was just really an awesome thing to hear as a kid. It was empowering."

Today, Black Foot Forge is truly "their" shop. Riehl and Delahoussaye are business partners. They produce decorative and utilitarian pieces, from small items such as jewelry or salad tongs, to larger objects such as headboards or gates, with a small amount of fabrication work mixed in.

A favorite project of Riehl's was a na-

ture-themed headboard threaded with vines and branches and realistic-looking leaves woven with veins and curling edges.

"One of my major interests is making the organic out of the inorganic. That concept, that juxtaposition, is something fantastic," he said.



DOUG DUGAS

Riehl also uses his skills to make Lafayette a better place. He was part of a small team that created a batch of three-dimensional, 8-foot tall letters for Project Front Yard, a community-wide beautification effort. The letters, which spelled out #YARDWORK, consisted of a framework of steel rebar sheathed in chicken wire. Open at the top, each letter was a receptacle for debris after campus cleanups.

The "litter letters" were displayed near Cajun Field for several weeks, as a visual reminder of the impact of waste.

Gretchen Vanicor, director of the

University's Office of Sustainability, said she reached out to Riehl to participate in the project after hearing about his blacksmithing skills. "The work he does is really incredible, and he was super-excited to do it."

Riehl said he accepts as many jobs as he can, while balancing the demands of being a full-time honors student. He also gives demonstrations periodically, including at Festivals Acadiens et Créoles.

He credits a short documentary filmed in 2014 by his friend, Brennan Robideaux, for garnering widespread exposure for his blacksmithing work.

Robideaux entered the film in the Smithsonian In Motion Video Contest. It became an Editor's Pick, one of several videos selected from about 200 entries for a spot in a video series posted on Smithsonian.com.

Riehl, however, isn't sure he'll make blacksmithing a career.

While blacksmiths can earn a good salary, the work takes a toll on the body. A forge emits smoke that's hard on the eyes and lungs, and heat of up to about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Swinging hammers, and hefting steel, affects everything from a blacksmith's back to hand joints.

"I'm OK physically, but I might not be after 60 years," Riehl said. "But it will always be something I do, either as a side job or a hobby, because I love it."

 Video bonus

 Slideshow bonus

La

A Healing Journey

Nursing student makes lasting connection volunteering at Thai elephant sanctuary

Jade Descant's love of animals led her to Thailand this summer to work with elephants rescued from abusive situations. While volunteering at the 250-acre Elephant Nature Park, a rescue and rehabilitation center in northern Thailand, she cared for a 55-year-old Asian elephant named Jokia (pronounced JO-KEE-ah). A one-week encounter made a lasting impression that set the 23-year-old nursing student on a new course.

After she graduates from UL Lafayette, Descant intends to return to rural Thailand to work as a nurse for a year. While there, she plans to volunteer again at the sanctuary that provides a home to 50 Asian elephants who now roam freely after a harsh life of forced labor in circuses, street begging, and logging.

"It's eye-opening. I didn't realize how seriously these elephants were abused. Animals are not for human entertainment," Descant said.

'My nursing classes prepared me to work with a wide variety of patients from different cultures.'

Even though Jokia cannot see, the UL Lafayette junior believes the chances are good that the elephant will remember her when she returns in a few years.

"I guess I got lucky because she was so special, so gentle. All of the elephants have different personalities. The young males can be really aggressive. Jokia let me rub her trunk and bathe her in the river," said Descant, who conducted a dietary study, following the

elephant from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Gentle, although severely abused most of her life, Jokia was forced to haul heavy logs through mountainous terrain, even while pregnant. "While pulling logs, she gave birth. Her baby fell down a hill and Jokia refused to work. The logger beat her and blinded her in both eyes," Descant said.

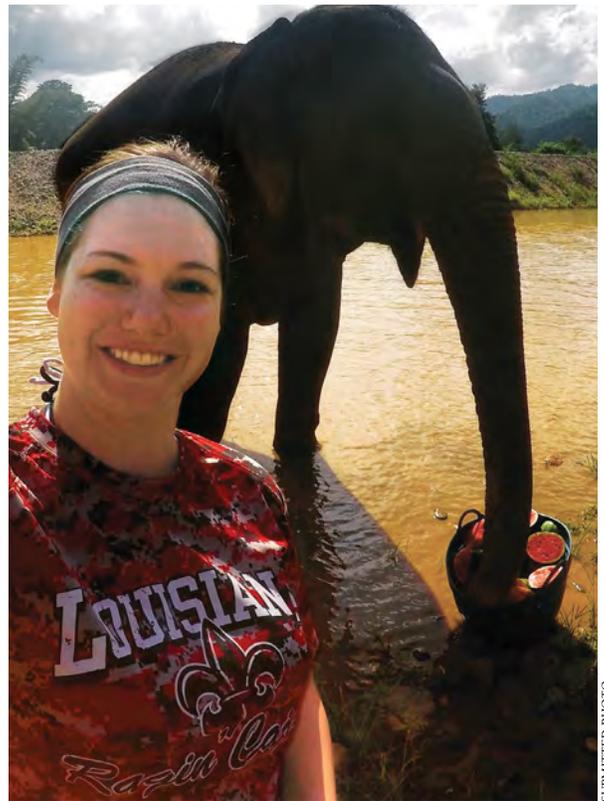
The sanctuary owner met Jokia and eventually secured enough funding from a donor to buy the elephant and bring her to the sanctuary in 2001. Jokia's elephant friend, Mae Perm, acts as her eyes as she leads Jokia around the park and forests, according to Jokia's profile on Elephant Nature Park's website.

While at the sanctuary, Descant walked Jokia to a river where elephants bathe themselves daily. "Jokia's *mahout* (a life-long caretaker assigned to each elephant) always stayed close. They bonded with each other. He let me know she was really in his care," she said.

While in Thailand, she learned about several aspects of the culture, interviewing Buddhist monks and eating a vegetarian diet. "My nursing classes prepared me to work with a wide variety of patients from different cultures."

She put significant effort into securing her trip abroad, submitting an application, essay, and college transcripts eight months in advance to the Boston-based Loop Abroad. She also raised funds from family members and friends to cover \$6,500 in expenses.

Descant flew to New York City, where she met other student volunteers hailing from all over the United States. They



Jade Descant kept track of what Jokia ate each day.



Jokia, who is blind, received lots of TLC from her Ragin' Cajun caretaker this summer.

traveled together to Hong Kong and eventually to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where they stayed in a private hostel.

The volunteers taught English at an elementary school and spent a day interacting with tigers from a few months old to adults.

"I definitely plan to return to the elephant sanctuary. And it'll be rewarding to work for a year as a nurse in that area," Descant said.

Student Editor

Public relations major gets real-life lessons for her future career

La Louisiane student editor Mary Cormaci is getting lots of on-the-job experience.

She serves as a liaison with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's student body and is involved in many aspects of the magazine's production. She conducts interviews and research, writes articles, and helps edit content, for example.

"Most important, I learn. Lots. Within the Office of Communications and Marketing, I'm gaining knowledge from professionals in not only magazine publication, but also photography, graphic design, social media, and marketing," Cormaci said.

A junior, she has maintained a 3.9 GPA and is a member of the Honors Program. She's also secretary of UL Lafayette College Republicans.

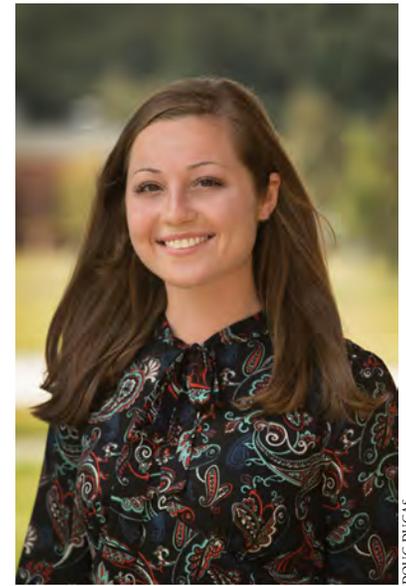
Cormaci has a particular interest in photography. She has taken photos of sporting events that have been posted on the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns® website and Facebook page. She said the 2014 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl was one of her most memorable sports events to photograph. She shot from the sidelines, along with some top professional photographers and videographers.

"The Ragin' Cajuns football team was returning to the Superdome for the fourth time, but it was my first on-field New Orleans Bowl experience. Everywhere I looked, Cajuns fans radiated excitement and pride," she recalled.

As a part-time freelance photographer, she has specialized in shooting music festivals but has shot a range of subjects, from people to social events.

"Taking photos allows me to capture beauty, to preserve details, to immerse myself in a scene. My camera gives me an excuse to stop and take a close look at the simple beauty of life all around me: a handshake, a dance, a smile."

Cormaci compares *La Louisiane* to a photo. "It's created to preserve special moments in time, and around the University, there are a lot of special moments. Aside from my studies, I enjoy soaking up all that this wonderful place has to offer. The campus community inspires us every day."



DOUG DUGAS

International contest

Life vest design lands third place

Jessie Kate Brown is confident there's a niche in the marketplace for a better-fitting life jacket for women.

As a senior majoring in industrial design at UL Lafayette, she chose to create a comfortable, form-fitting life preserver for females who, like her, love to be on the water.

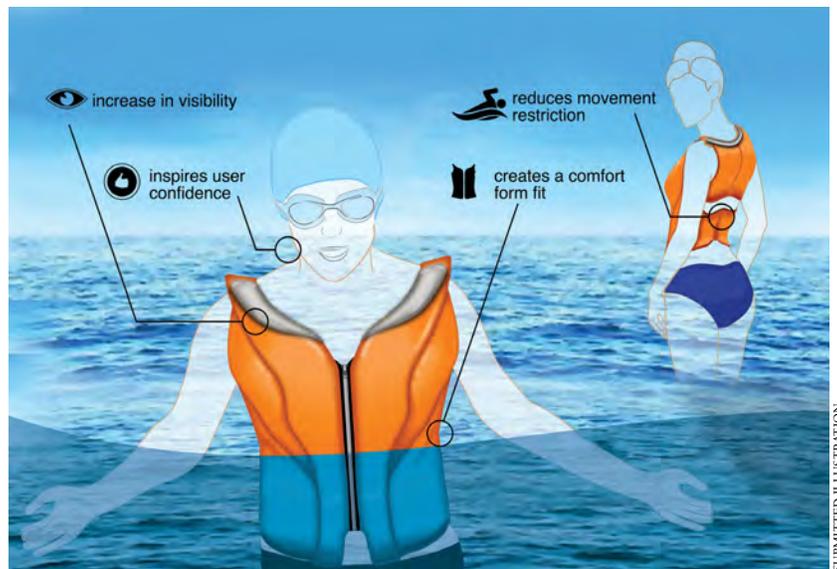
"It's a part of our culture and heritage in Louisiana to fish and to go boating, and many traditional life jackets are restrictive. I wanted to design one that's both functional and comfortable," explained Brown, who goes by Kate.

She entered her Comfort Flex Life Vest in the Innovations in Life Jacket Design Competition sponsored by the BoatUS Foundation. It placed third in a field that included teams from large design firms. There were 250 entries from 40 countries.

Brown, who is from Basile, La., near Eunice, grew up fishing with her father and grandfather. She found most life vests too bulky.

Another problem is that many don't fit snugly enough, and ride up, she said. Her life preserver has smaller armholes than many traditional models, which also prevent water from pushing it up over the wearer's head.

It also hugs the body, "like a shirt," she explained, thanks to elastic fabric similar to Spandex. The material stretches across the sides of Brown's vest, tapering it from an area under the armpits to the waist. The elastic material and tapered design allow for freer arm movement than bulkier life vests.



SUBMITTED ILLUSTRATION

Kate Brown's design stresses a snug, comfortable fit for women.

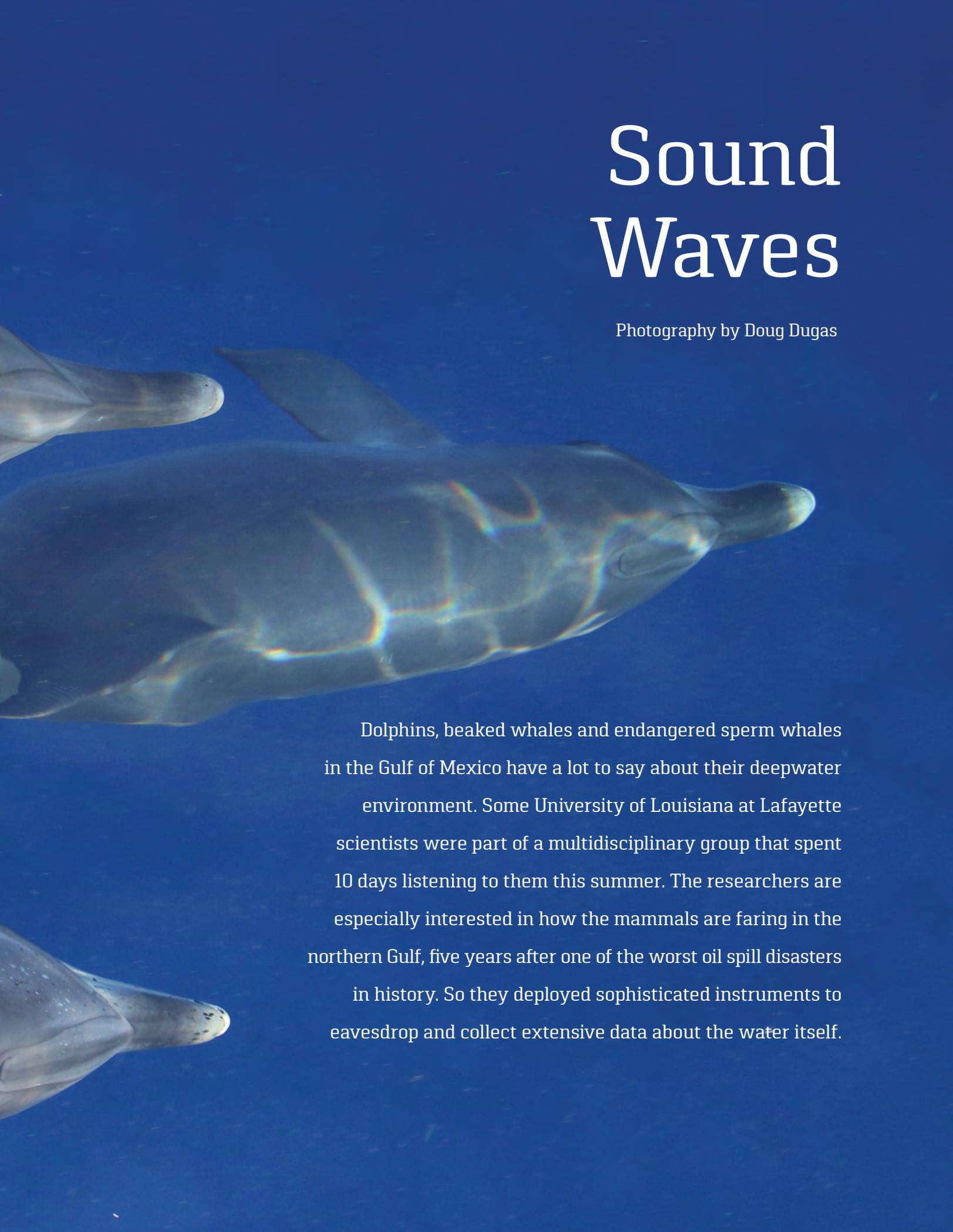
The vest is mostly made of polyethylene foam sheathed in nylon.

Brown, who graduated in August with a degree in industrial design, is using \$2,000 in prize money she earned in the competition to pursue a patent and promote her design.

That same month, a family tragedy steeled her resolve to see her life preserver make it into the hands of consumers.

Her mother's first cousin drowned after falling into the Calcasieu River. He tripped and hit his head while tying a fishing boat to his houseboat. He wasn't wearing a life preserver.





Sound Waves

Photography by Doug Dugas

Dolphins, beaked whales and endangered sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico have a lot to say about their deepwater environment. Some University of Louisiana at Lafayette scientists were part of a multidisciplinary group that spent 10 days listening to them this summer. The researchers are especially interested in how the mammals are faring in the northern Gulf, five years after one of the worst oil spill disasters in history. So they deployed sophisticated instruments to eavesdrop and collect extensive data about the water itself.



This 12-bottle carousel water sampler collects extensive data.



David Rutter checks on two autonomous surface vehicles in tow.



The 116-foot *R/V Pelican* that sails from Cocodrie, La., is owned by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium.

On the afternoon of June 23, the *R/V Pelican* departed from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium facility in Cocodrie, La., laden with scientific instruments, 14 researchers and technicians, and a seven-person crew.

Dr. Natalia Sidorovskaia, a physics professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was on board. She is lead investigator of a three-year, \$5.2 million grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to continue ecological monitoring and modeling of the northern Gulf's deep water, about 100 miles from the Louisiana coastline.

Sidorovskaia and other researchers had conducted passive, underwater acoustic monitoring measurements there in 2001, 2002 and 2007. They anchored recording devices – Environmental Acoustic Recording Systems, or EARS – to the Gulf floor to record sounds made by whales.

Information they collected helped scientists better understand how whales communicate with each other. It was also used by mathematicians and statisticians to develop models that could estimate current and future sizes of whale populations.

On April 20, 2010, a wellhead on the BP Deepwater Horizon rig blew out. Millions of barrels of crude oil spewed into the water before the well could be capped 87 days later.

In September 2010, Sidorovskaia and two UL Lafayette mathematics professors, Dr. Azmy Ackleh and Dr. Nabendu Pal, received a \$192,000 National Science Foundation Rapid Response grant. The funds enabled them to reinstall six underwater recording devices in pre-spill locations. They then compared pre-spill and post-spill acoustical data.

Their conclusion: sperm whales preferred to dive for food farther away from the site of the oil spill. “However, beaked whales remained diving close to the disaster site,” Ackleh said. “This perplexing result requires more data to be collected over several years.”

The research group was unable to conduct whale monitoring in the area again until it landed the \$5.2 million GoMRI grant in 2014.

In June, scientists from the University of Southern Mississippi, Oregon State University, ASV Global, Proteus Technologies LLC, and Seiche Measurements LLC were also onboard the *R/V Pelican* to collect underwater acoustical data for the GoMRI-funded research. The University of New Orleans and R2 Sonic LLC are associated with the project, but did not have representatives onboard.

Scientists again used tethered EARS to record deepwater mammal sounds. They also relied on autonomous surface vehicles fitted with hydrophones – microphones that detect sound waves under water. A Seaglider, an underwater autonomous vehicle capable of diving to about 1,000 meters, captured acoustical data at various depths. Researchers also relied on old-fashioned, but effective visual observations during daylight hours. Personnel took one-hour shifts, scanning the horizon with the help of “big-eye” and handheld binoculars.

The EARS and glider were left in the Gulf to collect data until they were retrieved in October.

Sidorovskaia explained what will happen next. “We will bring all this data into the lab and use sophisticated algorithms to extract sounds associated with different species. . . After that, we will do pretty much what we do when we go to a party and we listen to conversations. We are trying to figure out who’s talking and how many people are talking. Using our signal processing algorithms, we are going to decode the data which we recorded.”

Then the researchers will put the data in a mathematical model to determine whether the numbers of deepwater mammals have increased or decreased, and where they’re living now.

The ability to detect and track whales in real time is of particular interest to oil companies because new federal regulations require them to monitor an area for marine mammals before and during seismic exploration surveys they conduct.

Sidorovskaia said the group hopes to have preliminary findings by March 2016.



This autonomous Seaglider captures sound at depths of up to 1,000 meters.



Thomas Ninke scans the water with a “big eye” binoculars, searching for marine mammals.



Interview bonus



Slideshow bonus



Researchers, technicians and the crew spent 10 days in the Gulf of Mexico.



Dr. Natalia Sidorovskaia and Sean Griffin



Earthly Delights

Downtown museum brings science alive

By Sandra Sarr

Photography by Doug Dugas

Beyond the looming dinosaur bones deep inside Lafayette Science Museum, a boy stands at a plate glass window transfixed by the scene on the other side. He watches six young women and men at sleek metal tables peering into microscopes. Into dishes go whole bones, remains of small animals, like frogs and rodents, that offer clues to what life was like thousands to millions of years ago. The boy calls his father over and together they track the movements of students in the low-lit lab who clean, examine, and catalog fossils for research and display. It is a glimpse of what paleontologists do in a laboratory.



Where there's a window was once just a wall. Behind that wall was a storage room full of shipping crates. Now, it's a fully equipped paleontological preparatory lab, transformed through an innovative partnership between the Lafayette Science Museum and the Geology Museum at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

UL Lafayette students collect fossils in the field and prepare them in the lab under the leadership of paleontologist Dr. James E. Martin, a research professor in the University's School of Geosciences. He's also curator of paleontology in the UL Lafayette Geology Museum housed within the Lafayette Museum of Science. With funding

from grants and contracts for collecting specimens in Oregon, Martin has hired 12 UL Lafayette undergraduate and graduate students. They work in the laboratory 20 hours a week during the school year and nearly double that during summer months.

"It helps bring science alive for the public," said Coty DuBois, a junior from Abbeville, La., who works with Martin in the museum and in the field.

A working natural history museum requires three elements: a research component, with a lab for preparing specimens; a collections area; and a display area. Prior to the partnership, the museum was primarily a display area for traveling

Opposite page: Matt Richard, a geology student in his junior year, removes fine rock from the teeth of a small herbivore to reveal its jawbone. The specimen was discovered at Fossil Lake in south-central Oregon.



Geology students Alexis Blair and Kristin Ball study specimens within the federally certified collection repository in the downtown museum.

exhibits. Now it has a federally certified collection repository, a permanent collection, and meets all of the U.S. Department of the Interior requirements for official museum status.

Camel Bones

This past summer, the same UL Lafayette students working in the lab traveled to a south-central Oregon desert, where they met up with Martin at Fort Rock Fire Guard Station near Fossil Lake. It's a pay-dirt region for paleontologists in search of Ice Age relics.

The most notable specimens they pulled from the ground are Miocene-Eocene seven-million-year-old camel bones from a 14-foot-tall beast resembling a modern-day giraffe. The UL

Lafayette group found more bones of a single camel in the Oregon desert this year than have been found anywhere in the United States.

No complete giant camel skeletons are known to exist. Martin is not positive, but he believes the giant camel is a *Megatylopus*. They are not common and their skeletons are particularly rare.

Martin and his students brought the front legs and part of the rib cage of the ancient camel to Lafayette. They know the bones belong to one camel because of the way they fit together. They trucked the bones from Oregon to Louisiana in plaster casts to protect them en route.

Some of the specimens collected from Oregon will go on display for the third and final installment of Fossil Giants, an exhibit set to open in spring 2016. The first in the series more than doubled attendance at the Lafayette Science Museum in 2014, according to Kevin Krantz, director of the Lafayette Science Museum.

Layers Like Pages

In the Ice Age paleontology world, Fossil Lake is a hotbed for those on a quest for the raw material of Earth's story. Martin, who's led student expeditions to Fossil Lake since 1990, is the only scientist with a permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to remove specimens from there. Fossils found on public land are public property; they require a federal permit for removal.

The Fossil Lake desert, once grassland, became a 200-foot-deep lake after volcano activity and catastrophic

flooding. Animals got trapped and couldn't get out. That's what preserved a multitude of relics in the region.

UL Lafayette students were required to learn about the region prior to the expedition and gained an understanding of its comparative paleontological importance. With its abundance of prehistoric specimens, Fossil Lake is "a place that spoils you," said Zack Guidry of Milton, La., a junior majoring in geology who works with Martin in the field and in the museum.

Martin examines layers of fossil-containing rocks, one layer containing a group of fossils deposited on the layer before.

"We read these layers much like the pages of a book to deduce the history of life on our planet. Within these pages are remarkable creatures, many of which no longer exist and many that have spectacular structures," he said.



Student Matt Richard consults specimens in the repository. Scientists use them for research and comparison when identifying new finds.

Martin follows the same protocol at every dig site. First, he maps it, establishing sections that are essentially successions of rock layers. The purpose is to make sure students separate fossils from each layer so they can see how creatures changed from one layer to another, how they changed through time. He determines where to dig, based upon fossils that are present.

Crawling on their hands and knees for hours at Fossil Lake, Martin and his students pored through powdered ash, searching for remnants of prehistoric giant sloths, saber-tooth cats, mammoths, giant camels, small amphibians, rodents, and horses.

To students' untrained eyes, the Fossil Lake desert looks like a vast stretch of sand at first. When Martin explains what he sees, they learn to look with care and "read" what they see.

Martin teaches students who join him in Oregon and other sites to understand the environmental conditions where once-living creatures are represented by their fossil remains. This is done best by looking at relics of smaller animals, like rodents, because they tended to stay in one area, while large animals roamed.



Lafayette Science Museum

433 Jefferson Street

Hours Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Admission

Adult (18 - 61): \$5

Seniors (62+): \$3

Children (4 - 17): \$2

Children under 4: Free

Lafayette public school students

and teachers: Free

Private/out-of-parish schools:

\$1 per student/teacher,

\$2 per chaperone

Working as a team, students gain hands-on experience in how to extract fossils from the field and document specimens. By the end of the trip, they can identify most objects they find and name any bone in a small animal's body.

This past summer, the UL Lafayette students learned how life at Fossil Lake changed during the Ice Age and how it mirrored environmental changes during that time period.

Weeks of rain dampened the group's efforts but not its spirits.

"It was wet out there. It was hot. It was cold. And it was the experience of a lifetime, as promised. You get excited about things again and incorporate what you learn in the field," said Cathy Bishop, a UL Lafayette geology instructor who spent time at the Fossil Lake dig.

Bunking at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Fire Guard Station, students ate meals together, starting with breakfast. After packing their gear for the day, they piled into Chevy Suburban 4x4s, also supplied by the BLM, to travel to the Fossil Lake area by 8 a.m. After a full day in the field, they arranged what they found and cataloged it all.

Continued on page 29

... A brief history of a natural partnership ...



Caitlyn and Cade
Buccholz count bones
in a Moabosaurus' neck.

Dr. David Borrok, director of the School of Geosciences, remembers the first time his mother took him to the Denver Natural History Museum and how the huge fossils blew his mind.

"It changes your perception as a child of what was and what can be," he said.

So, it's no surprise that he's in charge of a geology museum.

When the School of Geosciences moved to Hamilton Hall from Madison Hall on campus, Borrok began to explore options for where to house the University's Museum of Geology's thousands of fossils, minerals, and gemstones acquired over about 50 years.

An inkling of possibilities for a museum-university relationship came in 2012 when Tim Deux, a professor of geology at UL Lafayette, and Kevin Krantz, Lafayette Science Museum administrator and curator of exhibits, mounted a small exhibit of the University's minerals collection at the science museum.

"People loved it. Not long after that, we heard that the University was looking for a new home for its Museum of Geology," Krantz said.

Borrok, Krantz and Dr. James E. Martin, a research professor in the University's School of Geosciences, talked about possibilities and eventually secured approvals for the University's Museum of Geology to be housed in the Lafayette Science Museum building owned by Lafayette Consolidated Government.

"It was an unprecedented arrangement. So, naturally it took time to work through the details," Krantz said. The University's museum moved downtown in 2013.

With the first of a three-part dinosaur exhibit, attendance doubled in 2014. The museum is on track for a 25 percent increase in visitors in 2015. On a day of free admission during Festival International, about 7,000 people from all over the world flowed into the 10,000-square-foot gallery space to see the dinosaur exhibit and learn about the creatures' origins.

The museum includes exhibit space, research space for UL Lafayette students and faculty, and a lab for processing specimens. "The museum historically rented traveling exhibitions from other museums. I'm proud to have real science going on here in the museum. There's no shortage of scientific expertise in this area. We showcase those resources," Krantz noted.

"Without Jim Martin's help, we wouldn't have been able to tell the story. With his vast knowledge, he has generated content that's awe-inspiring to our visitors. He has breathed life into our projects, and hired and directed students in the research lab," Krantz said.

He said Martin's relationship with the Madsen family of Utah, which owns the fossil casts of dinosaur bones on display, made the three-part exhibit possible for the museum. The museum is working on an arrangement to permanently house that collection.

"It's a multi-million dollar collection. Really, it's priceless," Borrok said.

Meanwhile, the permanent collection grows with the bone specimens Martin and UL Lafayette students discover on expeditions.



Paleontologist Dr. James E. Martin stands next to a chasmosaurus at the Lafayette Science Museum.

Continued from page 27

“We’d be up until about 10 at night curating. It’s an important part of the learning process,” said Matt Richard, a junior from Grand Chenier, La.

A lot of Fossil Lake history is not yet understood, but Martin chips away at it, returning year after year, publishing papers, and working on a

book manuscript about it. He’s made it his life’s work to understand the secrets held within the earth and to reveal them to inquisitive minds.

Bringing home the bones

Martin personally knows the lifetime value of hands-on experience as a student. He went to work as a field assistant for the Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, in 1967, when he was 17 years old, and hasn’t stopped since. He’s done field explorations in Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, and North America with discoveries that earned him the Royal Geographical Society of London/Discovery Channel Europe, International Discovery of the Year Award in 1999.

He was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2008, and the James E. Martin Paleontology Research Laboratory, a 33,000-square-foot educational facility, was dedicated in

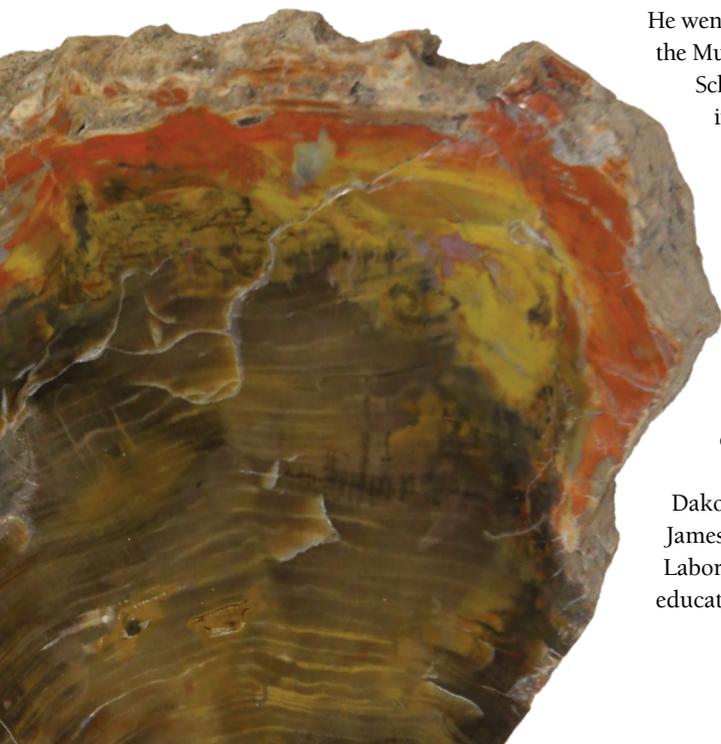
his honor on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus in 2011.

Although he has spent five decades in the field and has earned some of the top awards in his profession, students can occasionally stump him with their discoveries.

“Those were the times we felt good, when we’d show Dr. Martin something and he’d have to look under the microscope to identify it. But that was rare,” UL Lafayette junior Alexis Blair said, as she worked in the museum lab after returning from the Oregon dig.

Martin intends to keep returning to the Oregon high desert site, where more UL Lafayette students will accompany him as members of the expedition team.

“By understanding the past, we may have at least a fighting chance to predict the future. Understanding how creatures changed, why they became extinct, and how their environments changed are germane to the human condition and its prognosis,” he said.



 [Slideshow bonus](#)

[Click here to download coloring and activity pages for children.](#)





Home Improvements

It didn't take long for the Welcome Wall in front of Martin Hall to become one of the most popular places on campus. A gift from the Classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014, it is the first and only place on campus that identifies the campus by name so boldly.



There had not been enough time for grass to grow over ground scraped bare during construction before students and alumni began to appear in front of it, usually posing for photos.

The wall is 100 feet long and 6 feet tall at its highest point. Large aluminum letters are backlit, ensuring that the University's name is clearly visible at night, too.

The Wall's message to everyone is: You have arrived at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

If you are a first-time freshman, you have arrived at where

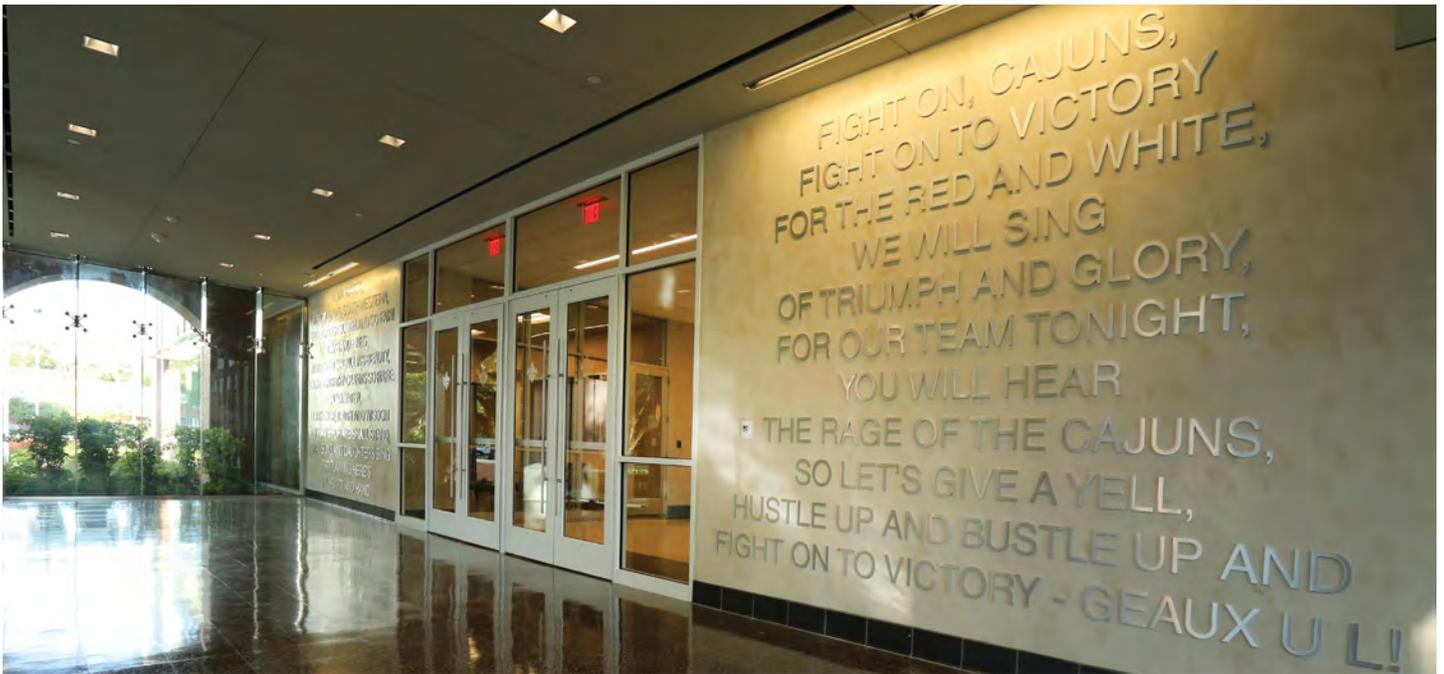
you should be. If you are about to graduate, you have arrived at the finish line. If you are an alum, you have arrived back home.

The Welcome Wall is just one of several recent projects that have helped transform UL Lafayette's campus.

Just a few steps away, the Walk of Honor, paved with bricks bearing the names of every graduate, leads to the just-renovated Quadrangle. The Student Union has been expanded by about 40 percent and extensively renovated. And, the University's third parking garage opened in the spring.



Oak trees line McKinley Street in front of the Student Union. The new building incorporates the University's signature brick arches.



The Student Union is the hub of campus life, particularly for the roughly 3,000 students who live in nearby residence halls.

It houses Cypress Lake Dining Room and several smaller eateries, the Ragin' Cajuns Store, meeting rooms, offices related to many student services, and a post office.

The back of the Union features windows that provide a picturesque view of Cypress Lake from inside.

Three buildings near the intersection of Boucher Street and Hebrard Boulevard – Guillory, Lafayette and Vermilion halls – were demolished, opening up green space by Cypress

Lake. Removal of those structures gives motorists on Hebrard Boulevard a striking view of Cypress Lake and the Student Union that had previously been obscured.

One feature of the original Student Union was retained: its porch.

The Student Union is the city's first major public building recognized for environmental sustainability through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

Like the Welcome Wall, the Student Union was financed by students.





One of the main features of the new Quadrangle is a 14-foot tall, 3,000-pound fleur-de-lis sculpture fashioned from brushed steel that sits inside a fountain.

The three-sided sculpture rests on a 4-foot concrete base inside the fountain. It's illuminated at night with LED lighting that can be programmed to change colors and light up the entire area.

The makeover was designed by students, including architecture majors participating in the University's Community Design Workshop. It includes a plaza, new walkways and landscaping with live oaks and magnolias.

Quad improvements were funded by students through a self-assessed fee.

Girard Park Circle Parking Tower, UL Lafayette's third parking facility, opened in January 2015. The six-story building faces East Lewis Street. Vehicles enter from Girard Park Circle, via a driveway between Fletcher and Oliver halls.

The bottom three floors offer public parking; floors 4-6 are dedicated to faculty, staff and students who buy permits to park there.

A "gateless system" on the lower three levels is designed to reduce wait times for motorists entering and exiting at peak times, such as when classes end, or the lunch hour. Motorists park in numbered spaces. Automated pay stations on each of the three lower levels accept credit cards and debit cards.



Sixty video cameras mounted inside and outside the parking tower help transportation and public safety officials monitor activity there.

The project was funded through several sources, including the sale of bonds, self-assessed student fees and auxiliary revenue. No state monies were used.



At the same time that the Welcome Wall, Quadrangle renovation and Student Union construction were underway, more bicycle racks were added throughout campus. A bike share program is also planned.

The latest campus improvements follow some upgrades in the past five years that have helped make campus a more

appealing place for students to live: four new residence halls and the complete renovation of two others. Residence halls were full for the Fall 2015 semester.

Most of the capital improvement projects were included in the University's Master Plan, which will guide campus growth, development and change over the next 15-20 years.

Top Tier

New Student-Athlete Performance Center dazzles

Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns® were just starting to settle into a new Student-Athlete Performance Center on campus in early October.

The \$25 million, 100,000-square-foot building is part of the first phase of a master plan for upgrading UL Lafayette's sports facilities. It will be used by student-athletes in all Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns sports.

Rob Stewart, associate director for external affairs, said the building "will help make every single one of our student-athletes better." It will also help the University recruit student-athletes and coaches.

Center amenities include a 30-foot cold plunge pool. It's used to reduce muscle inflammation after workouts. There's also a treadmill submerged in a whirlpool.

The spacious weight room has new equipment worth more than \$1 million.

A 150-seat auditorium, training room, and two locker rooms with an adjacent student lounge, are on the first floor. Coaches offices and meeting rooms are on the second floor.

Football head coach Mark Hudspeth provided ESPN3 with a sneak preview.

He pointed out that many people have contributed to the Student-Athlete Performance Center.

"Our community has really done a great job of making this happen, along with our University and administration. It has been a total team effort."



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

Nation's Best

Catcher is at the top of her game

First, the good news: Lexie Elkins is the country's best softball catcher at the highest level of collegiate competition.

Now, for more good news: As a senior, she's got another season to play for Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns®.

With the exception of the Ragin' Cajuns winning the Women's College World Series in June 2016, it's difficult to imagine how Elkins could best her 2015 achievements.

A committee of head coaches chose her to receive the Diamond Sports Division I Catcher of the Year Award presented by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. It's no wonder.

For starters, Elkins had 32 home runs in 2015, the most in the NCAA's Division I. She also:

- led the nation in RBIs per game – 1.54 – with a total 83 RBIs;
- was named the 2014-15 female winner of the James J. Corbett Award, which is presented to the top female athlete in Louisiana each year;



BRAD KEMP

Lexie Elkins had 32 home runs in the 2015 season, the most in NCAA Division I.

- received first-team honors on the NFCA All-Central Region, All-Sun Belt and All-Louisiana squads;
- was named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year for the second straight year; and
- was one of 26 finalists for the USA Softball Player of the Year award.

Michael Lotief, Ragin' Cajuns softball head coach, offered some insight into her success.

"Lexie is strong and smart mentally. That allows her to compete at a high level and

embrace tough challenges and to deal with and learn from every experience, whether it be success or failure," he said.

The Ragin' Cajuns finished their 2015 campaign with a 42-12 record.

The team claimed its second straight Sun Belt Conference regular season championship and 13th in 15 years of league competition since 2001. It appeared in the NCAA Tournament for the 17th straight year and advanced to an NCAA Super Regional for the fourth straight year.

Conway earns national honor



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hollis Conway, a two-time Olympic medalist and former Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns track and field athlete, was named to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in September.

He's the reigning American indoor record holder in the high jump with 7 feet, 10½ inches.

A six-time NCAA All-American and three-time NCAA champion for the Ragin' Cajuns, Conway won the silver medal in the high jump at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul before adding a bronze

medal at the 1992 Games in Barcelona.

As a Ragin' Cajun, Conway broke three American records. He was ranked No. 1 in the United States in the high jump from 1988-94 and was No. 1 in the world rankings in 1990-91.

He is president of Overcoming Obstacles Inc., a non-profit company, and an ordained minister.

Conway graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in general studies.

Harris to lead RCAF

The first executive director of the Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation has over 12 years of experience working in development at the University of South Florida, Ohio University and Indiana University. Jim Harris was named to the RCAF leadership post in August.

The RCAF is the official fundraising division for the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns®.

"Jim brings an impressive background in revenue generation at all levels of intercollegiate athletics that will be essential to achieving the goals of our capital campaign as well as the long-term success of Ragin' Cajuns Athletics," said Robert Daigle, RCAF chairman.

As senior associate athletics director and associate vice president for development at South Florida from 2013-14, Harris helped cultivate, solicit and steward a portfolio of over 100 major gift prospects at the \$500,000-plus level.

At Ohio University, his development team increased donation dollars by over 900 percent and he was instrumental in securing a lead gift of \$10 million, the largest amount in Ohio athletics history.

During his tenure at Indiana University, annual giving increased by 37 percent, a \$2.1 million boost. He was responsible for implementing IU's first-ever premium seating for men's basketball.

Harris holds a bachelor's degree from IU, and a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Handmade

Innovator finds joy in using his 3-D printers for others

Clay Guillory, '12, vividly remembers slipping a robotic-looking hand he made over the space where Dominic Martinez' left hand would be, if he'd been born with one. Guillory cinched it onto the 8-year-old's arm last summer and watched as the child picked up a toy with the new plastic hand that Guillory fabricated for him on a 3-D printer.

Now Dominic can grip a baseball bat and lift a cup to his lips, the new hand allowing him to do everyday tasks that were once out of his reach.

"The kid had never had a left hand before. I put it on him for the first time. It was one of the most incredible moments of my life," Guillory told *La Louisiane*.

Guillory and the boy's mother, Nicole Martinez, connected after Guillory, a mechanical engineer, taught himself to build a 3-D printer and put an ad on Craigslist: "Hey, I've got a printer. If you've got a prototype, I'll make it."

That was in June 2014. A few weeks later, Martinez contacted him, saying her son needed a hand. She'd seen a news article about how the prosthesis could be made. "She'd gotten a \$900 estimate from another printer and wanted me to give her a quote. I said, 'It's \$10 in plastic. I will make it and give it to you for free,'" he said.

Since then, Guillory has made seven more hands for children and adults. Each device, which he offers at no cost, takes 26 to 30 hours to print and another four hours to assemble. He uses a computer program to design objects and then runs the design through a 3-D printer that builds the object, layer by layer, using a plastic filament. Users flex their wrists or elbows to create tension needed to move the fingers.

Guillory worked on three prosthetic hands this summer.

He makes the hands in conjunction with e-Nabling the Future, a global online community of volunteers that connects kids



Guillory makes prosthetic hands for kids in need.

who need prostheses with makers of low-cost prosthetic hands. Children outgrow prostheses within four to six months and artificial hands can cost thousands of dollars. The e-Nable-designed hand Guillory made for Dominic is called The Cyborg Beast and resembles a robot-like appendage of a Transformers character.

Guillory also created a bionic arm that attaches just below the elbow on people whose forearms are missing. The prosthesis incorporates computers and muscle sensors.

Then there's Fred, a humanoid robot that a software developer commissioned Guillory to make. The developer is using Fred

DOUG DUGAS

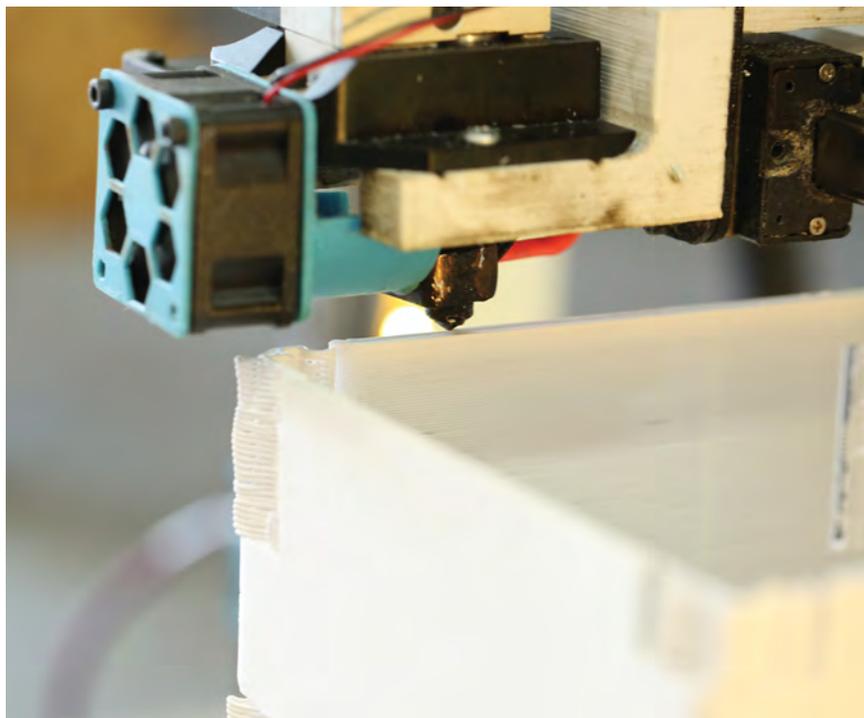
to house facial recognition software he's generating. Guillory spent five months printing more than 200 parts for Fred and assembling it with the help of two of his technicians and fellow engineers. Fred can move much like a person in response to commands and uses two cameras to judge distances between objects.

Guillory accomplishes all of these projects on massive 6-foot by 6-foot 3-D printers he designs and builds from the ground up. Earlier this year, he left his mechanical engineering job to focus full time on his company, Titan Robotics Ltd. He employs a team of five engineers and technicians who work out of his garage in Colorado Springs. Guillory's inventory includes nine machines, about half of which he made himself.

So far, he's sold three large-scale 3-D printers he's built. One of them was purchased by the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center in Woodland Park, Colo., which creates many of the artificial dinosaur bones displayed in museum exhibits around the world. Guillory, who had been 3-D printing bones for the Resource Center, couldn't keep up with the demand, so the owner decided to purchase a printer from him.

Guillory showed signs of becoming an inventor in elementary school, when he disassembled all of his toys, including a remote-control car that he reconfigured by using better parts from other toy cars. He opened his own computer repair business while a high school freshman.

"My lifetime goal was to go to Germany and help build BMWs. I got to do that when I was 21," said Guillory, who grew up in Milton, La., and graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and German.



DOUG DUGAS

A 3-D printer made by Clay Guillory builds objects layer by layer.

He worked on prototypes of wire harnesses used in BMW's X1 and X3 sports vehicles, living in Germany as part of the U.S. Department of State Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals.

"There's nothing glamorous about wires. After five months, I came home and said, 'What's next?'" he recalled.

- [▶ Giving back](#)
- [▶ How it works - the bionic arm](#)
- [▶ How it works - the printer](#)
- [▶ Slideshow bonus](#)



DOUG DUGAS

In his Colorado workshop, the 2012 UL Lafayette grad works on a bionic arm and hand he crafted.

New Alumni leader stayed close to her alma mater

Jennifer LeMeunier, '92, feels right at home in the Alumni Center. She was a student worker there for four years, before she graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

LeMeunier spent 23 years gaining a breadth of professional experience. For the past nine years, she was employed at Home Bank. Most recently, she was vice president for retail sales. One of her achievements was implementing and monitoring the Home Bank @ Work program, which resulted in the gain of about 1,500 accounts or new relationships.

From 1999 to 2005, she was owner and manager of MaggieMoo's, a national ice cream franchise. She built the business to \$300,000 in annual sales and maintained one of the lowest employee turnover rates among 100 MaggieMoo's franchise units.

LeMeunier stayed connected to her alma mater, serving on the Alumni Council for four years. Twice, she was chair of silent auctions held during the UL Lafayette Alumni Association's annual Spring Gala.

In July, she began a new role with the Alumni Association, as its executive director.

"I am passionate about engaging our alumni in networking, social, and volunteer opportunities, as well as communicating ways alumni can support their alma mater," LeMeunier said.

John Blohm, vice president for University Advancement, said he's confident that she will use her education and experience to help the Alumni Association grow and evolve.

"In Jennifer, we have a leader with vision, dedication and a commitment to tireless efforts to lead our Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Affairs to new heights. She is ushering in what is sure to be a new era in alumni engagement at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette."

As executive director, LeMeunier is responsible for the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

overall administration of activities, programs, and special projects sponsored by the Alumni Association. She oversees the budget and leadership of the Alumni staff, while coordinating the activities of the Alumni Council and its board of directors. She will identify and recruit future Council members.

"We have many wonderful volunteers who care about the University and contribute their time and money to alumni

initiatives. I look forward to continuing to engage them while welcoming others who are looking for opportunities to get involved," she said.

LeMeunier is responsible for the Association's recognition programs for distinguished alumni and outstanding students. She participates in donor identification, fund raising, and membership cultivation.

Margaret Trahan, past president of the Alumni Association Executive Board of Directors, said that "when it came to choosing a new executive director, the Board's decision was a clear one. Jennifer brings excellent organizational, communication, entrepreneurial, and networking skills to this position."

LeMeunier's involvement at UL Lafayette goes deep. During her student years, she was a Student Orientation Staff leader, and a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America; Kappa Delta sorority; Order of Omega, a Greek honor society; and the Student Discipline Committee.

She is married to Nock LeMeunier. They have four sons, Graham, Jacob, John, and Christopher.

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alumni

1947

YVONNE LILLIAN WALTHER

DUPUY taught high school music education, history and English for 21 years. A published poet, she was an opera singer, and an organist at various churches for 40 years. Dupuy lives in Natchitoches, La. She and her husband, Burton, have five children: Burton Dupuy III, Mary Dupuy Powell, Lillian Dupuy Armour, Yvonne Dupuy Bradley and Marc Dupuy.

1959

MELBA BOURGEOIS BENSON is married to **JOHN "JACK" BENSON, '62**, a mechanical engineer. They have two sons, **CHUCK BENSON, '87**, and John Benson; and a granddaughter, **CHELSYE BENSON, '11**. Melba Benson holds a bachelor's degree in math education.

1964

ALICE J. VOORHIES has self-published a memoir, *Once Upon a Time in New Iberia*. It includes her experiences as a student and later as an instructor of special education at UL Lafayette for 36 years. Voorhies was coordinator of a four-year elementary education pilot program offered by UL Lafayette and LSU at Eunice. She retired in May. Voorhies holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

NANCY TREGRE WILSON is president of Louisiana Gourmet Small Food Business Consulting and the author of several books about Cajun food and folkways. Wilson owned Mam Papaul, a food manufacturing company that she sold in 2010. She was a teacher for 38 years and a center

director of Head Start programs across Louisiana for seven years. Wilson holds a bachelor's degree in home economics education from USL and a master's degree in child development from LSU. She and her husband, Charles, live in Hahnville, La. They have four children: **TREGG WILSON, '95**, Angela Wilson, Charlena Thornton and Nanette Adams.

1969

MACKLYN LAFLEUR is a retired legal analyst for Conoco Inc. She worked for the company for 33 years, until in 2002. LaFleur holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. A Lafayette resident, she has two sons, Mark A. LaFleur and **GREG T. LAFLEUR, '02**; and five grandchildren.

JOSEPH L. ROMANO, owner of Romano Financial, LLC in Gretna, La., has practiced public accounting for the past 45 years. He is also a private pilot. Romano holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. He and his wife, Jeanette, have six children: Kimberly Rabin, Charlotte Romano, Stase Ochoa, Michael Romano, Kellie Kirlin, and David Romano.

1970

DEBORAH LITTLE has self-published a second book, *Sunrise Where My Heart Is*, about her parents' experiences during World War II. She is a retired educator who taught English language arts in middle, junior and senior high schools in New Orleans. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from USL and a master's degree in education from Tulane University. After earning a doctorate at the University of

Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, she taught educational technology to graduate students there and at Alabama State University.

1971

J. THOMAS "TOM" SCHEDLER

received the 2014 Phi Kappa Theta Foundation's Man of Achievement award, which recognizes fraternity members who are prominent in their



professional fields. Schedler, Louisiana secretary of state, served three terms in the Louisiana Senate, from 1996 to 2008. His office was responsible for creating the GeauxVote online voter registration program in Louisiana. Schedler holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and lives in Mandeville, La., with his wife, Stephanie Gelé Schedler. They have three daughters and four grandchildren.

1975

DONNA MCGEE ONEBANE is author of *The House that Sugarcane Built: The Louisiana Burguières*, which was published in 2014 by University Press of Mississippi. It chronicles five generations of the Burguières family, whose sugar empire began in the 1830s. A former adjunct faculty member at UL Lafayette, she is also education coordinator for Louisiana Voices: Folklife in Education, which provides educators with tools to teach Louisiana folklife. Onebane holds a bachelor's degree in arts education, a master's degree in

English and a doctorate in English/folklife from USL. She and her husband, Neal, have two children, **EVE RUSSELL, '99**, and Jake Onebane.

DWAINES LAWLESS authored a book titled *Cajun Moon*, a mystery and paranormal romance novel. It was published by 2nd Tier Publishing in Texas. Lawless holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL and a master's of special education from the University of Texas at Austin. An art educator and certified teacher of the blind and visually impaired, she lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, John.

1976

DAN BOUILLION teaches math, science and social studies at Eagle Nest Middle School in Eagle Nest, N.M., where he also coaches boys' basketball and cross-country.



Bouillion holds a bachelor's degree in health and physical education and a master's degree in education from USL. He and his wife, Mona, have one son, Jeremy Howe, and three grandchildren.

VINETTA BREAUX HOFFPAUIR

is a retired teacher who taught at Loreauville High School in Loreauville, La., for 36 years. She earned a bachelor of business education degree. She and her husband, Donald Hoffpauir, live in New Iberia, La. They have three children, Benjamin Hoffpauir, **BRANDI HOFFPAUIR LANDRY, '01**, and Dusty Ray Hoffpauir.

SAM IRWIN is a freelance journalist and author of *Louisiana Crawfish: A Succulent History of the Cajun Crustacean*, published in 2014 by History Press. Irwin holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history from USL. He and his wife, Betty Dupont, have one daughter, Simone, and live in Baton Rouge, La.

1977

WILLIAM J. MANNING is a chaplain in the U.S. Army who is assigned to the headquarters of the 80th Training Command in North Chesterfield, Va. He manages religious support for about 29,000 soldiers, their families, and civilians in 29 states. Manning holds a bachelor's degree from USL in urban and regional planning and a master's of divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Petra, have five children, **JONATHAN A. MANNING, '08**, **MICHELLE E. MANNING, '03**, Tracy Standifer, Aaron Manning, and Rachel Manning.



1978

PAUL LORMAND is founding director of the John W. Bardo Fine and Performing Arts Center at Western Carolina University. The center was recently ranked 19th in Best Value Schools' "25



Most Amazing University Performing Arts Centers" in the nation. Lormand is a former head of UL Lafayette's Theater Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from USL and a master's degree in theater from the University of Memphis. Lormand lives in Sylva, N.C. He has one son, Joseph.

1979

ALAN W. FRUGÉ is a minister of music at Bethel Baptist Church in Warren, Texas. He has been a baritone soloist for many regional choruses. Frugé holds a bachelor's degree in music education. He and his wife, Nora, have two children, Jonathan Frugé and Hanna Andrews.

1981

KATHERINE L. HURST, a Lafayette attorney, was recently appointed to the Louisiana State Bar Association's Committee on the Profession. The committee's mission is to encourage lawyers to exercise the highest standards of integrity, ethics and professionalism. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from USL and a juris doctorate from LSU Law Center.

1983

MARTIN LEJEUNE is operations manager at the Sammy Broussard Equipment Center in New Iberia, La., where he has worked for

37 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. He lives in New Iberia, La., with his wife, Rachele. They have two children, **BRODIE LEJEUNE, '15**, and **LINZEE LEJEUNE**, who attends UL Lafayette.

MATTHEW J. RICHARD recently earned a higher education leadership graduate certificate from Lemoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. He was also certified as a school district business leader by the New York State Education Department. Richard is a grants procurement specialist for the Syracuse City School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from USL and master's of urban planning degree from the University of New Orleans.

1986

EDUARDO J. BARBERENA is service operations manager at Enphase Energy, which produces microinverter technology for the solar energy industry. He holds a bachelor's of industrial engineering degree from Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in computer science from USL. Barberena and his wife, Marielena, live in Santa Rosa, Calif. They have three children, Elena, Eliza and Estefania.

VICKI MCMINN DELHOMME is office manager of Lafayette Memorial Park Cemetery in Lafayette. The mother of five children, she holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL.

MARIA PAGÁN TREGRE owns and operates Magnificat Travel in Lafayette, La. A native of Puerto Rico, she earned an associate degree in office administration. She and her husband, **DENNIS TREGRE, '81**, have four children: **MATTHEW TREGRE, '07**, **KATIE TREGRE, '13**, **ANDREW TREGRE, '15**, and Evelyn Tregre.

1988

ROXANNE SIKES teaches at Taylor Middle School in Los Ranchos, N.M., and works with students in the English as a Second Language and READ180 programs. She has taught grades 6, 7, and 8 for the past 27 years. Sikes holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and lives in Albuquerque.

1989

KIMBERLY GUIDRY SPEIRS is executive director of the St. John Paul II Life Center, a Catholic nonprofit organization in Austin, Texas. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from USL. Speirs lives in Austin with her son, Michael.

1990

SHAREE LEBLANC BROUSSARD is division chair of Communication, Fine and Performing Arts at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. She teaches communications courses and is coordinator for communication arts and fine arts internships. Broussard holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public relations from UL Lafayette and a doctorate in mass communication from the University of Southern Mississippi. She and her husband, Karl, have three children, Evan, Alec, and Seth.

1991

FRANCIS DAUTREUIL is vice president of technical services at CMS Technology, a chemical company that helps food manufacturers eradicate harmful bacteria. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and holds three food industry-related patents. Dautreuil and his wife, **ANGELA FONTENOT DAUTREUIL, '99**, live in Seabrook, Texas, and have two children, Nathalie and Gabrielle.

LEE A. GAUTREUX is manager of engineering implementation for AT&T in Houma, La. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Gautreaux maintains a website about the history of Southern Pacific Railroad freight cars. He has written articles for *Trainline*, the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society's magazine. Gautreaux writes, records and performs original music with a band and is a member of the praise band at Mulberry Baptist Church in Houma. He is married to Courtney Gautreaux. They have three children, Joshua, Tessa and Justin.

1992

JODY COLE has been named associate and deputy director of architecture at Cyntergy, a Tulsa-based architecture, engineering and construction management firm. He holds a bachelor's degree in architecture.



DAN J. HANDSCHIN is chief of training management and professional development for the Department of Homeland Security. He works at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, Ga. Handschin holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from USL and a master's degree in forensic science from the University of New Haven. He and his wife, Sandra, have two sons, Troy and Zack.

1993

DIANNA LENNON is office manager of Victory Addiction Recovery Center in Lafayette. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations. Lennon and her husband, Rocky, have two children, Mackenzie and Savannah.

1994

ERIK LEGE is a math teacher at Abbeville High School in Abbeville, La. He is also head coach of the school's girls track team, which won state championships in 2010 and 2012. Lege holds a bachelor's degree in psychology. He and his wife, Tricia, have two children, JT and Drew.

BRIAN WATKINS was named the 2014 Educator of the Year by the Louisiana Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. He is a special education teacher at Comeaux High School in Lafayette. Watkins holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from USL and earned a teaching certification for special education. He recently teamed up with another teacher to create an art class that partners senior students with special education students.

1995

RALPH J. GESSNER JR. is vice chairman of the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn., one of the largest casinos in the United States. Gessner holds a bachelor's

degree in general studies. He and his wife, Carol, have two children, Nicholas and Nola.

ANDREW SIGLER is a lecturer and adjunct assistant professor of music composition at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he teaches courses in new media production. Sigler holds a bachelor's degree in music theory and composition and a master's degree in music from USL. He earned a doctorate in music composition from the University of Texas at Austin in 2014.

1997

TROY J. BROUSSARD is executive director of operations at Cox Communications in the Greater New Orleans area. In 2014, he was appointed by Gov. Bobby Jindal to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts board of directors. Broussard holds a bachelor's degree in political science from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in business administration from Southeastern Louisiana University. He and his wife, Erika, have two children, Blythe and Brennan.

1999

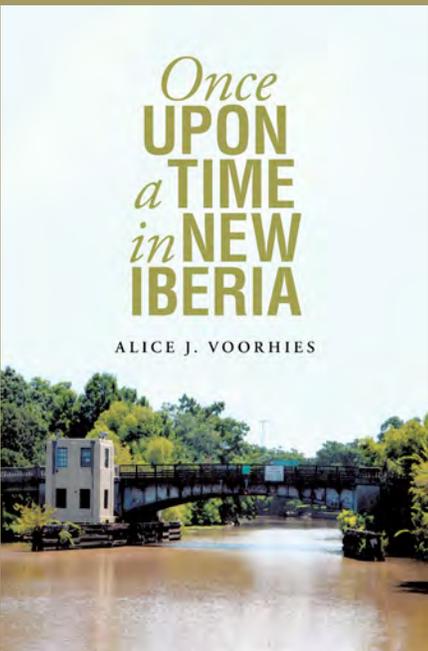
RHONDA NAQUIN is a fifth grade teacher at Lagrane Elementary School in Franklin, La. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from UL Lafayette and a master's degree from Troy State.

2000

SCOTTY TOUCHETTE is a sales engineer at Power Connections Inc., in Dothan, Ala. He represents three large power industry manufacturers to all utilities within Louisiana. Touchette holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from UL Lafayette. He and his wife, **ELIZABETH BOUDREAUX TOUCHETTE, '01**, live in Carencro, La.; they have two children, Dylan and Logan.

2001

RYAN BUSBICE is featured in a television reality show, "Country Bucks" that began airing on the A&E channel in November 2014. He is general manager of Wildgame Innovations, a family-owned hunting gear business.



Once
UPON
a TIME
in
IBERIA
 ALICE J. VOORHIES

Alice J. Voorhies attended and later joined the faculty of the university for nearly 40 years. In this, her second book, she chronicles her experiences growing up, learning and living life in South Louisiana, a.k.a. the best place on Earth! Enjoy a walk back in time with lots of laughs and a perhaps few tears along the way.

Once Upon a Time in New Iberia
is available at local bookstores and on Amazon.com. For more information and a current list of retail locations, visit Voorhies' website at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/onceuponatimeinnewiberia/>

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OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY

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SPOUSE'S NAME

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AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER UL LAFAYETTE STUDENT

CHILDREN

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

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The show features the Busbice family as it develops, tests, and promotes products for hunters. Busbice earned a bachelor's degree in general studies. He and his wife, Laura, have three children, Christian, Madeline and Noelle.

2004

CHRIS YANDLE is assistant athletic director for communications and public relations at Georgia Tech. He earned a bachelor's degree in public relations from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in athletic



administration from Marshall University. He has worked on the communication staffs of athletic programs at UL Lafayette, Baylor and the University of Miami. Yandle and his wife, **ELIZABETH ANTHONY YANDLE, '08**, have two children, Jackson and Addison.

2005

Illustrator **ROB GUILLORY** recently contributed to a Marvel Comics super issue featuring Thor, the Norse god of thunder and lightning. That issue was featured in a *USA Today* article earlier this year. He and writing partner John Layman have earned two Eisner Awards, the comics industry's equivalent of an Oscar, for their comic book series "Chew." As a UL Lafayette student, he was an illustrator for *The Vermilion*, the University's student newspaper. Guillory lives in Lafayette. He holds a bachelor's degree in visual arts.

VENUS SOILEAU has produced a self-published memoir, *This is Not for You*. She holds a bachelor's degree in general studies. In 2012, Soileau was named the Lafayette Parish Middle School Teacher of the Year. She and her husband, Jared, have three children.

2006

ROYD ANDERSON is a filmmaker, historian, and director of several documentaries about disasters in Louisiana. Anderson holds a master's degree in communication from UL Lafayette.

PRADEEP ATHMAKURI is a solutions architect at HCL Global Systems, Inc., where he designs specialized software for businesses involved in health insurance practice. Athmakuri earned a master's degree in computer science from UL Lafayette. He and his wife, Priyanka Kallakuri, live in Rochester, N.Y., with their son, Ahaneshwar.

AVA TANNER HEBERT is lead recruiter at The Regional Medical Center of Acadiana and Women's and Children's Hospital. She holds a bachelor's degree in marketing. Hebert is married to **CHRISTOPHER HEBERT, '05**; they have two children, Annie and Kelsey.

2007

HARDY JONES has written a memoir about his quest to understand his Cajun identity and how the Cajun culture has evolved in the 21st century. *People of the Good God* is published by Mongrel Empire Press. Jones earned a doctorate in English from UL Lafayette. He is an associate professor in the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Cameron University in Oklahoma.

2008

MELVIN W. TURNER is employed by Wells Fargo Merchant Services in Houston. He is responsible for setting up credit card processing for business clients. Turner holds a bachelor's degree in marketing. He and his wife, **CAITLIN TURNER, '08**, have two children, Kaitlyn Ann Turner and Melvin W. Turner III.

2009

KATHRYN E. LANE is an assistant professor of English and chair of the English, Foreign Language and Humanities Department at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. In 2014, she led a Study Abroad student group to Italy and Spain, where she taught a humanities course. Lane holds a bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University and master's and doctoral degrees in English from UL Lafayette.

DENISE MCINTURFF recently participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course at the Bahia de los Angeles UNESCO World Heritage site and in the Sea of Cortez. A park ranger at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Gulf Shores, Ala., she took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program. McInturff holds a bachelor's degree in resource biology/diversity.

2010

JACQUE LABRY SR. is a dentist at Price and Associates Family Dentistry in Lafayette. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from UL Lafayette. LaBry is married to **KELLY O'REILLY LABRY, '11**, director of the St. Barnabas Little Lambs Mother's Day Out program in Lafayette. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and taught high school English in Jefferson Parish for two years. The couple has one son, Jacque LaBry Jr.

LAURA BULLINGER RUNKEL is marketing and communications specialist and brand manager at Meyer Plastics Inc., in Indianapolis, Ind. She oversees all of Meyer Plastics' social media accounts, manages its brands, and launched its first online store. Runkel earned bachelor's and master's degrees in public relations from UL Lafayette. She and her husband, **CONOR RUNKEL, '10, '13**, live in Carmel, Ind.

A colorful illustration by local artist **JOHNATHAN WILSON** was recently installed at the intersection of Silverstone Road and Camellia Boulevard in Lafayette. It covers a large metal box that contains mechanisms that control traffic lights. The illustration is part of the Art Box Project, a collaboration among Lafayette Consolidated Government, the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission, and the Acadiana Center for the Arts. Wilson holds a bachelor's of fine arts degree.

2012

JONATHAN LENAHAN has self-published a young adult novel, *Fallen Victors: The Victors Trilogy: Book One, Volume 1*. He teaches English and philosophy at Leesville High School in Leesville, La. Lenahan holds a bachelor's degree in history.

2013

CAMERON BARRILLEAUX is a graduate assistant in Student Organizations and Leadership Development at the University of Maine, where he is pursuing a master's degree in education. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology.

2014

DAVID J. KASSLER is director of music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and a professor at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, Minn. He recently received a McKnight Established Artist Grant and debuted his chamber music compositions at Illinois State University. Kassler holds a master's degree in music theory and composition.

KELSIE MENARD is a speech and language pathologist at Paxxon Healthcare Service Rehab in Nashville, Tenn. She diagnoses and treats individuals with cognitive impairments or who have had

strokes. Menard holds a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from UL Lafayette.

JOHN SANDOZ is a video production teacher at Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans. He recently provided illustrations for *The Presence Within*, written by Dr. Jeff Sandoz and Jane Simmons about their 100-year-old family home in Opelousas, La. John Sandoz holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

In Memoriam

AUDREY HATCH MADDOX SWYGARD, '42, died Dec. 17, 2014, at age 93. She earned a bachelor's degree in English education from SLI before joining the Women's Army Corps in 1943. She later became a sergeant and worked in the Payroll Department. Swygard taught English at a junior high school and high school in Oregon before retiring in 1980. She held a master's degree in education from Oregon State University. She is survived by her sons, Russ Maddox and Ken Maddox; and four grandchildren.

RAMONA THERESA CORMIER, '43, died Oct. 28, 2014. She was 91. She received a bachelor's degree in education from SLI before enlisting in the U. S. Navy, where she earned the rank of ensign. Cormier held a master's degree from the University of Southern California. She received a doctorate from Tulane University and then taught philosophy at Newcomb College, the University of Tennessee and Bowling Green State University. She was the first woman to become a top-level administrator at Bowling Green when she was appointed associate provost. Cormier is survived by her sister, Lou Darbone; four nieces; and three nephews.

ALVIN DARK, '47, a halfback who, in 1943, helped lead SLI to an undefeated season and the school's first postseason bowl, died Nov. 13, 2014. He was 92. Dark was a member of the V-12 Navy College

Training Program and became a five-sport letterman as a member of SLI's football, basketball, golf, baseball and track teams. After serving in World War II, Dark signed a major league contract with the Boston (now Atlanta) Braves. He went on to win three major league World Series titles as a player, in 1948 with the Braves, and 1951 and 1954, with the San Francisco Giants, and twice as a manager, in 1962 for the Giants and in 1974 for the Oakland Athletics.

DR. GEORGE L. DUGAL, a retired dentist, died March 15, 2015, in

Lafayette. He was 84. Dugal attended SLI for two years, 1949 and 1950, before being accepted to Loyola Dental School in New Orleans, where he earned a doctor of dentistry degree. An avid outdoorsman, he was one of the earliest members of Louisiana Operation Game Thief, a private citizens' anti-poaching organization, for more than 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **ELIZABETH "BETTY" THOMS DUGAL, '52**; four children, **ELIZABETH ANN DUGAL, '77**, **LINDA DUGAL SYLVESTER, '78**, **GEORGE L. DUGAL JR., '82**; and Joseph Dugal; and four grandchildren.

DANELLA PRIMEAUX HERO, '50, died Jan. 11, 2015, in New Orleans. She was 85. Hero was a former writer and producer for WDSU-TV and WDSU radio in New Orleans, a freelance television writer and producer, and a special assistant to Tulane University's vice president for development and university relations. She held a bachelor's degree in English education. Survivors include her husband, George Hero III; two sons, George Hero IV and Christopher Hero; three daughters, Danella Hero Halle, Anna Hero and Eugenie Hero Jaffe; and nine grandchildren.

DON LEE NORTH died Nov. 28, 2014. He was 76. At SLI, he lettered in track in 1957 and 1958. During his career,



he was a retail store manager, real estate home inspector and timber broker. North rekindled his passion for track and field at the age of 55, when he began competing in the Senior Olympics. He medaled in javelin, discus and shot put. In 1995, he was inducted into the Louisiana Senior Olympics Sports Hall of Fame. North is survived by his wife of 55 years, Alice North; two daughters, Donna North Barron and Laura North Lavespere; a son, Mike North; a brother, Jack North; and seven grandchildren.

THOMAS S. PERKINS SR., who attended SLI in 1958, died Feb. 3, 2014. He was a pharmacist until his retirement in 2009. Survivors include his wife, **ANNE EDNA DUNNE PERKINS, '94**; three children, **THOMAS S. PERKINS JR., '89, '94, ANDREA PERKINS ABBOTT, '89, and KATHLEEN LEE PERKINS, '92**; and three grandchildren.

WILLIAM "BILL" M. STEEN, '63, died Jan. 12, 2014, in Conroe, Texas. He was 75. Steen earned a bachelor of arts degree from USL and a master's of education degree from Sam Houston State University. In 1993, he retired as a driver's education teacher for the Conroe Independent School District. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara Steen, and their children, Sheryl Steen and Martin Steen.

Former basketball great **ROY EBRON** died Sept. 28, 2014, in St. Rose, La. He was 63. Ebron was a three-year letterman who played from 1970-73. He remains the University's all-time leading rebounder and was inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014. Ebron was a fourth-round selection by the New York Knicks in the 1974 NBA Draft. He played for one year in the ABA.

JANE FIERO, '72, died Nov. 9, 2014, at the age of 70. She taught in UL Lafayette's English Department for 32 years before retiring

in 2011. Fiero held a bachelor's degree in English from LSU and a master's degree in English from UL Lafayette. She is survived by her husband, John Fiero, a retired UL Lafayette professor; a daughter, Shannon Baty Hughes; a son, Joshua Fiero; and stepson, Jason Fiero.

ALISON NEUSTROM, '93, died Sept. 10, 2014, at age 42. She held a bachelor's degree in sociology from UL Lafayette and a master's degree and doctorate in social work from LSU. At the time of her death, she was research director at the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana. Neustrom is survived by her husband, Dave Carner Jr.; a daughter, Cecilia; parents, Michael and Cecilia Neustrom; three sisters, Kimberly, Vanessa and Emily; two brothers, Benjamin and Thomas; and maternal grandfather, Jeremiah J. "Jerry" O'Keefe.



JILLIAN JOHNSON, '04, died July 23, 2015, in Lafayette. She was 33. Johnson, who held a bachelor's degree in fine arts, was founder of Parish Ink and Red Arrow Workshop, apparel stores. She was a musician and lead singer for The Figs. She also spearheaded the TownFolk neighborhood improvement group and the Acadiana Food Circle. Survivors include her husband, **JASON BROWN, '05**, and stepdaughter, Paxton.

Former Ragin' Cajuns football player **ORLANDO THOMAS, '05**, died Nov. 9, 2014, at age 42. He played for USL from 1991-99 and was a safety for the NFL's Minnesota Vikings from 1995 to 2001. Thomas led the NFL in interceptions as a rookie in 1995. His No. 42 is one of only seven football jersey numbers the

University has retired. He held a bachelor's degree in general studies.

DORIS B. BENTLEY died Feb. 7, 2015, in Lafayette. She was 95. A former high school teacher, she joined the SLI faculty in 1959. She became head of the Office Administration Department in 1972 and retired in 1986. Bentley was active in the American Association of University Women and the Friends of the Humanities. She was a charter member of the Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women and a member of the Municipal Civil Service Board of Lafayette. Bentley served at local, state and regional levels of the Service Corps of Retired Executives. She is survived by five children, George F. Bentley Jr., Edmond B. Bentley, Suzanne Bentley-Smith, Richard C. Bentley and William C. Bentley; and 11 grandchildren.



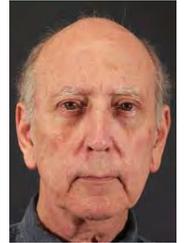
DR. ROBERT GRAMLING, a sociology professor at UL Lafayette for 40 years, died Nov. 7, 2014. He was 71. Gramling is survived by his wife, Eileen Daly; a sister, Mary Baine Spooner; and several nieces, nephews and great nieces.

ORA-WESLEY "WES" CADY died Aug. 14, 2014, at age 78. She taught history at USL from 1963 until her retirement in 1996, specializing in Latin American history. She was an active member of the University's Phi Kappa Phi chapter, Faculty Senate and Friends of the Humanities. Cady is survived by a sister, Marjorie-Faith Holler; a stepbrother, Lewis De Laura; two nieces; one nephew; and two great-nieces.

CHET POURCIAU, 45, a New Orleans-based designer, died March 6, 2015. Pourciau was the host of a talk show on PBS station WLAE

and had weekly fashion and design segments on WVUE-TV's news shows. Pourciau attended USL and earned an interior design degree from Delgado Community College.

ROBERT J. RUSSETT, UL Lafayette professor emeritus, died March 26, 2015, in Lafayette at age 79. He was a media artist, educator and writer whose animated films and installations were exhibited internationally. Russett earned the 1973 Distinguished Professor Award presented by the UL Lafayette Foundation. He was coauthor of *Experimental Animation: An Illustrated Anthology*. Published in 1976, it has been described as "the first important sourcebook for cinematic animation." He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Cecile Devillier Russett; two children, Robert Emile Russett and Dr. Katherine Russett Young; a brother, Emile Russett; and two grandchildren.



AMOS EDWIN SIMPSON died July 29, 2014. He was 89. He served in the U.S. Navy as a radio operator during World War II before earning a Ph.D. in modern German history from the University of California at Berkeley. During his nearly 40-year teaching career at USL, Simpson chaired the Department of History, co-founded the Center for Louisiana Studies and the Study Abroad Program, and was a Fulbright scholar in India and China. He retired in 1995. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Helen Vaughn Burdin Simpson; one daughter, Thetis Cusimano; two stepsons, Larry Baker Jr. and David Scott Baker; one stepdaughter, Elizabeth Murrill; one grandson; and six stepgrandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the UL Lafayette Foundation's Amos Simpson Endowed Prize Fund.

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Just Rewards

Premier faculty members revel in teaching, research

Two biologists, a mathematician and a musician have earned recognition for their work by some tough judges: their peers at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

A Distinguished Professor Selection Committee, made up of faculty from each college, evaluates nominees for the UL Lafayette Eminent Faculty Awards. Led by the director of the Office of Academic Planning and Faculty Development, it chooses the most deserving candidates each year.

The UL Lafayette Foundation presents the awards, based on the committee's evaluations. Each award has a \$5,000 stipend.

"History has shown that the selection process works. Eminent Faculty Award winners make an impressive 'who's who' list," said Julie Falgout, president and CEO of the Foundation. "We are proud to honor them."

The UL Foundation is working with a design firm to create a display that will feature the names of all Eminent Faculty Award winners since the inception of the recognition program. It will be installed in the center corridor of the first floor of UL Lafayette's Dupré Library.

Dr. Paul L. Klerks, a biology professor, and Dr. Chan Kiat Lim, an associate professor of music, received the 2015 Distinguished Professor Award. It recognizes faculty members for their research, teaching effectiveness, and contributions to their profession and campus life.

Dr. Pegge L. Alciatore, an assistant professor of biology, and Dr. Ross Chiquet, a master instructor of mathematics, earned the 2015 Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is presented for faculty members' commitment to teaching, innovation, and pedagogical scholarship.



Dr. Paul L. Klerks specializes in ecotoxicology, the study of pollutants in the environment.

"His ecotoxicology course is so popular he has to turn away many potential students every time it is offered," noted Dr. Paul Leberg, professor and head of UL Lafayette's Department of Biology, in a letter nominating him for the 2015 Distinguished Professor Award.

Klerks joined the University's Biology Department in 1992. He has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator for projects supported by more than \$6 million in research funding from several agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Included in that total is a \$1.02 million grant from the Gulf of Mexico

Research Initiative to study the effects of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on shrimp and clams.

Leberg noted that Klerks is well-respected in his field; his research publications have been cited over 1,100 times by others.

"Few scientists have done more to demonstrate the importance of understanding how natural selection and other evolutionary phenomena are important in determining the responses of populations to pollutants and environmental change," he added.

Klerks was assistant dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences from 2011-13. He's chair of the University's Coastal Research Excellence Strategy Task Force, which will determine the best way for the University to promote coastal and wetland research and education.



Dr. Chan Kiat Lim delivered the address for the 2015 Summer Commencement. He treated his audience by concluding with a performance of Claude Debussy's "Prélude" from "Pour le Piano."

He dedicated it to the graduating class.

"Like Claude Debussy, strive passionately, dare fiercely, and dream wildly," he told the graduates.

An associate professor of music, Lim is a performer and teacher of piano performance.

He has said he views his primary role "to be that of performer-pedagogue, one who sets an example for students striving to make it in the extraordinarily competitive field of classical music."

In a letter nominating him for the 2015 Distinguished Professor Award, Garth Alper, director of the School of Music and Performing Arts, said Lim's creative performance is "international in scope and of high professional and artistic level." Lim has performed solo recitals in Italy, Romania, Malaysia, and across the United States.

Gordon Brooks II, dean of UL Lafayette's College of the Arts, noted Lim's commitment "to the creation of 21st Century approaches to connecting people to music – through new ways of presenting music and through new ways of teaching music."

Along with Dr. Susanna Garcia, a UL Lafayette music professor, Lim developed a website for teaching piano, eNovativePiano.com. Brooks noted that it doesn't replace the piano teacher; it "provides a graded curriculum using best practices from current piano pedagogy."



Dr. Ross Chiquet is one of the university's most popular math instructors.

"Ross is passionate and enthusiastic about teaching mathematics at a level that is infectious to anybody who listens to his lectures," noted Dr. Azmy Ackleh, dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences, in a letter nominating him for the 2015 Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

"His dedication to his students is easily seen by the amount of time he spends with them outside the classroom," he added, noting that the instructor is active in undergraduate research mentoring. One of his published papers is coauthored with an undergraduate student.

Chiquet has been the advisor for first-time freshmen and transfer mathematics majors. He has also served as faculty advisor for the UL Lafayette Mathematical Society and Sigma Alpha Lambda Service Honors Society.

Chiquet has taught various courses, ranging from freshman- to senior-level mathematics. He is assistant department head and was freshman coordinator from 2011-13.

Dr. Keng Deng, head of UL Lafayette's Department of Mathematics, said Chiquet has "a unique ability to motivate students to learn mathematics. Ross is able to explain complicated concepts in a way that everyone can understand. . ."

Chiquet is also a research investigator for a \$5.2 million Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative grant that is funding a study the impact of the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill on endangered sperm whales, beaked whales and dolphins in the Gulf.



Dr. Pegge Alciatore consistently receives excellent evaluations from students she has taught. They praise her for more than how well she teaches the material in her courses.

"Many former students indicate that Dr. Alciatore taught them how to study and learn," said Dr. Paul Leberg, head of the Department of Biology, in a letter nominating her to receive the 2015 Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

Alciatore mentors members of the University's highly successful Pre-Professional Society. Many of her former students give her credit for helping them prepare for their careers in the medical field.

"It is striking that whenever I enter a local hospital, medical, or dental office, veterinary clinic, or physical therapy practice, and the staff, doctors or nurses learn that I am a faculty member in biology, I am universally told of how important Dr. Alciatore was in their lives," Leberg noted.

She joined the UL Lafayette faculty in 1982 as an instructor of anatomy and physiology. Since 2009, she has been assistant department head. She advises students and manages curriculum changes.

Her research interests include effective college teaching methods and accountability practices in higher education.

Alciatore is co-principal investigator for a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to prepare teachers in STEM areas, such as biology. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering and math education.



Ouch! Dr. Paul L. Klerks, professor of biology, was cajoling a ghost shrimp to pose for the camera at UL Lafayette's Ecology Center when the shrimp apparently lost its patience. "It pinched my finger. It was surprisingly painful," he said. Klerks and three colleagues earned 2015 Eminent Faculty Awards. Read about them, beginning on page 48.



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Grant Wood, American Gothic, 1930, Oil on Beaver Board, 78 x 65.3 cm (30 3/4 x 25 3/4 in.), Friends of American Art Collection, 1930.934, The Art Institute of Chicago. Illustration: Courtney Jeffries

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