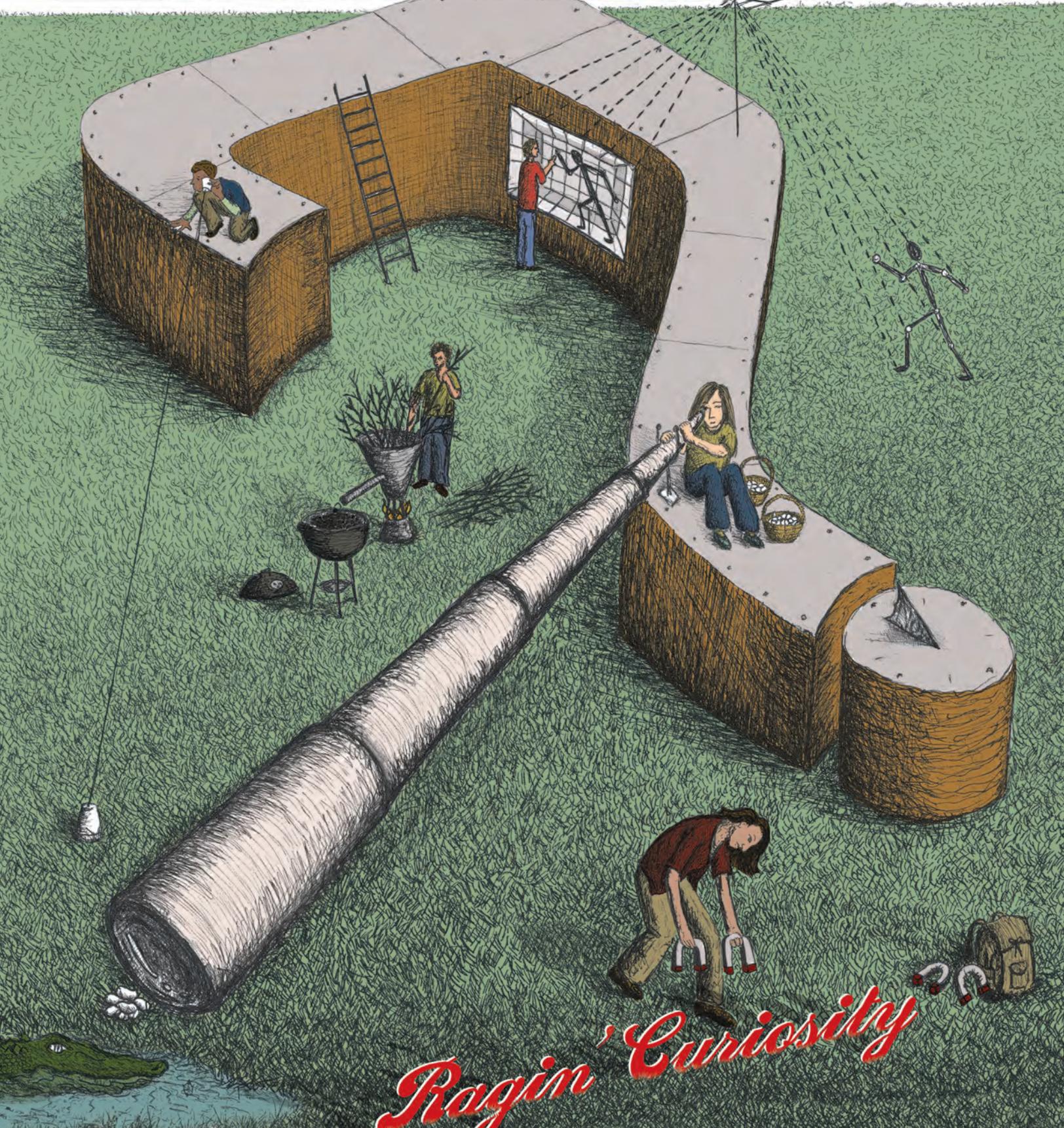


FALL 2013
La

LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



Ragin' Curiosity



Anyone who flew on United Airlines in November had a chance to learn a little about the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Its inflight magazine, *Hemispheres*, contained *Dossier*, a special section described as an economic-development series that covers a geographic region. November's *Dossier* concentrates on Louisiana.

On page 11 of that section, there's an image of University President Dr. Joseph Savoie under this heading: "Forging Ahead. A trio of Louisiana institutions is working on ways to improve your life."

The president spoke about new partnerships formed by the University and three companies to offer oil spill response training and disaster preparation training.

"We are a 'research for a reason' university," he summarized.

The president's remarks were not part of an advertisement and the University didn't pay to have him featured. A freelance writer interviewed him by phone in mid-August; no one at UL Lafayette knew whether he would be quoted.

It was the fourth *Dossier* issue that United Airlines has published. Savoie was only the second university president to be spotlighted in one of them. The other was Robert Barchi of Rutgers.

Having a presence in a magazine of *Hemisphere's* stature is significant. Numbers help explain why.

United Airlines has 5,446 flights a day and about 11 million passengers a month. Its top U.S. markets are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Houston and Denver.

The airline estimates that its "issue audience" is 2.96 million readers.

Who are *Hemispheres'* readers? Their median age is 45. According to the airline, 88 percent are college educated and their median household income is \$137,000.

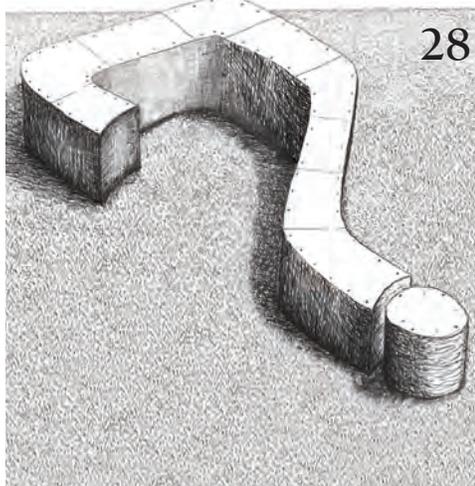
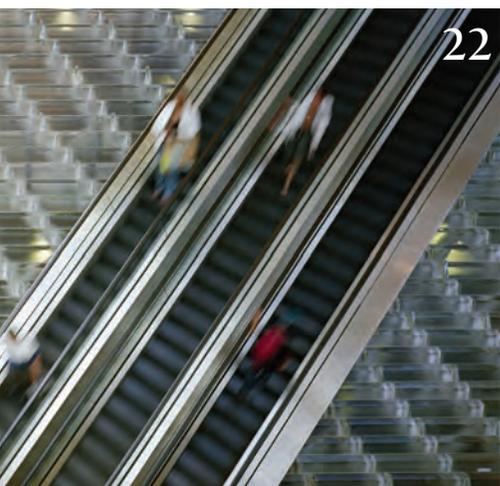
Will 2.96 million readers read Savoie's remarks? Of course not. But even a small percentage of nearly 3 million is a substantial number and positive national exposure is priceless.

The president wasn't the only person at the University to get some national media attention recently. You'll find some more examples inside.

And, check out the cover story to learn about some of the cool research UL Lafayette students are conducting.

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

– Kathleen Thames



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Dr. Joseph Savoie

President

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Aaron Martin

Director

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LaLouisiane@louisiana.edu

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Kathleen Thames

Editor

Sarah Spell

Assistant Editor

Jared Perrio

Student Editor

Courtney Fuller

Art Director, Illustrator

Charlie Bier, Bruce Brown

Contributing Writers

John Ballance/The Advocate; Ryan Bourque; Doug Dugas; Brad Kemp; Robin May; Sgt. Denoris Mickle, USAF;

Emily Montgomery; Pete Marovich

Photographers

Kopp Illustration

Illustrator

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Growing Opportunity

Research team develops trademarked line of native seeds, plants

There is a rule of thumb among native plant growers: The first year, it sleeps. The second, it creeps. And the third year, it leaps.

Reintroducing native varieties takes time, but the effort pays off handsomely. Once these long-lived plants are established, they're essentially maintenance free. They don't require fertilizer, because they're adapted to native soils. And they don't require pesticides, because they're adapted to native insects. They're almost impervious to drought and can even survive fire.

Some researchers at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Ecology Center have been working to preserve and propagate native plants since 2007.

This year, they launched a commercial initiative: PureNative™ seed mixes, specialized blends of seeds from plants that are native to south Louisiana.

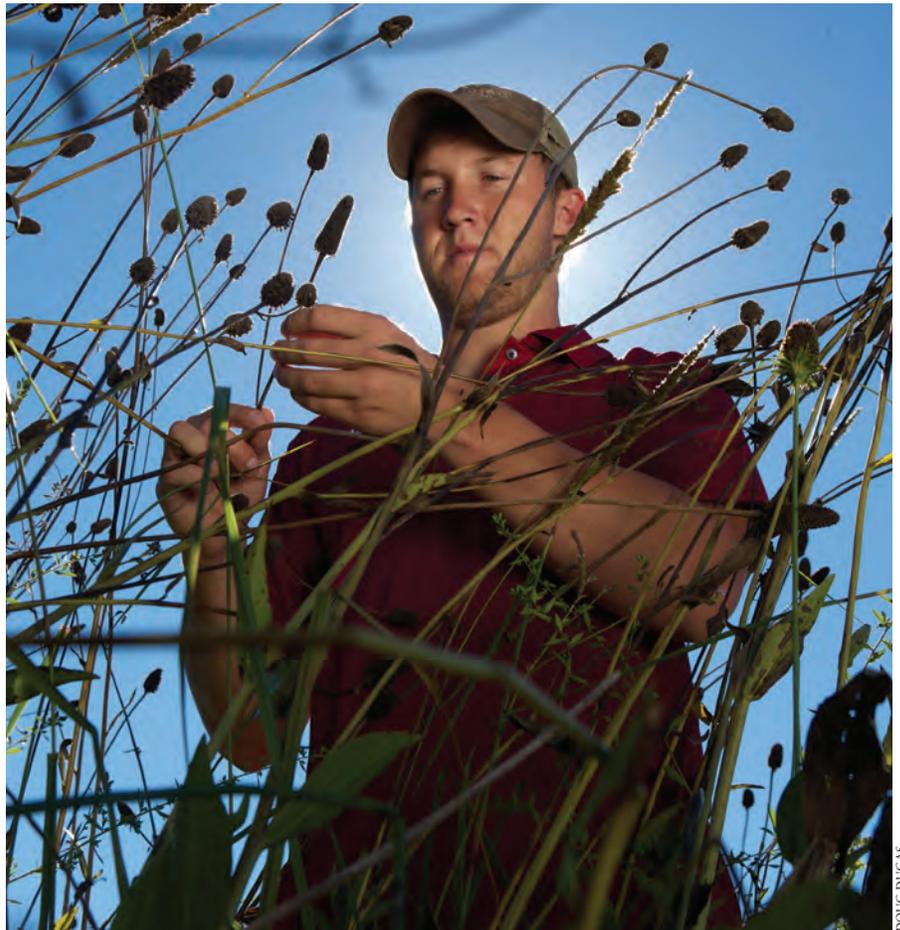
The center sells PureNative™ plants and intends to create seven seed mixtures:

- Wetlands Habitat;
- Wildlife Support;
- Rancher's Grasses;
- Pollinator Attraction - Urban;
- Pollinator Attraction - Agriculture;
- Urban Landscaping - Color; and
- Urban Landscaping - Pond.

"We've not only been collecting seeds and growing plants, we've been studying the properties of individual species," said Andre Daugereaux, manager of the Ecology Center.

Grasses are especially appealing to farmers and ranchers because they require little or no maintenance and provide nutritious grazing food for livestock. Native plants can reduce erosion and improve soil and water quality. Some of the plants are attractive to insects and birds that pollinate crops.

Native plants are used in restoration projects or along highways. Hunters use the plants to create habitat, especially for birds. And some varieties, including grasses and flowers, are used in ornamental landscaping.



Jacob Mathews, a full-time research associate at the Ecology Center, examines a Texas Coneflower to determine if its seeds are ready to harvest.

Dr. Susan Mopper, a University biology professor and director of the Center, said the plants are a valuable resource. "Agriculture and development, over a long period of time, have significantly diminished native habitat," she said.

Acadiana lies at the edge of the Gulf Coast prairie, which extends into Texas. Tallgrass prairie once covered more than nine million acres; less than 0.1 percent remains. In Louisiana, only about 200 acres are left, mostly in remnants found on narrow strips of land along railroad tracks. The former rights-of-way were never converted to farmland, so native plants still grow there. Some private landowners allow researchers and volunteers to collect seeds on those patches of prairie.



Little Bluestem

Texas Coneflower

Lanceleaf Blanketflower

Eastern Gama Grass

Longspike Tridens

Indian Grass

False Aloe

Larry Allain is a botanist at the National Wetlands Research Center and an expert on native plants. He's also a UL Lafayette alumnus who has helped to establish several prairie restorations sites in Acadiana, collected seed on prairie remnants and established plantings at the Ecology Center.

"Even though we've put some effort into re-creating these patches of prairie, it seems we can't compete with Mother Nature when it comes to diversity. These prairie restorations are just a facsimile of the real thing. They don't seem to function like native prairie," he said.

On a remnant, there may be as many as 30 species growing together. On a re-created prairie, only two or three may thrive. "We don't yet understand how nature can pack so many different plants into a small area," he explained.

These native plants' growing habits make it challenging to harvest seed.

Commercial crops are planted as single crops, in rows, so they can be harvested with specialized equipment. But the prairie plants are part of an ecosystem, with dozens of intertwined varieties that mature and bloom at different times. So seed must be collected by hand.

"There's a lot we still don't know about these plants. For example, we know they're long-lived, but how long do they live? We don't know for sure," Allain said.

Big bluestem is a prairie grass with blue-green stems that can grow as tall as 10 feet. "A single plant may live for hundreds, or perhaps thousands of years.

"In this way, they're similar to trees, but they have a different strategy for survival. While trees store energy above ground, these

plants store energy below ground, in their roots."

Native plants form a network of roots in the Louisiana prairie's shallow topsoil. There's a layer of hard clay about 10 inches below the surface.

"You might ask, 'How can you have a prairie in Louisiana?' Prairies are dry places. In the Midwest, you get maybe 20 to 30 inches of rain per year. Here, we get 60.

"But because the layer of topsoil is so shallow, when we go three weeks without rain, the soil dries out, and these plants think they're in Kansas. They hunker down."

Louisiana experienced one of its worst droughts in 2011. "The pasture grass died. It was crisp and brown. But these natives were still green. They were doing just fine," Allain said.

About 500 native species have been identified.

The Ecology Center is studying about 40 plants. The Center, which occupies about 50 acres near Carencro, La., devotes about six acres to native plants, including a wetland.

Staff members collect seeds from prairie remnants as well as plants grown on site. Some of the seeds are used to grow seedlings in the Center's large greenhouses. Those seedlings are transplanted in the Center's fields, or sold.

At harvest time, seeds are collected, cleaned and stored in a massive freezer large enough to accommodate an 18-wheeler. (The Center's main building was originally a food processing center.)

"The Ecology Center is an ideal place to continue this work," said Allain. "The facility has everything necessary to carry out the research. And the Center has a history of working within restoration guidelines to successfully establish plants." ■



Pure Allure

Next summer, Anita Pant will spend every day in the fields of the Ecology Center, keeping track of birds and insects as they come and go, visiting the blooms of native plants. Pant, who is from Nepal, is pursuing a doctorate in environmental and evolutionary biology at UL Lafayette.

Her detailed research may reveal which plants are most attractive to pollinators, creatures that feed on nectar and fertilize plants.

There are hundreds of bee and butterfly species associated with flowering plants and pollination. Moths, flies, beetles and bugs, as well as hummingbirds, are known to pollinate flowers.

Pant will monitor the visitation rates, abundance and diversity of the pollinators associated with her study plants. The

main goal of her research is to identify the optimal mixtures of plant species that will attract the highest number of – and most diverse – pollinators.

Some of the native plants she will maintain are rattlesnake master, blue mountain mint and rosinweed.

The Ecology Center recently received a \$51,899 grant from the Coypu Foundation to support Pant's work. It will help pay for a stipend, tuition and research supplies for her, as well as supplies and equipment for the Ecology Center to research and develop its PureNative™ brand of seeds and plants.

The Coypu Foundation, created by the estate of the late John S. McIlhenney, supports environmental and ecology projects.

DOUG DRIGAS

New Acadia

Team looks for Cajuns' path

Warren Perrin wants to trace the footsteps of his ancestor, Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard, who led some of the first Acadian settlers to Louisiana. He has partnered with Dr. Mark Rees, an archaeologist and anthropology professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and others to enlist support for the New Acadia Project.

Perrin and Rees hope to find where the Acadians settled. They have a common heritage: Rees is a descendant of Alexandre Broussard, who was Joseph Broussard's brother.

Perrin, a University alum, is a co-founder of the nonprofit Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation. He's also a member of the Famille Beausoleil Association, whose members are Broussard descendants.

In the mid-1700s, Joseph Broussard spent years leading an armed resistance against the British. In 1755, British soldiers expelled the Acadian families from their native Acadie, or Nova Scotia.

Joseph Broussard was captured and imprisoned by the British in 1760. When he was released four years later, he led a group of exiles, first to Haiti (then called Saint Domingue), then to Louisiana. When they arrived in New Orleans in April 1765, they settled along the banks of the Bayou Teche, somewhere between New Iberia and St. Martinville.

Rees said the most likely place for them to have settled is Loreauville, a community in Iberia Parish. Broussard's death was recorded Oct. 20, 1765, by a Catholic missionary who noted that he was buried near homesites.

"Although we don't know the exact site, we do know that the Acadians set up three sites along the Teche. Initially,



ROBIN MAY

Researchers consult maps to find possible locations of early Acadian settlements. Shown, from left, are: Dr. Ray Brassieur and Dr. Mark Rees, associate professors of anthropology, and Adam Doucet, a senior majoring in anthropology.

we'd be looking for high ground, areas that would likely have been chosen," Rees said. "These sites are vulnerable to development, which is why it's important to get the project under way as quickly as we can."

The Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, the Famille Beausoleil Association and a steering committee for the New Acadia Project have raised about \$10,000 of a \$100,000 goal.

Rees hopes to obtain enough funding to hire a full-time archaeologist to lead a field crew and lab, provide stipends for three undergraduates and a graduate assistant, and to pay for

supplies and travel. He's applied for a three-year, \$290,000 grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Adam Doucet, a senior majoring in anthropology, has already begun working on the project. He's receiving course credit for conducting field interviews with Loreauville residents who may have information about gravesites. The recorded interviews will be added to the University's Archives of Cajun and Creole Folklore.

Rees said the New Acadia project could create opportunities for cultural tourism. "And it could tell us a great deal about the earliest Acadians in Louisiana and how they lived."

Projects Create Nanomaterials

A University of Louisiana at Lafayette professor and four students are developing new materials using nanotechnology.

They rely on an electron microscope because the raw materials they work with are 10,000 times thinner than a human hair.

Nanomaterials can be applied in a variety of manufacturing processes and industries, explained Dr. Devesh Misra, director of the University's Institute for Materials Research and Innovation. A materials science and engineering professor, he also holds the Stuller Endowed Chair in Metallurgy.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded him two grants totaling almost \$720,000 to pursue two research projects.

One involves adding different polymers to carbon nanotubes to create lightweight materials with various qualities.

These new nanomaterials could be used to make barrier liners for storage tanks for the aerospace industry. Or, they could be used to create biomedical devices, including drug-delivery systems. By adding polymers that conduct electricity, they could be used to produce photovoltaic devices.

The UL Lafayette research is also aimed at solving a scientific mystery.

"When polymers are added to these carbon nanotubes, something surprising happens. We would expect the polymer to

wrap around the outside of the tube, like a piece of cloth. Instead, it becomes part of the tube itself. No one knows why this happens," Misra said.

The polymer takes the shape of disks, or partitions, along the tube. Misra has developed a process that relies on temperature to control this process.

"So, if we wanted to create a drug-delivery system, we may want to attach a drug molecule to the crystalline polymer discs. But we might not want to have those molecules too close to one another, because we don't want the drugs to interact. So, we would space the polymer discs farther apart," he said.

In addition to developing practical applications for the technology, Misra intends to generate a theory about why polymers become part of carbon nanotubes.

The other new NSF-funded project is related to metals created through nanotechnology.

These materials need to be strong, lightweight, and flexible. A highly



Dr. Devesh Misra

DOUG DUGAS

malleable metal can be compressed without diminishing its structural integrity and stretched thin without cracking or breaking.

Hip or spine implants made of such material could replace conventional ones made of stainless steel. They would be lightweight, durable, and less likely to break down into metal particles that can cause tissue inflammation.

The nanocrystalline metal would have another advantage. "In creating these metals, we refer to grain size — the crystal size of the nanomaterial. The smaller the grain size, the easier it is for tissue to adhere to the implant, as the body heals," Misra explained.

Four students will participate in the new research: one undergraduate and one graduate student for each project.

Fossil Collection Gets New Digs

Lafayette Science Museum visitors can soon get a behind-the-scenes look at a working geology lab.

Starting in the summer of 2014, they'll be able to watch UL Lafayette faculty and students process specimens for display.

The University's 50-year-old collection of fossils, rocks and minerals will be relocated from campus to the nearby Jefferson Street museum.

Dr. David Borrok, director of the School of Geosciences,

said the move will extend the University's footprint into downtown Lafayette and provide a "stronger link to the community."

The collection will include some fossils obtained by two faculty members and seven students at Oregon's Fossil Lake, a well-known Ice Age collection site, this past summer.

The team collected more than 5,000 fossils, including those of birds, fish, horses and camels.



Collecting specimens from Fossil Lake in Oregon are, clockwise from bottom left: instructor Cathy Bishop, undergraduates Kristin Ball and Robert Roy, and graduate student Jennifer Ashcraft.

COURTESY OF DR. JAMES E. MARTIN

New Sensor Capabilities Show Promise

University researchers have developed a way to improve sensors that are used to detect hazardous gas levels, zero in on narcotics and sniff out spoiled food.

A research project led by Dr. Mohammed Madani, an electrical engineering professor, has yielded an innovative method to insulate metal oxide semiconductor gas sensors.

Such “MOX” sensors trigger chemical reactions that identify and measure gaseous substances. They are used to locate explosives and chemicals, check air conditioners for leaking refrigerant, monitor air pollution, or signal the start of a fire.

The sensors, which are embedded in computer chips, outfit everything from large screening machines in airport terminals to small, hand-held breathalyzers.

“They can be used to detect almost any gaseous substance,” Madani said.

The sensors feature a film of tin oxide,

zinc oxide, titanium oxide or any metal oxides. When a gas reaches a specific, minute level, the film reacts.

“Different metal oxides behave differently with different gases and different temperatures,” Madani said.

An exchange of electrons between the gas and the sensing layer material, at a given temperature that is regulated by the thin film heater, is enough to trigger the detection. The desired temperature is achieved by an “air gap” method.

The plates are suspended above an air pocket, held in place by four narrow strips protruding from each corner. The strips are, however, “delicate, easily damaged and often malfunction during fabrication or usage,” Madani said.

So, UL Lafayette researchers have devised an alternative insulation method. It involves layering a silicone wafer with a thin film of silica aerogel.

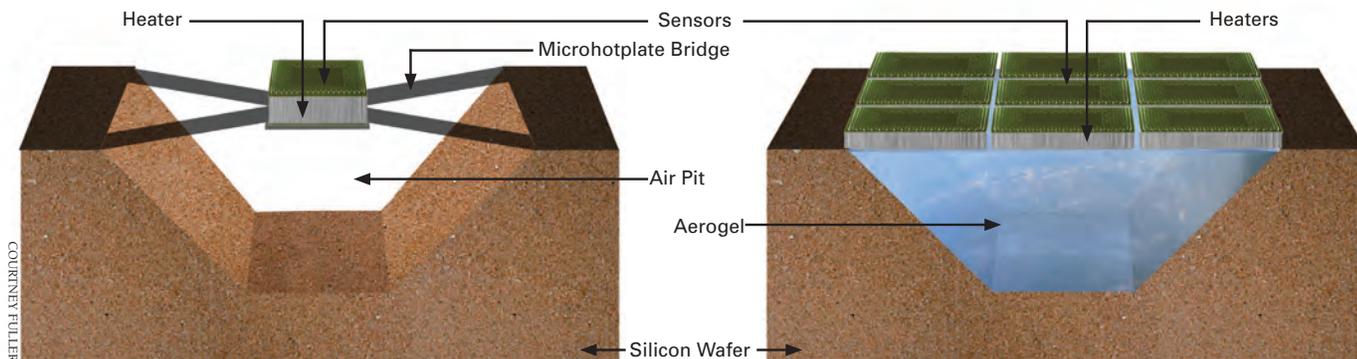
“It’s more durable, space efficient and practical. Silica aerogel is a better heat insulator than any substance that exists today,” Madani said. The most common aerogel is made from a synthetic form of silicon dioxide.

“Silica aerogel is very porous, light as air, but at the same time, it’s very tough,” Madani said.

Researchers have created a way to place a heating element atop the silica aerogel, eliminating the support bridges required with air-gap insulation.

Providing extra space is important, since a cluster of 21 metal oxides can detect the presence of nearly any gas, expanding the capabilities of one piece of equipment, making it more streamlined and more affordable.

A patent application for the insulation process is pending with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.



COURTESY FULLER



COURTESY OF DR. DURGA POUDEL

Researcher Looks for Sources of Water

Dr. Durga Poudel, assistant director of the School of Geosciences at UL Lafayette, grew up in the mountainous region of Nepal, tending buffalo, goats, crops and fruit trees with his younger brother.

His father farmed a plot of land. His mother worried a lot, Poudel said, particularly during monsoon season. That’s when heavy rains would tear the family’s food supply from the ground and wash it away.

That experience prompted him to study agriculture, natural resources and soil science at universities in Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and the

United States. Today, he’s regarded as an international expert in soil and water conservation, water quality, climate change and sustainability.

Poudel led a team of researchers who conducted a six-year study to measure how agricultural production impacts water quality along the Bayou Plaquemine Brulee Watershed. Results were published in an academic journal this summer.

The watershed has been on Louisiana’s list of impaired water bodies, or those that don’t meet state water quality standards, since 1998.

Researchers collected surface water

UL Lafayette Helps Develop Unmanned Boat for Military

Researchers at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are working with a local company to develop a military boat capable of autonomous navigation.

Swiftships Shipbuilders LLC of Morgan City, La., designed the Anaconda, a 35-foot boat, for the U.S. Navy.

“By adding the capability of unmanned operation, we can increase ease of deployment and minimize threats to military personnel,” said Shehrazee Shah, Swiftships’ chief executive officer.

The Anaconda is ideal for river operations. It is fast, quiet, agile and can be driven in shallow water. U.S. and Canadian special operations teams have used the boat, a special operations craft-riverine, for training exercises.

Swiftships enlisted the University’s help to enhance the Anaconda because of its expertise in control systems, sensors and robotics.

Dr. Arun Lakhota, a professor of computer science, and Dr. Joshua Vaughan, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, will apply technology that was used to create CajunBot, an autonomous all-terrain vehicle, in 2004.

CajunBot twice competed with some of the nation’s most prestigious universities in an elite Grand Challenge held by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. DARPA is the central research and development agency for the

U.S. Department of Defense. The goal was to build a ground vehicle capable of unmanned navigation.

Now, Lakhota, Vaughan and other researchers from UL Lafayette have begun a three-year program to modify the Anaconda.

“We’ll begin with some basic goals, such as getting the boat to operate autonomously in relatively calm water and to follow simple patterns, such as a straight line

or simple turns. As the project continues, we’ll be developing more complex tasks,” Lakhota explained.

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, interim vice president for Research at UL Lafayette, said this public-private partnership will give undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to engage in hands-on research and create opportunities in workforce and economic development.



SGT. DENORIS MICKLE, USAF

Pollution Close to Home

samples along a 20-mile stretch of the watershed every 15 days between 2002 and 2008. The watershed spans Church Point and Estherwood, two small communities in southwestern Louisiana.

Computer models were used to identify nonpoint source pollution “hotspots” in the watershed. Water quality data such as surface water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, biological oxygen demand, the presence of nutrients and chemicals, and pH levels were analyzed.

“The idea was to determine how water quality differs from season to season, and what are the factors that cause differences in water quality. After we determined that, we

wanted to find hotspots, the critical areas contributing to nonpoint source pollution,” Poudel said.

Sediment, nutrients and dissolved solids were key factors that affected water quality.

“The lower part of the watershed was worse because of agricultural practices in rice and crawfish production,” Poudel said.

In 2011, he went back to Nepal to lead another research team on an 18-month project to research issues of water availability, soil quality and diseases. The researchers’ work was part of an effort to improve livestock health and agricultural productivity for more than 350 households

on the Thulokhola watershed in the region where Poudel grew up.

In Nepal, more than 23 million people, or about 80 percent of the population, depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Drinking water is critical in Nepal since climate changes are drying up water sources.

“Pinpointing causes of degraded water quality and identifying hotspots helps government or industry focus resources to help improve water quality in critical areas,” Poudel said.

Results from such studies are useful in developing sound conservation plans and land management techniques.

on campus

Louisiana Authority

University press capitalizes on cultural themes

More than 40 years after its start, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press is thriving. A division of the University's Center for Louisiana Studies, it publishes about 10 titles a year. It isn't the biggest or oldest university press, but it's one of the few that is self-sustaining – and has been, from the start.

"We've never relied on taxpayers to pay for the books we produce. The University pays employees' salaries, but the actual production of the books is paid for with money we've earned selling other books," said Dr. Michael Martin, a UL Lafayette alumnus who became director of the Center For Louisiana Studies and UL Press in 2011.

Martin, whose professional interests include Louisiana history and public history, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from UL Lafayette. He completed his doctorate in history at the University of Arkansas in 2003, the same year he returned to his alma mater as a faculty member. He is the Cheryl Courrégé Burguières/Board of Regents Professor in History.

As director of the Center for Louisiana Studies, he oversees its three divisions: UL Press; the archives of Cajun and Creole folklore; and Programming and Special Projects. "Together, these divisions help preserve and promote Louisiana's history and cultures," Martin told *La Louisiane* in a recent interview.

The Press specializes in books related to Louisiana; it was one of the first to publish contemporary works in Cajun French.

Its latest books cover Acadian history, Spanish immigration, Cajun and Creole militia in the Civil War and 19th-century race relations. There are books on art and photography, including a coffee table book by painter and zydeco musician Dennis Paul Williams and an inside look at the life and art of George Rodrigue. *Megan's Guitar* is a collection of poetry by Darrell Bourque, professor emeritus at UL Lafayette and a former Louisiana poet laureate. *Game Changers* is a wide-ranging look at outstanding athletes, athletic events and sports teams throughout Louisiana's history.

Since 2007, UL Press titles have won 10 book awards, including three Book of the Year Awards from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for *Geographies of New Orleans: Urban Fabrics Before the Storm*; *Bienville's Dilemma* by Richard Campanella; and *Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans* by Freddi Williams Evans.

The Press has published almost 300 titles since 1973; about 150 of those are still in print. It has published a handful of e-books, which are available at amazon.com. There are also plans to offer a limited number of titles in a print-on-demand format.

The publishing operation has two full-time employees. Melissa Teutsch is sales and marketing director. James Wilson, who is associate director of UL Press, handles acquisitions, design and production. Martin divides his attention between UL Press and other Center for Louisiana Studies activities.

Martin's predecessors, Dr. Carl Brasseaux, and the late Glenn Conrad, laid the foundation for UL Press in



the 1970s with the *USL History Series*, which includes 15 titles. They aren't eye-catching. The no-frills, softbound books were printed on plain paper at the University's Printing Services.

In 1973, Conrad asked then-University President Dr. Ray P.

Authement for seed money to expand the fledging enterprise into a university press. Authement, who is well known for his fiscal restraint, granted the request: he authorized an expenditure of \$200, which is the equivalent of about \$1,000 today.

"Carl and Glenn made smart choices. They were able to reinvest profits to print more and more books," Martin said.

While many university presses across the country are now in financial peril, UL Press is enjoying a period of stability and relative prosperity, he said.

"Even outside of university presses, we've seen the decline of independent booksellers and even big-box booksellers.



Dr. Michael Martin

DOUG DUGAS

Over the last few years, we've become much more selective in the books we publish, partly because other presses are scaling back, or in some cases, have been shut down. So, we are getting more submissions, and we reject more manuscripts.

"So, even though the number of books we publish each year has remained about the same, the quality of books we publish has improved."

Its Louisiana focus has been a factor in the Press' success, said Martin, who has been combing through early records of the enterprise.

"Nothing I've ever seen from those early days said, 'We are specifically focused

on Louisiana,' but because of the organic nature of the early press — most of its books were produced by people who were either here in the Center for Louisiana Studies or on campus — Louisiana became the common theme. And that's resulted in our having a niche in the market."

Wilson has been working with the Center for Louisiana Studies since 2004. Asked whether there is some secret to the organization's success, he summed it up this way:

"A lot of it comes down to instincts," he said. "And we've had really good instincts."

For more information: www.ulpress.org



Hard Hat Zones

Improvement projects continue throughout campus

Construction crews will be out in force for the next couple of years at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Renovation and expansion of the Student Union is about halfway complete, while several other projects have just gotten under way or are about to be launched. They include:

- Quadrangle improvements;
- the addition of a six-story parking deck;
- demolition of two closed dorms;
- renovation of Fletcher Hall;
- Burke-Hawthorne Hall remodeling;
- Angelle Hall improvements; and
- designated bike lanes for a section of East St. Mary Boulevard, which crosses campus.

Many of the projects are part of the University's Master Plan, which will guide the development of campus over the next 10 to 20 years.

"This much construction at once will undoubtedly cause some inconvenience. We appreciate everyone's patience while we make significant changes," said Bill Crist, director of Facilities Management.

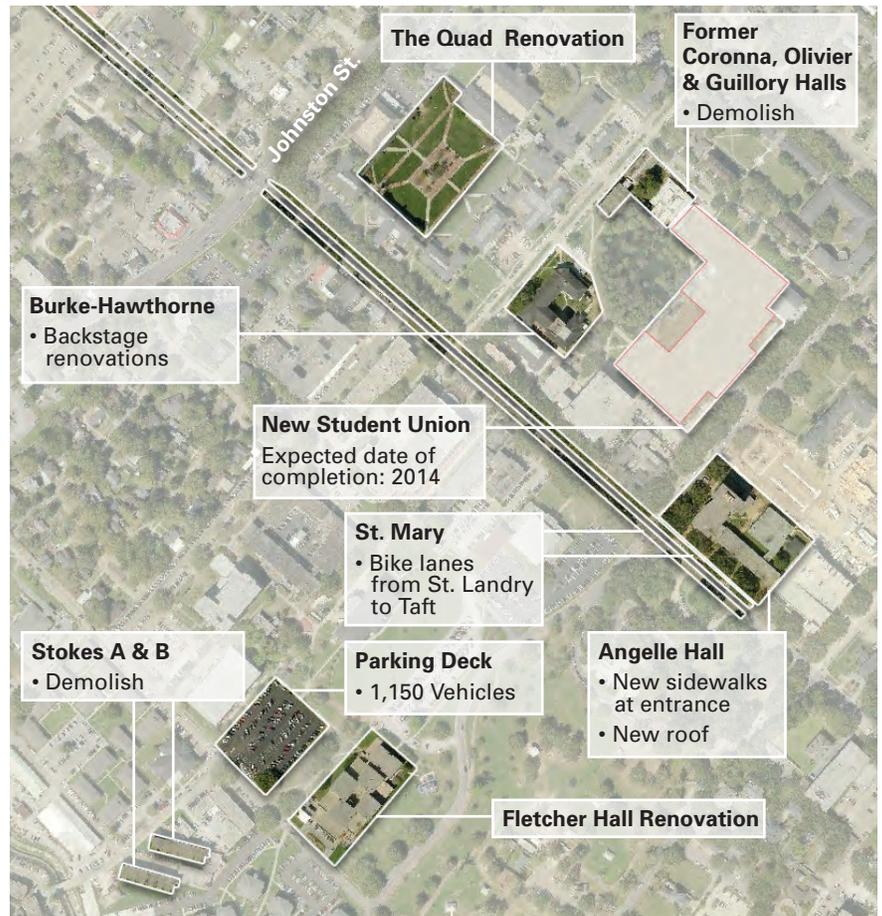
Student Union

The renovation and expansion of the Student Union is on schedule; the project is expected to be complete by the end of 2014.

The \$36 million project includes the renovation of University Bookstore, ballroom and Bayou Bijou theater, and the addition of about 30,000 square feet of space. It will feature restaurants, administrative offices and the University post office.

"We're creating the equivalent of a town square that's designed to serve the campus community, giving special attention to the needs of our students," said Crist.

The energy-efficient design is expected to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council.



The project is funded primarily by self-assessed student fees. In Spring 2003, students approved a \$55 per semester fee dedicated to the Union. They approved an additional \$20 per semester fee for the Union in 2005. To date, the University has collected about \$19 million in student fees. An additional \$23 million in bonds will be used for the project.

After the Student Union work is complete, three buildings will be demolished: Vermilion Hall, formerly known as Olivier Hall; Lafayette Hall, formerly called Corona Hall; and Guillory Hall. Removal of those buildings will provide green space and enhance views of the Student Union from Hebrard Boulevard.

Quadrangle

The Quadrangle is getting a student-designed makeover, which will feature a central plaza and fountain, as

well as walkways and landscaping. Four live oaks and several magnolia trees will be planted there. A new, improved drainage system also will be installed.

"There are two oak trees within the space. We'll take the necessary steps to preserve those trees," Crist said.

UL Lafayette's Student Government Association spearheaded the Quad's redesign in 2010. Senior architecture students developed the design for the University's Community Design Workshop, which enables students to work on real-life projects.

The Quadrangle redesign is the first major Master Plan project to be paid for with self-assessed student fees. Students voted last year to support implementation of the University's Master Plan.

Walk of Honor

A section of the University's Walk of Honor, a path composed of terracotta

pavers engraved with the names of alumni, crosses the Quad. The pavers will be replaced with bricks engraved with alums names.

The Walk of Honor will eventually be extended beyond the Quad. It will run parallel to Boucher Street, near the Rose Garden and the Student Union.

New Parking Deck

A new parking deck is under construction near Fletcher, Rougeou and Oliver halls. The six-story structure will accommodate 1,150 vehicles.

Demolition

The University will raze two closed dormitories, Stokes A and Stokes B, as well as an adjacent mechanical building and washeteria.

Fletcher Hall

Fletcher Hall is undergoing a \$3.8 million renovation that will stop leaks that have caused extensive water damage. First-floor exterior walls will be repaired, cleaned, weatherproofed and coated to complement new metal panels to be installed on the second floor.

About 20,000 square feet of educational space will be added to the second floor. A sprinkler and fire-alarm system will also be added.

The renovation is expected to begin in December and be complete by the end of next year.

Crist said classes will continue to be held in the building during the renovation. “Obviously, that’s going to present some challenges, but the end result will be a much-improved facility that will serve students in the years to come,” he added.

The three-story building houses the School of Architecture and Design and the Department of Visual Arts and the College of the Arts’ Media Center.

Burke-Hawthorne Hall

Meanwhile, improvements continue at Burke-Hawthorne Hall. When the building was expanded and remodeled in 2009, it almost doubled in size. The current work is a continuation of the state-funded project. It includes the addition of wrought-iron fencing around a courtyard and improvements to the backstage area in Burke-Hawthorne Theater.

The building houses the Department of Communication, the Department of Communicative Disorders, facilities for

the Department of Performing Arts, and KRVS 88.7 FM. These improvements will cost about \$1 million.

Angelle Hall

Work is also continuing at Angelle Hall, which is home to the University’s School of Music and Performing Arts.

Crews replaced sidewalks at the building’s entrance this fall. Workers are re-roofing and waterproofing the building, a process which could take about a year.

Bike Lanes, Storage

Beginning in December, dedicated bicycle lanes will be created on the section of St. Mary Boulevard that crosses campus.

Re-striping is set to begin after the fall semester ends and is expected to be complete for the Spring 2014 semester.

Vehicle traffic will occupy two of four lanes on St. Mary Boulevard from St. Landry to Taft streets. Bikes will occupy the two lanes closest to the sidewalks. The bike lanes will be 6-foot wide, with a 3-foot buffer separating the bicycle lanes from the vehicle lanes.

A Lafayette Consolidated Government plan to lengthen the University Common bike path will provide a direct connection between the main campus and University Common.

The existing two-mile path along Cajundome Boulevard, which has been in

place since the fall of 2011, connects Eraste Landry Road and Johnston Street.

As part of the extension project, the path will be extended from where it ends on Johnston Street, near the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, all the way to East Lewis Street.

The new section will encompass a route via St. Michael and St. Julien streets. The extended path will travel through Youth Park and cross St. John Coulee.

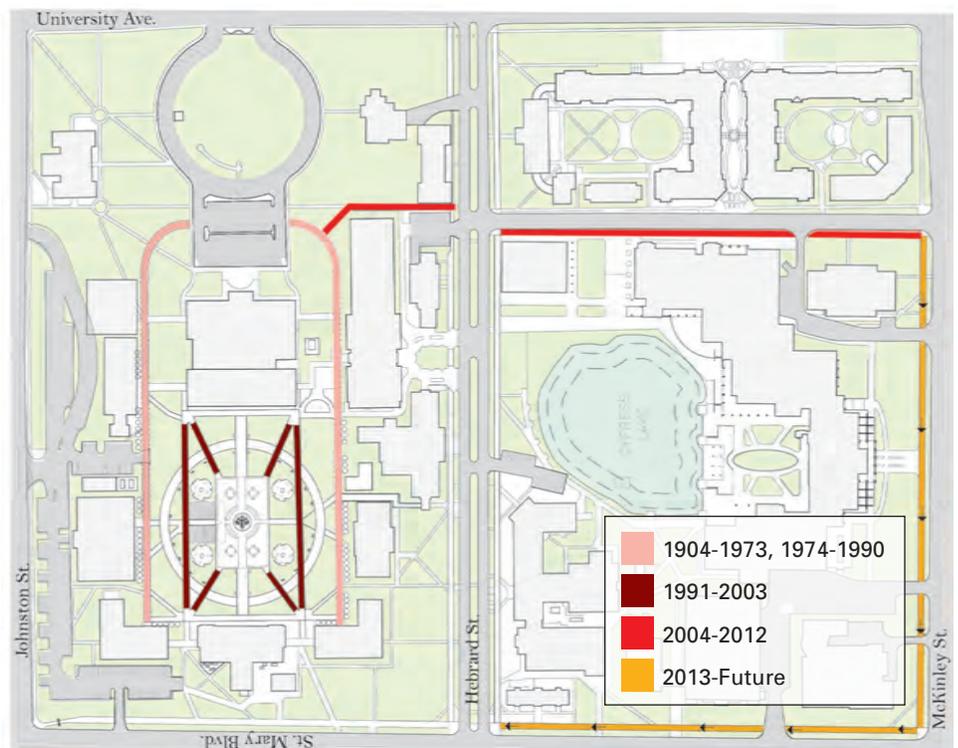
Cyclists also will have new places to secure their bikes. The University will add bike racks, bike shelters and lockers to the campus. Seven uncovered bicycle parking areas with bike racks also will be added.

These improvements are expected to be in place by the Spring 2014 semester. Longer-range plans include bike stations to provide facilities for minor repairs and maintenance.

Athletics Facilities

During halftime at the Homecoming game in November, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the expansion of Cajun Field. About 5,000 seats will be added in the south end zone.

Also on tap are soccer and track facility improvements, a new Athletics Practice Facility, and renovation and expansion of M.L. “Tigue” Moore Field.



The University has begun renovation and expansion of the Walk of Honor.

Collection of Toole Papers Grows

The UL Lafayette Foundation has obtained a rare manuscript of *A Confederacy of Dunces*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by John Kennedy Toole.

Acquisition of the 290-page manuscript of Toole's farcical novel, which has handwritten corrections on many pages, is especially significant because no known original of the manuscript exists. The author committed suicide in 1969 at the age of 31, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to get his book published. *A Confederacy of Dunces* was printed in 1980; Toole was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction posthumously a year later.

Toole was a professor of English at the University from 1959 to 1960. It's commonly believed that he based at least two of the novel's central characters, Ignatius Reilly and Myrna Minkoff, on fellow faculty members.

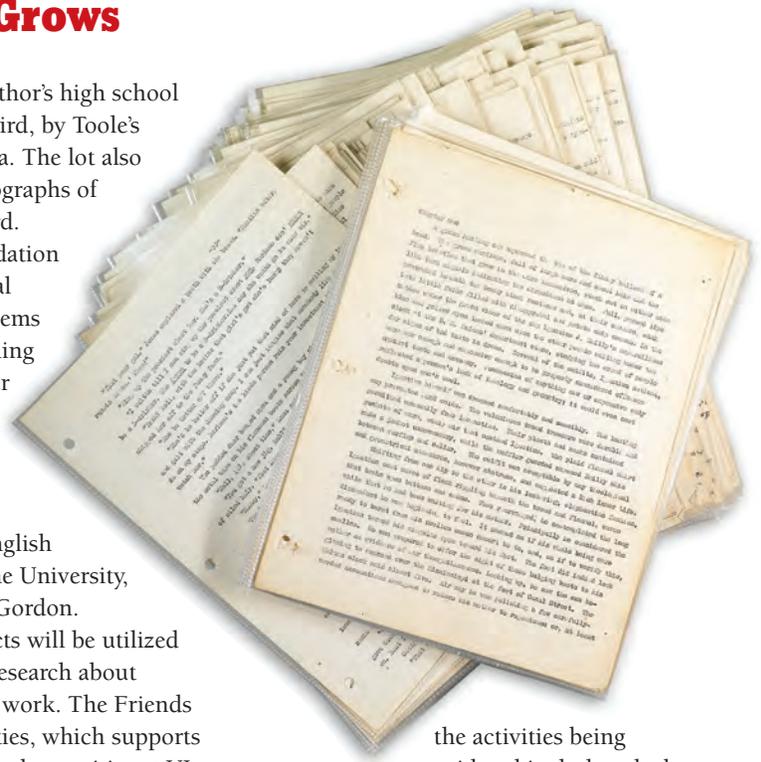
The manuscript was purchased at a Sotheby's auction in New York City. It was part of Lot No. 228, which had been

given to the author's high school friend, Cary Laird, by Toole's mother, Thelma. The lot also included photographs of Toole with Laird.

The Foundation obtained several Toole-related items in 2012, including a personal letter he wrote to the late Drs. Patricia and Milton Rickels, both former English professors at the University, and their son, Gordon.

The artifacts will be utilized for study and research about Toole's life and work. The Friends of the Humanities, which supports interdisciplinary humanities at UL Lafayette, intends to hold an event related to Toole next year. "We are still in the planning stages, but some of

the activities being considered include a daylong symposium, and perhaps a screening of a film about the author," said Linda Alessi, president of the organization.



Math Course Offers Alternative to Algebra

Non-science majors who stress out at even the thought of taking a college algebra course can relax a bit.

In the past, all undergraduates were required to successfully complete Math 105, "Applied College Algebra." According to a course description, it covers functions and graphs, "including linear functions, quadratic and other polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions."

Now there's an alternative for non-science majors.

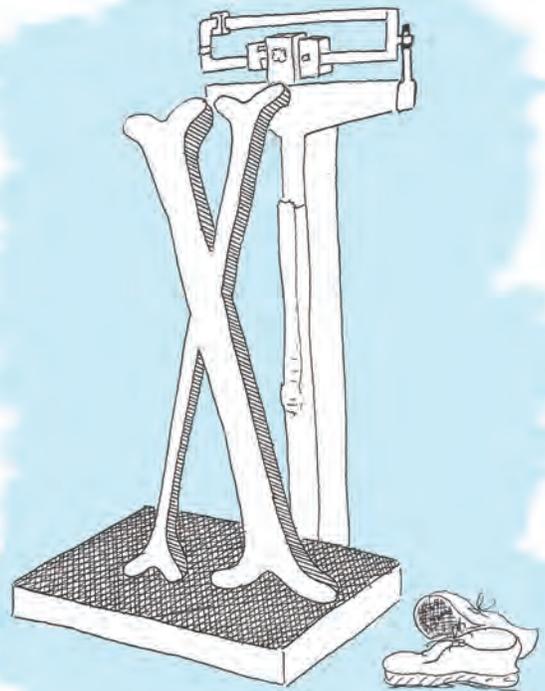
MATH 102, "Quantitative Reasoning," is designed for students in non-technical fields. It emphasizes practical, everyday uses for math. Think of it as "algebra lite."

Three faculty members created the course: Dr. Kathleen Lopez, an associate professor of mathematics; Melissa Myers, a master instructor; and Christy Sue Langley, a mathematics instructor.

Myers, director of freshman mathematics at UL Lafayette, said the new course will likely appeal to many students enrolled in the College of the Arts and the College of Liberal Arts.

Topics in MATH 102 include traditional concepts, such as linear and exponential functions, as well as subjects designed to increase students' ability to reason quantitatively.

Nationally, universities are moving away from formula-based teaching and toward concept-oriented, practical applications of mathematics, said Myers. "Creating a college algebra alternative designed specifically for non-science majors will enable us to better serve these two different populations."



COURTNEY FULLER

UL Lafayette Historian Tours with Rock Legend

A University of Louisiana at Lafayette faculty member has got a great story to add to the “What I Did Last Summer” genre: Dr. John Troutman spent part of his summer as a professional musician, opening for former Led Zeppelin front man Robert Plant.

An associate professor in the University’s Department of History and Geography, he also plays pedal steel guitar with Lil’ Band O’ Gold. The group is an all-star assemblage of musicians who are well-known in Acadiana and beyond, including C.C. Adcock, David Egan, Steve Riley, Tommy McClain, Dave Ranson, Paul “Lil’ Buck” Sinegal, Richard “Dickie” Landry, Pat Breaux, and Clarence “Jockey” Etienne.

The band has released three albums: *Lil’ Band O’ Gold*, *The Promised Land* and *Plays Fats*, which features the music of Fats Domino and includes guests Robert Plant and Lucinda Williams.

Plant, who now leads the Sensational Shape Shifters, asked Lil’ Band O’ Gold to be the opening act for his 2013 summer tour. After sorting out schedule conflicts for some its members, Lil’ Band O’ Gold performed five shows: in Dallas, Austin, Houston, New Orleans and Memphis.

“It was a surreal experience,” said Troutman, who is the Friends of the Humanities/Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Professor.

He joined the band in 2009, after its long-time steel guitarist, Richard Comeaux, left the group. “I had been filling in for Richard for a while, just playing when he wasn’t available. So, I already had the seat, so to speak, and the band decided I was a good fit.

“It is absolutely an honor to play with these guys, who are so



COURTESY OF KATHY SEBASTIAN

UL Lafayette faculty member Dr. John Troutman rehearses with Lil’ Band O’ Gold and guest star Robert Plant at the Mahalia Jackson Theater in New Orleans in July. Shown, from left to right, are: C.C. Adcock, Plant, Clarence “Jockey” Etienne, Steve Riley, Jon Cleary, Paul “Lil’ Buck” Sinegal and Troutman.

experienced and so very well-respected. Just having that experience has been great. I never expected it would lead to even bigger opportunities, like this one.”

For Troutman, music is also an academic pursuit. “I am interested in the relationship between music and history, particularly music by native peoples. Historians have traditionally ignored the role of music in daily life, or considered music a mere reflection of society or politics. My work is based upon the contention that music can, in fact, work in extraordinarily political ways, and that it transforms, rather than reflects, society.”

He teaches U.S. history survey courses, as well as upper-division and graduate courses in American Indian history, American music history, public history, cultural history and graduate research and methods.



PETE MAROVICH

President Barack Obama presents author Ernest J. Gaines with the National Medal of Arts during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in July. It is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government. Gaines is writer-in-residence emeritus at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His novels include *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying*. The Ernest J. Gaines Center in Dupré Library is an international center for scholarship on the author’s work.

NPR Station Hits Big 5-0

KRVS 88.7 FM, which broadcasts from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus, turned 50 this year.

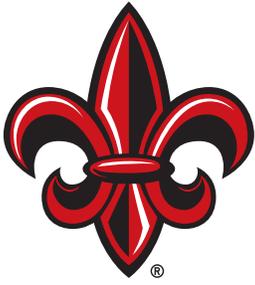
The Federal Communications Commission granted the station its FM license Aug. 8, 1963. The 10-watt station was a student-run operation. Its signal covered a radius of about six blocks.

KRVS is now a member station of National Public Radio, broadcasts at 100,000

watts and reaches 12 Louisiana parishes. Its website, which offers live streaming and archived podcasts, draws a global audience.

In addition to original programming that features performances and interviews with Louisiana musicians, the station produces annual live broadcasts of popular festivals, including Festival International de Louisiane and Festivals Acadiens et Creoles.





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UL LAFAYETTE'S OVERALL RANK WAS 102 AMONG 280 NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES. Washington Monthly

WORTH THE MENTION

The names of UL Lafayette faculty and administrators have been popping up in national publications, broadcasts and Web posts recently. University President Dr. Joseph Savoie heads the list, landing a spot in a special section of the November issue of United Airlines' inflight magazine, *Hemispheres*.



FINANCE **NEW YORK POST**
 “So far, (Warren) Buffett has generated a paper profit of \$3.92 billion — including \$1.27 billion in dividends and a \$500 million redemption fee — from his initial Goldman investment.” **Linus Wilson**, assistant professor of finance

HISTORY **C-SPAN VIDEO**
 “Professor Carl Richard talked about his book, *When the United States Invaded Russia: Woodrow Wilson’s Siberian Disaster*, in which he discusses Woodrow Wilson’s decision to send U.S. troops to Siberia during World War I and his long-term objective to contain the Bolsheviks and the Japanese.”

SCIENCE **NBC NEWS**
 “The large (tectonic) plates have really oscillated between different patterns. This has strong implications for what is driving Earth’s mantle convection.” **Gabriele Morra**, geodynamicist and associate professor of physics

THE ARTS **NPR**
 “The artist’s name is (Assistant Professor) **Jamie Baldrige**. Gallery manager Danny Sanchez says the work was inspired by Baldrige’s childhood and ‘afternoons reading fairy tales for their dark nature.’ So you kind of get a little bit of that in his imagery.”

FOOD **USA TODAY**
 “Both burgers are crafted with ingredients that Sonic hopes appeals to regional tastes — like Tabasco spicy mayo and pepper jack cheese on the **Ragin’ Cajun burger**.”

RESEARCH **HEMISPHERES**
 “We are a ‘research for a reason’ university.” **UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie**, describing Marine Survival Training Center and NIMSAT Institute public-private partnerships

Spacebound Technology

Student-designed communications satellite prepared for orbit

A small satellite, designed and built by students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, was in NASA's hands, awaiting launch, at presstime.

If all goes according to plan, the solar-powered cube will go into orbit and keep in touch via radio signals, audio recordings made in space, and out-of-this-world tweets.

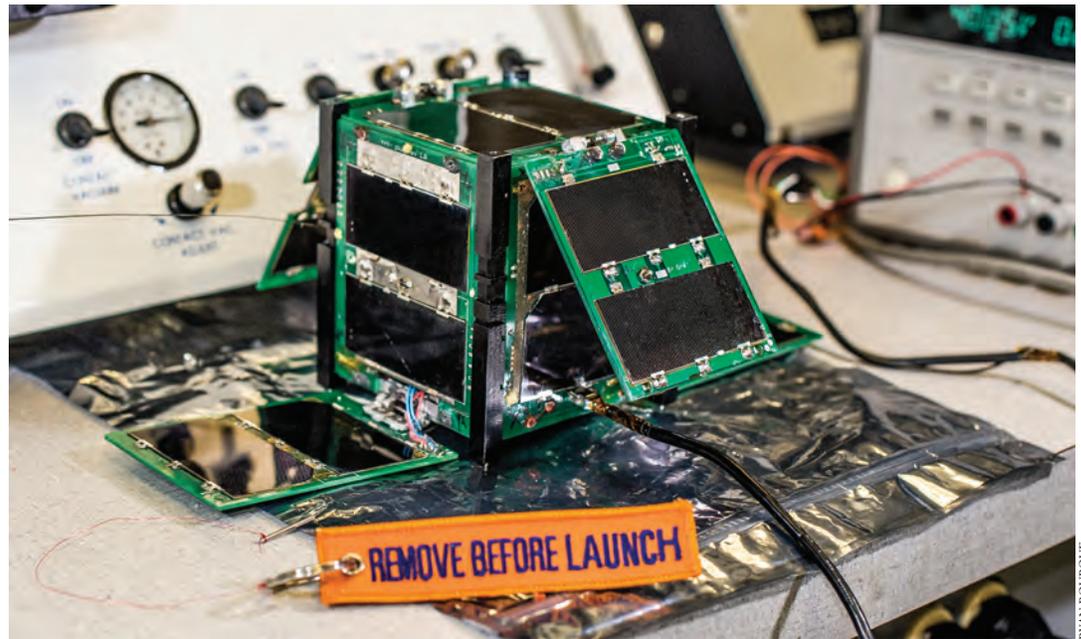
The satellite, called CAPE-2, was set to hitch a ride on a Minotaur 1 rocket Nov. 19, at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

CAPE-2 is one of 29 satellites created by educational and research facilities around the country and chosen for NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative. Drexel University and the University of Florida are among the 14 schools included in the planned send-off.

CubeSats are a class of cube-shaped research satellites that are 10 centimeters square and weigh no more than 1 kilogram, or about 2 pounds. Their small size enables them to piggyback on rockets.

The University has experience in creating them. In 2007, it was the first university in Louisiana whose students designed, built and launched a working satellite. CAPE-1 is still orbiting Earth, although it's no longer transmitting any signals.

CAPE-2 will operate about



The CAPE-2 is fitted with power-generating solar panels designed to unfold once the satellite is in orbit.

225 miles above the Earth's surface. Travelling at about 17,000 mph, it will circle the globe about every 90 minutes.

UL Lafayette's satellites are named for the Cajun Advanced Picosatellite Experiment, a volunteer effort on campus. The project gives students experience working on a complex aerospace project and helps prepare them for careers in the aerospace field.

Nick Pugh, a communication industry professional and University alumnus, mentors the student team. Pugh earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1968. He founded RIG Telephone Inc., which bought DataCom Inc., a telecommunications company acquired by Stratos Global Corporation in 2000.

Pugh spends as much as 20 hours a week with the students, giving them

technical advice and encouragement.

"I'm the coach. Their professors teach them and I help them apply what they've learned," he told *La Louisiane* in a recent interview.

Pugh is also a financial supporter. He's a co-founder of the Pugh Family Foundation, which has raised about \$25,000 for the project. Pugh said construction of the satellite cost about \$20,000. The University received an in-kind grant from NASA, valued at about \$100,000, to launch CAPE-2.

Once it's in orbit, the CAPE team plans to visit area middle schools to show off its technology.

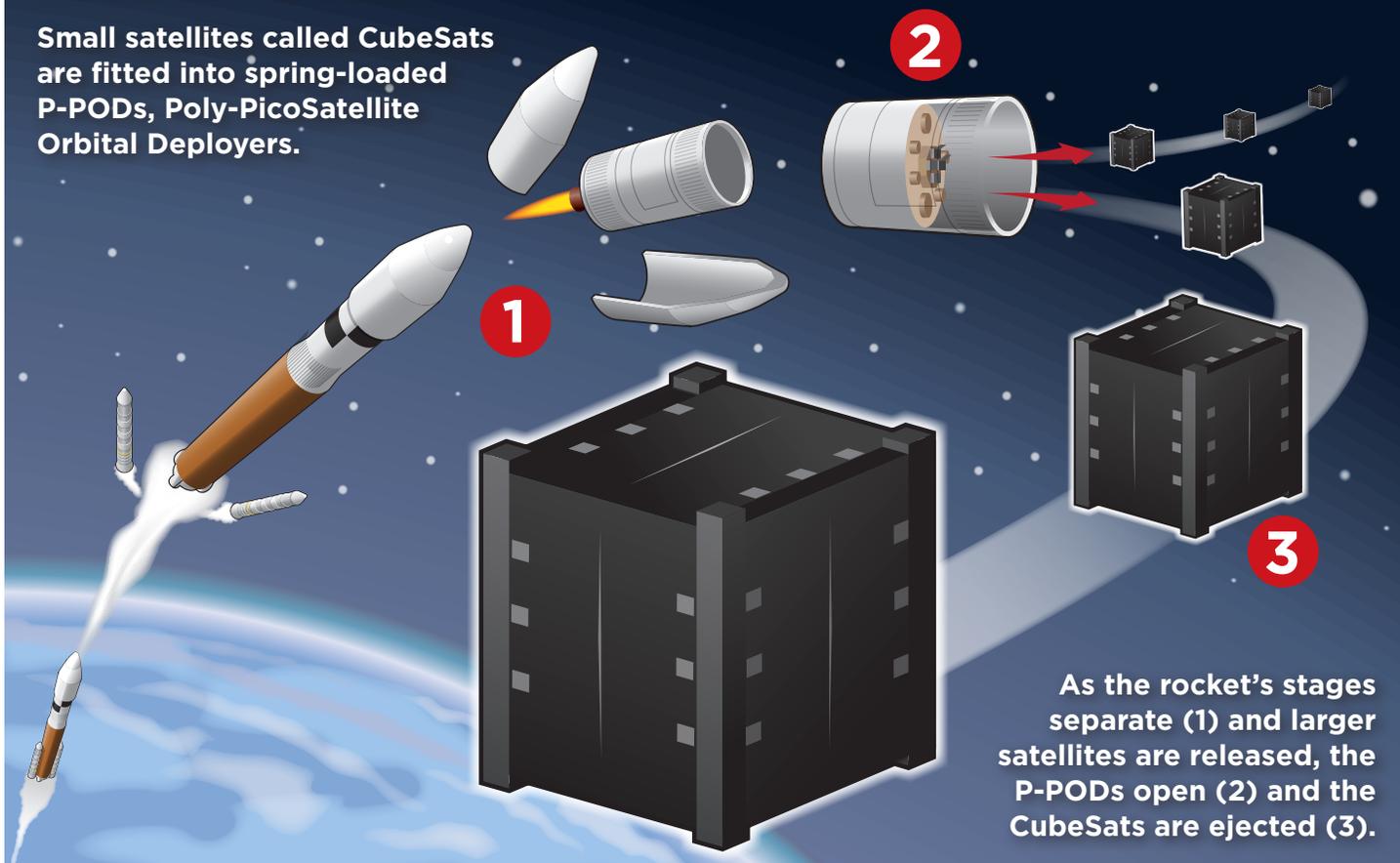
"We want to get kids excited about math and science," said Pugh.

CAPE-2 is designed to communicate in three different ways. An on-board "parrot repeater" will record 30 seconds

RYAN BOURQUE

Hitchin' a Ride

Small satellites called CubeSats are fitted into spring-loaded P-PODs, Poly-PicoSatellite Orbital Deployers.



As the rocket's stages separate (1) and larger satellites are released, the P-PODs open (2) and the CubeSats are ejected (3).

ILLUSTRATION BY: KOPP ILLUSTRATION

of audio from Earth and broadcast it, verbatim, back to the sender. The satellite will have a Twitter handle, @CAPE_2, to tweet messages from space.

It will also have a text-to-voice feature that will enable someone to send the satellite a text message and choose from 11 different voices, including voices that sound like Alvin the Chipmunk and Darth Vader, to hear the message read aloud.

About 50 UL Lafayette students have been engaged in the CAPE-2 project over the past seven years, including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science majors.

During the last six months of the project, a core team of 10 completed the satellite. Louis Courville, a junior majoring in electrical engineering, was the project manager. The following students also participated: Vance Doumit, a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering; Zach Thevenot, a senior majoring in electrical engineering and computer science; Alex Lanclos, Travis Loftin and Caleb Pellerin, seniors majoring

in electrical engineering; and Lance Lasseigne, a senior majoring in computer science. Two more students majoring in electrical engineering were part of the team: junior Toby Jones and sophomore Alex Wehmann.

Rizwan Merchant, assistant project manager, is a former student who has worked on the project since 2009. Although he's not enrolled at the University this semester, he's continued to volunteer and has been the team's primary liaison with NASA.

"This has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said.

Merchant was one of four students — along with Courville, Doumit and Thevenot — who delivered the satellite to NASA officials. In mid-September, they drove 17 hours, from Lafayette to Albuquerque, N.M., to Kirtland Air Force Base.

The satellite went through testing and was placed in a Poly-PicoSatellite Orbital Deployer, or P-POD. Each P-POD holds up to three CubeSats, which are ejected into space with a spring-loaded mechanism.

A representative of California Polytechnic State University was on hand to make sure CAPE-2 met all the technical specifications.

"Researchers at Cal Poly and Stanford University developed the CubeSat program, including its design standards, and they are still involved in a very hands-on way," explained Merchant.

Once it's in orbit, CAPE-2 could communicate with Earth for up to two years.

In addition to using the satellite as an educational outreach tool, the CAPE team also wants to use it to collect data from the sea.

Next semester, the team will begin building a free-floating buoy that will collect information such as wave height, sea temperature and salinity, and wind velocity and direction.

Pugh will continue to guide the team. He said he sometimes has to fight the urge to step in and give students the answers when they are struggling with an aspect of the project.

"It's really tough for me to sit back," he said. "But the less I do for them, the more they learn."

Sweet Success

Praline sales nourish student's business appetite

Senior Ryan King has a mouth-watering method for paying his tuition.

The 25-year-old economics major from New Orleans created Taste of Quality, a sweet enterprise that sells his homemade pralines.

"He came up with an idea. He has a vision. He knows where he wants to go, and he has the personality and drive to get him there," said John Must, a UL Lafayette economics instructor who has taught King in three courses.

Every Saturday, King eagerly hands out samples and greets passersby in front of his booth at the Lafayette Farmers and Artisans Market at the Horse Farm. By 10 a.m., he's often left with only crumbs.

Inspired by farmers' markets, King uses Louisiana ingredients as much as possible, such as pecans from New Roads, La., and sugar made from sugar cane grown in the Bayou State.

"This (farm-to-table) movement is putting control back into your hands. If you can't produce your own food, you're always going to be dependent on somebody. That's what's so interesting about the farmers' market. You get to know your farmer like you get to know your banker," he said.

His recipe has just a few ingredients. Along with sugar and pecans, he mixes evaporated milk, pure vanilla extract and brandy.

King works more than 20 hours a week preparing and packaging the pralines. That's on top of a full course load and two other part-time jobs, as a radio broadcaster on 770 AM KJCB and at Primeamerica Inc., a financial services company. He's on track to graduate in May 2014.



Ryan King

Must said he's impressed by King's work ethic. "I know he makes the pralines at night, and he still comes to class on time, ready to go. That's hard for a person to do, even when you're young," he said.

King rents time in the kitchen of The Accidental Chef, a Lafayette cooking school.

He looks at ease there, despite the precise timing needed for perfect pralines. He sells about 10 dozen each week at the farmers' market. The treats are also sold at Old Tyme Grocery, Roly Poly Sandwiches and Country Cuisine, all in Lafayette.

"The pralines cover about 20 percent of the cost (of tuition), but I've got a couple of loans. So, once this business really kicks off, I'm going to use it to pay them off. So, it's paying for my school, in that sense," King said.

His culinary interest was piqued

at age 17 by his mother, Georgia King. She runs Georgia's Fine Foods, a New Orleans catering company that's made return customers of President Barack Obama and comedian Bill Cosby.

Working from her recipe, King began making creamy pralines, eventually selling them to coworkers.

The following semester, he changed his major from architecture to economics, attributing his entrepreneurial ambition for the decision. Even as an architecture student, his foremost goal was to own an architecture firm.

He plans to continue down the entrepreneurial path after graduation.

"When you go into business for yourself, there's nobody over your shoulder telling you that you have to do something. You have to have that drive and motivation," he said.

Driven to Succeed

High-octane sophomore balances school, car racing

Sarah Montgomery is on track, working toward a marketing degree and a career as a professional race car driver.

About 30 times a year, she suits up and gets behind the wheel of Captain Nemo, a modified 1995 Mazda Miata, to compete in road races across the country.

“The car was underwater for three weeks after Hurricane Katrina. Surprisingly, it started right up. So, that’s where it got the name,” she said in a recent interview.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette sophomore shows the same kind of tenacity.

In addition to racing, the Kappa Delta sorority member maintains a 3.125 GPA, plays clarinet in the UL Lafayette Woodwind Ensemble and works part-time as a veterinarian’s assistant.

Montgomery, 19, began road racing four years ago. She competes in the Spec Miata class, which is recognized by the Sports Car Club of America and the National Auto Sport Association.

In 2012, Montgomery completed 12 top-five finishes and a gripping, 1st place finish in the 1-Hour Charity Challenge Enduro Race at Circuit Grand Bayou Raceway.

This year, Montgomery has four wins and eight top-five finishes in 23 races.

Her devotion to the sport began when she was 9. Her family attended an Indy race at Texas Motor Speedway in College Station.

“I thought it was the coolest thing. I loved the smell of fuel and burned rubber. I loved how fast the cars were going and the sound of the engines screaming. I was totally hooked,” she said.

At 13, she became a “karter,” racing go-karts on dirt tracks. At 16, she was the first female competitor to win two championships in one year.

That same year, she made the transition from karter to race car driver when she

took part in the Skip Barber Racing School Karting Scholarship Shootout. Participants get coaching and feedback on their driving, as well as business aspects of the sport.

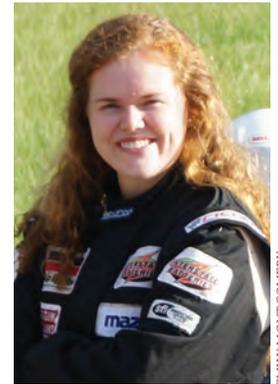
A few weeks later, Montgomery was one of seven drivers to attend Lyn St. James’ Women of the Winners Circle Driver Development Academy. More than 230 female drivers have attended the annual, invitation-only event, including Danica Patrick.

The program emphasized staying in top physical shape. “It may not seem like it to the spectator, but this sport is incredibly demanding. It’s like being a jet fighter pilot,” she said.

During a race, which lasts 45 minutes, her heart beats as fast as a marathon runner’s, reaching 85 to 95 percent of its capacity. While navigating a curve, she

experiences g-force — a feeling of added weight caused by acceleration. “It’s as much as 3 g in some corners,” she said. That’s similar to what astronauts in the Space Shuttle felt leaving and reentering the earth’s atmosphere.

“I love it. The adrenaline, for me, is so cool. It’s kind of like my escape from the world and school,” Montgomery said. “But it’s also my life. I can’t imagine a life where I’m not involved with racing.”



Sarah Montgomery

EMILY MONTGOMERY



EMILY MONTGOMERY

Sarah Montgomery takes a curve at NOLA Motorsports Park in Avondale, La., this summer.

Students prepare subdivision for Habitat for Humanity homes

Fifth-year architecture students at UL Lafayette are designing a new subdivision in northeast Lafayette in the McComb/Veazey area.

The pocket neighborhood will be made up exclusively of houses built by Lafayette Habitat for Humanity, the local affiliate for Habitat for Humanity International. HFHI is a global, nonprofit housing organization that builds affordable homes in partnership with low-income buyers. Future homeowners contribute “sweat equity” by helping to build their own homes.

The subdivision is being developed along East Pinhook Road, between Gauthier Road and South Magnolia Street, on about one and a half acres. It will include 13 new homes and a community pavilion. The structures will be energy efficient and require minimal maintenance.

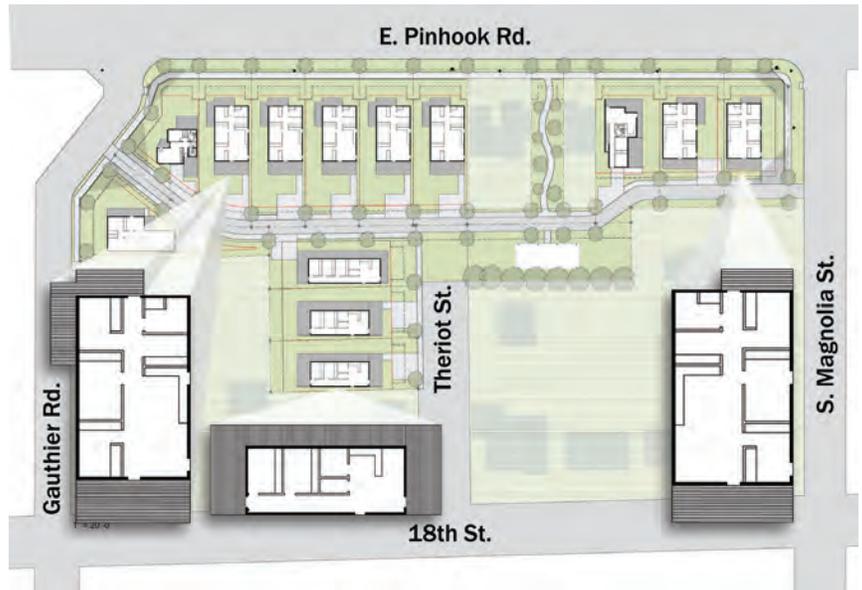
“Nationally, Habitat is moving toward neighborhood revitalization, rather than simply building individual houses.

Creating a neighborhood will also give residents a support network, because they are having a similar experience and can rely on each other,” said Melinda Taylor, director of Lafayette Habitat.

Funding for the project is provided

through a Lafayette Consolidated Government grant with matching funds from local businesses, churches and other organizations.

Habitat will focus on the McComb/Veazey area for the next few years.



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Students spread Ragin' Cajun spirit on ESPN

Football fans who tuned in to ESPN to watch the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns compete this fall were treated to some lagniappe.

The network aired a 30-second spot during the Cajuns' televised games that features UL Lafayette students. After a casting call this summer, six students landed speaking roles: Brooks Haack, Charliese

West, Cris Matochi, Morgan Meaux, Evan Melancon, and Alexandria Green. About a dozen "extras" got some screen time, too.

"The video captures who we are as a university. Engaging graphics and text make it stand apart from other university videos," said Aaron Martin, director of Communications and Marketing at the

University. "It's a strong reflection of our brand, and the energy of our students."

The University partnered with Holbrook Media and The Colony for filming and production assistance. Anyone who missed the ESPN broadcasts can watch the "This is Your Time" spot at admissions.louisiana.edu.



Newman Club Marks 90th Year

One of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's oldest student organizations is celebrating its 90th birthday this year. The Newman Club, now known as Ragin' Cajun Catholics Student Ministry, was created in the 1923-24 academic year.

"It started as a group of college students who wanted to live out their faith," said Mary Hernandez, director of Advancement of Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center Newman Clubs, named for John Henry Cardinal Newman, are made up of Catholic students on secular college or university campuses.

Newman Club and Catholic Church leaders quickly acknowledged the need for a place at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now UL Lafayette, where club members could meet on campus. But it wasn't until 1942 that Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel and the Catholic Student Center were dedicated. Built at the intersection of St. Mary Boulevard and McKinley Street, the Center had a meeting room known as Newman Hall.

The Catholic Student Center played a role in the University's peaceful desegregation in the 1950s. Southwestern Louisiana Institute became the first previously all-white, state-supported college or university in the Deep South to admit



Monsignor Alexander Sigur, far right, is shown with some Newman Club members. The photo is undated, but he was pastor at Our Lady of Wisdom Church from 1952-66.

African-Americans. Desegregation at some other universities in the South resulted in violence.

After a series of legal challenges, 80 black students enrolled at SLI for the Fall 1954 semester. Historians say relations between black and white students were strained, at first. But both races gradually accepted desegregation.

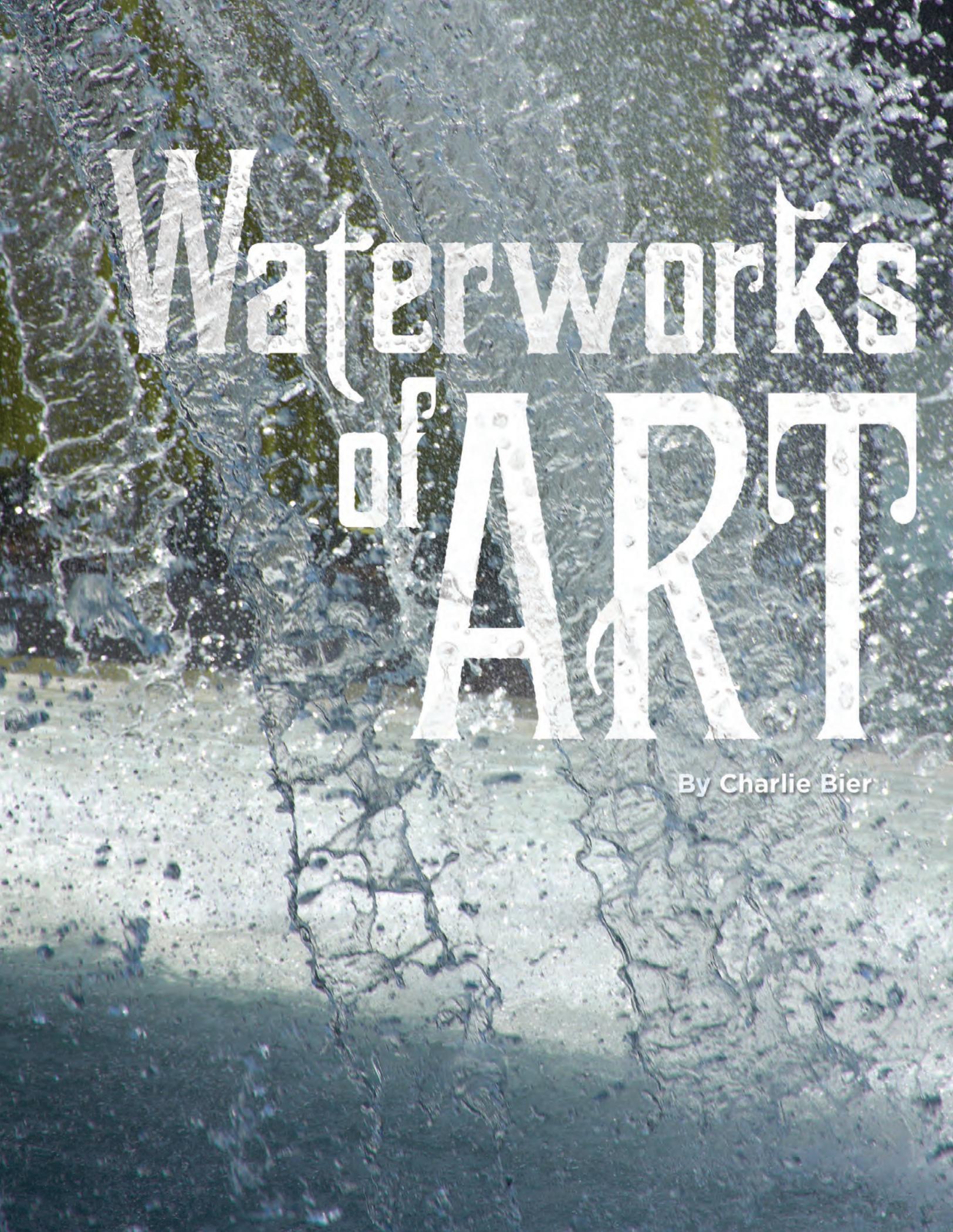
One of the first integrated events at SLI occurred in April 1956. Students of both races attended a Gulf States Newman Club meeting at the Catholic Student Center. It was conducted without incident.

Over the years, Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel and Catholic Student Center have expanded to accommodate a student body

that has grown to almost 17,000.

Hernandez said a national study has shown that 80 percent of college students will stop practicing their faith in college. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University determined that students involved in Catholic campus ministry are more likely to attend Mass regularly, be involved in their parish, help the needy, and donate to the Church or other charitable organizations.

Ragin' Cajun Catholics Student Ministry offer classes, guest speakers, special events, Bible studies, retreats and group activities, such as tailgating at Louisiana Ragin' Cajun football games, to engage students in a community of peers.

The background of the entire page is a high-speed, close-up photograph of water splashing. The water is captured in various stages of motion, with droplets suspended in the air and creating intricate patterns of foam and bubbles. The colors range from deep blues and greys to bright whites where the water is most turbulent. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and natural beauty.

Waterworks of ART

By Charlie Bier

‘The history of architecture is the history of water. People build, and they are either trying to get away from water, or closer to it. It’s part of our DNA, our psyche, but, beyond that, it’s just very appealing. With water, you can’t separate poetic from practical, art from science.’

Michael McClure
UL Lafayette College of the Arts



Veils of water flow down the sides of a stairway in Dubai Festival City, an urban community.

Photos courtesy of Fluidity Design Consultants Inc.

Jim Garland has built an international reputation on water.

The 1982 UL Lafayette alum is founding principal of Fluidity Design Consultants, a Los Angeles-based water feature and engineering firm.

He has created remarkable fountains that dot the globe: at the Hearst Headquarters Tower in New York City; Roppongi Hills in Tokyo; the Burj Al Arab in Dubai; the Lisbon Expo in Portugal; and VivoCity in Singapore, for example.

Garland has designed two granite fountains for the four-block-long David H. Koch Plaza being built at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The outdoor plaza, expected to open late next summer, will span a section of Fifth Avenue, in the middle of Central Park. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is the second-largest museum in the world, behind only The Louvre in Paris.

Garland's two, square fountains will bookend a grand staircase at the museum's main, front entrance.

"Each fountain will be programmed by computer to provide a variety of water patterns during the warm months. In winter they will



Color and water dazzle visitors in Grand Park in Los Angeles.



Fluidity Design Consultants' fountains are being built for a plaza in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

become reflecting pools, warmed by recycling steam to prevent freezing. Two sides of each fountain will serve as benches,” *The New York Times* reported in February 2012.

About six million people walk along that section of prime real estate each year.

The plaza had not been renovated for 40 years before construction began in January of this year.

During a groundbreaking ceremony, Daniel Brodzky, chairman of the museum’s board of trustees, said the reconstructed plaza “will give the Met a portal outside that is truly worthy of the masterpieces that grace our galleries inside.”

Gordon Brooks, an architect and dean of UL Lafayette’s College of the Arts, said the Metropolitan Museum of Art commission is “a major, major accomplishment, and one that will catapult Jim’s work further into the international spotlight.”

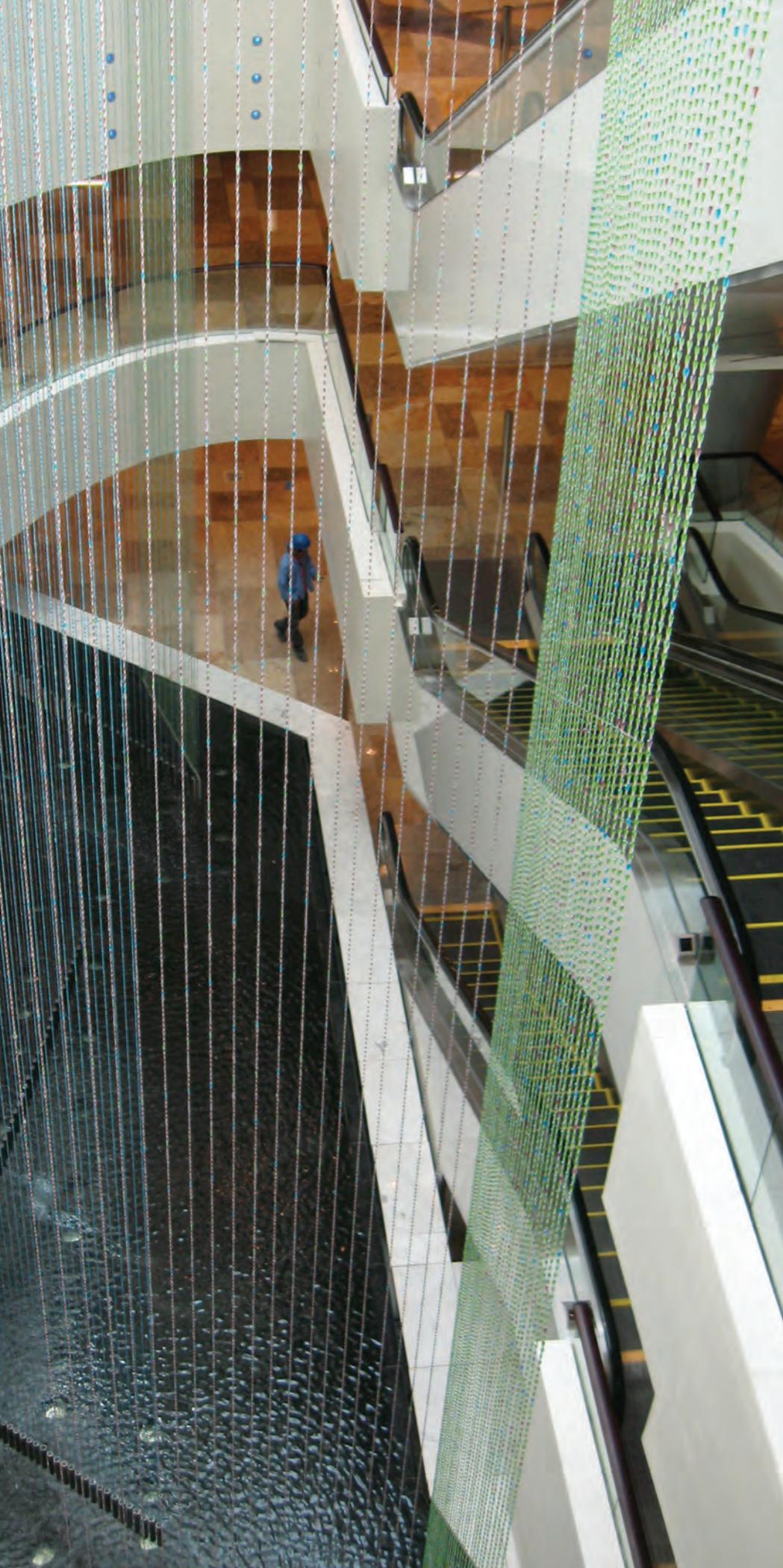
After earning a bachelor’s degree in architecture, Garland worked for a short time for architect Don Breaux’s firm in Lafayette. Soon, though, he hit the road for Los Angeles, where he picked up a master’s degree at UCLA in 1987. After that, he maintained a private practice and taught at Woodbury University.

Then, Garland joined WET Design, a company that has handled many domestic and international water design projects, including the spectacular Fountains of Bellagio in Las Vegas.

In 2002, Garland launched

Water flows by a stairway at Myriad Gardens in Oklahoma City.





Fluidity Design Consultants Inc., which employs architects, designers and engineers.

“One of the lessons you can learn from someone like Jim is that careers often veer away from a linear path, and you are exposed to a very interesting parallel career,” Brooks said. “I think that happens to a lot of people in architecture, because architecture is all about design. Jim found that he was good at water design and fascinated by it, and is making huge contributions to the profession.”

One of Fluidity Design Consultants’ early projects was a water wall for UL Lafayette’s campus, between the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum and a replica of a 19th-century plantation house designed by Louisiana architect A. Hays Town.

The major component of that water wall is granite, a durable material chosen because flowing water is abrasive.

A computer controls the water’s movement.

Michael McClure, associate dean of the University’s College of the Arts, is an architect who has made water a focal point of his work and study.

McClure said water is a flowing natural resource, but it has always been the foundation of architectural design.

“The history of architecture is the history of water. People build, and they are either trying to get away from water, or closer to it,” McClure said.

“It’s part of our DNA, our psyche, but, beyond that, it’s just very appealing. With water, you can’t separate poetic from practical, art from science.” ■

Opposite page: Beads of water fall inside a Dubai Festival City building. Right: Screens of jets rise and fall in this fountain at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, Calif. Below: Roppongi Hills in Tokyo, a new urban center, is one of Japan's largest integrated property developments.



Ragin' Curiosity

Photography by Doug Dugas
Illustration by Courtney Fuller



“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”
Author Zora Neale Hurston nailed it with that observation. Whether research is conducted in a shiny, sterile lab or requires tramping through a smelly swamp, it begins with a question.
Take a look at what five UL Lafayette students want to know.

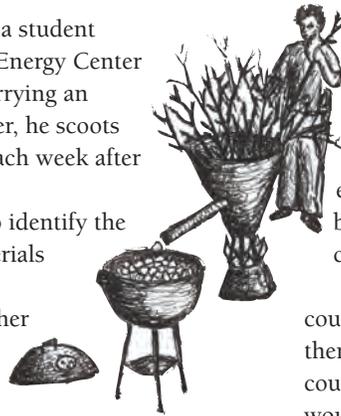
I wonder *if...*

John Pippins III, a chemical engineering major, looks at the stuff a lawnmower spits out differently than most people.

Instead of grass clippings or bits of leaves and branches, Pippins, 19, of Lafayette, sees potential fuel and energy.

He's conducting research as a student worker at the Cleco Alternative Energy Center in Crowley, La. Although he's carrying an 18-hour course load this semester, he scoots over to the center several days each week after class.

He's working on a project to identify the most efficient methods and materials for converting biomass—wood, plants, agricultural waste and other vegetation—into small, dense, coal-like lumps packed with energy.



To do that, Pippins implements a process called torrefaction. He piles biomass into a special furnace, exposing it to high temperatures, which alters the chemical composition of wood or plant matter and strips it of water without combustion.

The result is a material that burns cleanly, producing less volatile gases, and resists decomposing.

“Almost any type of plant or wood can be turned into torrefied biomass,” said Pippins, who's experimenting with several, including pine, willow and bagasse, the dry fibrous material left over after sugar cane juice has been extracted from the stalk.

“It would be very interesting to go to a Third World country and use alternative energies there, because a lot of them don't even have traditional energy sources yet. If you could find a way to develop alternative energy there, that would be really cool.”



Raul Viera, left
John Pippins III, right

I wonder *how...*

Nicholas Lipari is using 3-D technology to make big data useful.

He's working on a project for the national Center for Visual and Decision Informatics, a collaborative effort of UL Lafayette, Drexel University, the National Science Foundation and industry.

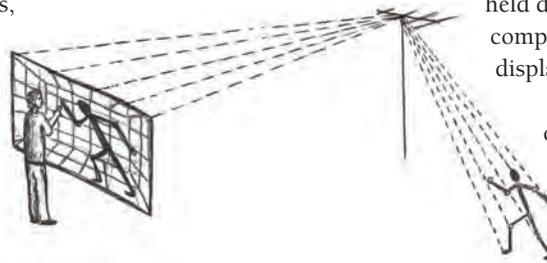
Lipari, who's pursuing a doctorate in computer science, is using data collected when Hurricane Isaac made landfall in Louisiana in August 2012. Sensors, installed on levees in and around New Orleans, recorded water levels as the storm moved inland.

His goal is to create a way to monitor real-time data, so the user can make decisions based on that information.

"We've become accustomed to using a computer keyboard or mouse in relation to a 2-D display. But we haven't worked out the conventions of the 3-D environment. It's sort of like the difference between driving a car and flying a helicopter, and obviously, it takes a lot of training to be able to fly a helicopter. We're working to create an intuitive way to manipulate information in a 3-D world," Lipari said.

He is writing software to enable people to use hand-held devices, such as smart phones or computer tablets, to interact with a 3-D display.

"We also want to take advantage of affordable, widely available components, such as 3-D televisions," he added.



Nicholas Lipari

I wonder *why...*



Why are the eggs of alligators in the wild more likely to hatch than those of farmed-raised gators? Ashley Picou Mikolajczyk is studying alligator egg yolks to find out.

“In the wild, a fertilized egg is almost guaranteed to hatch,” she said. Studies suggest that about 95 percent of eggs hatch in the wild, compared to about 50 percent among captive animals.

Mikolajczyk, who’s pursuing a doctorate in chemical engineering, is comparing the fatty-acid profiles of eggs laid in the wild with those from captive alligators.

She measures a gram of yolk from each egg and uses a gas chromatography/mass spectrometry machine to separate the fatty acids. The machine forces the yolk sample through a narrow tube — roughly the diameter of a sewing needle — and breaks the material into its molecular components. It then “reads” the molecular chains of fatty acids.

In addition to comparing egg yolks from wild and captive animals, she is also comparing eggs from two groups of farm-raised alligators. One group was fed typical commercial food, the other was given commercial food fortified with fish oil.

“I’m trying to determine whether there is a statistical difference that may indicate whether the enhanced food improved hatch rates,” she explained.

The development of better commercial food could improve hatch rates for farmers and be used in the conservation of related species that are threatened and/or endangered, such as some crocodiles.



Ashley Picou Mikolajczyk

I wonder *where...*

Akinjide Akintunde's research involves infrasound, which is sound typically produced by earthquakes, volcanoes, storms, and explosions whose frequencies are too low to be heard by humans.

"Infrasounds have long wavelengths, and travel long distances with little loss of energy due to their low frequencies.

My interest in this study is due to potential effect it might have on enhancing our ability to forecast natural disasters, such as avalanches, volcanoes and earthquakes, as these phenomena have a way of announcing their impending arrival through inaudible sounds," he said.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization has positioned many infrasound sensors all over the planet to monitor clandestine nuclear tests.

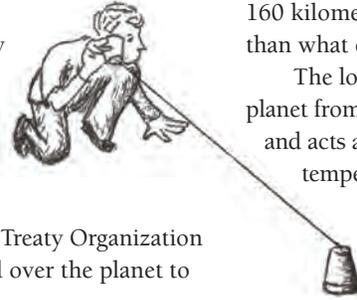
An infrasound signal produced by a nuclear explosion reaches those sensors via several paths. One is a direct, "line of sight" path. Others are indirect paths because they are created

when the infrasound signal is reflected from different layers of the atmosphere, such as the troposphere, stratosphere, and thermosphere.

In typical measured waveforms, the signals identified as arriving from the lower thermosphere, which is about 85 to 160 kilometers above Earth's surface, are consistently stronger than what current models predict.

The lower thermosphere is critical because it shields the planet from solar X-rays and ultraviolet radiation, recycles water, and acts as thermal buffer that ensures a moderate surface temperature.

The objective of Akintunde's project is to develop a theoretical model that can better predict the amount of energy lost by infrasonic waves in the thermosphere. That model could help scientists more accurately measure the sources of infrasound (such as nuclear blasts, meteorites, and volcanic eruptions) and also monitor the "health" of Earth's thermosphere.



Akinjide Akintunde, left, and Dr. Andi Petculescu, assistant professor of physics

I wonder *when...*



Earth seems overdue for geomagnetic reversal, which happens when the orientation of its magnetic field flips: magnetic north and south switch places.

On average, this happens every 200,000 to 300,000 years, but it has been more than twice that long — about 780,000 years — since the last reversal.

Because the magnetic field determines the magnetization of sediment as it is deposited, past reversals are recorded in the geologic strata.

Fatemeh Karbalaie Saleh, who is pursuing a master's degree in physics, is conducting research that may shed light on the reversal process. She is analyzing sediment samples from South Dakota that are made up of sandstones, limestones, silt and clay.

Dr. Natalia Sidorovskaia, a professor of physics and head of the Department of Physics, is her advisor. "The reversal process is not well understood," said Sidorovskaia.

"The work Fatemeh is doing may give us a better understanding of how the Earth evolves."

At the Louisiana Accelerator Center on UL Lafayette's campus, Saleh uses a machine that shoots a stream of protons, charged subatomic particles, at the sediment samples. The protons interact with the material to reveal what elements, such as iron, it contains.

Her research has a broad range of applications, including discovering natural resources, such as oil and gas, and understanding climate change. It also can be used to study coastal erosion and restoration in the Gulf Coast region. ■



Fatemeh Karbalaie Saleh



GOOD AS GOLD

CAJUNS' PAYTON ENJOYS WHIRLWIND YEAR

BY BRUCE BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG DUGAS

After two years as point guard with the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns, Elfrid Payton knew he was making progress as a major college basketball player.

Now, after earning a gold medal as a member of the triumphant United States team in last summer's FIBA U19 World Championships, Payton also knows he can take the court against some of the best players in the world.

A helpful word from Cajun coach Bob Marlin helped Payton to get his foot in the door, the last player invited to try out for the USA team coached by Billy Donovan, and he made the most of the opportunity.

Payton not only made the squad, but played in all nine contests and was the starting point guard by the time the USA met Serbia in the championship finals.

"I was trying to get into (summer) camps, and it just wasn't working out," Payton said. "Then it hit him (Marlin) that I was still just 19 – I started (school) early – and the trials were coming up.

"It was an opportunity to present myself. I was one of 26 to try out, and the only one from a mid-major. I just needed a shot to prove myself."



Any doubts were soon quieted by Donovan.

"My second day there, coach Donovan called me to the side and said, 'We know you can play point guard; we'd like to see you do other things, too,' " Payton said. "We were in 5-on-5 drills, for the most part, and he said, 'This is a big day for you.'

"That's when I knew I had a legitimate chance to make the team."

Payton had game. He also already had a passport, after starting the summer in China as a member of a Fellowship of Christian Athletes tour to "talk about the Bible and play a few games."

By the time the World Championship tournament began, Payton had earned his place among talented teammates.

He averaged 6.1 points, 2.1 assists, 2.3 steals and 2.3 rebounds per game, hitting 57 percent of his shots from the floor and making 9-of-10 free throws. In the 82-68 title game victory over Serbia, he had 9 points, 6 assists and 5 steals.

That championship game, in which a 13-1 surge widened the Americans' lead from 57-53 to 70-54, was one of the few close ones. The USA flattened nine foes in 11 days by an average of 39 points per game, including 32 per game in three medal round contests.

“Serbia was the only team that really gave us any competition,” said Payton, who also helped dispense Serbia 71-62 in pool play. “The other teams were talented, but we had depth to go full court with everyone and just wore them down.

“There were no egos on the team. We all just wanted to win. Nobody cared about minutes played. Everybody had the same team goal. Our minutes were all the same. We were blowing everybody out.

“Billy (Donovan) did a good job of staying on us, telling us each game will get harder.”

The experience helped to accelerate the maturation process for Payton.

“There were a lot of good leaders on the team, and I think that rubbed off on me,” he said. “There were some great

basketball minds there, and the coaches gave us some good little speeches.

“It was a good, insightful trip.”

Payton learned to adapt to different playing styles, different styles of officiating, different food and jet lag. Perhaps just as important, others have learned about him.

“This opened doors for Elfrid,” said Marlin, who is in his fourth

year at the helm and is counting on Payton to lead the Cajuns. “It was a productive opportunity for him.

“He’s not anonymous any more. I’ve heard from a number of NBA teams. They’re really going to watch him and focus on what he does for the next two years. He’s on their radar now. They’re going to track him.

“They like what they’ve seen.”

Others are learning what Marlin already knew, that Payton takes all challenges head-on.

“He has answered the bell every time his name has been called,” Marlin said. “He’s been used to ‘playing up’ his whole life. He is the most opportunistic guy I’ve ever coached. He has the mental makeup to make his dreams come true.

“He creates opportunities for all of us. He can see his defender, and the other defenders, too. Magic Johnson had that ability.

“He’s got to get his shooting percentage up, and keep it up. That’s what scouts want to see. And, he will. You can see how he leads the team. He’s already a great lead guard with his defense and ball handling.”

Payton started 11 of 32 games as a freshman at UL Lafayette, averaging 7.2 points, 3.6 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.16 steals per game.

He improved dramatically in 2012-13 and started in all 33 games.

Payton was the only player in the nation to average 15 points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals per game. He ranked 12th nationally in steals.

The point guard ranks third in school history with 80 steals in a year and fourth in school history with 181 assists in a year.

As expected, his performance as a sophomore earned Payton UL Lafayette’s Most Outstanding Player of the Year

and the Beryl Shipley Leadership Award. Shipley led the Cajuns in the 1960s and 1970s; he was the first coach to integrate a major sports team at a large public university in the Deep South.

Payton was named to the 2013 Lou Henson Preseason All-America team. That accolade is presented annually to the top mid-major basketball players in the country by Insider.com. It’s named in honor one of only 12 coaches in the history of the game to take two schools to the Final Four.

The national and school records and awards hint at more progress to come, and Payton’s not remotely satisfied yet.

“I want to improve my free throw percentage,” Payton said. “I want to better my shot – my mid-range shooting, let alone my three-pointers. I want to stretch my range even more.

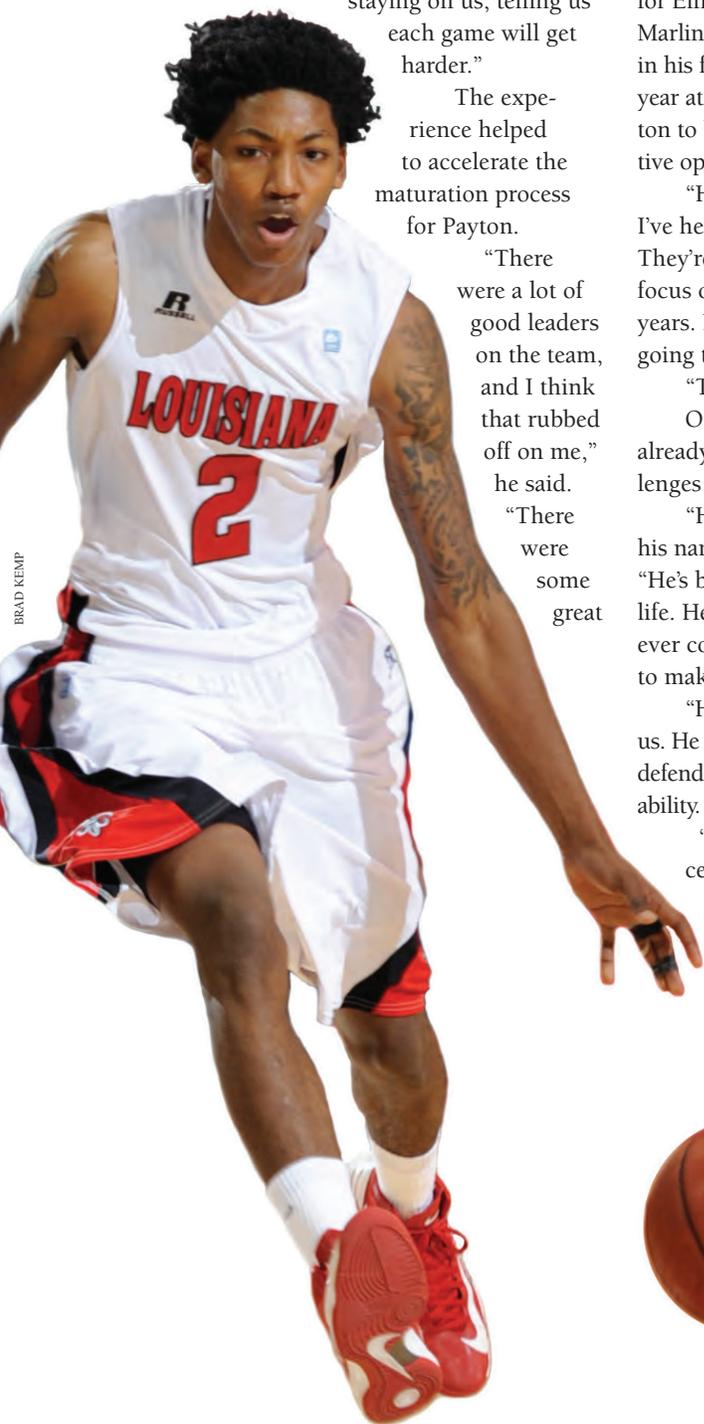
“I want to do a good job in the paint, and look for more opportunities for the big men and for our other shooters. My defense has gotten better.”

The Gretna, La., native made a splashy debut in the Cajundome before he ever wore a UL Lafayette uniform, pouring in 23 points for John Ehret High School in a semifinal loss to eventual champion Scotlandville High in the LH-SAA Top 28 Tournament.

“That was disappointing,” he recalls. “That was a game we felt we should have won.”

The Ehret defeat did nothing to change Marlin’s opinion of Payton, whose father, Elfrid, was a 2010 inductee into the Canadian Football League Hall of Fame after a stellar career as an intimidating linebacker.

“HE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF US. HE CAN SEE HIS DEFENDER, AND THE OTHER DEFENDERS, TOO. MAGIC JOHNSON HAD THAT ABILITY.”
COACH BOB MARLIN



BRAD KEMP

In fact, Canada was Payton's only travel abroad until this year, which was capped early in the fall semester with a Cajun team trip to Spain.

"We spent two or three weeks there," Payton said. "It was an important trip for bonding and team chemistry. It's good to know this person is for you, that if you mess up, he'll help you. Our gold medal team had that.

"That was good for us. That was something that Coach really pushed for."

Marlin said his team managed to get in 10 practices and "was able to play some games, but the travel and bonding were the most important part.

"We learned a lot about each other," he said.

In a revealing exercise, each member of the 33-person travel party shared his or her five H's – history, heartache, highlight, hero and hope – with the others.

"It's one of the best things I've ever done as a coach," Marlin said.

It ranks right up there with signing Elfrid Payton and watching him mature into a Cajun leader with a World Championship, Gold Medal pedigree.



BRAD KEMP

PERSONAL

- Born Feb. 22, 1994, in Gretna, La.
- Son of Elfrid and Danielle Payton
- Second of six children; has five sisters, Courtney, Ashley, Shamyra, Erin and Brianna
- Education major

2011-12

- One of the top reserves on the team, seeing action in all 32 games with 11 starts
- Led the team with 97 assists, an average of three per game
- Averaged 7.2 points and 3.6 rebounds a game
- Led the team with 37 steals
- Scored in double figures eight times, including three as a starter

2012-13

- Only player in the nation to average 15 points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals per game
- Ranked 12th nationally in steals
- Named UL Lafayette's Most Outstanding Player of the Year
- Received the Beryl Shipley Leadership Award
- Named to the Lou Henson All-America Team
- Earned the Cajuns' Academic Achievement Award
- Named to All-Sun Belt Conference team
- Received second team All-Louisiana honors
- Led the Sun Belt Conference in steals and assists
- Ranks third in school history with 80 steals in a year
- Ranks fourth in school history with 181 assists in a year



Game On

Fan live tweets scores and updates for Cajuns

BY JARED PERRIO

Did you kneux that today in 1971, Cajun Field opened with a win over Santa Clara 21-0?”

Craig Melancon, '88, did. He tweeted it on Sept. 25 from his CajunFan11 Twitter account, which reports tidbits on Ragin' Cajun athletics, such as upcoming contests and game scores.

“It really started in the spring of 2012. I wanted to bring some excitement to the softball team, which was and is nationally ranked,” said the 49-year-old alumnus.

More than 8,500 tweets later, CajunFan11 has become a reliable source of social media bulletins for Ragin' Cajun athletics. A popular feature of the feed, Melancon said, is the in-game score update, which he has voluntarily tweeted for football, softball, baseball, soccer, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, tennis and golf, sometimes covering multiple games at once.

“For softball, it's probably about 30 or 40 tweets a game. It's the same thing for basketball. With football, sometimes I get a little sidetracked with tailgating,” he said.

Twitter messages, or tweets, are limited to 140 characters, making them short, public text messages. Melancon said he chose the Twitter medium because of its growing popularity and its ease of use on a cell phone, which is needed for his quick updates during games.

Following the 2012 softball season, Melancon said he received so much positive feedback that he expanded CajunFan11's focus to include other Ragin' Cajun sports.

“I felt like I had to keep

going. I don't know if I ever expected to do something like this, but now it's turned into something that I enjoy.”

Sallie Guillory, associate head coach for UL Lafayette's women's basketball team, said she appreciates the encouraging effect of Melancon's messages. “He recognizes student-athletes, not just if they score 20 points, but if they earn an academic award or if they do something good in the community or just for working hard every day for this university,” she said.

In addition to having season tickets for the University's major sports, Melancon is a member of the Alumni Association, Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation, Quarterback Club, Rebounders Club and Diamond Club.

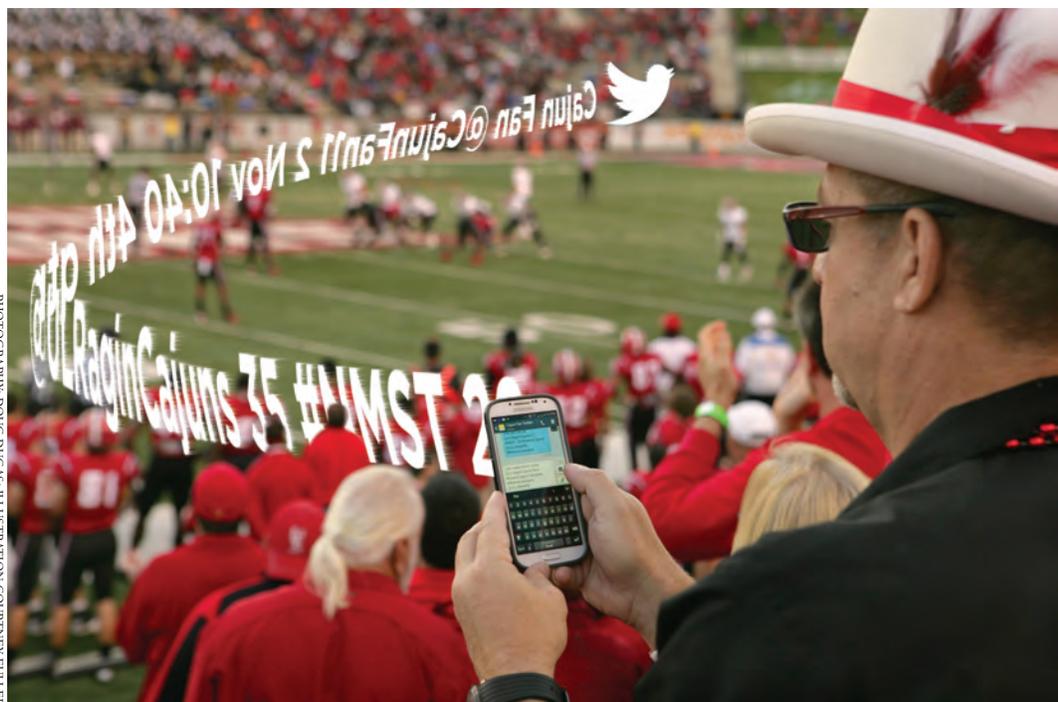
He holds a bachelor's degree in general studies and works for CoStreet Communications in Lafayette.

Melancon said the CajunFan11 Twitter feed represents the University's passionately loyal and welcoming fan base.

“I try not to do anything political or demeaning toward the other team. I'm just making sure that everybody can see what's going on.”



DOUG DUGAS



PHOTOGRAPHY: DOUG DUGAS; ILLUSTRATION: COURTNEY FULLER

Craig Melancon keeps followers informed during the Ragin' Cajuns' Homecoming victory.

Ragin' Cajuns' graduation rate leads Louisiana and Sun Belt

UL Lafayette's student-athletes have a higher graduation rate – 75 percent – than peers in Louisiana and the Sun Belt Conference.

That distinction is cited in an NCAA Graduation Rates Report released in October.

Western Kentucky has the second-highest student-athlete graduation rate, 70 percent, in the Sun Belt Conference, while the University of New Orleans' 73 percent graduation rate for student-athletes is second highest in Louisiana.

The NCAA report tracks the federal graduation rate, which is the number of student-athletes receiving athletics-related financial aid who enter an institution in a specific academic year and graduate from the same institution within six academic years. Athletics aid is a grant, scholarship, tuition waiver or other financial assistance from a college or university that is awarded on the basis of a student's athletic ability.

The report covers all University students who enrolled in 2006 and graduated by August 2012.

Dr. Jessica Leger, associate athletic director at UL Lafayette, said the high graduation rate is "a testament to the academic commitment demonstrated daily by our student-athletes, coaches and staff.

"The mission of the athletics department is to see our student-athletes graduate and working toward that goal is the focal point of everything that we do."

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has one of the highest overall graduation rates in the state: 44 percent.

The NCAA Graduation Rates Report also includes the student-athlete graduation success rate. The GSR accounts for student-athletes who received athletics-related financial aid who transfer into an institution. It does not penalize institutions that have student-athletes who choose to transfer out while still in good academic standing.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has a GSR of 74 percent and a class average of 61 percent.

A number of variables may impact

student-athlete graduation rates, such as professional opportunities, coaching staff changes, and student-athletes in good academic standing who choose to leave school early.

The NCAA keeps track of graduation statistics for students who receive athletics-related financial aid in one or more of eight sports categories: football, men's basketball, baseball, men's track/cross country, men's other sports and mixed sports, women's basketball, women's track/cross country and other women's sports.

More than 50 percent of Louisiana Ragin' Cajun student-athletes achieved a 3.0 GPA or above for the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters.

Women's basketball and men's basketball posted their highest recorded team grades for the Spring 2013 semester, with 3.1 and 2.9 GPAs respectively. The golf team earned a 3.34 GPA for Spring 2013, which beat the record it set for the Fall 2012 semester.

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Dream Job

State archivist credits research at Dupré Library for opportunity

Dr. Florent Hardy Jr.'s explanation for his role in Louisiana's history is simple.

"I'm a believer in fate. The older I get, the more I believe in fate," he summarized during a visit to his alma mater in October.

He recalled that he was working in the then-budding Louisiana Community and Technical College System in 1999 when a friend placed a job application for state archivist on his desk. "Dr. Hardy, this is *you*," she said emphatically, as she urged him to apply for the post.

The timing of the job opportunity, and her prompting, are plausible support for the theory that his professional journey has been steered by a supernatural force.

And, a review of his family ties and career shows that Hardy probably could not have scripted a background more

suitable for the keeper of Louisiana's public documents and artifacts.

But the concept of fate doesn't take into account a huge reason for the state archivist's positive impact: hard work.

His exhaustive résumé is a testament to a high-energy work ethic and remarkable attention to detail. Since taking office in 2000, for example, he has made more than 120 presentations to groups and visited archives in six other states. He has welcomed guests to the State Archives from every state in the nation, two territories and many other countries. He's a member or officer of numerous state and national professional or service organizations.

Hardy grew up in Cecilia, La. His maternal grandfather was Drauzin Angelle, a constable and deputy sheriff, who is described in *A Dictionary of Louisiana Biography* as a Democratic power broker

in St. Martin Parish during much of the first half of the 20th century.

Hardy's brother, Paul, was lieutenant governor of Louisiana from 1988 to 1992.

And, his late mother was Agnes Angelle Hardy, '28. Angelle Hall on campus was named for her brother, Bob Angelle, who was a Democratic member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1934 to 1964 and House Speaker from 1957 to 1960.

Hardy recounted an anecdote about the building's origin:

Bob Angelle was attending a luncheon in his honor by Dr. Joel Fletcher, then-president of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now known as UL Lafayette.) "During the luncheon, President Fletcher joked: 'We surely do need a music building.' My uncle said, 'Give me a minute,' and went and called



DOUG BURGAS

State Archivist Dr. Florent Hardy Jr. conducted research for his master's thesis in Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus.

Baton Rouge. He came back and announced that USL just got the money for a music building.”

Florent Hardy earned a bachelor's degree in political science/history in 1966, with a minor in French, from USL. He was a member of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity. Walking past Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel on campus brought back memories. “Every Sunday, for 11 o'clock Mass, our fraternity would wear blazers and attend Mass as a group. That was impressive,” he recalled. He keeps in touch with his fraternity brothers; they have lunch in New Orleans once a year.

As a USL student, Hardy attended every home football game at McNaspy Stadium and went to track meets to watch his brother compete in the high jump.

Hardy earned a bachelor's degree in three years. While pursuing a master's degree in history at USL, he took an American history seminar that required an extensive research paper. The paper he wrote, which chronicled the University's history, became the foundation of his master's thesis.

He spent two years conducting research at Edith Garland Dupré Library and received a master's degree. His master's thesis, “A Brief History of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1900-1960,” was published by Claitor's Bookstore in 1973.

Hardy also earned a bachelor's of social studies education in 1972 from USL and a doctor of philosophy in secondary education, with a minor in history, from LSU in 1974.

He began his career as a teacher in Breaux Bridge, La., and describes that time as “some of the happiest days of my life.” After teaching for several years, he was employed by the Louisiana Department of Education for over 20 years and the community and technical college system for about a year before being named state archivist in 2000. Hardy believes the experience gained while conducting in-depth research in Dupré Library helped him land that position.

The State Archives is a division of the Louisiana Secretary of State's office. Secretary of State Ted Schedler graduated from UL Lafayette in 1971.

The state legislature created the Louisiana State Archives in 1956 to be the official repository for the state's historical records.

One of Hardy's first major tasks as state archivist was renovating the State Archives building. The \$1.5 million project was completed in 2003.

Dr. Florent Hardy frequently talks to groups about what the Louisiana State Archives offers, which ranges from access to historical records to changing art exhibitions.

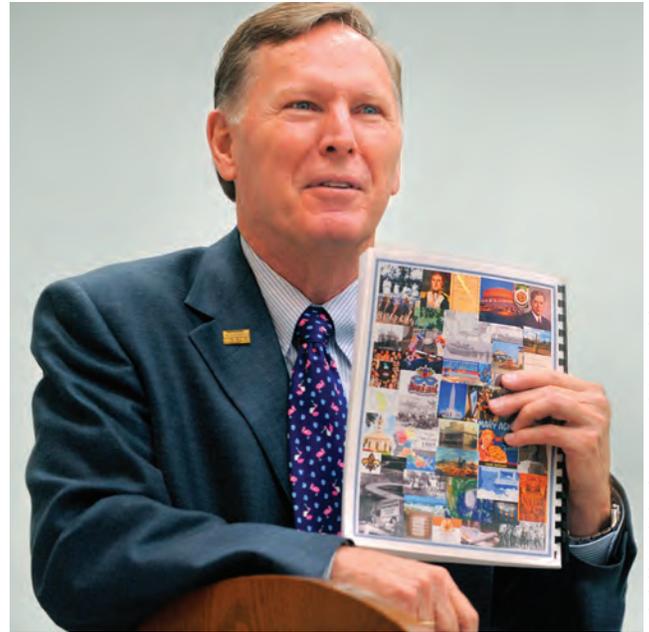


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BALLANCE/THE ADVOCATE

Over the years, he has expanded accessibility to archival collections and worked to raise public awareness of the State Archives.

Hardy noted that interest in historic documents has grown, as more people pursue genealogy. “Now, many people come to the State Archives to research ancestors' medical history,” he observed.

Under his leadership, the Louisiana State Archives was voted one of the hidden gems of the state's art community by *Southern Living Magazine*. It was named one of the 101 Best Web Sites for Genealogy by *Family Tree Magazine*.

One of the Louisiana Archives' biggest challenges has been dealing with the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which damaged or destroyed countless public documents in south Louisiana in 2005.

Soon after Lake Pontchartrain breached levees that encircle New Orleans, inundating the Crescent City with filthy, toxic water, Hardy received a call from a Louisiana Supreme Court official. The courthouse is in the heart of the French Quarter, just steps away from St. Louis Cathedral. “Their records were all in the basement and it flooded. So, they called and said, ‘Don't worry, Dr. Hardy, we're getting all of that out.’ I said, ‘Don't touch it because the ink will run!’” He encouraged the official to hire a firm that specializes in document rescue and restoration, rather than risk further damage.

The State Archives has a lab where a conservator uses the latest in preservation

techniques to extend the life of historical treasures. It's also a source of information about the preservation, protection and recovery of valuable documents.

A gallery at the State Archives is used to display rare documents, photos, artifacts and to host art exhibits.

The Secretary of State's Multimedia Archives collects and preserves film about Louisiana and gathers oral histories. Its Records Management program helps agencies comply with state laws regarding the retention, storage and disposal of public documents.

Although Hardy hasn't lived in Lafayette since he was a USL student, he remains a loyal supporter of the University. “Every time I come to Lafayette, I try to drive by to see the campus and how it's grown,” he said. When the Ragin' Cajuns' competed in the New Orleans Bowl in 2012, a previous commitment kept him from attending the championship game. But he traveled to the Superdome beforehand to celebrate the occasion with other Cajuns' fans and friends.

He said he enjoys telling others about what UL Lafayette offers, from academic programs to exciting athletic competitions.

“Someone asked me what my dream job would be. I have the dream job as state archivist. Another dream job would be to serve as one of the people who goes to high schools to recruit students to come to UL Lafayette. That would be my dream job,” he said.

alumni

1969

JAMES F. MCKAY III was inducted as chief judge of Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal earlier this year. In March, he was honored as "Hibernian of the Year" by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Louisiana, an Irish Catholic organization. McKay attended USL on a football scholarship and



earned a bachelor's degree in history. He and his wife, **MARIE SONIAT MCKAY, '70**, have four children and five grandchildren.

1972

CAMILLA "MOLLY" HUNT COLE recently published her second book, *LongShadows*, a mystery set in Louisiana. *Mesquite*, a biographical novel, was published in 2012. In 2004, she retired from the Coping Skills Development Center in Lafayette, where she was a licensed professional counselor. Cole holds a bachelor's

degree in psychology and a master's degree in English from USL. She also earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Texas Christian University. She and her husband, Jimmie Cole, have three children, Dean, Cathy and James.

1977

RODERICK "ROD" FUSELIER is a communications specialist at Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in Lafayette. He is also a certified National Weather Service aviation weather observer for the company. Fuselier also has had a career in

commercial radio, working for stations in Lafayette and Opelousas for more than 25 years. He is a Cajun musician who plays accordion, fiddle, rhythm guitar and drums. He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication.

1980

DAWN GARY retired in August, after 33 years as a teacher at Paul Breaux Middle School, Youngsville Middle School and Acadiana High School. In 2011, she was chosen Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Lafayette Education Foundation. In 2007,

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the Lafayette Parish School Board named her Lafayette Parish Middle School Teacher of the Year. The national Association for Career and Technical Education selected her as the Outstanding Teacher in Community Service in 2006. Gary holds a bachelor's degree in vocational home economics education and a master's degree in home economics education from USL. She and her husband, Ray, have four children, Justin, Danaé, Jake and Jaret.

1982

GERVY PAPION is a State Farm Insurance agent in Belle Chasse, La. He was a member of USL's track and

cross-country teams, and earned all-conference honors. He set a university record for the 1,500-meter dash. Papiion holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and also earned an MBA from Tulane University. He and his wife, Gaynell, have one child, Taylor.

1990

DONNA RHORER is interim associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She holds a doctorate in English from UL Lafayette. She also has a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Louisiana State University and a master's degree in

English from ULM. Rhorer and her husband, Per Kjeldaas, have two children, John and Mary.

1991

A piece of art created by **SHAWNE MAJOR** titled *L'Argent*, was recently added to the permanent collection of the Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C. The gallery houses the Smithsonian American Art Museum's craft and decorative art program. Major, who earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts in painting from USL, also holds a master's degree in visual arts from Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her artwork features layers of objects.

1992

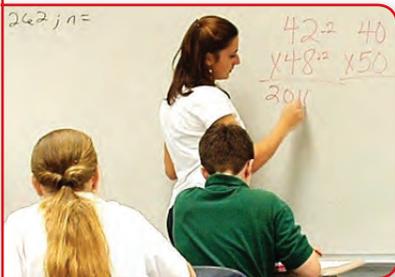
DENISE GALLAGHER recently opened Denise Gallagher Design and



Illustration. Her work has been displayed in museums and galleries in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Baton Rouge and

Lafayette. It has been recognized by the American Advertising Federation, *Print* magazine, *Communication Arts* magazine, the Society of Illustrators Los Angeles and the Society of Illustrators New York. Most recently,

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BUSINESS NAME

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AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER UL LAFAYETTE STUDENT

CHILDREN

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CURRENT DATE

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it was included in *Communication Arts Magazine's* 2013 Illustration Annual. She has been a frequent contributor to *La Louisiane*.

MARY RYDER was named president-elect of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in Houston. She will serve a one-year term before becoming president of the second-largest council in the country. Ryder became involved with the organization in 2005 as a member of a team of women who raised \$3.65 million in 365 days to reach a capital campaign goal. She is senior vice president and chief of staff to the CEO at Cadence-Bancorp LLC. Ryder holds an MBA from UL Lafayette and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of New Mexico. She is married to John Ryder.

1993

HEATHER ANNULIS is a professor of human capital development and director of the Master of Science in Workforce Development Program at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast. She holds a bachelor's degree in general studies and a master's degree in communication from UL Lafayette. Annulis received a doctorate in international development from the University of Southern Mississippi. She and her husband, **KEITH ANNULIS, '91**, a former Ragin' Cajun football player, live in Pass Christian, Miss. They have a daughter, C.C.

1994

A book of short stories written by **JOHN HENRY FLEMING** will be published in March 2014. *Songs for the Deaf* is his third book of fiction. He holds a doctorate in English/creative writing from UL Lafayette.

1995

TRAVIS ARMAND teaches special education at Avoyelles High School. He holds a bachelor's

degree in political science from UL Lafayette. Armand has been a member of the Bunkie, La., City Council since 2000. He is an executive board member of the George Washington Carver Community Center in Bunkie. He is married to Sarah Armand.

Actor **DANIEL SUNJATA** is starring in *Graceland*, a television series that debuted on the USA Network this summer and has been renewed for a second season. He is perhaps best known for his seven-year run as firefighter Franco Rivera on the television series *Rescue Me*. Sunjata was nominated for a Tony Award in 2003 for his performance in *Take Me Out*. He holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in fine arts from the Graduate Acting Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He appeared in productions such as *A Soldier's Story* and *The Crucible* while enrolled at the University, where he was known by his full name, Daniel Sunjata Condon.

2001

CLARE LANDRENEAU was recently promoted to vice president of Hibernia Bank, in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. She has been employed by that company since



2006; she most recently was an assistant vice president there. Landreneau holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from UL Lafayette.

2012

BRITTANY WILTZ is marketing director for Coccolare Spa in Lafayette. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations.

In Memoriam

RAYMOND LEE GIVENS, '36, died May 16, 2013. He was 98. Givens was a teacher and principal in Lakeland, Fla., for 22 years. He received degrees from Southwestern Louisiana Institute and the University of Texas. Givens is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marjorie Givens; two daughters; and four grandchildren.

LUCILLE DUFOUR COUVILLION, '44, died March 18, 2013, in Cottonport, La. She was 89. While a teacher and coach at Cottonport High School from 1945 to 1973, she coached seven state championship tennis teams. As state chairman and state basketball chairman for the Louisiana Division of Girls' and Women's Sports, she helped establish the Girls' Sweet Sixteen Basketball Tournament in 1958. Couvillion was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1963. She held a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation. In 1981, Couvillion earned the Outstanding Alumnus Award, Classes 1944-1946, presented by the University's Department of Health and Physical Education. She is survived by a son, **CORNEL J. COUVILLION,**

'73, a sister; a granddaughter; and a great-grandson. She was preceded in death by Clifford J. Couvillion, her husband of 61 years.

MARTHA FUSILIER MAGRUDER, '56, of Mandeville, La., died Jan. 10, 2013, at the age of 77. She held a nursing degree from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Magruder was a registered nurse at Ochsner Foundation Hospital and Southeast Louisiana Hospital and later became an infectious disease control nurse/consultant. She taught psychiatric nursing classes at SLI. Magruder is survived by two sons, Ian G. Magruder and Lloyd M. "Trey" Magruder III; a daughter, **SUSAN MAGRUDER HOEY, '86**; and three sisters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Lloyd M. "Mack" Magruder Jr., and a brother.

ADRIA BAKER PIERCE ZEA, '71, died May 31, 2013, at the age of 76. She held a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL and taught third and fourth grades at Youngsville Elementary School from 1971 to 1977. She is survived by her husband, William Zea, and three children, Chris Pierce, **DEANNA L. PIERCE, '84**, and Danita Broussard.

RODNEY JOSEPH TRAHAN SR., '74, '75, died Dec. 10, 2012, in Lafayette. He was 84. Trahan served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Trahan earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from USL. He taught at Rayne High School, USL, and Mire Elementary and was an Acadia Parish School Board member for 12 years. He is survived by his wife, **JANICE LEJEUNE TRAHAN, '70**; three daughters, Ava Kiker, **DANA DUPRE STURIS, '87**, and Claire Meche; two sons, Rodney Trahan Jr. and Nicholas Trahan; and 11 grandchildren.

Professional photographer **JOHN CLAY CHIASSON, '76**, died Aug. 17, 2013, in Nashville. He was 60. His photographs appeared in many publications, including the *New York Times*, *Time* and *Newsweek*.



After earning a bachelor's of fine arts degree, he joined the Peace Corps and traveled to Africa. He taught

English to fourth- and fifth-graders in Burkina Faso, and later explored the continent. Chiasson was a West African correspondent for Gamma Liaison photo agency. His book, *African Journey*, featured photographs of his travels. He is survived by his wife, Maureen Bare Chiasson of Nashville; three sisters, **JILL JORDAN, '76**, **GAY HOPKINS, '81**, and Julie Chiasson; and two brothers, **MATT CHIASSON, '88**, and **BRUCE CHIASSON, '90**.

CARL BAUER, who lobbied on behalf of UL Lafayette for many years and helped establish Acadiana as an officially recognized cultural region, died June 11, 2013. He was 79. Bauer



served as a state representative from 1966-1972 and in the Louisiana Senate from 1972-76. He held several University positions, including coordinator of governmental relations, and retired in 2010. Bauer is survived by his wife of 33 years, **MARY JANE BAUER, '76**; six children; and eight grandchildren.

'Chilihead' intends to turn up the heat

Troy Primeaux, '09, wants to create the world's hottest pepper.

Peppers' spiciness, or pungency, is measured in heat units on the Scoville scale, which corresponds to how much capsaicin oil they contain. A cayenne pepper is about 40,000 SHU, while a habanero chili is between 100,000 and 350,000 SHU.

Primeaux is aiming toward the top end of the scale. "It's believed that the hottest peppers may be about 2 million units," he said.

A self-professed "chilihead," Primeaux holds a bachelor's degree in sustainable agriculture/horticulture from UL Lafayette. He works for his alma mater, conducting research for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

In 2005, Primeaux crossed two hot peppers, one from Malaysia and one from Trinidad. The

Scoville Units	Pepper Type
1,469,000	7-Pot Primo
200,000-350,000	Habanero
30,000-50,000	Cayenne
8,000-23,000	Serrano
5,000-8,000	Yellow Hot
3,500-8,000	Jalapeño
500-1,500	Chili Verde
500-750	Red Chili
0	Sweet Bells



result was a "gnarly-looking," gleaming red pepper that packs a punch: about 1.4 million SHU. Its name, 7-Pot Primo, suggests that one pepper is hot enough to season seven pots of food.

Primeaux is going back to those original varieties to create a new hybrid. The plants will be grown in UL Lafayette facilities; he'll seek a patent.

His new pepper may have a distinctive look.

Since the University's school colors are red and white, Primeaux will attempt to create a hot, white pepper.

That's dicey, because pungency is a dominant genetic trait in peppers, while color is recessive. "The heat typically takes a back seat to the color and vice versa," he explained.

"I'm confident I can make my 7-Pot Primo hotter, but making it white could prove a challenge. It's a challenge I'm looking forward to."

Hilliard Society

Arts patrons come together to support University Art Museum

Lance Harris wants to triple the gallery space at the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum on campus.

The museum's interim director has some devoted art lovers who are ready to help him get that project and others accomplished.

The Hilliard Museum Society was recently incorporated as a private nonprofit organization. A small group of founding members is already in place; it's composed of museum philanthropists and patrons of the arts.

"The role of the Hilliard Society will be to provide direct support to the museum and to help forward the vision of the museum, whether it's by creating educational programs, purchasing artwork or hosting fundraisers and preview parties," Harris said.

The Hilliard Society is named in honor of Paul and Lulu Hilliard, who made a lead gift in 2001 for the museum's construction.

Three officers will lead the Society. Joel Gooch is its president. He's a retired attorney who practiced with the firm of Allen & Gooch; he's also a past president of the UL Lafayette Foundation. Jeannie Kreamer, an artist and retired UL Lafayette faculty member, is vice president. Jenny Cole, an avid art museum supporter and community volunteer, serves as secretary and treasurer.

Museum objectives include completing the accreditation process with the American Alliance of Museums; expanding cooperative programming with University students and faculty; strengthening programs and educational opportunities for area K-12 students; and building relationships with museum supporters, donors and volunteers.



The new Hilliard Society's officers are, from left, Joel Gooch, president; Jenny Cole, secretary/treasurer; and Jeannie Kreamer, vice president.

The UL Lafayette Foundation will manage the fundraising group.

Julie Falgout, chief executive officer of the Foundation, said several generous individuals have stepped forward to help establish the Society.

"Members will provide a sustained and essential source of support, and will help ensure that the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum remains a social and cultural center of campus," she said.

Hilliard Society members will help steer growth and development by serving on committees for:

- membership;
- finance and strategic planning;
- marketing special events/fundraisers;
- education;
- planned giving/endowments; and
- art collection.

"It's wonderful to have this sort of support because the museum is a

valuable gem in the heart of Lafayette. It's a fabulous reflection of the sort of scholarship that happens on this campus," Falgout said.

"Some of the really neat things we have planned for the Society include a major social event, probably a concert on the lawn, the wine and food festival, a display of senior projects and a new lecture series."

University Art Museum has 11,000 square feet of gallery space for its permanent collection of 18th- through 21st-century European, Asian and American art and changing exhibitions of regional, national and international art.

The museum is only one component of a larger complex that includes the museum's original home, a stately, plantation-style building designed by Louisiana architect A. Hays Town.

The two buildings are linked by a plaza of Italian limestone.

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Jia Shan, a graduate student in petroleum engineering, poses in front of a giant blackboard that uses words and images to express the University's Ragin' Cajun spirit. The chalk art is the foundation of UL Lafayette's latest student recruitment campaign. It was created by Courtney Fuller, '98, graphic design specialist in the University's Office of Communications and Marketing. Thanks to time-lapse photography, viewers can watch the two-day process – from start to finish – in about a minute and a half. Just go to YouTube and search for "Find Your Ragin' Spirit."



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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 Fuller



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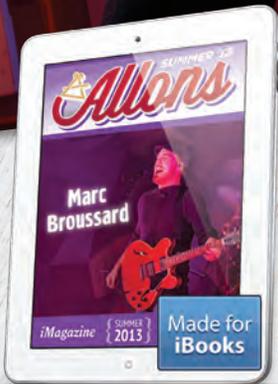
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