

La LOUISIANE

SPRING 2009

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

TRUE COLORS

25



WAYS UL LAFAYETTE
ENRICHES THE COMMUNITY



I never dreamed that Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California and a former Mr. Universe, would help me define *La Louisiane*.

For years, I've been trying to think of the perfect metaphor for this magazine. I believe that when UL Lafayette's students, faculty and staff open an issue, they should see themselves reflected in it. At the same time, the magazine should let other readers peek inside the university, so they can learn about some of the interesting people and projects here.

I was watching one of Schwarzenegger's comedies, "True Lies," recently. His character, Harry Tasker, has a double life. His wife, Helen, believes he's a mild-mannered computer salesman who must travel a lot. But Harry is actually a secret agent.

The movie's plot unfolds when Harry suspects Helen is having an affair. There's a scene in which he interrogates her without revealing his identity, using an audio filter to disguise his voice. A huge two-way mirror separates them. He can see her through the glass; she can only see her reflection.

That's when it hit me: *La Louisiane* is like a two-way mirror.

It's an especially fitting comparison for this issue. The cover story offers 25 ways that UL Lafayette, its students and faculty serve others. That number is almost arbitrary. It could have just as easily covered 50 or 500 ways.

Frankly, the cover story is an unabashed gimmick intended to inform or remind readers that the university is a huge force and resource in Acadiana and Louisiana. But you'll see many other articles about generous students, faculty and alumni. Here are some examples.

- Nursing student Amanda Noble provides prom dresses to girls who can't afford them.
- Graduate student Scott T. Walter is part of a research project that could ultimately help repopulate Louisiana's coast with brown pelicans. An article about his work is slated to appear in *National Geographic* magazine in August.
- Joseph Sonnier earned a bachelor's degree in education while working full time as an elementary school janitor in Port Barre, La. It took him eight years. Now he's a teacher in the same school and plans to become a school principal someday.

So, whether you're a student, faculty member or alum, or someone who is interested in what's going on at this university, we hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*. You may see yourself, or someone you know, on its pages.

– Kathleen Thames

RESEARCH

Into the Dark

Researchers shine a light in an unexplored world • *by Sarah Spell*



Dr. Scott France and graduate students Jana Thoma and Eric Pante take a closer look at freshly collected bubblegum coral. The trio, on board the F. G. Walton Smith, used a remotely operated submersible, the Global Explorer, to collect samples at a depth of almost 4,600 feet in the Bahamas.

LAURE CORBARI



DEEP ATLANTIC STEPPING STONES SCIENCE PARTY, IFE, URI-JAO, AND NOAA

THE DEEP. It is a place inhabited by fantastic creatures: fish with see-through heads and multi-directional eyes, giant sea spiders, polka-dotted squids. The ocean floor has its own geography, undersea mountain ranges and volcanoes, sloping hills, canyons and trenches. A seemingly infinite variety of corals occupy the seascape.

Branches of flamingo-colored corals reach out like gnarled, arthritic fingers. Corals that look like earthly fringe trees bear a profusion of frilly, lavender blossoms on dark, delicate stems.

A colony of *Paragorgia* grows more than a mile below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, southeast of Cape Cod, Mass. *Paragorgia* are also called bubblegum corals, because of their sometimes pinkish color and lumpy texture.

Yet, corals are not rocks or plants. They are living animals.

"It's a Dr. Seuss world down there," observed Dr. Scott France, a UL biology professor. He and three graduate students, Mercer Brugler, Eric Pante and Jana Thoma, are pioneers in one of the world's last frontiers.

"We are explorers, going places where no one has gone before and finding new species," said France.

The oceans are vast, covering more than 70 percent of the earth's surface. The sea is dark, deep, cold and highly pressurized. Using even the best available equipment, submersibles called remotely operated vehicles or ROVs, fitted with lights and cameras, scientists can only explore a tiny bit of the deep sea at a time. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 95 percent of the world's oceans remain unexplored.

France, Pante and Thoma recently got a glimpse of that world. They spent 18 days in March aboard a research vessel, the F. G. Walton Smith, collecting corals in the previously unexplored waters of the northern Bahamas. Guided by scientists on board the ship, the ROV Global Explorer combed the ocean floor more than a mile deep, collecting sea life and capturing high-definition video. France, chief scientist for the mission, acquired a \$715,500 grant from NOAA for the expedition. Scientific teams from other institutions also participated.

There are only a handful of deep-sea ROVs available worldwide for scientific research. So, for marine biologists — especially students — the chance to study at sea is both rare and valuable. "If I'm training students for the future, I don't want them to wait for the future to have this kind of experience," France said.

Pante has participated in three research cruises. They took him to the North Atlantic Ocean; southwest Pacific Ocean, near

New Caledonia; and the Bahamas, in the Atlantic Ocean.

He said finding animals in their natural setting adds an important dimension to research. "Material is very different when it has been sitting in ethanol for months or years. It's colorless, it's retracted, it's wrinkly. So, it's very interesting to see the animal when it's freshly collected, when it has all of its colors."

Pante is poised to do something some young scientists only dream of — name a new species. During the expedition in New Caledonia, he discovered a coral with branches like golden lace. He's writing a scientific paper that will both describe and name the newly found coral.

Binomial nomenclature — the formal system of naming species — has given living creatures some memorable monikers. There are spiders named for comedian Stephen Colbert and for actor/director Orson Welles; a jellyfish named for rocker Frank Zappa; and a narrow-waisted wasp whose name pays homage to Elvis Presley, *Preseucoila imallshookupis*.

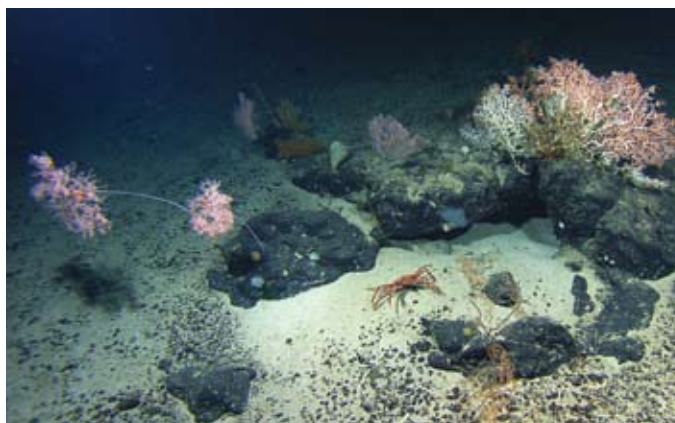
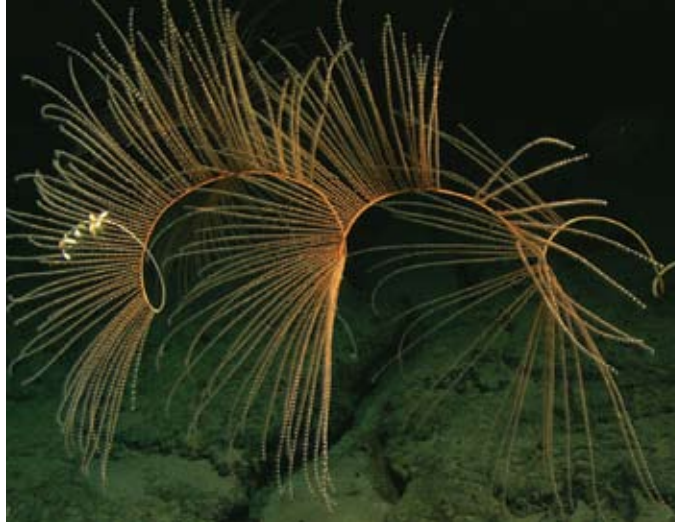
It remains to be seen whether the name of Pante's coral will be frivolous or formal. What's more important, says France, is the training Pante is receiving.

"Many people, including myself, may discover a new species, but then send it on to an expert in the field who gives it a name. Eric is training to become one of those experts. So, the process of describing and naming a species is an invaluable experience that goes far beyond classroom training."

Grad student Mercer Brugler has studied corals on the sea floor in a manned submersible and is also describing a new species of coral.

France is not surprised by those achievements. "I fully expect all of my students to have described new species by the time they complete their studies."

The odds are good that Jana Thoma



Top: UL Lafayette researchers collected a fragment of this colony of *Iridogorgia magnispiralis* off the coast of New Jersey in 2005. The sample was used to describe this new species. Center: *Metallogorgia melanotrichos* takes its name, in part, from its metallic sheen. A brittle star, a close relative of the starfish, clings to the coral's inner branches. Bottom: A deep-sea red crab rests in an undersea garden of corals.

will also make a discovery. A pair of New Zealand biologists have calculated that 50 percent to 100 percent of the samples collected in previously unexplored areas turn out to be new species. But figuring out whether a species is truly new cannot be determined at sea; it requires time-consuming detective work in the laboratory.

Just because specimens look alike

doesn't necessarily mean they are related. Likewise, species that are far apart genetically may have some of the same physical characteristics. So, in addition to looking at physical traits, France and his team also use DNA analysis and comparison.

Thoma, Pante and Brugler carry out the painstaking process. First, DNA is chemically extracted from the coral. Then, a particular gene is isolated in the DNA and that gene is copied, perhaps millions of times, to ensure that there is enough sample material available.

The DNA material goes through another series of chemical reactions, which yield a final product that can be read by a DNA sequencer. Now, the genetic material can be described as a unique pattern of four chemical bases. But researchers still can't know whether they are looking at a new species.

"Once we have the DNA sequenced, there are hours and hours of editing and running various kinds of software to analyze that," France said. "As you collect new species, you have to go back and compare each of them to everything that came before."

The National Center for Biotechnology Information maintains a DNA sequence database; however, that database is incomplete, because the DNA of all known species in the world has not yet been sequenced. So, "finding a match does not necessarily mean that we have found a new species," France said.

It's a process that can leave scientists with lots of unanswered questions. France and his students are also trying to find out how species are related and where they are found.

"One of the things that genetics could allow you to do, if you were looking at the right genetic marker, is to be able to take it further and say, 'Are these corals that we're looking at isolated to specific places? Are they only found in that canyon? Are they only found on that seamount?' Ultimately, those are the kinds of questions we would like to be able to answer," France said. ■



www.uclouisiana.edu/~scf4101/

Bone Structure

Tissue engineer builds new framework for cell growth

CRAWFISH, CRABS AND SHRIMP — they're not only tasty staples on Louisiana tables, they're also potential ingredients for replacing bone through tissue engineering.

UL Lafayette's Dr. Wah Wah TheinHan is a physician and research scientist working in the Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering Research Laboratory. The lab is part of the Center for Structural and Functional Materials within the Department of Chemical Engineering.

TheinHan's work begins with a substance called chitin. Translucent, flexible and tough, it is the basis of insect exoskeletons and crustaceans' hard shells.

Proteins and calcium are chemically removed from the shells, turning chitin into chitosan, a substance that is proving useful, especially in biomedical applications. For instance, it is used in battlefield bandages that stop hemorrhaging within seconds. Non-toxic and non-allergenic, with anti-fungal and anti-bacterial properties, chitosan also has the ability to rapidly clot blood. Because chitosan molecules carry a positive electrical charge and human DNA is negatively charged, they have a natural affinity for one another. Chitosan is also biodegradable, so it is eventually absorbed by the body.

TheinHan is using chitosan to build a three-dimensional framework, or scaffolding, for a substance that could eventually replace bone in the human body. "Natural bone is a composite of both organic and inorganic materials," said TheinHan. She combines chitosan with nanohydroxyapatite, a form of calcium phosphate that is created, atom by atom, in the lab. "We are trying to mimic the bone, to make this nanocomposite material as close as possible to natural bone."



Dr. Wah Wah TheinHan uses chitosan, a byproduct of crustacean shells, to help create bone-replacement material.

The scaffolding is freeze dried, so that all moisture is removed. TheinHan then places small sections of the scaffold in a Petri dish and adds a broth of special cells and nutrients. The cells are "preosteoblast cells from mice," she explained. These are early-stage cells, which, if left in the mouse, would become bone cells. It takes about a month for the scaffold and cells to become engineered tissue.

For decades, researchers have recognized the value of chitosan, but it has one major drawback: it is not as strong as bone. So, TheinHan is trying to find the right combination to create the ideal scaffolding material, one that equals the strength of natural bone and also serves



as a fertile medium for growing cells.

TheinHan compared the growth of cells on the nanocomposite scaffolds she developed to that of cells grown on scaffolds made of pure chitosan. After seven days, there were 150 times more cells growing on the

nanocomposite material. The results of the study, which TheinHan co-wrote with Dr. Devesh Misra, director of the Center for Structural and Functional Materials, were published in the scientific journal *Acta Biomaterialia* in December.

TheinHan is also exploring the use of chitosan to heal wounds and deliver drugs to specific sites in the body. ■

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

Nest Success

National Geographic takes note of pelican preservation effort

SCOTT T. WALTER IS EARNING HIS PH.D. the hard way, spending four months a year beneath the blazing sun on barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico. He is studying the nesting grounds of Louisiana's state bird, the brown pelican. His efforts caught the attention of *National Geographic* magazine, which plans to include an article about his work in its August issue.

Walter said his job is both challenging and rewarding. Befuddled brown pelican chicks snap at him with their hooked beaks as he helps tag and relocate them to potential nesting grounds. For three weeks, he feeds them fish by hand, sling-ing hundreds of pounds of pogy into their gaping mouths.

After Hurricane Katrina laid waste to the Louisiana coast, funding began to flow from Washington, D.C., to learn more about the impact of hurricanes on coastal saltwater ecosystems. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, began a \$200,000, multi-year study in 2006 to explore ways to help ensure the survival of brown pelicans in an environment vulnerable to powerful storms. Dr. Paul Leberg, a biology professor, directs the ecology and conservation research aspects of the study.

Walter works on the Isles Dernieres, "the last islands," Louisiana's western-most barrier island chain, about 75 miles southwest of New Orleans. "Almost half of all the brown pelicans in Louisiana are nesting in my study site, so if a really strong hurricane comes over that region . . . that could wipe out a large portion of the Louisiana population," he said.

Of the four islands, only two are nesting grounds. Brown pelicans built about 5,500 nests last year on Raccoon Island and another 500 on Wine Island. Walter is trying out two management techniques

to encourage the birds to spread out a bit: moving young, still flightless birds to Whiskey Island; and setting out pelican decoys on Trinity Island, hoping to attract adult couples looking for a suitable place to nest.

The study seeks to answer an important question: Will adult birds make their nests on the island where they were born, or the island where they first took flight?

"Brown pelicans have strong fledg-site fidelity," explained Walter. They have a tendency to return to the area where they "fledged," that is, left the nest. Walter is moving the young birds about six miles from their birthplace; the study will reveal whether translocation is an effective way to create new coastal colonies.

Until now, biologists have studied pelicans

from the air. Walter says his work is "on a finer scale." He and an assistant comb the islands' beaches, monitoring 300 nests and documenting them with digital photos.

"It's a very laborious process of using photo plots. To see into the colony, I drag around this enormous ladder all summer. I have stakes in the sand, so I know exactly where to put the ladder, so that my photos line up every time I'm surveying the nests."

The study is now in its third year. So far, Walter has helped place identification tags on 1,000 birds; 500 more will be tagged this season. Each of the birds

is banded and has a blood sample taken. This year, the researchers achieved a biological first, determining the gender of the birds through those samples.

Twice a week, Walter looks for the banded birds, recording their movement patterns. "The survey will tell us whether there are any differences in movement patterns by gender."

Because brown pelicans take three years to reach reproductive maturity, the researchers won't be able to fully measure the success of their efforts until next year, when the first batch of translocated birds returns to the area to nest.

Walter is on track to earn his doctorate in May 2011, so he'll be able to see the project through to its conclusion. He says he hopes all the hours spent in the Gulf will pay off for the brown pelican.

"These islands are being degraded rapidly, so the sooner we can establish more populations, the more likely it will be that we have a total population of birds that is more spread out and less susceptible to any one storm." ■



KYLE PATTON



Scott T. Walter holds a nine-week-old chick.

KYLE PATTON

Virtual Advantage

High-tech tools link university, military training centers

IT LOOKS LIKE A WAR zone in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Abdalla Hall. Actually, special 3-D glasses are needed to see the battle because it's a virtual war zone.

Dr. Carolina Cruz-Neira, the W. Hansen Hall professor in Computer Engineering, and a team of university researchers built a cave-like environment that takes users into a virtual dimension. Giant screens form a backdrop for an oversized treadmill that is capable of moving in all directions.

"It's kind of like a prototype for a Star Trek holodeck," said Cruz-Neira, a pioneer in the virtual reality realm. "The screens immerse you in a world generated by computers and you have 3-D perception just as if you were watching a 3-D movie or an IMAX movie."

It's the only one of its kind on a university campus; others are on military bases.

Three projection screens surround the omni-directional treadmill, while eight high-definition cameras mounted on the screens capture the user's movement. Projectors display computer-generated environments on the screens. While wearing 3-D glasses, users are immersed in a virtual reality world.

That world can resemble any location, from the Sahara Desert to the streets of Paris. It can also mimic environmental conditions. "We can create simulations of various situations from heavy winds to earthquakes," Cruz-Neira said.

'These immersive simulators provide for repeatable, event-driven research scenarios where soldiers can be placed in stressful or seemingly dangerous operational situations with no risk to their safety. We can see the effects of both the cognitive and the physical workload on human performance.'

KATHY KEHRING
U.S. ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

The 12-foot-tall by 9-foot-wide contraption resembles a three-sided box, with one wall left open to enable a person to step onto the treadmill.

UL Lafayette acquired the treadmill and designed and built the projection chamber around it to create a virtual environment to enter simulated worlds that can be explored by walking. UL Lafayette received \$3.1 million in federal funds for a research project for the U.S. Army Research Laboratories in Maryland.

"Specifically, we are conducting research on the levels of stress on foot soldiers on a battlefield.

We're developing scenarios that would be comparable to what they would find in battle and we are measuring their reactions and their mental abilities in these environments," Cruz-Neira said.

Soldiers participating in the study will wear sensors to monitor their brain activity and temperature as they move through the virtual war zone.

These environments could include sniper gunfire, car explosions or hand grenades. "They will experience things just as if they are in a war. They will have to react quickly and computers will record their responses," Cruz-Neira explained.

Researchers are developing these scenarios with actual testing on soldiers set to begin by year's end. Software applications are also being developed to connect the



University of Louisiana at Lafayette research scientists test the omni-directional treadmill in Abdalla Hall. Dioselin Gonzalez is walking in the virtual environment. Carsten Neumann monitors computers used to collect data.

military's treadmills with UL Lafayette's treadmill, so soldiers can virtually travel together through battlefields.

Kathy Kehring is the tactical environment simulation facility manager at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory in Durham,

N.C., which houses another omni-directional treadmill. Three more are in place at the U.S. Army's Maneuver Battle Lab in Fort Benning, Ga.

"These immersive simulators provide for repeatable, event-driven research

scenarios where soldiers can be placed in stressful or seemingly dangerous operational situations with no risk to their safety. We can see the effects of both the cognitive and the physical workload on human performance," Kehring said.

Earlier versions of the treadmill fell short of creating the kind of virtual environment researchers were looking for. Today's treadmill has a larger working surface and its design "enables the soldiers to go prone or crawl. These factors, and others, all contribute to increased physical immersion into the environment and more realistic effects from the physical workout," Kehring continued. "You would not see the same realistic effects from the physical workload and fatigue using a joystick or game controller to move through a simulated environment."

According to Kehring, researchers can measure a wide variety of factors, such as "biomechanical motion, time to complete a task, path traveled, target acquisition and identification, virtually anything occurring in the environment."

Dr. Robert Stewart, vice president for Research and Graduate Studies at UL Lafayette, said the treadmill could have additional applications in the future.

"The omni-directional treadmill is a very important piece of equipment as we develop research programs relating to 3-D and visualization. These programs could include training for emergency responders or even mobility help for the elderly."

Stewart noted that multiple disciplines on campus could take advantage of the treadmill.

"I would envision faculty from the College of Sciences, College of Engineering and College of Education benefiting from research opportunities that arise with this treadmill.

"It's an amazing piece of equipment." ■

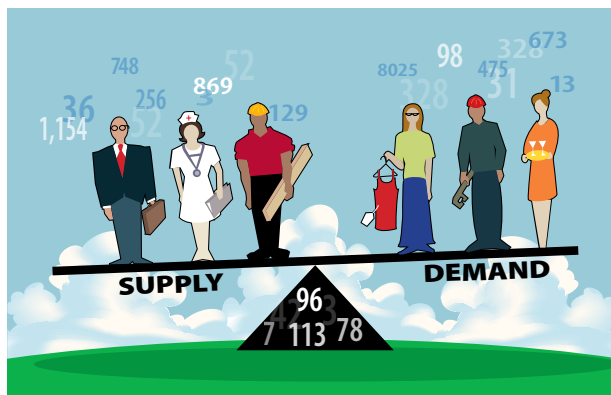
Work In Progress

SUPPOSE AN AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURER in north Louisiana cuts 400 jobs, while a seafood processing company expands, creating 200 jobs.

What is the overall effect on the Louisiana workforce? How can educational institutions prepare graduates whose knowledge and skills match available jobs?

These are the kinds of questions UL Lafayette researchers will consider. The Louisiana Workforce Commission (formerly the Department of Labor) has signed a three-year, \$6 million contract with a UL Lafayette research consortium made up of the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development, the Center for Business and Information Technologies and the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration.

"Business and industry are the consumers of the workforce we provide," said Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, director of CBIT. "The Workforce Commission has



done a phenomenal job of finding out what kinds of jobs are being created and what business and industry say they need. That's the demand."

The UL consortium will help make job forecasts more accurate by including supply-side information, which Dr. Billy Ray Stokes, executive director of the Picard Center, calls "the educational pipeline." Stokes said UL Lafayette is uniquely positioned to provide that information through the work of the Picard Center.

To make all that information

user-friendly, CBIT is developing a computer-driven workforce impact simulator. "It will allow you to ask 'what if' questions," Kolluru said. "What kinds of businesses do we want to keep? What kinds of businesses do we want to strategically recruit?"

Meanwhile, the supply side – education – can provide strategic guidance and direction. "What kinds of talents and skills and economic training and educated workforce do we provide and build up, so that the state remains viable? Not just today, but 10 years from now, 25 years from now.

"To us, it represents more than just a project. It is a great opportunity for the university to make meaningful contributions to the community and to the state," said Kolluru.

CAJUN AMBASSADORS RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES



George Rodrigue

Artist George Rodrigue, known best for his Blue Dog paintings, is the latest to earn an honorary doctorate from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He was honored during the Graduate School's commencement in May.

Rodrigue follows Cajun musician Zachary Richard, who was presented an honorary doctoral degree in fine arts in December.

Rodrigue, a native of New Iberia, La., attended UL Lafayette for six semesters in the mid-1960s before transferring to the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles.

Rodrigue's most famous series of paintings began when he painted his interpretation of a mythical *loup-garou*, or werewolf. He found inspiration in photos of his studio dog, Tiffany, who had died several years before. He painted the *loup-garou* as a pale grey-blue dog and gave it red eyes. Over time, he changed its eyes to yellow, creating a friendlier image.

In October 2008, Gov. Bobby Jindal declared Rodrigue as the artist laureate for Louisiana.



Zachary Richard

Richard, a native of Scott, La., is an internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter and poet. He is especially popular in France and Canada. His Canadian album releases have earned gold and platinum status and he has won two Felix awards, the French-Canadian equivalent of the Grammy Award.

An award-winning author, Richard has published three volumes of poetry and three children's books. He is also a film producer. In 2000, he produced, narrated and scored "Against the Tide," a television documentary detailing the history of the Cajun people.

Throughout his career, Richard has maintained strong ties to Louisiana. He is a founding member of Action Cadienne, a volunteer organization dedicated to the promotion of the French language and the Cajun culture of Louisiana.

Richard has been honored by the French and Canadian governments. In 1997, he was decorated Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres de la République Française. That same year, he was initiated into the Ordre des Francophones d'Amérique by the government of Quebec.

HITLER'S MAN IN HAVANA: HEINZ LÜNING AND NAZI ESPIONAGE IN LATIN AMERICA



Dr. Thomas Schoonover
University Press of Kentucky

A biography of the only German spy executed in Latin America during World War II was featured on CSPAN2's Book TV this spring.

Hitler's Man in Havana was written by Dr. Thomas Schoonover, history professor emeritus at UL Lafayette. CSPAN2 broadcast a talk he gave about his new book at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., in January.

Lüning chose to become a Nazi spy rather than serve in Hitler's army. He was sent to Cuba, where he posed as a Jewish refugee to collect information about naval and commercial activities conducted by the United States and other Allies in the Caribbean.

Lüning proved to be an inept undercover agent. After his capture, however, Cuban and U.S. officials portrayed him as a master spy for political reasons.

Dr. Walter LaFeber, the Andrew and James Tisch University Professor at Cornell University, describes *Hitler's Man in Havana* as a "wonderfully told story, at times too weird and funny to be true (yet it is) . . . One of the more fascinating and instructive tales of attempted espionage in World War II."

Dr. Max Friedman, an associate professor of history at American University, notes that the narrative, "often gripping, is firmly contextualized in the historical events of the period. ... "

ELECTRONIC TRIBES, THE VIRTUAL WORLDS OF GEEKS, GAMERS, SHAMANS, AND SCAMMERS



Edited by Tyrone L. Adams
and Stephen A. Smith
University of Texas Press

In *Electronic Tribes*, scholars explore social groups spawned by the popularity of the Internet.

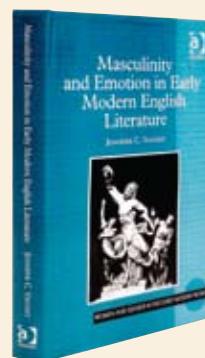
It's edited by Dr. Tyrone L. Adams, the Richard D'Aquin Professor of Journalism and Communications at UL Lafayette, and Dr. Stephen A. Smith, a professor of communication at the University of Arkansas.

"As the title suggests, the work explores the implications of Internet communication. Just what are we moving toward in terms of human interaction? Is the Internet bringing us closer together or leading us to lives of isolation where our only connection to other human beings is through the pixels on a computer screen?" asks Dr. Jim Parker, web master at Vanderbilt University, in the book's introduction.

Sixteen essays, including one written by Adams and Smith, cover four broad areas: how electronic tribes differ from other online groups, the social consequences of electronic tribalism, the development of online culture and what Parker describes as a "darker side of electronic tribes, crime and counterculture."

Dr. H. L. Goodall Jr., director of the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University, said *Electronic Tribes* challenges "existing wisdom, particularly the idea that Internet users are best understood as communities. ... "

MASCULINITY AND EMOTION IN EARLY MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE



Jennifer C. Vaught
Ashgate Publishing Company

In 2003, Dr. Jennifer C. Vaught edited a collection of essays about grief and gender in early modern culture.

Her latest book, *Masculinity and Emotion in Early Modern English Literature*, zeroes in on works by some 16th-, 17th- and 18th-century authors, including Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser and Christopher Marlowe.

It earned praise from Elise Denbo, a professor of English at Queensborough Community College in New York. In a review published in the journal *Renaissance Quarterly*, Denbo wrote:

"Jennifer Vaught presents a finely-researched study of masculinity and emotion in early modern England, one that she places in context of current critical debates while clarifying particular areas that she builds on and expands.

"Whereas previous studies have focused on grief or ways in which excessive mourning reinforces reductive views of female identity (i.e., women as 'leaky vessels'), Vaught concentrates on a variety of powerful male emotions (sadness, despair, joy) that correlate with a shift in values from a warrior culture to a culture that encourages virtue through feeling and intellectual enhancement, the self-fashioning of the courtier as well the man of sensibility."

Vaught is the Jean-Jacques and Aurore Labbé Fournet/ BORSF Associate Professor of English at UL Lafayette.

Best in the Nation

Engineering majors create upsurge in efficiency

ENGINEERING STUDENTS AND FACULTY are helping mid-size manufacturers become more productive and energy efficient. Their reward: being named the best university-based Industrial Assessment Center in the nation in 2008 by the U.S. Department of Energy.

From its inception through 2008, the IAC identified an average savings of \$173 million per year for its clients.



In the TABASCO® factory, from left, Blakeley Blanchard and Aaron Artigue check the air compression system, while Ryan Kelley takes readings with a thermal-imaging camera.

DOUG DUGAS

The IAC conducts free, on-site assessments to evaluate energy use, waste disposal and productivity. Established in 2000, it is one of only 26 university-based centers across the country and the only one in Louisiana. Since its inception, the center has worked with more than 200 businesses. It serves a wide area: all of Louisiana, most of Arkansas, plus portions of Texas and Mississippi. Team members have worked in printing plants, food processing facilities, shipyards and oil refineries. They've traveled 1,300 feet underground to evaluate a salt mine and more than 200 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico to examine an oil platform.

In early May, team members visited Avery Island, La., to assess the McIlhenny Company's TABASCO® pepper sauce factory. It was a return visit for the IAC, which conducted an assessment for the company nine years ago. "We believe in continuous improvement," said Troy Romero, McIlhenny's vice president of operations. "We're happy to be a partner with the university, giving students the opportunity to fulfill their roles as learners and helpers in industry."

Mechanical engineering senior Blakeley Blanchard and two juniors, Aaron Artigue and Ryan Kelley, spent four hours in the factory, analyzing everything from the conveyor belt to the factory's emergency lighting system. They took measurements with sophisticated equipment, including a thermal imaging camera and an electronic light reader. The trio analyzed the factory's air compression system, checking it for air leaks.



Aaron Artigue inspects the production line, where a batch of bottles are destined for Brazil.

identified a total of \$173 million per year in utilities savings for its clients. "In reality, we've had \$34 million per year implemented," said Kozman.

The students are paid for their work. Brittany Aulds, a graduate student in mechanical engineering, is the team's student leader and lead report writer. "Instead of working at a desk or at McDonald's, I have a job that's going to contribute to my understanding of engineering and energy," she said. Graduate and undergraduate students in any field of engineering may be part of the team.

Kozman said he enjoys the camaraderie. "I enjoy the students having fun, more than anything else. Engineering, to me, is fun. It's a hobby, in addition to being a vocation. So, I want our students to view it the same way – working in energy efficiency is just a means to make that happen."

Dr. Jim Lee, professor of engineering and technology management and the team's associate director, said the real-world problems identified by the IAC often fuel research. "We're getting recognition in high-quality academic jour-

Dr. Ted Kozman, associate professor of mechanical engineering and the center's director, accompanied the student team.

As they do after each assessment, team members will create a detailed report with recommendations for the McIlhenny Company's factory. Depending on their findings, those recommendations may be as complex as installing a new energy system or as simple as placing motion sensors in rooms to prevent lights from being left on unnecessarily.

About nine months after the assessment, Kozman makes a follow-up call to find out which, if any, of the IAC recommendations have been implemented. From its inception through 2008, the IAC



Students use a thermal-imaging camera to measure the efficiency of the factory's lights.

nals and presenting papers at national and international conferences." He pointed out the university strives for balance in teaching and research. "So, we're doing both. We train our students. Our students will learn all the things they need when they graduate, so that's the educational side. At the same time, we've got some good research going on."

And that seems to be a winning combination for graduates. The U.S. Department of Energy tracks IAC students beyond graduation. "About 70 to 75 percent of our students end up in energy-related fields," Kozman said. ■

STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE

Mechanical engineering student Aaron Artigue pays attention to detail. That's because, as part of the Industrial Assessment Center, he is responsible for making sure that all calculations in a client's final report are accurate and complete.

Even though he is still a junior, Artigue has conducted more than 80 assessments over the past two-and-a-half years.

IAC students like him are highly sought after in the energy industry because of the training and knowledge they receive.

Students and graduates receive support from the U.S. Department of Energy through a web site and online forum that includes scholarship opportunities and links to companies that were founded by or employ IAC alumni.

Nationwide, more than half of employed IAC graduates receive a starting wage of \$50,000 to \$99,999, which indicates that IAC graduates begin at salaries above the average of \$50,892 for salaries across engineering disciplines, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

The Department of Energy tracks IACs alumni to learn how many are employed in energy-related fields. An estimated 70 to 75 percent of UL Lafayette engineering alumni who have participated in the IAC move on to pursue careers related to energy or energy efficiency, as compared to 56 percent of graduates nationwide. ■

AmeriCorps Student Becomes Fairy Godmother For a Day

WHAT IF YOU have a date to the prom, but can't afford a gown?

Thanks to Amanda Noble, a sophomore nursing major and member of UL Lafayette AmeriCorps, more than 100 girls received free prom dresses this spring. It was the second year she came to the aid of some real-life Cinderellas.

"Last year we gave away about 50 dresses. This year we had a goal of doubling the number of dresses we gave away and we actually exceeded that goal," she said.

Local media helped Noble spread the word that she was seeking gowns that she could offer to young women who needed them.

During the one-day giveaway, recipients got to try on the dresses. "That makes it more special. They actually get to pick out something they like," Noble explained. Some teens also received spa gift certificates that were donated for the project.

Noble wrote a \$625 grant, funded by Lafayette Junior League, to increase the capacity of the prom dress recycling program. The money helped pay for

storage racks and hangers, as well as a steam cleaner — tools to keep the donated dresses looking their best. Donors were also encouraged to pass on accessories, such as shoes and evening bags, to complete the outfits.

AmeriCorps set up a drop box at Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church on campus. "I'm really just amazed at the response, at how many people donated dresses and how many people came to help at the giveaway event," Noble said.

AmeriCorps members regularly participate in group activities, such as tutoring at-risk elementary school students and helping build homes through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Each AmeriCorps participant is



Amanda Noble

also required to design his or her own community service project. Students must come up with an idea, then conduct research to find out whether the project is needed and feasible.

Noble drew on her hometown for inspiration. "I am from New Orleans and the (New Orleans) Hornets basketball team had a program like this. It had a big impact back

home," she said. "I did some research and couldn't find a program here."

Noble said she hopes to build on the project's success. "We'll definitely do it again next year. This program helps girls who don't have prom dresses, while at the same time promoting recycling and community service, which is what AmeriCorps is all about."

CHOICE WORDS: STUDENTS REVEAL WHAT THEY READ FOR FUN

For the first time in more than 25 years, American adults are reading more literature, according to a 2008 study by the National Endowment for the Arts. As it turns out, despite all their twittering and iPhoning, young adults — ages 18 to 24 — are leading the literary pack.

Nationwide, the younger demographic shows the biggest and most rapid increases in reading in four literary forms: novels, short stories, plays and poems. Since 2002, 18- to 24-year-olds have seen the biggest increase — 9 percent — in literary reading, and the most rapid rate of increase — 21 percent.

The literary good news left *La Louisiane* wondering what UL Lafayette students in the same age group might be reading. About 69 percent of UL Lafayette's student body are ages 18-24, enrollment records show.

So, *La Louisiane* conducted an informal survey

to find out. Of the 119 students who responded, 74 percent said they are either reading or plan to read a work of fiction that is not part of a class assignment.

UL Lafayette students who are ages 18 to 24 are finding plenty to sink their teeth into, citing more than 140 titles. Among those, books in the vampire-romance *Twilight* series — *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn* — were mentioned most often. Others are jumping on their *Harry Potter* broomsticks for literary escape.

Students are following the stories of superheroes-turned-vigilantes in the pages of the comic-book series, *Watchmen* and exploring the fantasy world created by Christopher Paolini. *Brisingr*, the third book in Paolini's *Inheritance Cycle*, features helpful dragons and elves, troublesome dwarves and a magic sword.

Students are dipping into the pages of perennial favorites such as *Catch-22*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*. But they are also tasting more rarified reads, including Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, the poetry of Langston Hughes, the short stories of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and the plays of William Shakespeare.



WHY WALK, WHEN YOU CAN CRAWL?

176 roller bearings
12 aluminum legs
2 cordless drills
1 inspired mechanical engineering class

It all adds up to the Cajun Crawler, a one-of-a kind people mover designed and built by UL Lafayette students. It resembles a Segway, but instead of wheels, it has mechanical legs.

Discovery Channel Canada sent a New Orleans production crew to shoot the Crawler on campus in early May. It featured the vehicle on its science show, "Daily Planet," on May 14.

A video that shows the Crawler in action has been viewed on YouTube more than 235,000 times.

The vehicle's development began in Fall 2008, when Dr. Terrence Chambers' students were brainstorming a design project. He's an associate professor of mechanical engineering and associate dean of the College of Engineering.

"One of the students in the class suggested we look at the work of Theo Jansen," Chambers recalled. Jansen is a Dutch artist and engineer who creates larger-than-life moving sculptures. His fantastic "beests," as he calls them, are immense, intricate skeletons made of yellow plastic tubing, some as much as 20 feet tall. Harnessing the wind, they walk along the beaches of Holland, stepping gracefully across the wet sand.

Chambers' students borrowed Jansen's beast leg design for the legs of the Cajun Crawler.

Don Tomasaitis, a graduating senior who led the design and construction team, explained the design's appeal: "When a person walks, you kind of have this up-and-down movement: whenever you take a step, some of your energy is going toward lifting your weight. Jansen's design avoids

that up-and-down movement."

So, the Cajun Crawler's platform remains parallel to the ground, while the feet below move like a mechanical chorus line. "The way these all work together, it transfers the weight from one foot to the next without any of that vertical movement," Tomasaitis said.

Before they began building the Crawler, students tested the design in a lab, using computer-aided drafting software. "We did a lot of 3-D modeling," Tomasaitis said.

Five UL Lafayette alumni were part of the team: Chris Menard, Dustin Prejean, Kevin St. Aubin, Kurt Trahan and Spencer Malsh. They all graduated in December 2008.

The Cajun Crawler is powered by two cordless drills. The triggers, incorporated into the left and right sides of the handle, set the Crawler's legs in motion. The drills' motors and rechargeable batteries are tucked neatly beneath the platform.

"It made sense to use something that was already put together as a working system. It also helped keep the cost down," Tomasaitis said.

He estimated that the Crawler cost about \$1,200. Students contributed about \$600; cash and in-kind donations from area businesses covered the rest. One company donated aluminum. Another cut the metal into parts.

Asked whether the Cajun Crawler has any practical applications, Tomasaitis shrugged. "Not really," he replied. "It might be a cool toy, if somebody wants to be the first on their block to have one."



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Still Mr. Sonnier

FOR DECADES, STUDENTS KNEW HIM AS MR. SONNIER, THE JANITOR. NOW, HE'S MR. SONNIER, THE TEACHER. •

BY SARAH SPELL PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP GOULD

IT IS A MONDAY AFTERNOON in March. After a rainy weekend, the grounds at Port Barre Elementary are a wet, muddy mess. And the Port Barre Lil Red Hots are living up to their name. Recess was cancelled today. The puddles were just too tempting.

“We tried,” confides the school receptionist with a sigh. “But as soon as we let them out, they headed straight for the water.”

About 570 students, in pre-K to fourth grade, attend the school in the small St. Landry Parish community. At the end of the school day, buses are queued up near the front gate. A steady stream of kids wearing backpacks pours out of classrooms onto covered walkways. The din nearly drowns out a tinny voice on an outdoor speaker, calling out bus numbers. The on-duty teacher is trying to be heard, too. “Don’t cut!” she yells. “Stay on the sidewalk!”

Joseph Sonnier is swimming against the tide, heading to his classroom at the rear of the campus. He is a big man with a ready smile. Six-foot-one and broad-shouldered, he towers over his charges. As he passes them, his students call out to him: “Hey, Mr. Sonnier!” “See you tomorrow, Mr. Sonnier!”

Sonnier has worked on this campus since 1981. The older students remember him as Mr. Sonnier, the janitor, the title he held for 26 years. Now, he is Mr. Sonnier, the teacher.

“When I was still a custodian, they were just in kindergarten and coming up, said Sonnier in a recent interview. “You think that kids are not going to respect you because, ‘Oh, he was just a janitor.’ Those kids respect me more because they see what I’ve done and what I’ve accomplished.”



Joseph Sonnier greets school custodian Raymond Narcisse.



Joseph Sonnier speaks with students Madison Barron and Gracie Tilley.

A FIRST-YEAR EDUCATOR, Sonnier teaches math, science and social studies to two groups of third graders, 50 students in all.

Sonnier points out the colorful signs and messages he has posted in his classroom. One reads, “Come prepared.” Another, “Lend a hand.”

“I’ve created an environment where they can come into the classroom and feel welcome. I wanted them to know they have a caring teacher, to see a male teacher as a caring individual,” Sonnier said.

Some of the students’ best papers are tacked up on a bulletin board titled, “Double A Club.” “It stands for Awesome Achievers,” Sonnier explained. “I tell my students, ‘Always strive for your personal best.’”

Higher education has been a lifelong dream for the 47-year-old. It took him eight years, while working full-time, to earn his bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

Neither of Sonnier’s parents completed high school. His father left school in the eighth grade and his mother dropped out when she was a junior in high school, both because of family obligations.

Even though his parents lacked diplomas, “they stressed the importance of education,” Sonnier said. Yet, the familial pattern of sacrifice would repeat itself.

Sonnier ran track and played basketball until his sophomore year, when he began working nights, helping his father clean office buildings. But he never neglected his studies.

A bright and able student, Sonnier was elected vice president of his senior class and graduated fifth in his class at Leonville High School in 1979. The following fall, he enrolled at

Southern University, majoring in electrical engineering.

His parents separated. His mother, who worked as a housekeeper, was in financial trouble. After one semester, Sonnier, the eldest of five siblings, dropped out of school and went to work to help support her.

Sonnier worked on construction sites, at a sawmill and a grocery store. In 1981, he became a custodian at Port Barre Elementary, accepting the job offer from his former principal, the late Wesley Jones.

“He was my first inspiration,” Sonnier said. “After a couple of years, he and I got to talking. He sat me down and he said, ‘I taught you. I know what you’re capable of doing. You have more to offer the students than just cleaning up behind them. You can lead them.’”

Even though it would be many years before Sonnier acted on those words, he took them to heart. “It stayed with me,” he said. He became a catechism teacher. “I started doing that first to see how I would like it.”

Sonnier kept working — and learning. On the elementary school campus, he not only served as a custodian, he became the go-to guy for technology. “When computers came to the school, I was asked to put them together and install several types of software.” When teachers ran into computer problems, they turned to him for solutions.

“I was involved with sports and with kids,” Sonnier said. He was a basketball official for 22 years, a baseball official for 16. He also coached Tee Ball and Little League. He oversaw the baseball and softball programs for the Parks and Recreation Department in the nearby town of Opelousas. “I was in charge of a lot of things. That was a way to supplement my income as a custodian.”

At home, he and his wife, Felicia, emphasized education — by their words and by example. While their sons, Shaun and Maurice, were in high school, Felicia earned a degree in accounting from Louisiana Technical College. After both boys had graduated from high school, Sonnier said to himself, “Well, I think it’s my turn.”

He enrolled at UL Lafayette, but was able to attend most of his classes in Eunice, La., thanks to the 2 + 2 elementary education program, in which UL Lafayette instructors teach courses on the LSU-Eunice campus.

He began in August 2000 as a part-time student. He attended night classes, slowly earning college credits. By the spring of 2005, however, the remaining classes he needed were not offered at night.

With the approval of St. Landry Parish school officials, Sonnier began a grueling schedule that would last for the next two-and-a-half years. His workday began early each morning. "I would come to work at 5. I'd work till 7. Then I would leave and go to classes. Most of the time my classes ended at 8 at night. So, I had to come from class and come back to work, finish my eight hours." Most nights, he got only two or three hours of sleep.

Weekends brought little relief, but did give him a chance to spend some time with family. Shaun attended a junior college in Texas. Maurice was a student at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Both played football, which meant Sonnier and his wife often attended out-of-state games. "Their teams would travel to Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Utah. Wherever they went, I was there. I would take my homework with me.

"I didn't see it as a burden, because I knew it was something I wanted to do. I wanted to become an educator."

There were personal challenges, as well. In December 2006, Sonnier's father died of complications from Lou Gehrig's disease. "I was in the middle of finals, but I didn't want to have to retake any courses. It was kind of rough, but I got through it."

Finals rolled around again the following May and Sonnier would suffer another loss. His mother died of cancer. Again, he pushed through, taking his final exams in the midst of grief. He earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average in each trying semester.

"There were times when I was so overwhelmed with the work, but I never had the attitude to give up. I didn't have that attitude, because it was always my motto, 'God brought me to it, He's going to take me through it.'"

He credits his family, especially Felicia, for supporting him. He's also grateful to "great professors who stood by my side when I was going through all of this. They kept me going, they kept inspiring me."

In pursuing his education, Sonnier developed a new identity. "People looked at me not as a custodian, but as a person who's being educated by the university.

"It wasn't the idea of me being a custodian and going to college, it was that somebody, no matter how

'I never had the attitude to give up. I didn't have that attitude because it was always my motto, 'God brought me to it, He's going to take me through it.''

old he was, took the initiative to go back to school to make himself better, and the university supported that."

The 2 + 2 elementary education program that made it possible for Sonnier to take upper-level classes close to home was created in 1998 through a partnership between UL Lafayette and LSU-E. Most 2 + 2 participants are non-traditional students who live in rural areas served by LSU-E and would find it difficult to commute to UL Lafayette, McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., or LSU at Alexandria, La.

Alice Voorhies, a UL Lafayette instructor and coordinator of 2 + 2, said that when they graduate, those students usually take teaching jobs in

the small, rural communities where they live.

"We have provided about 250 certified teachers to areas that just would not have had them otherwise," she noted.

In May 2008, Sonnier graduated with a 3.85 grade point average, the sixth highest in his class. In the fall, he traded in his custodian's coveralls for a shirt and tie and returned to Port Barre Elementary School. But he hasn't left his previous job behind completely.

"I clean my own classroom. I tell the custodians, 'Y'all don't even come in my room. I got this.' My room's going to be cleaned by myself and my students. ... That's part of

learning, too. Teaching them how to be responsible, how to clean up after themselves. I look at it as a part of teaching, so I don't mind doing it."

Along with a sense of responsibility, Sonnier shares something else with students: humor.

"I told them, 'Guess what, you made history.'

"We made history?'"

"I said, 'Yes, you're the first class at Port Barre Elementary to be taught by a custodian.' " At this, Sonnier laughs aloud.

But he is not done "making history." Once his two required years of supervised teaching are done, he intends to re-enroll at UL Lafayette to pursue a master's degree in administration and supervision. "I want to become a principal ... That's my ultimate goal.

"I believe God has a way of using people for certain things. And I really feel that I am, I guess, a messenger that you can do anything if you set your mind to it.

"It's not where you start, it's where you finish." ■



Sonnier plans to continue his education to become a school principal.



POWER HOUSE

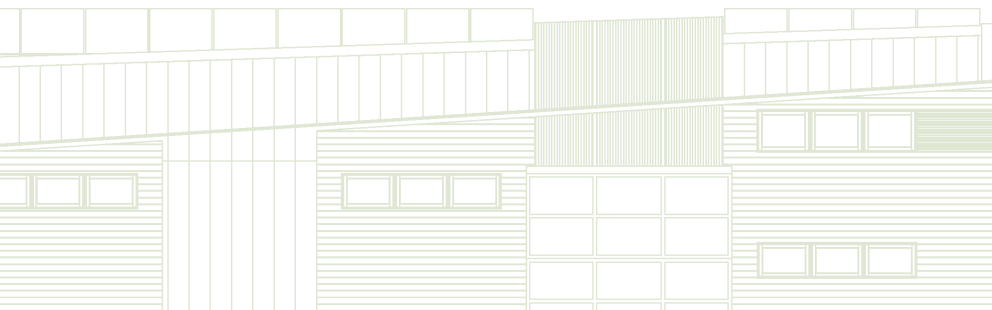
BY SARAH SPELL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG DUGAS

IN A SPACIOUS WAREHOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF LAFAYETTE, A DREAM IS being built. • It is made of wood and glass, of photovoltaic cells and polystyrene foam. • It is being built from memory. From moonlight shining on a weathered cypress porch. The smell of gumbo simmering on the stove. The sound of music and laughter drifting across the bayou. • It is being created from a vision, a desire to make *la bon vie* — the good life — affordable. • Dr. Geoff Gjertson is faculty advisor for the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home project. “We’re building something that’s affordable, reproducible and appropriate to our culture,” he observed. • That “something” is an 800-square-foot house that will generate its own power from rooftop solar panels, collect its own water when there is rain and heat the water with solar energy. In fact, it’s designed to produce more energy than it uses.

Members of the BeauSoleil team consider color swatches for the home’s interior. Shown, from left, are: Elizabeth Rountree, interior design student; Greg Jefferson, architecture student; Megan Durio, interior design student; Dr. Geoff Gjertson, faculty advisor; and Catherine Guidry, architecture student.





COURTESY OF TEAM BEAUSOLEIL

Combining technology and tradition, the home's southern façade features solar roof panels and functional cypress shutters.

WHILE ITS TECHNOLOGY is contemporary, its design incorporates traditional features such as the kitchen's high ceiling. Its soaring, 13-foot, five-inch height enables heat to rise and cooler air to settle.

It's an accommodating host, offering just the right setting for an intimate dinner for two, or enough room for a *bal du maison*, a traditional house party, complete with live music and dancers two-stepping on the porch.

Its design can expand with a growing family. Countertops in the kitchen and bathroom are suitable for those with disabilities. It's designed to withstand hurricane-force winds and can be elevated to provide housing in areas prone to flooding.

The project takes its name from the French word for sunshine, but its title also gives a nod to the Grammy Award-winning ambassadors of Cajun culture, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet. (Doucet and the band are supporters of the project.)

In October, the house itself will be-

come a cultural ambassador, when the BeauSoleil team tests its design on an international stage: the 2009 Solar Decathlon to be held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The UL Lafayette team is one of only 20 in the world qualified to compete in the bi-annual event organized by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Among the competition are teams from Rice University, Cornell University, Ohio State and Penn State. The BeauSoleil team will also take on Germany's Technische Universität Darmstadt, winner of the 2007 contest.

Gjertson acknowledges that his German counterparts created a beautiful, energy-efficient house. "But it might cost a million dollars to build. It's unrealistic to think that most people would spend that kind of money on a house."

Instead of merely following the contest rules, the UL Lafayette team increased the degree of difficulty by creating a state-of-the-art, sustainable home that the average Louisiana resident can actually afford.

"The median income in Louisiana is

'I'm interested in creating architecture that connects people to the natural environment, rather than separating them from it. Between air conditioning and television, we've been separated from the natural environment, to our detriment. When you can reconnect to nature, you have a richer life.'

EDDIE CAZAYOUX

\$50,000 a year. The HUD (Housing and Urban Development) calculator that's available online basically shows that a family that makes only \$50,000 a year can only afford a \$120,000 house. So, that was our goal — to get the production model down to \$120,000," Gjertson explained.

"The problem with a lot of so-called 'affordable' housing is that it saddles people with a cheaply built house that's very expensive to maintain. So, our goal is to not only design a house that ultimately would be affordable when it goes into production, but a much better house, too."

The BeauSoleil home is designed to meet national standards for environmentally sustainable construction. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental (LEED) design standards are set by the U.S. Green Building Council, a consortium of industry and non-profit leaders. Gjertson said even though the Decathlon does not require competing teams to meet those standards, the BeauSoleil team has embraced them to increase students' working knowledge. "Eventually, these standards are going to be mandatory, especially in public buildings," he explained.

To achieve the goals of sustainability and affordability, Gjertson enlisted the help of one of his mentors, Eddie Cazayoux, a UL Lafayette professor emeritus. During his 13 years as director of the university's School of Architecture, Cazayoux helped create a highly regarded program that provides challenging, hands-on opportunities for students. An expert in sustainable design, he knows how to create homes that work in concert with Louisiana's hot, humid climate.

Cazayoux has helped build a strong foundation for UL Lafayette's BeauSoleil project. In 1983, he and colleague Hector LaSala designed an experimental home, the Cade Energy Research House, that was then built by students. The project won an Energy Design Innovation Award from the U.S. Department of Energy. Cazayoux also established the UL Lafayette Building Institute, which gives students the opportunity to design and build structures.

His approach is simple, but not simplistic. "I'm interested in creating architecture that connects people to the natural environment, rather than separating them from it. Between air conditioning and television, we've been separated from the natural environment, to our detriment. When you can reconnect to nature, you have a richer life."

Cazayoux stresses the importance of passive design. In architecture, "passive" refers to design elements such as positioning a structure to take advantage of prevailing winds and the path of the sun. "You do everything you can possibly do passively and then you add energy or a mechanical system to supplement that," he explained.

To help students gain insight into passive design, Cazayoux invited a unique group of visitors to campus for a roundtable discussion. "I brought together an older white lady, an older black lady, a Creole Native American, a



Professor Emeritus Eddie Cazayoux and architecture students make sure everything goes according to plan; he has been involved with the BeauSoleil project since its inception. Shown, from left, are: Christopher Leger, Jeremy Credeur, Gretchen Lacombe-Vanicor and Cazayoux.

BLESSED BE THIS HOUSE

The Rev. Chester Arceneaux blessed the BeauSoleil home at a dedication ceremony March 4. The pastor of Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church on UL Lafayette's campus penned a prayer especially for the occasion.



"The work we begin today should enliven our faith and make us grateful. We know the familiar words of the Psalms: 'If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor.'"

"In a sense, we are God's own co-workers. Let us pray for His help in this celebration. May we use the gift of the sun, the wind and water and realize that we are called to be good stewards of the earth and to protect our environment. May we become aware of the earth's beauty and seek renewable energies in green building technology. May we use our gift of creativity and build upon God's kingdom so that our children's children may also enjoy the benefit of God's creation upon this earth.

"Lord, we ask you to bless the BeauSoleil house. My brothers and sisters, may the Lord bring this construction to its successful completion. May His protection be upon all those who labor and work. May His blessing be upon the benefactors who provided gifts so this may be built and may He bless our great university as we realize that each of us is called, through our gifts, to continue to build our world through the resources that we are given on earth. Almighty God, bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Native American, two Cajun guys from around Pecan Island and a young guy I had designed a house for that's totally off the grid." The elders, some of whom were in their 80s and 90s, had all lived "off the grid" before there was any other option.

"We talked about what life was like. About water — how they collected and used water. About keeping food in the house. Cleaning your clothes, sewerage, keeping yourself warm in the wintertime and cool in the summertime. How do you do all that without running water, without electricity?"

"It was a real eye opener for the students," Cazayoux said. Students also studied examples of local architecture, including Cajun and Creole structures.

Cazayoux and Gjertson said that passing on those cultures to students was crucial, because students are at the heart of the BeauSoleil endeavor. "As much as possible, I try to step back and get out of their way. This is really their project, not mine," Gjertson said.

Over the past two years, more than 200 students have devoted some 100,000 hours to the project.

Catherine Guidry is one of eight graduate students who have been involved with the BeauSoleil project from the start. She serves as its public relations officer. "I'm an architecture student, but the business education that I'm getting is intense. Being able to work with professionals in the community, with professors and with other students has shown me how to work with a variety

of different people and how to work together."

At the university level, the project draws on interdisciplinary talent and expertise, incorporating numerous departments, including architecture and engineering, industrial design and interior design, renewable resources, computer science, business and marketing. Gjertson



Architecture students create a model of the Louisiana BeauSoleil Solar Home. From left: Denise Castro, Jared Leger and Christopher Dufreche.

and Cazayoux are among 28 faculty team members.

The entire project has a budget of \$625,000. This figure includes several big-ticket items: designing and building the house; warehouse rent; transporting the house to Washington, D.C.; and team travel costs. The U.S. Department of Energy gives each team \$100,000. "We had to go out and raise the rest. And the community has responded. They are investing in our ideas," Guidry said. Support has come in the form of money and in-kind donations.

Louisiana System Built Homes of St. Martinville, La., has been a key contributor. The company manufactured and put together the walls of the BeauSoleil house from structural insulated panels. Made of foam sandwiched between particleboard, the panels are strong and energy efficient.

"I think a lot of the time, projects like this have had the goal of mass production, but never really got the producer involved," Gjertson said. "But Louisiana System Built Homes is helping us build the first one, so it's not a huge stretch for them to think that they could actually build the final production model."

Meanwhile, a California-based company, NanaWall Systems Inc., is helping develop what Gjertson calls the most innovative feature of the BeauSoleil home, the transitional porch. The porch is based on a traditional home design called a dog trot, which includes an open breezeway.

In the BeauSoleil home, this covered area divides the space into two distinct

‘I’m an architecture student, but the business education that I’m getting is intense. Being able to work with professionals in the community, with professors and with other students has shown me how to work with a variety of different people and how to work together.’

CATHERINE GUIDRY

zones, with the kitchen on one side and the living room, bathroom and bedroom on the other. Surrounding the transitional porch are six doors, hung on an overhead track, designed by the BeauSoleil team and produced by NanaWall.

The doors, which rotate around the track, can also function as walls, offering great flexibility. The breezeway can be transformed into an indoor space, creating additional dining space adjacent to the kitchen or making the living room larger. Fixed, pull-down mosquito screens allow the space to be used as a sleeping porch.

“NanaWall has versions of the doors, but the exact system they are doing for us has not been done before. So, they’re real proud of it and they want to showcase that,” Gjertson said.

Showcasing a prototype home on the National Mall involves even more than designing and building an innovative house. Along with the Decathlon judges, some 200,000 visitors are expected to tour the BeauSoleil home.

For the BeauSoleil team, the devil may be in the details.

Packing will be a chore. To make it easier, the team has created a schematic drawing — a place for everything and everything in its place. It will take two 18-wheelers, plus a smaller truck, to haul equipment and gear.

The home’s roof panels will have to



To test their design, team members installed solar panels on the roof of Madison Hall on the UL Lafayette campus. The panels feed energy back into the university’s power system. Shown, from left, are: Dr. Robert Henry, a UL Lafayette engineering professor; engineering student Thomas Bosch; and architecture students Gretchen Lacombe-Vanikor and Scott Chappuis.

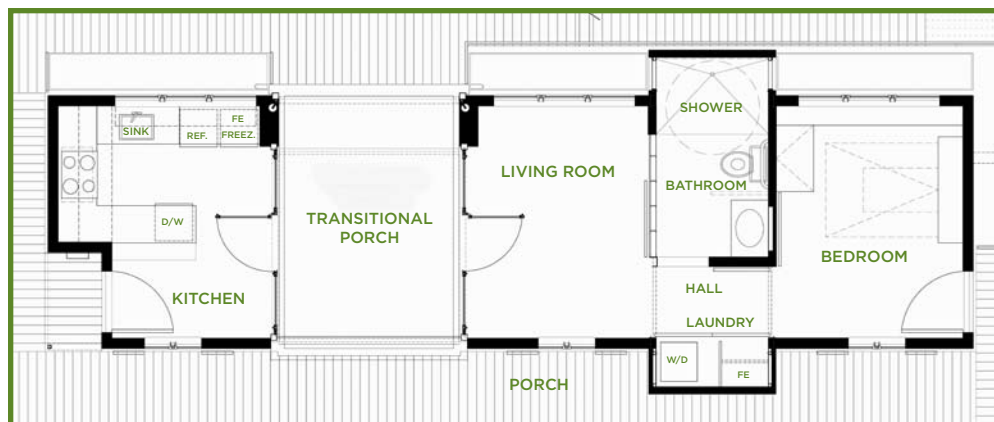
be removed for the trip. Once it arrives on the mall, the team will have just four days to reconstruct it and prepare it for visitors. That includes everything from making sure the plumbing works to exterior details, such as adding native landscaping and setting out trash and recycling receptacles.

Gjertson said the real-world challenges and limitations of the competition

“It’s an opportunity for them to gain an intense, intimate experience with sustainable design that they wouldn’t be able to have any other way. Even though they’ll never have this exact project again, they’ll be prepared for almost anything after having gone through this.”


He also said he hopes the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home will have far-reaching impact.

“Team BeauSoleil is proposing a new paradigm for living on the Gulf Coast — one that is sustainable and takes into consideration our climate, culture and the ever-increasing energy crisis. One of the ways to do that is to live much



have brought out the best in his students. “I think that’s something a lot of academics think they have to shield their students from, because it stifles creativity.” Instead, Gjertson said having a meaningful challenge “actually forces them to be more creative.

more efficiently, with less of an impact on the environment. I think it will return us to a way of living that is actually more generous and more resilient.” ■

 www.beausoleilhome.org

TRUE COLORS

25

WAYS UL LAFAYETTE
ENRICHES THE COMMUNITY

AS THE LATEST DEAN OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, DR. DAVID YARBROUGH HAS BEEN GIVEN the task of completing a detailed database that lists all the ways UL Lafayette's faculty, staff and students serve others. It is an unenviable task. There are times when the associate professor must feel like Sisyphus of Greek mythology, condemned for eternity to push a large rock up a hill, only to have it roll down before it reaches the summit. The sheer volume of information is almost overwhelming. A recent survey showed that faculty, staff and students volunteered about 508,000 hours last year. • Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, about 100 first-time freshmen will be required to perform community service. That mandate will be extended to all incoming freshmen over the next three years because of a belief, shared by administrators and faculty, that there are valuable lessons to be learned through assisting others. On the following pages are examples of how UL Lafayette already makes a tangible difference.

1

Marine Survival Training Center

ANYONE WHO TRAVELS over water needs to know how to survive during an offshore emergency. UL Lafayette's Marine Survival Training Center has passed on potentially life-saving skills to more than 75,000 people, such as what

to do when a helicopter hits the water; how to launch a lifeboat; how to swim through fire or debris; and how to survive without equipment. Trainees also learn how to properly use enclosed lifeboats. The center, located near the Lafayette Regional Airport, was the first of its kind in the United States.

"We're preparing people for worst-case scenarios," said Jim Gunter, the center's director. "We want them to have options for survival."

Companies from around the world

are requiring employees to meet the same safety standards, such as those established by the International Maritime Organization and the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization, which are in place in 22 countries.

"Whether you are working in the Gulf of Mexico or the North Sea, the safety procedures are the same. So, a language barrier doesn't become a safety barrier," Gunter said.

The center brought the first state-

SURVIVAL SUCCESS STORY by Harry Sowle

Editor's note: In 1969, Harry Sowle was 20 years old, brash and brazen. Drafted into the U.S. Army, he was trained as a helicopter pilot. Flying in tandem with armed Cobra helicopters, he dipped the more nimble craft into the jungle canopies of Vietnam, scouting for the enemy. In 1971, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for maneuvering his chopper during the rescue of a GI in an area without a landing pad.

In the 1980s, Sowle became a commercial helicopter pilot in the oil and gas industry, ferrying passengers in the Gulf of Mexico.

All his years of training were needed to prepare him for a sunny November day in 2003, when he would have to rely on what he had learned almost 20 years before in an offshore water survival class on UL Lafayette's campus.

IN MAY OF 1984, I WAS HIRED AS a helicopter pilot. As a new employee, I was required to take a water survival course.

At the time, I thought the idea of being taught how to survive in water was ridiculous. I considered it a waste of my time and the company's money. There was just no way I was ever going to have to escape from a sinking aircraft, much less jump 50 feet into the water from a burning rig. I was too good a pilot and way too smart to ever get into that kind of trouble.



Retired faculty member Margaret McMillan helped establish emergency response training for offshore workers. Pilot Harry Sowle put that training to use when his helicopter went down in the Gulf of Mexico in 2003.

I was a Vietnam vet, and sure didn't need anyone who didn't know anything about aviation telling me anything about survival. Or, so I thought.

Fast forward almost 20 years.

My daughter was a freshman at UL. My wife and I had just celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary and retirement was on my mind more and more.

In my 20 years as a commercial pilot, I had logged almost 10,000 flight hours without any accident or incident. I had performed hundreds of thousands of takeoffs and landings. I had safely carried tens of thousands of passengers. I was the best pilot who had ever lived and still smarter than a sack of hammers.

Nothing was going to happen to me. In a few years, I would cash in my retirement account and dote on my grandchildren.

But on the morning of Nov. 23, 2003, something went wrong.

At 10:27 a.m., I lifted off a platform in the Gulf of Mexico with two passengers for a 30-minute flight to another rig. From a five-foot hover, I tilted the nose of the helicopter down slightly and added power to accelerate away from the helipad.

As the helicopter started to move forward, a turbine



In 1984, Harry Sowle began his career as a commercial pilot, working in the Gulf of Mexico in the oil and gas industry.

wheel spinning at about 18,000 rpm failed. When it came apart, it took the rest of the engine with it in a horrendous, grinding howl. Shrapnel from what used to be a beautiful 600 horsepower engine exploded outward like a bomb, peppering the sides of the helicopter, tearing jagged holes in the metal and severing the tail rotor drive shaft.

The heliport itself was in the center of the production platform, which is uncommon in the Gulf, so we were still over the platform railing when the engine let go. I had no power and almost no airspeed. At about 150 feet in the air and still over an obstacle, I was in the worst possible position to recover and land safely.

My only thought was that I had to land the helicopter upright to give my passengers a chance to escape without injury. Relying on experience and instinct, I somehow managed to clear the platform.

I had more than 30 years of experience and training to fall back on, but I had not even begun to think about what I would do once we hit the water.

I was too intent on controlling the helicopter to inflate the floats. When we hit the water, the helicopter immediately turned over and began to sink.

Maybe five or six seconds had elapsed since the engine failed. That's when my real problems started.

Hanging upside down from my seatbelt underwater, I reached for the door handle, but it was no longer where it was supposed to be. I could not, absolutely could not, find it.

To my own surprise, for about 10 or 15 seconds, I actually panicked. I knew it was impossible to break the window and escape, but I tried anyway. In struggling, I only succeeded in cracking the window and cutting my hand.

That bit of desperate stupidity got me thinking of sharks. Then, panic gave way to a strange and dangerous complacency.

The Gulf water was warm. The sound of escaping air bubbles seemed pleasant, almost comforting. I was thinking of my wife and daughter when another thought entered my head.

Never stop looking for a way out.

I turned and looked to my left. My passengers were gone and the door was open.

Open.

I tried to move toward the door, but I was still strapped in my seat. I had been underwater for a least a minute. It was getting darker and very hard to think. I released my seatbelt and reached for the open door.

I kept my focus on the door frame, although I didn't know why. Then I remembered a training course from what seemed about a thousand years ago. *The door frame. Get one hand on the door frame and pull yourself out. Never mind anything else. As you clear the door, use your other hand to inflate the life jacket. It will take you where you need to go.*

I did. I didn't know which way was up or down. I just did what I'd been taught. A few seconds later, I splashed to the surface and saw my passengers just a few feet away, floating safely in their life jackets. I drew the sweetest breath of my life.

My next thought was, "Wow. The instructors were right. The training worked."

of-the-art "dunker" available for industry training to the United States. The modular egress training simulator, with its metal frame and removable side panels, resembles a helicopter. Its exits and seating can be arranged to mimic many types of aircraft. Occupants are actually dunked in the water, so they can practice getting out safely.

UL Lafayette began teaching offshore safety courses in the 1970s when the petroleum industry was seeking an in-water survival program for its workers. Margaret McMillan, who was then teaching health and physical education at the university, was asked to organize the program.

"There was life-saving equipment on the rigs, but no one knew how to use it," recalled McMillan. She collaborated with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop training protocols. The classes were a combination of lectures and in-the-water exercises, carried out at the university's indoor pool.

In 1976, McMillan retired from teaching and formed McMillan Offshore Survival Technology. The company continued to offer courses at UL Lafayette, through a contract with the university's Petroleum Training Service. In 1988, McMillan was instrumental in the creation of the Marine



At the MSTC, trainees learn what to do in case an aircraft lands in the water.

Survival Training Center.

McMillan, 89, is known internationally for her life's work. In 2005, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Offshore Energy Hall of Fame for her pioneering efforts in offshore safety and the development of the MSTC.

2

AmeriCorps

EARLIER THIS YEAR, President Barack Obama signed legislation that will triple the size of the AmeriCorps national

service program over the next eight years.

A former community organizer, he used the occasion to ask Americans to volunteer. "All that's required on your part is a willingness to make a difference," he said.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette needed no encouragement.

It has the only campus-based AmeriCorps program in Louisiana and a solid history of service learning.

UL Lafayette's AmeriCorps began in 1995 at the urging of Dr. Joseph Savoie, then UL Lafayette's vice president for University Advancement. AmeriCorps' goal, he told *La Louisiane* a year later, is to enhance the learning culture at the university so students gain "a sensitivity for their responsibility for service to their community."

Fourteen years after AmeriCorps was established on campus, Savoie is president of the university and over 400 AmeriCorps

students have spent more than 250,000 hours making a difference. They have tutored at-risk children in housing projects. Helped Habitat for Humanity build houses for low-income families. Engaged elementary school students in visual and language arts activities through the Writing in the Galleries program at University Art Museum. The list goes on.

There are monetary rewards. AmeriCorps members who complete the program earn education awards of \$1,250 to \$2,362; some also receive a small monthly living allowance or work-study payment.

But Dr. David Yarbrough, UL Lafayette's dean of Community Service, points out that an education award doesn't even pay for a semester's tuition.

AmeriCorps members choose between two levels of commitment in a service year: 450 hours or 900 hours. That works out to about 10 hours per week and 20 hours per week, respectively.

Why have so many students volunteered to devote so much of their time to AmeriCorps?

"They're a good group of students. They epitomize being engaged at an age and a responsibility that's beyond most college students," Yarbrough replied.



DOUG DUGAS

From left, Paige Broussard, Christian Fontenot, Katie Fasnacht and Allison Leger.

3

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Every dollar of state funding invested in UL Lafayette generates an \$8.62 return.

5

To Protect and Serve

MORE THAN 3,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT professionals have graduated from the Acadiana Law Enforcement Training Academy on UL Lafayette's campus and become certified police officers.

About 85 percent of them have worked in Acadiana during their careers, estimates Keith Kellar, ALETA's training coordinator.



Latest grads: ALETA's 129th class graduated in March 2009.

The university was a founding partner when the academy was created 32 years ago. Today, it provides facilities for the academy, while the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office supplies its staff.

The academy offers tracks for law enforcement officers and corrections officers. Although it primarily serves eight Acadiana parishes, other agencies rely on ALETA. The state Attorney General's Office sends its investigators to the academy, for example. And, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety uses ALETA's curriculum as a model for training crash investigators.

Lafayette Parish Sheriff Mike Neustrom was a professor of criminal justice at UL Lafayette and director of ALETA from 1977 until his election as sheriff in 2000. He served as director of University Police from 1970 to 1974.

4

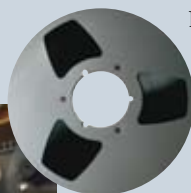
Treasure Trove

THE LOUISIANA FOLKLORE Digital Archive houses the collections of the Center for Louisiana Studies, including the archives of Cajun and Creole Folklore.

The archives hold priceless recordings of music, stories and conversation. Modern-day musicians pluck history from the files; researchers can eavesdrop on local culture in Edith Garland Dupré



TRAVIS GAUTHIER



Library, where four listening carrels are equipped with computers and headphones.

The musical mélange also has a presence on MySpace, where worldwide users can sample recordings.

Material from the archives is featured in the Louisiana Folk Masters series, which has produced two music CDs.

6 On Track for the Future



JOEY BENOIT

This artist's rendering shows the proposed, student-designed monorail.

IS A MONORAIL – especially one designed by college students – an outlandish option for mass transportation in Lafayette? Not necessarily. What if the elevated railway could be constructed within existing, public rights of way? What if its operating costs were less than what taxpayers pay now for a city bus system? What if it's modeled after a monorail that has been in operation since 1903 with only one accident? UL Lafayette's Transit Design Studio has taken a practical approach to moving people. Jerome Malinowski, a professor of industrial design, is in charge of the Studio. (He helped design an American icon, the Ford Mustang.) Malinowski believes the monorail design, which UL Lafayette students have been working on for the past five years, is ready to be tested. The next step: secure about \$5 million to build a prototype.

7 'All Things Crawfish'

A MAMA CRAWFISH AND A BABY crawfish are walking down the bayou. The baby spies something looming up ahead and nervously asks, "Momma, what's that?"

"Don't worry about that, cher. That's just a cow. Cows don't eat crawfish."

The toddler sees another scary outline and his mother reassures him, "That's just a dog. Dogs don't eat crawfish."

Then the baby sees something coming toward them. "What's that, Momma?"

"You better run, cher! That's a Cajun! They'll eat anything!"

UL Lafayette's Cinematic Arts Workshop is looking for this kind of humor – and anything else to do with

the crustacean that Breaux Bridge, La., has become known for. It will create an online archive with the material.

Leaders of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association called on the Workshop to create the archive in time for the festival's 50th anniversary next year. The project will give the world access to a unique repository of Louisiana culture, said Charles Richard, the Workshop's director.

The Workshop is collecting information, including the history of the crawfishing industry, to create the "all things crawfish" archive. "We are asking people in the community to share their memories and their memorabilia. We're looking for everything from photographs and home movies to personal stories," Richard said.

And yes, even jokes.



ALLISON BOHIL

With her crawfish crown, Diane Domingues Townsend was the 1959 Queen of Breaux Bridge's Centennial Celebration, which preceded the Crawfish Festival.

8 Gifted Goals

FOR 30 YEARS, THE UNIVERSITY's Center for Gifted Education has offered summer enrichment programs for gifted and creative students from kindergarten to eighth grade. During the rest of the year, it shows educators how to teach the smartest kids in their classes and consults with parents of gifted students.

It's the only center of its scope in Louisiana. There are only about 20 comprehensive centers in the nation.

9 ECONOMIC IMPACT SPENDING

\$287 million	Student spending
\$150 million	Faculty and staff spending
\$125 million	Visitor spending
\$72 million	Operating expenditures
\$47 million	Capital outlay and construction average annual expenditures
\$32 million	Health insurance payments
\$23 million	Retiree spending
\$19 million	Affiliated organizations

\$755 million

Annually in Louisiana with \$726 million of that total spending impact felt in Acadiana

10 Child Advocate

DR. VAL MACGYVERS IS AN advocate for children, in and out of the classroom. Since 1996, she has taught courses about child abuse and neglect, helping future teachers, counselors and law enforcement officers recognize signs of abuse. She has educated hundreds of parents in community workshops. MacGyvers is the advisor for Service Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse, a UL Lafayette student group devoted to teaching young people about abuse.

11

Compassion in Action

READY 4 THE RETURN

SHELL SHOCK. BATTLE FATIGUE. POST-TRAUMATIC stress disorder.

In any era, by any name, they are the unseen wounds of war.

Recurring nightmares. Flashbacks. A sense of impending dread. A state of hypervigilance: anticipating danger and bracing for the worst.

Jill Laroussini, a UL Lafayette nursing instructor, has a special place in her heart for soldiers who bear those invisible scars. For 14 years, she and her students have served the homeless; many of those patients are military veterans.

Part of the standard treatment for stressed vets has been talk therapy, Laroussini explained. But research is revealing that for many, talking about their experiences can reinforce trauma, instead of diminishing it. That's something Laroussini already suspected.

"The vets on the street have taught me that talking about it is not a good thing for them. Although, after 9/11, a lot of them had a lot to say. After the Gulf War, a lot of them had a lot to say. It traumatized them, retriggered a lot of feelings for them."

In 2005, Laroussini and one of her former students, Jody Mittiga, a registered nurse and UL Lafayette alumna, created Ready 4 the Return. It's a volunteer initiative that brings simple, effective stress-reduction techniques to National Guard soldiers.

"We come as healers. They come as warriors," she said.

Among the eight-member volunteer team are Nancy Ortego, a UL nursing instructor, and Betty Landreneau, a retired

UL Lafayette nursing faculty member.

The foundation of their work is evidence-based research using mind/body approaches for healing after trauma. "This is a PTSD prevention model," said Laroussini.

Volunteers follow Guard members to their weekend drill sites, offering 30-minute, deep relaxation sessions using guided imagery on audio compact discs and other techniques, such as light touch and aromatherapy. The therapy sessions are usually



Nurse Jill Laroussini touches Austin Minor in a healing session.

set up in a spare room at an armory. Laroussini and her team bring in comfortable, padded tables and adjust the room's lighting to help create a relaxing atmosphere.

Guided imagery, also called directed meditation, employs soothing music and spoken words to help listeners "develop the perception of safety" to "re-regulate their autonomic nervous systems," Laroussini explained.

Ready 4 the Return also offers training to military family members, or anyone interested in learning healing techniques.

Laroussini said today's combat troops

are especially vulnerable to lasting trauma because their battlefield is often an urban one, similar in some respects to their homes. "There really is no front line in the war on terrorism. The risk of suicide bombers is with every parked car, every individual you hire to do laundry. There are some protective measures taken, but the point is, their bodies, as systems, are on alert 24/7."

Descriptive terms such as "energy work" and "alternative therapy" can raise eyebrows, she said, although such methods have been used successfully and reliably in Eastern medicine for centuries. "In Western medicine, we really haven't developed medical language to fully explain this complementary, holistic approach," she said.

12

Cultural Links

TRAVELERS ON Southwest Airlines reached

into their seat pockets this spring and got a taste of Acadiana. *Spirit*, the company's in-flight magazine, featured Cajun Country as a destination in its April issue. It cited Dr. Bob Carriker, an associate professor and head of UL's History and Geography Departments, as a boudin expert.

That, he is.

Carriker and a friend, Nolan Theriot, cooked up the site, www.boudinlink.com, then stuffed it with tasty tips. This year, that cultural hunger led to the first-ever Boudin Cook-Off, held in downtown Lafayette. The flavorful festival fired up some good-natured competition among boudin makers and helped raise money to preserve historic properties.

NuNu's of Youngsville, La., took first place in the People's Choice division.

13

Lifetime Learning

ALMOST 11,000 PEOPLE took continuing education classes at UL Lafayette in 2008. Some

received necessary training through safety and business courses. Others were there to have fun, taking courses such as Belly Dancing or Basics of Photography.

The Continuing Education Department offers four terms each year. Online registration makes it easy to sign up.

14 Rebuilding Community

THE TOWN OF DELCAMBRE IS fighting to survive. UL Lafayette is a champion in that battle, creating redevelopment and marketing plans for the coastal com-

2008, as Hurricane Ike grazed the coast on its way to Texas.

Since then, residents have been swept up in a tide of bureaucracy. Delays in receiving state and federal funding to rebuild – and the costly requirements to elevate homes and make them more wind resistant – have



A redevelopment plan calls for a boardwalk along Delcambre Canal and a new marina.

munity following two devastating hurricanes within three years.

In September 2005, Hurricane Rita roared ashore, causing Delcambre Canal to flood the town. Floodwaters came again in

forced some of them to move elsewhere.

Remaining residents haven't given up on rebuilding. In March 2007, some of them asked Tom Sammons, an architecture professor and director of UL Lafayette's

Community Design Workshop, to create a redevelopment plan.

Since its inception in 1995, the CDW has worked on some 75 projects in several Louisiana cities and towns, including Breaux Bridge, Carencro, Opelousas, Lafayette and Jonesboro. It incorporates urban planning and landscape design, along with architecture, housing and preservation. Faculty members provide expert consultation and planning services, while fifth-year architecture students gain valuable experience by transforming planning concepts into drawings and models.

In October 2007, the CDW unveiled a waterfront development plan for Delcambre. The mixed-use plan calls for elevated homes and businesses and a boardwalk along the canal. A new marina and improved facilities for the town's annual Shrimp Festival are designed to boost industry and tourism.

Once the plan was complete, Sammons called Dr. Geoff Stewart, a UL Lafayette marketing professor, to help move the redevelopment forward.

This semester, graduate-level marketing students began developing plans in four areas: industrial development, real estate development, retail development and tourism. The project will extend over the next three years, so several marketing classes may have a hand in shaping Delcambre's future.

15

Generous Greeks

IN 2008, UL Lafayette Greeks raised \$86,530 and provided 14,945 volunteer hours for charitable causes.

There are nine sororities on campus: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Delta, Phi Mu, Sigma Gamma Rho, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta. There are 11 fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Phi Kappa Theta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Theta Xi.

16

Better Teachers, Better Readers

THERE IS STRONG DEMAND FOR THE KIND of help UL Lafayette's Reading Center provides through its Reading Clinic.

Children in grades 2 through 6 receive individualized assessments and tutoring plans. They attend one-on-one tutoring sessions once a week during the fall, spring and summer semesters, in which UL students help them improve their reading skills and their self-confidence.

The center receives as many as 800 calls a year from par-

ents asking to enroll their children in the low-cost sessions. But enrollment is limited to 60-85 children each semester.

"The thrust of the program is to provide experience for our undergraduate and graduate students so that when they go out in the field, they will have had some experience with struggling readers, with assessment, and they can apply that in their own classrooms," said Dr. Elizabeth Webre, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction, who is the center's volunteer coordinator.

Graduate students are typically teachers who are working toward certification as reading specialists.



From left, Tanajia Greggoire works with UL student Rebecca Napier.

17

ECONOMIC
IMPACT
JOBS

7,783

Non-university jobs created by
university spending

18

Student-Athletes Go The Distance

LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® MAKE TIME for community service.

That's no small feat.

In addition to competing in games, matches or meets, they must go to class; study; complete class assignments, such as term papers; attend team meetings and practices; work out regularly in the weight room; and travel to out-of-town games.

Baseball players have especially hectic schedules. There were 54 regular season baseball games this year, including 15 in other cities.

Despite the demands on their time, UL Lafayette's 400 or so student-athletes managed to:

- visit hospitalized children;
- collect nonperishable goods for FoodNet, a nonprofit food bank;
- help sponsor Cajun Fingerprints, a community awareness project for children, with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department;
- conduct free sports clinics;
- mow lawns for people in need of assistance;
- visit Juvenile Detention Center residents;
- assist with Senior Olympics;
- participate in substance abuse prevention programs at area schools;
- talk with kids living at a local shelter for women and children;
- conduct a food drive and deliver Thanksgiving meals to 20 needy families;
- distribute water bottles and talk with kids at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center; and
- collect donated toys and deliver them to underprivileged kids.

Source: UL Lafayette Athletic Department

19

Determination Speaks Volumes

RANDY YOUNG IS 47 YEARS old. With the help of the

UL Lafayette Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, he is learning to communicate again.

Because of a 2003 stroke, subsequent surgeries and a life-threatening infection, some of the motor pathways in Young's brain are damaged. He understands conversations going on around him and knows what he wants to say. But most times, he simply can't get the words out.

Sometimes, Young can make simple replies, such as "yes" or "no." He often mentions the name of his 6-year-old son, Ashton. He helps out at the motorcycle and lawn mower repair shop where he used to work. He uses scripted phrases written on index cards, such as "May I help you?" to better communicate with customers.

At the clinic on UL Lafayette's campus, Young is learning to use a programmable device that may make it easier for him to express himself. The DynaVox is a compact, electronic box with a series of buttons on its face. It can be customized to speak for Young, programmed with phrases he relies on frequently at home and at work.

"His determination is amazing," said Denise Laborde, a supervisor in the clinic. "He works at it every day. Frankly, most people would have given up." Staff and students have been working with Young since the fall of 2004. Like many patients who utilize the clinic, Young turned to the university for services when his insurance ran out.

The clinic offers evaluation and therapy services for a wide range of communicative impairments at reduced fees and on a sliding scale that varies with clients' incomes.

Holly Damico is director of the clinic. "As a teaching institution, the university supports our clinic, so we're not trying to pay for our own clinical staff out of our clinical fees," she said.

And because the clinic's clients do not have to meet the same therapy bench-

marks as those whose care is being paid for by insurance providers, the clinic is able to serve clients over an extended period of time. As long as clients and students are benefiting by working in clinic settings, the therapy continues.

Some clients, such as Young, may experience communication problems after some event. Others may have developmental disorders. On average, some 70 clients attend therapy sessions twice a week during the fall and spring semesters. The clinic conducts about 30 diagnostic assessments per semester.

Damico said the clinic provides state-of-the-art services for clients, while providing students the training they need to become independently practicing speech



Graduate student Emily Ensminger helps Randy Young learn to use a programmable communication device.

therapists. Student clinicians work with clients, both children and adults, under staff supervision, as part of their requirements for graduating in communicative disorders. Students also work in the community, at hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

Recently, a graduate student and client created a support group for those with impaired speech. The group meets once a month on campus.

"We are known, not just right here in Lafayette, but throughout the region as a center for therapy services, for support group services and for information," said Damico.

20

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTERS



- Enterprise Center of Louisiana
- Center for Business and Information Technologies
- Small Business Development Center
- National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute

2008 ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR CENTERS' CLIENTS

\$1.2 billion in increased revenues

\$1.8 billion in retained revenues

\$101 million in savings

\$56 million in increased investments

About \$28 million in cost avoidance

21

Toxicology Testing

WHEN SOME UL LAFAYETTE students look for heavy metal, they don't check their iPods.

Instead, they examine sediment extracted from Bayou Vermilion. They're interested in the possible presence of heavy metals, such as copper and lead. They also conduct some bacterial testing and check fish tissue from time to time.

The students are taking Dr. Paul Klerks' environmental toxicology course. He's an associate professor of biology who studies the long-term effects of environmental contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. About 45 students have examined the bayou's sediment each fall and spring for the past eight years. Their findings are sent to the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District. So far, Klerks reported, there haven't been any alarming results.

This testing is not required by any agency. But it gives students a chance to learn how to collect and analyze samples and gives the Bayou Vermilion District valuable data, Klerks said.

22

Entertainment

MANY MAJOR ENTERTAINMENT venues and events have strong connections to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette or are part of the university. Below are some examples.

PAUL AND LULU HILLIARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM – This top-flight museum on campus offers compelling traveling exhibitions and an impressive permanent art collection.

CAJUNDOME – The 12,800-seat facility on campus is used for events ranging from concerts by big-name entertainers to UL Lafayette basketball games.



In 2008, students presented the musical "Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know."



UL's State of La Danse

H. GORDON BROOKS

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL – Herman Mhire, a former art professor at UL Lafayette, was the catalyst for this festival, which began in 1986. It is the largest outdoor, free Francophone event in the United States.

FESTIVALS ACADIENS ET CRÉOLES – Dr. Barry Ancelet, a professor of French at UL Lafayette, has been a driving force for this festival, which began as the Tribute to Cajun Music Festival in 1974 on campus.

KRVS 88.7 FM – KRVS is a listener-supported, 100,000 watt public radio station on campus. It provides indigenous Louisiana programming, as well as National Public Radio programs, to about 650,000 listeners in a 12-parish area of south Louisiana. It has a worldwide audience via the Internet.

BAYOU BIJOU – This on-campus theater presents films from around the world that are not usually shown in local commercial theaters.

23

EarthShare Gardens

UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS are caring for the earth and helping to feed the hungry at the same time.

Alumnae Danica Adams and Elizabeth Brooks established EarthShare Gardens, an organic community garden project, in 2005, while they were still students. Four years later, UL students are still involved, working in the garden as members and volunteers.

The gardens are located in north Lafayette, on the grounds of the former Holy Rosary Institute.

Two plots of land serve different functions. One is the Community Supported Agriculture Garden. Members plant, water and tend the rows; the produce is sold through subscription at the beginning of the season, and distributed on scheduled harvest days.

The Donation Garden supplies fresh, healthy food to St. Joseph's Diner and The Salvation Army.



24

Acadiana Outreach

IN 2003, HECTOR LaSala, a UL

Lafayette architecture professor, learned that Acadiana Outreach Center needed his help.

The non-profit, faith-based organization assists the poor in a nine-parish area. It had received donations of food, clothing and other items. But it lacked shelves, so it couldn't efficiently organize and store them.



Architecture Professor Hector LaSala in the Recovery Action Center; his design students created the center's inspirational artwork.

LaSala had never visited the center, which is in downtown Lafayette. "When I went there, I realized that the exterior spaces did not match up with the center's mission. They wanted to give people hope, but the place needed as much help as the clients," he recalled in a recent interview.

LaSala and colleague Geoff Gjertson decided to do more than just provide shelves. They and their students devel-

oped a master plan for improvements. "We wanted to make sure that the plan didn't just sit on a shelf. We wanted to prove that we were going to create change," he said.

University faculty members and alumni had already been making valuable behind-the-scenes contributions as volunteers.

But over the next six years, more than 200 students under LaSala's and Gjertson's supervision helped transform the center through about 25 service learning projects involving art, architecture, industrial



UL industrial design majors created compact furniture with built-in storage for the Acadiana Outreach Center.

design and renewable resources. They designed and constructed covered seating areas, renovated some buildings and began a community garden. Their work continues.

As the Center's look has evolved, so has its mission. It is moving away from providing its clients with temporary assistance. Now, it is focused on offering permanent solutions to help its clients achieve self-sufficiency.

25

Service Tradition Builds

BEGINNING WITH THE FALL 2009 SEMESTER, UL Lafayette will make community service mandatory for first-time freshmen.



Dr. David Yarbrough

Dr. David Yarbrough, dean of Community Service and an associate professor of Child and Family Studies, said the university will start small, with about 100 students. Over the next three years, the requirement will be extended to all first-semester students. There are usually about 2,700 first-time freshmen each fall.

"We have about 20 years of literature to show that students who are engaged in community service during college end up being more engaged in those types of activities after college," he said.

Yarbrough has been charged with completing the collection of information from faculty about their own and their students' public service.

A recent economic impact study showed that faculty, staff and students volunteered about 508,000 hours last year. Of that total, students volunteered 393,203 hours, while faculty and staff served 115,000 hours.

University personnel and students have used informal associations to determine how they can help others. "They're already engaged in the community," he said.

Faculty members are "expected but not required" to perform community service, Yarbrough continued.

He views the level of involvement by faculty – by engaging classes in community-oriented projects or on an individual basis – "as more of a tribute to who faculty are as opposed to what they're expected to do." ■

Judgment Day

Super Bowl puts NFL ref to the ultimate test • *by Sarah Spell*

IT'S EVERYBODY'S DREAM," SAID GREG Gautreaux. "Just like a football player, you can't play in a bigger game than the Super Bowl. And for officiating, you can't referee a bigger game than the Super Bowl."

For NFL officials, accuracy counts. Only the best refs make it to the Super Bowl. So, it's clear that Gautreaux, a 1976 UL graduate, has earned his black-and-white stripes. The highest-rated field judge in the NFL in 2008, he made the right call more than 99 percent of the time.

Also on the field for Super Bowl XLIII on Feb. 1, 2009, were two former Ragin'

Cajuns: cornerback Ike Taylor of the Pittsburgh Steelers and cornerback Michael Adams of the Arizona Cardinals.

For Gautreaux, the matchup did not disappoint.

"If I had to write a script — if I had to say, 'I want to go to the Super Bowl and this is what I want to do,' I don't think I could have written a better script than what happened to me at the Super Bowl this year. To get the determining call of the game — and get it right — that's hard to beat," he said.

After 34 years of officiating, Gautreaux, 54, found himself in the right place at the right time, making the right call.



With the world watching, alumnus Greg Gautreaux makes the crucial call of Super Bowl XLIII, signalling a touchdown for the Pittsburgh Steelers' Santonio Holmes. Some 70,000 fans watched from the stands, while millions more tuned in via television.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED / GETTY IMAGES

With two minutes, 37 seconds left in the game, it looked as though the Cardinals, with a 23-20 lead, might carry the day. But, starting from the Steeler's 22-yard line, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger calmly led his team downfield, deep into Steelers' territory. Then, it all came down to one pivotal pass.

With 35 seconds left on the clock, the Steelers were at the 6-yard line. With the offensive line holding off Arizona defenders, Roethlisberger dropped back to the 13 and let go of a high-and-outside pass destined for wide receiver Santonio Holmes.

Three red jerseys crowded Holmes in the end zone and the ball, barreling toward him, missed the outstretched hands of Cardinal Aaron Francisco by mere inches.

Holmes was already in motion. Leaning over the white boundary stripe, he snatched the football from the air. Gripping it with both hands, he stretched out his 5-foot, 11-inch frame. Pointing his toes like a ballet dancer's, he strained to touch paydirt while falling out of bounds.

In the stands, Steelers' fans and foes screamed and shouted, rode waves of emotion. Gautreaux, on the sidelines, watched with calm intent. Then, he charged into the end zone and thrust his arms into the air, making the call: Touchdown!

Holmes' acrobatic catch would ultimately give the Steelers a 27-23 win and their sixth world championship. But not before officials decided to review the play, causing Steelers' fans — and members of Gautreaux's family seated in the stands — to hold their collective breath.

"My wife said it was the longest 90 seconds of her life," Gautreaux recalled.

Replays from various angles confirmed his on-the-spot analysis: Holmes indeed had both feet in bounds to score on the play. Gautreaux said he never had a doubt. "I felt good about it. I was confident in my decision."

Yet, controversy would linger, not over Holmes' catch, but what he did afterward. In the end zone, he celebrated by mimicking NBA star LeBron James' pre-game ritual. James likes to get basketball fans fired up by pouring talcum powder onto his hands, then creating courtside clouds with it.

While NFL officials weren't looking, Holmes performed his own version of the stunt. First, he shook the football as though it were a container of talc. Then he tossed the ball skyward, pretending the ball itself was a powdery shower.

Think you know as much as an NFL ref? Take our quiz to see if you could wear the stripes.

1. Which team gets to call the coin toss before each regular season game?
2. How many kicking balls are prepared for a regular season NFL game?
3. How many teams participate in an NFL game?
4. Does a receiver have to have only one foot — or both feet — in bounds for a pass to be ruled complete?
5. During the opening kickoff, the football sails through the uprights. What's the score?
6. What does it mean when the referee puts his hands on his hips?
7. How deep are the end zones?

Answers on Page 36

NFL rules forbid using a football as a prop; however, Gautreaux, the closest official, didn't see the celebration. Neither did the six other referees. "I did what I needed to do, staying in my position, watching," said Gautreaux.

After Gautreaux turned away to set up the next play, Holmes began shaking the ball. A moment later, Gautreaux looked back. "I did see him throw the ball in the air, but that's not a foul," he said.

A foul would have forced Pittsburgh to kick off from its 15-yard line and could have possibly changed the outcome of the game. (NFL officials settled the matter more than two weeks later, fining MVP Holmes \$10,000 for his end zone enthusiasm.)

But because Gautreaux wasn't familiar with James' pre-game antics, he said he's not sure what he would have done if he had witnessed the entire scene. "Even if I'd have seen it, I can't honestly say I would have flagged it or I wouldn't have flagged it, because that has to come instinctively."

It's an instinct honed over decades.

In 1972, Gautreaux graduated from Teurlings High School in Lafayette, where he had played basketball and baseball. Although he was offered walk-on spots in both sports at Louisiana College in

Pineville, he declined the offers. "I wanted to go to USL," he said. "I wanted to be closer to home."

Gautreaux spent what would have been his first college semester earning extra money by working in his father's sign shop. In January 1973, he enrolled at USL, where he would earn a degree in education.

While attending USL, Gautreaux began officiating, first at recreational and junior high school games, then as a high school official. "The competitive spirit I had in sports just transferred to officiating. When I officiate, I compete against myself, because I want to get everything right."

His dedication and determination did not go unnoticed. While working USL scrimmages, Gautreaux made an impression on then-head coach Nelson Stokley and assistant coach Gerald Broussard. The two men drafted a letter of recommendation that helped Gautreaux become an NCAA official.

Gautreaux immersed himself in what he calls his "hobby" — officiating. "I officiated college football, basketball and baseball, all at the same time, so I was gone a lot. But when I was at home, I always tried to make it a priority to spend time with my family."

"Family and faith are the two most important things in my life. And, then, you know, football."

In 1999, Gautreaux joined the now-defunct NFL Europe league. "It was great. Maybe one weekend I'm working in Barcelona, Spain. The next weekend I might be in Berlin ... It was a paid vacation."

It was also a proving ground. "There was always someone there from the NFL office who observed you and interacted with you — on the field and off the field — to see how you'd gel with the NFL guys," Gautreaux said.

"They wanted to know, 'What kind of person are you? You might be a good football official, but how's your personality? How do you get along with other officials?'"

After four years working in Europe, he earned a chance to join the NFL. Gautreaux was flown to New York, where league executives quizzed him and psychologists grilled him. The process took several days.

NFL officials wanted to know: Was Gautreaux ready? How would he respond to the pressures of professional football?

"I guess I did all right," he jokes. "They hired me."

Gautreaux has been an NFL official for seven years. He said the biggest difference between college and pro-level play is the speed of the game. The professionals move faster and the pace and flavor of the game are more intense. "These guys are professional athletes, they all perform right on that gray line. Is it a foul? Or is it not a foul? It's right on that line."

So how does a ref get it right nearly 100 percent of the time? Well-honed instincts and what he describes as "focused imagination."

"You have to feel the play, see how it's developing ... It's all about angles."

"When you're officiating, you have to get that angle, where you can see between things. You have to anticipate where the defensive guy's gonna go, because you don't want to get blocked out."

And, "it's visual imagery," according to Gautreaux.

"You learn to take a mental picture, a snapshot, of critical moments in the game. In your mind, you see that action. You see the feet, you see the ball. You replay that picture in your mind."

"It's concentration. It's years and years of experience."

And when it all comes together, he continued, "You're not worried that there are 70,000 people in the stands."

More than a dozen of Gautreaux's family members were among the Super Bowl throng in Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla., to cheer on their favorite ref.

Gautreaux credits his wife, Betsy, and their three children, Daniel, Jennifer, and Bennett, with helping him make his NFL dreams come true. "Without the support of my wife and my children, I couldn't have been successful – at any level."

In his full-time job, as head of athletic programs and parks maintenance for Lafayette Consolidated Government, Gautreaux oversees youth and adult programs, tennis programs, an aquatics program, therapeutic recreation and park maintenance. He also manages new projects, such as Lafayette's skate park.

Gautreaux's management role gives him opportunities to practice another set of key skills – working with people.

"I've always wanted to be a person of service," he said. "I like to help people and I like dealing with people."

For some, qualities like patience, forbearance and forgiveness are the

'The competitive spirit I had in sports just transferred to officiating. When I officiate, I compete against myself, because I want to get everything right.'

GREG GAUTREAU

hardest to cultivate. But they are of the utmost value in what Gautreaux calls "the sidelines of officiating" – dealing with inevitable conflict.

"One of the things I tell young officials is, 'When a coach is in your face, yelling at you, don't take it personally.'"

"I look at it as, 'They're getting on my striped shirt, not me, Greg Gautreaux.' But some people can't do that. They're not willing to turn the other cheek."

A devout Catholic, Gautreaux attends morning Mass Monday through Friday. "With the NFL, one of the things I disliked was missing Sunday Mass. I started missing Sunday Mass and I felt guilty. So, I started going to daily Mass."

"I talked to the priest about it," he said, with a light laugh. "I said, 'Well, you know, five to one, I should be OK.'"

"I think faith has had a strong role in my ability to balance everything in my life."

That faith has also seen Gautreaux through some trying times.

His brother, Michael, was born with spina bifida, a condition that kept him confined to a wheelchair. "When he was born, the doctors told my parents he wouldn't live long, that they shouldn't even take him home," Gautreaux said. Michael died in 1998 at age 47.

"My daddy loved football. My brother loved football. They used to love to look at the NFL on Sunday. But, unfortunately, both of them died before I got into the NFL." Gautreaux's parents and brother all died within four years.

"They all taught me so much about life, about being a person of caring and service. And I think all of this has helped me in football officiating. In officiating, you need to be a communicator. What you are communicating is that you have confidence, that you know what you're doing. You're communicat-

ing to coaches about plays and they have to trust you."

"My father was an excellent man of patience. I never heard the man curse, never saw him get upset. When somebody might curse him out, he would turn and say, 'You know what? I'm sorry you feel that way, but I'm going to say a little prayer for you.' And he didn't mean it sarcastically."

When faced with an angry outburst, Gautreaux remains calm.

"Unlike my daddy, I might not tell the coach, 'Coach, I'll pray for you,' but I'm gonna deal with him in a manner where I want him to understand what's going on."

"I know he's not gonna be pleased with a call that goes against him, but if I can explain something, or present it in a manner that he can accept, that's the key."

This year, Gautreaux will be a guest speaker at the British American Football Referees Association Conference. He'll likely be answering the same question he's been asked hundreds of times.

"People ask me, 'How did you get into the NFL?' I always tell them, 'By taking care of details, making sure you dot every i and cross every t. Something that you're in control of, you make sure you get it right. And if it's something you're not in control of, you can't worry about it.' " ■

Answers to quiz on page 35:

1. The visiting team. The winning team captain gets to choose whether his team will receive or kick and, also, which goal his team will defend.
2. A dozen. Here are the rules: "Twelve (12) new footballs, sealed in a special box and shipped by the manufacturer, will be opened in the officials' locker room two hours prior to the starting time of the game. These balls are to be specially marked with the letter "k" and used exclusively for the kicking game."
3. Three – two teams of players plus a team of officials.
4. In the NFL, both feet must be in bounds. But the NCAA only requires one foot to be in bounds.
5. 0-0. A kickoff may not score a field goal.
6. The hands-on-the-hips signal can have one of three meanings: offside, encroachment or neutral zone infraction.
7. The end zones are 30 feet deep. The field is 360 feet long and 160 feet wide.

Source: www.nfl.com/rulebook

Shifting Into Overdrive

Ragin' Cajuns® Athletic Foundation revs up fund raising

SOME LOYAL UL LAFAYETTE FANS and former Ragin' Cajun student-athletes have rallied behind a structured effort to raise money for the university's athletics program.

They're members of the Ragin' Cajuns® Athletic Foundation's board. The foundation was formed in 2007 to provide financial support for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 16 intercollegiate varsity teams. It was announced in April.

John Bordelon, who played football for UL Lafayette in the 1970s, is president of the RCAF's board. "Our goal is to provide a strong financial base for the strategies of the Athletic Department. Right now, athletics has one of the smallest budgets in the country. We have to consolidate our fund-raising efforts and provide a more consistent plan," he said in an interview.

Other board members are Dr. Frank "Jay" Culotta Jr., Ed Domingues, Charlie Moncla Jr., C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier, Robert Daigle and Curtis Hollinger. Domingues ran track for UL Lafayette in the 1960s; Hollinger was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns tennis team in the 1980s.

Bordelon acknowledged state budget cuts for higher education that are expected for the 2009-10 fiscal year that begins July 1. "Some of the budget cuts will trickle down to athletics and we need to have outside funding to meet our priorities. We have to be able to provide for the general operation and advancement of the Athletic Department despite the economy," he said.

The RCAF will seek unrestricted gifts that will be spent on the basis of priorities determined by the university and its athletic director. The money could be used to help pay for facility improvements, academic center resources, scholarships, recruiting and

The cornerstone of the RCAF's efforts is an annual fund. Seven levels of giving to the annual fund have been established, from \$100 to \$10,000 or more, along with a range of corresponding benefits.

coaches' salaries, for example.


The cornerstone of the RCAF's efforts is an annual fund. Seven levels of giving to the annual fund have been established, from \$100 to \$10,000 or

more, along with a range of corresponding benefits. One of the rewards for giving \$250 or more is a priority parking pass for basketball and football games.

"Only current Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation members are eligible to enjoy the best and most convenient parking privileges and special gifts associated with each contribution level," said Scott Farmer, senior associate athletic director. "The fact that Ragin' Cajun student-athletes benefit at the same time makes this a great program for all Ragin' Cajun fans to become a part of."

The RCAF is expected to launch a capital campaign later this year.

Donations to the foundation are tax deductible. ■

 www.rcaf4ul.com

2009 LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



SEPT. 05	SOUTHERN 9th Annual Herbert Heymann Football Classic	CAJUN FIELD
SEPT. 12	KANSAS STATE	CAJUN FIELD
Sept. 19	Louisiana State	at Baton Rouge, La.
Sept. 26	Nebraska	at Lincoln, Neb.
OCT. 10	NORTH TEXAS *	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 17	Western Kentucky *	at Bowling Green, Ky.
OCT. 24	FLORIDA ATLANTIC * 64th Homecoming	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 31	Florida International *	at Miami, Fla.
Nov. 07	Arkansas State	at Jonesboro, Ark.
Nov. 14	Middle Tennessee *	at Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NOV 21	UL MONROE *	CAJUN FIELD
NOV 28	TROY * Senior Day	CAJUN FIELD

* Sun Belt Conference Games

Cajun Nation

Clubs, chapters help alumni keep in touch

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE alumni are all over the map. And Alumni Association Executive Director Dan Hare and his staff regularly connect with graduates all across the country.

Hare recalled some of the places he's visited.

"I've been to a crawfish boil on a beach in California, and to a crawfish boil

just down the road from Mt. Vernon, in the Washington, D.C., area. I've been to crawfish boils in Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Houston."

Hare said crawfish boils, "hosted by loyal volunteers" have become a signature spring event for Ragin' Cajun alumni.

Part of his job is to identify and recruit future volunteer leaders who will carry on Ragin' Cajun traditions and lend support to their alma mater. To do that, he and his staff keep tabs on where alumni reside.

The Association maintains a database of alumni addresses, which is updated daily. It now contains 73,588 records.

That total does not reflect the exact number of living alumni, Hare explained, only those for whom the Association currently has records on file. Nonetheless, the database is an interesting reflection of where students go after they graduate.

Most stay in Louisiana. More than 52,000 addresses, or 70 percent, are within the Bayou State. The second-largest group of Ragin' Cajuns, 10 percent, hang their hats in Texas. The rest live throughout the United States and abroad, with pockets of UL Lafayette alumni in major metropolitan

areas such as Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles and Denver.

A Lafayette company is helping the Alumni Association picture those demographics. C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates Inc. specializes in engineering, environmental consulting, surveying and mapping.

It took the database and created a map showing where alumni turn up across the 50 states. Hare uses the visual aid in presentations and finds it especially useful when he is talking with future graduates. "They're getting ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives. It's exciting, but there's also a great deal of uncertainty. It helps them to know – and to see, in a tangible way – that there's a network of support out there for them.

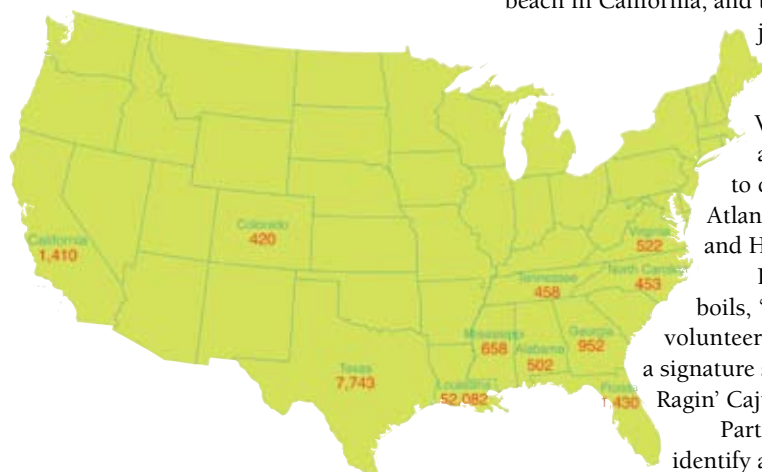
"That's part of what we do within the Alumni Association. Networking, helping new graduates make connections – and keeping strong connections between the alumni and the university."

UL Lafayette alumni may join two types of constituent groups: Ragin' Cajun Clubs, which are geographically based, and Alumni Chapters, which reflect a specific college, major or interest group.

Both clubs and chapters hold social functions. Some include an aspect of service, along with fellowship. Several groups have funded scholarships. The Alumni Band is an active chapter whose members perform at UL Lafayette basketball games, often filling in for the student band between semesters.

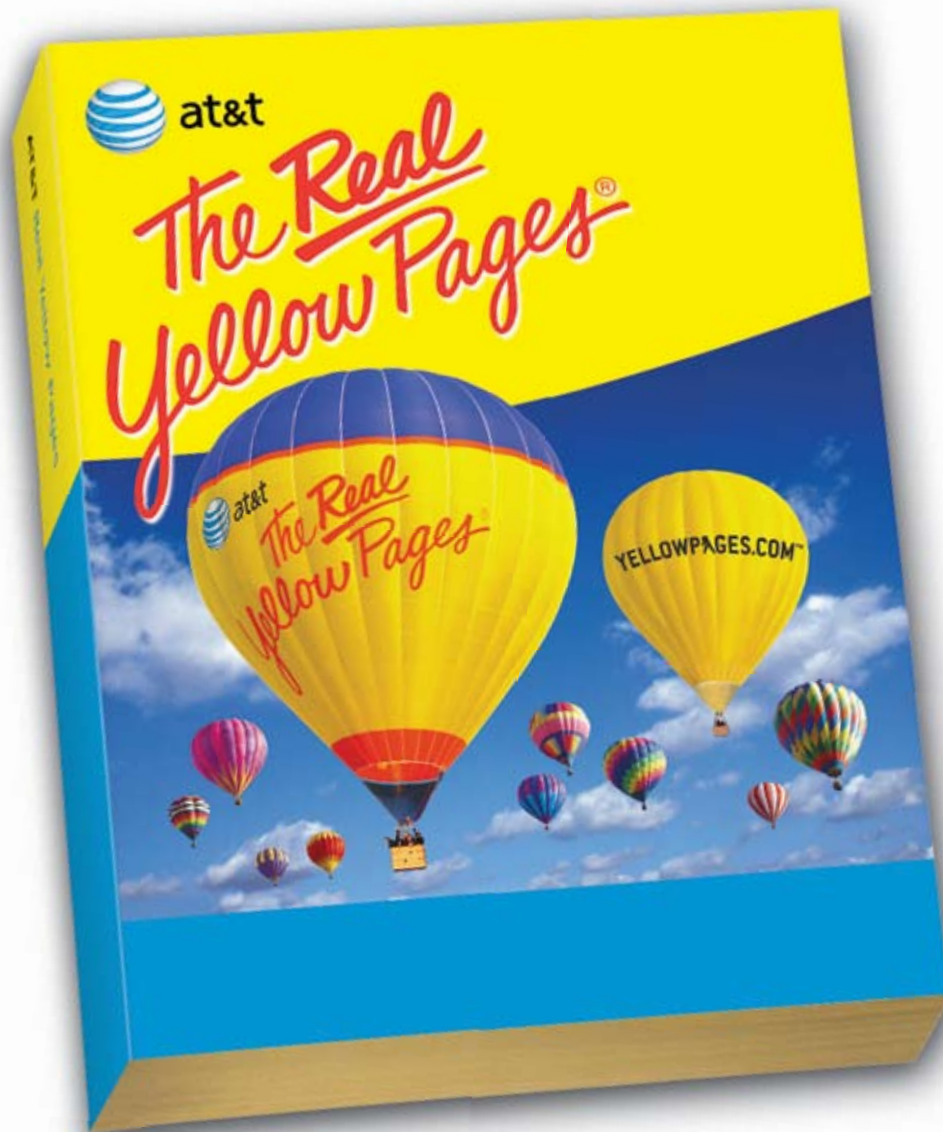
The association stays in touch with its members, but just because an alum isn't part of an organized group, that doesn't mean he or she is excluded, said Hare.

"Even if we don't have an established club or chapter in a particular area, we will often create an opportunity for alumni to get together." ■



UL Lafayette grads gravitate to the southeast. Shown here are the numbers of alumni in Louisiana, plus the top 10 states outside of Louisiana.

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



ALUMNI

1951

LILYB MOSKAL was recently inducted into the Louisiana Center for Women and Government's Hall of Fame. She is a certified motivational speaker who



has conducted many leadership workshops to encourage more women to get involved with public service and to seek elected office. Over the past 25 years, she has spoken at national and state conventions and conferences held by professional and political organizations. Moskal served on local, state and national boards of the Federation of Republican Women and has campaigned for several candidates for public office, including a son, Quentin Dastugue, who was elected as the youngest member of the Louisiana Legislature in 1981. She also organized networking groups for women in Louisiana and Florida. A former licensed real estate broker, Moskal earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication and broadcasting from SLI. She and her husband, Tom Moskal, live in Lafayette. They have two daughters, Danon Dastugue and Cheré Dastugue Coen, and two sons, Quentin Dastugue and Paul F. Dastugue.

1952

JOHN LYONS O'DONNELL JR. is retired after two careers. He served as a U.S. Air Force pilot for 33 years before retiring in 1980. O'Donnell retired in 1994 as director of facilities at the University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. He earned a bachelor's degree in education

from SLI. He and his wife, Arlene O'Donnell, live in Champaign, Ill. The couple have six children.

1955

DR. DONN BOWERS was elected chief of staff at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Miss., in October 2008. He is medical director of the Wound Management and



Hyperbaric Medicine Department and has held many staff leadership positions. Bowers received a bachelor's degree from SLI and a medical degree from LSU Medical School at New Orleans.

1957

KENNETH MELVIN BONNET retired in 1985 from the Internal Revenue Service, where he was a computer analyst. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from SLI. Bonnet and his wife, Joycelyn Evans Bonnet, live in Metairie, La. The couple have four children.

1970

CHARLES BACKUS was recently named the first recipient of a newly endowed \$2 million chair at Texas A&M University Press. The Edward R. Campbell '39 Press Director's chair was established by John Tom Campbell in his late brother's honor. It is believed to be the first such chair for a press director in the country. Backus has served as director of Texas A&M University Press since 2000. He was previously director of the presses at Syracuse University and Vanderbilt University. Backus earned a bachelor's degree in history from USL, where he was

the first person to be named Outstanding Liberal Arts Graduate. He holds a doctorate in Chinese history from Princeton. Backus and his wife, Anne, live in Taylor Lake Village, Texas.

1974

After 25 years as a businessman, **JOEL C. RICHERT** has returned to teaching. He taught high school for three years in the 1970s before taking over a family-owned bulk oil and fuel distributorship, Richert Oil Inc. He served as president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers Association. In December 2008, Richert received a master's degree in chemistry and environmental sciences from McNeese State University. He teaches science at Notre Dame High School in Crowley, La., where he also serves as department chair. He works part time in the McNeese Chemistry Department, mentoring graduate students. Richert holds a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from USL. He is married to **DONNA DAUTERIVE RICHERT, '74**, who recently retired after 25 years of teaching. She is an active community volunteer. The couple, who live in Jennings, La., have two children and four grandchildren.

1978

JON DONLON is a professor at Tokai University in Japan, where his research focuses on the integration of festivals and social capital. Donlon earned two bachelor's degrees at USL, one in photography and painting in 1978 and another in humanities in 1983. He holds a doctoral degree in leisure behavior from the University of Illinois. He and his wife, **JOCELYN H. DONLON, '79, '82**, own Donlon and Donlon Con-

sulting, which has offices in the United States and Asia. They specialize in cultural and folklore-related issues and have consulted with clients in many countries, including Egypt, China, Japan and Vietnam.

1979

CHERYL RINGUETTE CIAMARRA is a speech pathologist in private practice in Birmingham, Ala. A communications consultant, she serves on the National Right



to Life Board as director for Alabama Citizens for Life. She also hosts the "Focus on Life Radio" program on WXJC in Birmingham and hosted "Inside Pro-life," an Eternal Word Television Network worldwide radio special. Ciamarra is a lay missionary of the Gospel of Life, a program developed by Priests for Life, a pro-life, not-for-profit organization. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from USL. She also earned a master's degree in communications disorders from Louisiana State University Medical Center. She has five children.

1981

Attorney **RANDALL FORET** has joined the law firm of Curran Tomko Tarski LLP in Dallas in its oil and gas section. Before attending law school, he was a drilling fluids engineer, working on offshore drilling rigs along the California coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Foret earned a bachelor's degree in education from USL and a juris doctorate from Temple University's Beasley

School of Law. His practice focuses on business, securities and energy-related litigation.

JODY THIBODEAUX is director of Acadiana District Senior Olympic Games, which includes eight south Louisiana parishes. She also is president of the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games board of directors. The Senior Olympic Games is a non-profit organization that helps promote physical fitness and improved quality of life for those who are 50 and older. Thibodeaux holds a bachelor's degree in education.

1982

VERNON TANNER is executive vice president of North Georgia Bank. As a member of the Georgia Bankers Association, he was vice chairman of Georgia's largest banking



conference. Tanner is an active community service volunteer. He recently served as chairman for a public facilities authority, helping to create an \$11 million bond to build new school facilities. An ordained deacon in the Presbyterian Church of America, Tanner also participates in triathlon sprints throughout the southeastern United States. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. Tanner and his wife, **KAREN ESCOYNE TANNER, '82**, have been married for 25 years and live in Athens, Ga. They have three sons, Jon Tanner, Daniel Tanner and **DAVID TANNER**, a UL Lafayette student who is majoring in business and is a member of the Ragin' Cajun basketball team.

1990

SHAREE BROUSSARD, a communication arts instructor at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., was named Alabama's Educator of the Year 2008 by the



Public Relations Council of Alabama. Also in 2008, she received the Dawson Service Award, which recognizes outstanding

A Look Back



1928

A physical education class performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Cypress Grove on May 26, 1928. The grove, once a pig sty, was used for performances and commencement ceremonies before it was intentionally flooded during World War II.

teaching research and service by Spring Hill College faculty. Broussard is a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from USL and a master's degree in public relations from USM.

SAM SEAMANS serves his community of Mountain Home, Ark., as both priest and police officer. A suffragan bishop in the United Episcopal Church of North America,



he is rector of St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Mountain Home. He holds the rank of sergeant in the Mountain Home Police Department, where he is a community resource officer. He is a certified hospice chaplain and chaplain for the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as his own department. Seamans, who holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL, is a certified training officer

and law enforcement instructor in Arkansas. Seamans and his wife, Olga Seamans, have two children.

ALLEN ULRICH is president and part owner of Halo Inspection Services, which inspects rigging and lifting services for the offshore oil industry. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL. He and his wife, **DEBORAH REEDER ULRICH '93**, live in River Ridge, La. They have three children, Matthew, Allison and Reagan.

1991

SHARON CHARLES-BRACKENS is president and owner of Nutrition and Health Services Inc., in Mobile, Ala., which provides health education lectures to clients and consultation services to health care providers. She holds a bachelor's degree in dietetics from USL and a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University. Charles-Brackens earned a doctorate in health science from Nova South-

eastern University in 2008. She is married to Darren W. Brackens Sr. and has two children, Ashlie Charles and Darren Brackens Jr.

1996

DR. ROBIN CRISLER-ROBERTS is a laboratory animal veterinarian at Indiana University School of Medicine. In July 2008, she earned certification as a specialist in her field, becoming

1900-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

1960-1999

University of Southwestern Louisiana

1999-PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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a Diplomate in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. She earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from USL, and a master's degree and doctorate of veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Dr. Christopher Roberts, also a veterinarian, live in Danville, Ind.

MICHELLE M. CARR is a partner and clinic director at Acadiana



Doctors of Chiropractic in Lafayette. After earning a bachelor's degree in general studies at USL, she continued her studies at Texas

Chiropractic College, completing a bachelor's degree in human biology and earning a doctorate of chiropractic degree. During her internship, she participated in the hospital rotation program at Houston Medical Center, which included family medicine and neurology. Carr is licensed to practice acupuncture in Texas. She also serves on the Texas Chiropractic College Alumni Association Board. She has one son, André Carr.

1997

ELIZABETH ROBICHAUX BROWN is coordinating producer of Fox News in New York City, where she provides news content to nearly 200 Fox News affiliates around the world. Brown has covered major news stories, such as the 2008 political conventions, the recent Hudson River plane

crash and Pope Benedict's visit to New York City. A former news producer in Lafayette and Baton Rouge, she is married to **WILL S. BROWN, '01**.

A research grant allowed **MICHAEL EBLE**, an assistant professor of art at the University of Minnesota Morris, to create an art exhibit focusing on coastal erosion and wetland loss in Louisiana. The works in "Endangered Landscape," are based on aerial photographs of Louisiana's southeastern coastline. A New Orleans native, Eble earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from USL and a master's degree in painting and drawing from the University of Mississippi. He is married to **PILAR BLANCO EBLE, '97**. The couple have four children, Ben Michael, Eli, Miles and Oliver.

LEE A. WHITE was recently named a partner in the Jackson Walker LLC law firm in Dallas. He is a partner in the real estate practice group. White earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from USL and holds a juris doctorate from Louisiana State University.

1998

MICHELLE DOUCET is the owner of Doucet Legal Nurse Consulting LLC. As a certified legal nurse consultant, she works with attorneys on medical-related cases. She also attends independent medical examinations. Doucet, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL, is a member of the National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants.

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2001

In February, **LAUREN MATHEWS** was promoted to associate professor of biology and biotechnology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass. She was also granted tenure. Mathews joined WPI as an assistant professor in 2003 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University. An ecologist, she conducts research on genetics in conservation biology and molecular ecology, specifically in the areas of phylogeography, evolutionary processes and the evolution of social behavior. She earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Connecticut College and a doctorate in environmental and evolutionary biology from UL Lafayette.

THOMAS L. STAGG works in New Orleans as a clinical social worker with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from UL Lafayette.

CHRISSEY THREAT earned a doctorate in history in December 2008 from the University of Iowa. She lives in Boston, where she is an assistant professor of history at Northeastern University. Threat holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in history from UL Lafayette.

IN MEMORIAM

MARION FLEMING WEBER, '44, died Jan. 1, 2009, at the age of 87. Valedictorian of her graduating class, she held a bachelor's degree in home economics and chemistry from SLI and was an instructor of chemistry at her alma mater from 1944 to 1945. After earning a master's degree in textile chemistry and clothing from Pennsylvania State University in 1946, Weber was an assistant professor of textile and clothing at Louisiana State University for two years. In 1963, she joined the Penn State faculty as a part-time instructor, later becoming assistant to the dean in the College of Human Development, the position she held until her retirement in 1983. She is survived by a son, Robert Fleming Weber; two daughters, Meredith Anne Weber and Ruth Eaton Weber; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in

death by her husband, Robert L. Weber, and their daughter, Karen Louise Weber.

MAITLAND A. "BUTCH" STEELE, '50, died Nov. 10, 2008, in McComb, Miss., at age 81. He held a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from SLI and was a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Steele worked as a civil engineer for Freeport Minerals, retiring after 29 years. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in the U.S. Naval Reserve. At the time of his death, Steele was a deacon at First Baptist Church in McComb; he taught Sunday school for more than 60 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **DONNA COCHRAN STEELE, '50**; two daughters, Barbara Brown and Beverly Gaia; a son, Allen James Steele; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



HARDY F. EDMISTON JR., '52, died Dec. 5, 2008, in Lafayette. He held a bachelor's degree in business administration from SLI. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-54.

A devoted and enthusiastic supporter of the university, he was engaged in volunteer and philanthropic efforts for more than 50 years. Edmiston was an active member of the UL Lafayette Foundation for many years and ultimately served as a board trustee emeritus. His contributions to the university included extensive Athletic Department projects and programs, such as serving as chairman of a UL Lafayette football season ticket drive. He was a member of an advisory task force for UL Lafayette's Investing in Our Future fund drive. Edmiston was a recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. An independent landman and oil and gas operator, he was founder and president of Cree Oil Co. and co-owner of Workover Equipment Rentals/WE Services Co. He was past president of the Lafayette Association of Petroleum Landmen and U.S. Congressional ombudsman for the petroleum industry. Edmiston helped raise funds for many community service organizations, local youth sports events and the Episcopal

Church of the Ascension. He was a past recipient of the Heymann Foundation Civic Participation Award. Survivors include his wife, Mary Flannagan Edmiston; two sons, **DAVID EDMISTON, '82** and **STEVEN EDMISTON '84**; two daughters, Susan Guidry and Nancy E. Schuler; a stepson, Scott Hymel; a sister, June Lacy; nine grandchildren; one nephew; one niece; and one cousin.

LYNN J. DESSELLE, '61, died April 1, 2009, in Lafayette. He was 70. Desselles was dean of UL Lafayette's College of Applied Life Sciences from 1981-98. He had



previously served as an assistant professor and department head. Desselles held a bachelor's degree in agronomy from USL and a master's degree and doctorate from Iowa State University. He was district governor of Rotary International from 1999 to 2000. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, **BARBARA AVANT DESSELLE, '63**; one son, Lynn Joseph Desselles Jr.; one daughter, Valerie Desselles Landry; three sisters, Janelle Michel, Doris Cloutre and Nancy Cosper; five brothers, Ronald Desselles, Jules Desselles, Phillip Desselles, Ernest Desselles and **JOHN DESSELLE, '86**; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Eugenia Desselles.

JOSEPH GIAMMALVA JR., '69, died Dec. 31, 2007. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from USL and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Loyola University New Orleans. Survivors include his wife, **BEVERLY A. DISALVO GIAMMALVA, '69**; a daughter, Gina G. Bellott; and a grandson, William Joseph Bellott.

VINCE MARINO, '71, '78, died Feb. 15, 2009, in Lafayette after an extended illness. He was 91. Marino was editor emeritus of *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper, where he worked for more than 50 years before retiring in 2001. Marino also taught at UL Lafayette for 20 years. He served in the U.S. Army's Signal Corps in the European Theater during World War II. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from LSU and master's and doctoral degrees

from USL. Marino was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine LeBlanc Marino of Lafayette; four sons, Michael Marino of Manhattan, N.Y., Vince Al Marino of Brooklyn, N.Y., Jonathan Marino of Lafayette and Donald "Seppi" Marino of San Francisco; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons, Brooks Marino and **JOHN MARINO, '90**.

Family and friends held a memorial service in July for **PAUL ABDON CALLAIS, '90**. He is believed to have fallen off the deck of a family-owned boat on June 25, 2008; the U.S. Coast Guard called off its search in the Caribbean Sea two days later. Callais was president and chief executive officer of United Community Bank in Gonzales, La. He held a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. He was also a graduate of the Louisiana School of Banking, a program of the Louisiana Bankers Association, and the LSU Graduate School of Banking. Survivors include his wife, Danielle LeBlanc Callais, and their three children, Christopher, Claire and Caitlyn. He is also survived by his mother, Gloria Bienvenu Callais, and two brothers, Charles Michael Callais and Corey Callais. His brother, Peter Callais, died in November 2008. He was preceded in death by his father, **HAROLD JOSEPH CALLAIS, '59**.

CLIFFORD J. "FROSTY" COUVILLION died Sept. 19, 2008, in Baton Rouge, La. He was 84. Couvillion attended SLI. A staff sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, he served in the Pacific Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart. Following his military service, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service and retired as postmaster in Cottonport, La. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **LUCILLE DUFOUR COUVILLION, '44**; a son, **CORNEL COUVILLION, '73**; two sisters, Patricia C. Tassin and Louisa C. Bordelon; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Best in Their Class

UL Lafayette Foundation salutes faculty for exemplary teaching, research

FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE UL LAFAYETTE Foundation honored two faculty members with its Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award in April.

It typically presents one teaching award and three Distinguished Professor Awards every year, based on the recommendations of a committee composed of faculty members.

This year, the field of candidates for outstanding teacher was narrowed to two:

Dr. Russell Hibbeler, a professor of chemical engineering, and Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, an associate professor of history.

"When the committee voted, there was a tie. That says a lot about the caliber of these professors. The Foundation's board of directors decided to honor both," said Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Distinguished Professor Awards were presented to Dr. Christine DeVine, associate professor of English; Dr. Devesh Misra, professor of chemical engineering; and Dr. William Rieck, professor of curriculum and instruction.

Honorees receive a stipend and their names are inscribed on plaques that are permanently displayed in Edith Garland Dupré Library.

The Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1965. The Excellence in Teaching Award, which began in 1992, was renamed the Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award in 2008.

SENSE OF URGENCY DRIVES ENGLISH EDUCATOR

Dr. Christine DeVine

Dr. Christine DeVine is a popular professor whose students give her high marks.

She has nurtured a small in-house seminar for graduate assistants and new professionals into an annual conference that featured speakers from across the nation and overseas this year. She has developed some new academic courses.

But there's more. "Dr. DeVine has been one of the most productive scholars in the English Department since joining the faculty ... and has built a national reputation as a scholar of Victorian literature," wrote Dr. James McDonald, professor and head of UL Lafayette's Department of English, in a letter of recommendation for the



Dr. Christine DeVine

UL Lafayette Foundation's 2009 Distinguished Professor Award.

DeVine's list of accomplishments is especially noteworthy because she began her academic career only eight years ago. "I came to this profession late in life, so I feel as though I'm trying to hurry along to get all done that I want to get done before I retire," she said in a recent interview.

A native of England, DeVine and her husband owned a small ad agency in Chicago for many years. Many of their clients were small and medium-size candy companies in the area. In the late 1970s, huge European candy manufacturers stepped in. "Overnight, we lost something like 75 percent of our business, bought out by these big global concerns," she said.

While helping to run the ad agency, she had taken some creative writing courses and spent a year researching and writing a screenplay about the Bloomsbury Group, a collection of British writers and thinkers who were influential in the first half of the 20th century. When the agency closed in the early 1990s, she took the opportunity to seek a bachelor's degree.

"I started at DePaul and in my first semester there, I went to my advisor and said, 'What I'd really like to do is go to graduate school and become an English professor,' and she thought I was crazy," DeVine said, chuckling at the recollection. "She thought I was just some bored housewife who had suddenly gotten this strange notion into her head."

But DeVine knew she belonged on a college campus.

McDonald summarized her contributions by noting that she "brings a keen mind, an impressive work ethic, and important international and interdisciplinary knowledge and insights to her work."

VETERAN PROFESSOR 'PAYS IT FORWARD'

Dr. William Rieck

As a professor of curriculum and instruction, Dr. William Rieck helps students become teachers.

One of the courses he teaches, for



Dr. William Rieck

example, is classroom management and instructional design. He shows future instructors how to map out detailed lesson plans and offers insights gleaned from his 45-year career as an educator.

"I tell my students, 'When you're teaching, you have to be reasonable.' Not all students are the same. They have to be treated as individuals. I do the same with my students."

In a letter nominating Rieck for the UL Lafayette Foundation's 2009 Distinguished Professor Award, Dr. Gerald Carlson, dean of the College of Education, said he is "demanding, but fair."

"Students have commented that they have been successful in passing the final Praxis exam because of what they learned in his class. Students are fortunate because he includes his scholarship and research in the classroom, which serves as a model for students."

Dr. Christine Briggs, head of Curriculum and Instruction, said Rieck's high expectations for teacher candidates serve as a guide for them to become highly able

teachers. "In speaking with graduates of the program, many share that his courses are challenging but upon completion of these courses, the candidates refer to the experience as pivotal in their teacher preparation process. These testimonials speak to the type of teacher he is and how he 'pays it forward' to his students," she said.

Rieck also encourages high school students who are interested in becoming teachers. For nine years, he's been organizing a Future Teacher Day for area high school students who are interested in earning an education degree. It's part of an education class they can take while still in high school that counts for college credit.

Rieck began his career as a high school chemistry teacher in the 1960s and later served as an assistant professor at Trenton State College in New Jersey. He spent two years as an area manager with DuPont Chemical but returned to his first love of teaching in 1972. Rieck came to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1991.

Almost 20 years later, he still enjoys his work.

"As long as I'm capable of teaching, I'm going to be teaching," he said.

SMALL-SCALE EFFORTS YIELD BIG RESULTS

Dr. Devesh Misra

An anonymous quotation is posted on Dr. Devesh Misra's office door in Madison Hall: "The spirit of knowledge is an enviable thing; those who possess it are forever refreshed, forever challenged, forever rewarded and forever young."

"I really believe this is true," he said in an interview. "Knowledge – seeking knowledge – it keeps us energized. When new ideas are bubbling up, that makes life exciting."

Misra is full of new ideas – and excited about sharing them with colleagues and students.

He dreams big, but works on the scale of the tiny, using nanotechnology

in materials science. Nanoparticles, made atom by atom, are measured in nanometers, one billionth of a meter. These bits of manmade matter can be just a few nanometers wide. A human hair, for example, is about 80,000 nanometers thick.

Misra is especially interested in the use of nanotechnology to develop biomaterials. In January, he received a patent for a new drug delivery system that uses magnetic nanoparticles created in UL Lafayette laboratories.

In 2004, he established the Center for Structural and Functional Materials. "Materials science and engineering form a bridge of knowledge between the basic sciences, such as chemistry and physics, and the engineering disciplines: chemical, mechanical and electrical engineering," he explained.

In developing the center, Misra has brought eight post-doctoral fellows on board.

"Their presence on campus has helped the center become more competitive and to make rapid progress in research."

The interdisciplinary center has also created what he calls a "synergistic environment." Says Misra, "We work together, we share ideas and talk. There's a real feeling of team spirit."

The results speak for themselves.

Since the center was established, Misra has managed and executed research projects totaling almost \$4 million.

In 2002, he received a patent for a fine-grained steel. Two more patents – one for nanorods that could be used for digital storage and another for an enhanced drug-delivery system – are pending.

Misra has developed two materials science courses. By teaching students hands-on fundamentals and simultane-

ously exposing them to cutting-edge research, Misra sees himself helping to lay the groundwork for his students'



Dr. Devesh Misra

careers and their future success.

"To get to work in an emerging field, that's very exciting for students. They are excited about the opportunity to work with new ideas."

'HER DEDICATION IS UNIVERSAL'

Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser

While Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser was earning a bachelor's degree in history, she kept her career options open. Her interest in politics and government was heightened during an internship in Washington, D.C. So she considered attending law school or taking a job with the federal government.

Then she discovered that she might be able to find a career that

related to history. So she applied to graduate school. She entered a policy history studies program, knowing that as many of its graduates found work as legislative researchers or in government as in academia.

"I didn't start teaching until I was in my Ph.D. program, so I always kind of feared I wouldn't like it or I wouldn't be good at it," she recalled in a recent interview.

She shouldn't have worried. The associate professor of history can't imagine a more rewarding career and is an exceptional teacher.

"Her classes always fill early and all of her students consistently evaluate her as a challenging, caring, devoted, passionate and thoughtful instructor," wrote Dr. Bob Carriker, head of UL Lafayette's History Department, in a letter recommending that she receive the 2009 Dr. Ray P. Authement Outstanding Teaching Award.

"Furthermore, her academic/scholarly magnetism pertains to every

level of student, from the marginal to the honors and graduate students. Her dedication is universal."

Farmer-Kaiser makes no distinction between undergraduate and graduate classes. "I want to teach my freshman classes and I want to teach those upper level undergraduate classes and the graduate students. All of those different layers are really important to understand when you're teaching," she said.

Farmer-Kaiser also sees value in helping high school history teachers.

She "has made herself a point person for Teaching American History grants from the U.S. Department of Education. Through those grants, she positions herself to instruct secondary school teachers of Acadiana in new approaches to teaching history," Carriker noted.

Farmer-Kaiser said UL Lafayette

LUCIUS FONTENOT

has a duty “to produce good teachers in our community. It only benefits the university and I think we have an obligation to produce graduate students who not only know history but understand that historians teach, too. And whether you’re teaching graduate students, undergraduates or teachers in the community, it’s about understanding how people learn and presenting the subject matter in a way that is going to hook them.”

The trick, she added, is to help others learn, “without realizing that they’re learning.”

PROFESSOR KEEPS STANDARDS HIGH

Dr. Russell Hibbeler

Dr. Russell Hibbeler became an educator because he enjoys teaching.

“Part of that enjoyment is figuring out the best way to get students to learn and improve their skills,” he said. The civil engineering professor received the UL Lafayette Foundation’s 2009 Dr. Ray P. Authement Outstanding Teaching Award.

Hibbeler was working at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois before he came to UL Lafayette in 1973. He only stayed a semester before moving to Chicago to work, but it was enough time to get hooked on Acadiana’s quality of life.

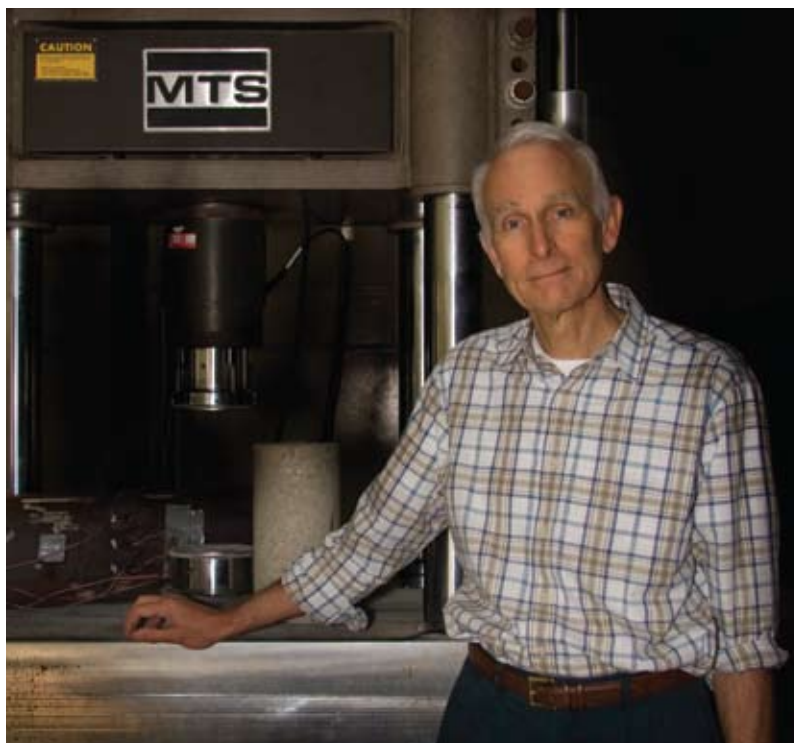
While attending a conference in New York in the late 1970s, he ran into Dr. James Reeves, then dean of UL Lafayette’s College of Engineering. “I told him that if there ever was a job open, to let me know,” Hibbeler recalled.

Not long after, he was about to accept a position at North Carolina State University when he received a phone call from UL Lafayette. Would he like to return?

Hibbeler has taught at UL Lafayette ever since.



Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser



Dr. Russell Hibbeler

The kindness of the people of south Louisiana and the region’s culture were strong draws. “I think the people down here are just wonderful,” he observed.

Hibbeler primarily teaches undergraduate classes. He has a reputation for giving heavy doses of homework and weekly exams to students taking his fundamental course in engineering. He said he wants to ensure his students are grounded in the concepts and principles of the course so they will be successful in upper-level classes, in graduate school and in their professional careers.

“We need to do the best we can to educate and guide them. When a student finishes here, if he does not know his skills well, that’s a reflection on the school and everyone here,” he said.

Hibbeler has written four engineering textbooks that are used throughout the world as standard texts in engineering mechanics, mechanics of materials and structural analysis. Several are in their 12th edition. He hopes to finish a fifth textbook, about fluid mechanics, this summer.

Dr. Mark Zappi, dean of UL Lafayette’s College of Engineering, describes Hibbeler as “one of the most globally recognized engineering educators.” His books, Zappi continued, “are considered the bible of how to teach basic engineering mechanics to undergraduate students.” ■



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

SINGULAR SENSATION: Chris Fabre, a freshman majoring in biology, is the only student who travels the campus by Segway. Fabre, who lives about two blocks away, has put more than 700 miles on his machine so far. Top speed: about 20 mph.

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To some, it's just another event.



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

IT'S ALSO ABOUT REMEMBERING HOW THEY GOT HERE,

AS WELL AS WHERE THEY'VE BEEN.

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

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