Make a Get Down

Come See

Translation:
Drop by for a visit. In Cajun country, we'll make you feel right at home - whether you prefer to dance at a festival or catch a sunset over the cypress trees. With Zydeco rhythms, Cajun & Creole flavors, Louisiana scenery and Southern hospitality you'll agree – there's no place like Lafayette.

Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission
www.lafayette.travel     337.232.3737    800.346.1958
I've gotten hundreds of colorful PostIt® notes from Dr. Ray Authement since I began working at UL Lafayette in 1993. He attaches them to magazines he receives from other universities and forwards to me.

I took the first few dozen for granted; they all looked alike. One day, I noticed a PostIt® note that was different. Instead of “FYI,” he had written something like, “Page 20. Article is well done.” Of course, I immediately flipped to that page and studied it.

It took quite a few more “FYIs” and a couple more “See inside” messages to grasp what should have been obvious to me from the start: He apparently looks through all of the magazines before sending them along. I was amazed because of his already heavy workload.

I've thought about those PostIt® notes a lot since Doc announced in late April that he plans to retire. It occurred to me that they reveal quite a bit about him and how he conducts business at the university.

They are consistent, direct and efficient. They tell me that he has done his homework, that it's important to know what other universities are doing. Their subtler message is: If something is important, find the time to pay attention to it and share it with others.

His little handwritten notes are also a refreshing personal touch in these days of e-mail and text messages.

Believe it or not, we have not told Dr. Authement that this entire issue of La Louisiane is devoted to what he has done for the university. We were afraid he would ask us not to pay so much attention to him.

But Dr. Authement's leadership has positively influenced every aspect of the university and countless lives. We believe readers will look at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in a different way after reading about the remarkable journey he began long before becoming its president.

Quite frankly, I expect to be criticized by some readers for dedicating an entire issue of La Louisiane to one topic. But a few years ago, someone asked Doc what advice he would offer students. “When faced with a tough decision, do what you know in your heart is right. That's not always easy but you will look back on your life without regrets,” he replied. And so I have.

I'm filled with a sadness that I can't even describe whenever I'm reminded that the steady stream of Dr. Authement's PostIt® notes will soon end.

There is small comfort in a Buddhist proverb I read recently: “If you're facing the right direction, all you have to do is keep walking.” Thanks to Doc, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is facing the right direction.

All we have to do is keep walking.
We hope you enjoy this issue of La Louisiane.

— Kathleen Thames
In the late 1960s, motorists driving along Congress Street near Cajun Field saw horses and sheep grazing on property owned by the University of Southwestern Louisiana. When USL President Dr. Ray Authement looked at the same land, he saw the future. In his mind’s eye, the farm animals and barns were replaced by research facilities that would boost the local economy while helping the university (now known as UL Lafayette) elevate its stature as a research institution.

By 1990, the livestock had been relocated to the university’s farm in Cade, La. Thanks to some influential friends in Washington, D.C., the first tenant in the 143-acre University Research Park – the National Wetlands Research Center – opened for business in 1992.

Today, the NWRC has lots of company. Its neighbors include:
- the Lafayette Primary Care Facility;
- the Estuarine Habitats Coastal Fisheries Research Center;
- Abdalla Hall;
- the Lafayette Economic Development Authority;
- the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise; and
- Hilton Garden Inn.

Construction of the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development is expected to begin soon. Until then, ULTE is the newest kid on the block.

With ULTE’s debut in 2006, UL Lafayette stepped onto the world stage as a leader of technology and innovation. Researchers at ULTE use a supercomputer, nicknamed “Zeke,” to quickly convert huge amounts of data into 3-D graphical models. Wearing special headgear, they can then immerse themselves in those models. Connections to fiber optic networks enable them to work on projects with collaborators around the globe.

The State of Louisiana, LEDA and UL Lafayette formed a partnership to fund the $57 million ULTE project for the same reason Authement created University Research Park – economic development.

Authement had seen for himself that research can be a powerful economic tool. His introduction to that concept occurred in 1961, when he spent a year as a visiting professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. UNC, North Carolina State University and Duke University had already formed Research Triangle Park, which would become one of the most successful university research parks in the United States.


But just a couple of years later, the price of oil plummeted, taking with it the oil-dependent economies of Lafayette and Louisiana. To much focus had been placed on the oil industry that other sectors of the economy had been neglected.

When state oil revenues dwindled, Authement was forced to reduce the university’s budget. From 1982 to 1988, UL endured eight budget cuts that totaled about $10 million. There were more reductions ahead.

In the mid-1980s, ULTE decided to become proactive. “We set a goal to help, to create companies and bring jobs,” Authement stated in an article published in the May 1, 2002 issue of The Times of Aca-
diana. Ultimately, he created 17 research centers to help reach that goal.

ULTE needed to entice an “anchor” tenant in University Research Park, just like a commercial developer needs an “anchor” store for a new shopping mall. One of the first prospects was the National Wetlands Research Center in Sidney, La. which was interested in relocating to a site closer to environmental biology researchers. According to a 2003 news release, NWRC scientists were “the first group to document the extent of wetland loss in Louisiana between the 1930s and 1970s.”

Authement had positioned ULTE perfectly about 15 years earlier by strengthening its Biology Department. One way he accomplished that was by reducing faculty members’ teaching loads so they could conduct more research. It was a move that paid off in a big way.

“In 1990, a national team of biologists visited the state’s biology departments and chose UL as the most outstanding, sparking a special citation to the department from the state Board of Regents,” stated Dr. Darrel Felder, head of the Biology Department, in an article published in the Summer 1992 issue of La Louisiane magazine.

So University Research Park was a viable option for the NWRC. But other universities across the country were courting that agency, too.

So, Authement called for some federal firepower.

“We needed two things: first, funding, and second, the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sen. Bennett Johnston and his neighbors included:
- the Lafayette Economic Development Authority;
- Abdalla Hall;
- Hilton Garden Inn.

Its three-story, egg-shaped glass enclosure reflects the advanced technology inside. ULTE gives university researchers and private industry access to supercomputers that can convert massive amounts of data into graphical images. Using special equipment, researchers can then immerse themselves in those images.

HILTON GARDEN INN

This 155-room hotel is also an educational resource for UL Lafayette students who are majoring in hospitality management. It includes classrooms and faculty offices.

CECIL J. PICARD CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Construction is expected to begin in early 2008. The Center is a multi-disciplinary group of evaluation and research professionals that focus on early childhood, K-12 education and lifelong learning. Applied research is continually conducted in all areas of child education, health and well-being.

ABDALLA HALL

Occupants of this university-owned building include the Center for Business and Information Technologies and the Energy Institute.

LOUISIANA IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES ENTERPRISE

Its purpose is to contribute to economic growth in Lafayette Parish. It does that in many ways, such as by helping local companies develop markets and by recruiting businesses and industry.

LAFAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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LAFAYETTE PRIMARY CARE FACILITY

This is used to train medical residents in family practice. It represents a cooperative effort by Lafayette General Medical Center, Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, LSU Medical Center, University Medical Center and UL Lafayette.

ESTUARINE HABITATS COASTAL FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER

Owned by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the center houses offices and labs for agencies such as the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USGS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER

Biological research is conducted here to help protect, restore and manage natural resources, especially fish, wildlife and wetlands in the South.

RESEARCH PARK TENANTS AT A GLANCE

University Research Park continues to flourish

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Rising Star
Math, Computer Science Departments rank among nation’s elite

In October, the National Science Foundation announced that the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has one of the top 100 mathematics departments in the country. UL Lafayette’s Computer Science Department is among the top 60 university computer science departments in the country, according to the NSF.

The latest rankings are based on the amount of external funding the departments received in 2004.

Dr. Ray Authement, president of UL Lafayette, has stressed research during his 33-year presidency. UL Lafayette’s computer science program has long been recognized for its attention because of the support he focused on it as president.

Having a math department that’s among the top 2 percent in the nation is another indication that UL Lafayette’s stature as a research university is growing, said Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of UL Lafayette’s College of Sciences.

It also reflects the breadth of research conducted at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. That scope was acknowledged in 2006 when the Carnegie Foundation designated it as a “Research University with High Research Activity.” Universities in that category includes Clemson, Auburn and Baylor universities. The only other Louisiana institution in the same category is the University of New Orleans.

“One or two departments will not get you that designation by the Carnegie Foundation,” Clark said. “You have to have breadth.”

The high rankings for UL Lafayette’s Mathematics Department and Computer Science Department are significant for another reason: a growing cross-discipline approach to research.

At UL Lafayette, for instance, mathematical modeling is being used to make projections related to biological issues and health issues.

Dr. Armz Ackleh, a professor of applied mathematics, has attracted about $2 million in research funding from agencies such as the NSF and National Institutes of Health. He is especially interested in using mathematical modeling to predict population trends.

For instance, he and Dr. Jacoby Carter, an ecologist at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, developed a computer model that enables them to predict nutria population dynamics and movement patterns.

Ackleh and some colleagues at other schools are also working on a project that uses mathematical modeling to test policies related to alcohol consumption by college students. Their efforts could someday be used to help curb binge drinking by college students across the nation.

Ackleh has received NSF funding to establish a mathematical-biology option for undergraduates.

Computers are central to such collaboration. “We’re building a generation of scientists that is accustomed to using the computer as a tool. Math is a language of science; a good mathematician is a translator. A mathematician can translate biological questions into formulas that can then be looked at by a computer. The computer is being used, through the modeling lens, as a tool,” Clark said.

UL Lafayette has the expertise and computer power needed for complex projects. Its Center for Advanced Computation, for instance, is a leader in grid computing.

UL Lafayette’s Louisiana Immersive Technologies Center has a supercomputer that’s connected to the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative. LONI is a state-of-the-art fiber optics network that links research universities in Louisiana. LONI is also part of the National Lambda Rail, which connects universities across the United States.

“As UL Lafayette gets involved in more and more complex questions, the need for more and more power is available. So we have the ability to work with data sets that are huge. That capability is allowing us to bring in strong young researchers. They become excited about the possibilities,” Clark said.
A Promise Kept
Students remain at the top of Authement’s priority list

Raymond Blanco, UL Lafayette’s vice president for Student Affairs, formally and informally. He has provided scholarships and graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., and McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La. He returned to SLI in September 1973 as an associate professor in the mathematics department. In 1966, he was promoted to academic vice president. During this 33 years as president, Authement’s wife, Barbara, said students from 1966 to 1970, when he was USL’s academic vice president, and from 1970 to 1973, as vice president. The 1960s and 1970s were decades of major social change in the United States. Students on Authement’s wife, Barbara, said students move to increase accessibility and asked for everyone’s support. At that moment, I understood the value Dr. Authement placed on the “student voice.” Dr. Authement asked the office to move to increase accessibility and asked for everyone’s support. At that moment, I understood the value Dr. Authement placed on the “student voice.”

For many years, he and other UL Lafayette administrators have welcomed students back to campus each fall by handing out water, fruit and doughnuts.

“A class boycott and demonstration in front of Martin Hall have been called for Wednesday to protest the lack of action by the University administration on the traffic and parking situation on campus,” stated the lead story on Page One of the Nov. 1, 1974, issue of The Vermilion USA’s student newspaper. A photo on the front page of the Nov.

“We opened the door and there they stood. So, we pulled out all the snacks in the house and fed them,” she said.

Authement inherited a problem that stemmed from USLA’s rapid growth after World War II ended – more cars than parking spaces on campus. “A class boycott and demonstration in front of Martin Hall have been called for Wednesday to protest the lack of action by the University administration on the traffic and parking situation on campus,” stated the lead story on Page One of the Nov. 1, 1974, issue of The Vermilion USA’s student newspaper. A photo on the front page of the Nov. 8, 1974, issue of The Vermilion shows Authement being presented with a giant replica of a parking ticket during a protest that drew more than 200 students.

University officials implemented “parking lot control methods” that designated which cars could park in certain parking lots. In 1970, a shuttle system was introduced. Students parked their vehicles by the library or on campus and were transported to campus by bus. Parking was later moved to Cajun Fields parking lot. In 1983, a lottery was created to give students a chance to “win” a prime spot to park on campus. The university’s first parking garage is
related to students who have struggled financially to attend UL Lafayette. He grew up in Boudreaux Canal, a small fishing community just a few miles north of Cocked, La., near the coast. He saw how hard his parents worked to support him and his five brothers and sisters. Neither of his parents had advanced beyond the 7th grade but they believed education was the ticket to an easier, more prosperous life. Authement remembers asking his father whether, after graduating from Terrebonne High School, he should stay home to help with the family business or seek a job elsewhere. His father insisted that he go to college. “I said, ‘We can’t afford it!’ Dad said, ‘Well afford it.’” 

So, Authement entered SLI in 1954 with a small scholarship. During his presidency, Authement has faced many financial challenges caused by fluctuating state revenues. From 1962 to 1988, during the Oil Bust in Louisiana, SLI suffered eight budget cuts totaling about $10 million, for instance.

He has stressed maintaining the university’s budget in ways that would impact students the least, such as controlling administrative costs and limiting the amount spent on maintenance and repairs. In 1993, for example, SLI faculty, staff and administrators served twice as many students per employee as the national average, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Education. Today UL Lafayette’s ratio is one of the lowest in the nation, thanks to comprehensive scholarship and financial aid programs, including out-of-state fee waivers to qualified students. Adevle Bulliard, director of UL Lafayette’s Scholarship Office, said Authement’s commitment to helping students financially is evidenced by the number and total dollar amounts of scholarships awarded. For the past seven or eight years, he has made sure that every UL Lafayette student who was eligible and applied for a scholarship, received one – even if they weren’t all large amounts. “We’re the only university in the state that does this. He’s very proud of that. And I would say that we make some of the best scholarship offers – and have for years – in Louisiana,” she said. Soon after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated south Louisiana in the fall of 2005, Gov. Kathleen Blanco announced a freeze on state spending. Officials needed to assess the storms’ impact on the state’s finances.

“I was scheduled to speak to a group of parents. So I went to Dr. Authement beforehand and asked, ‘What can I tell them about scholarship offers for the 2005-07 school year?’ He said, ‘You can tell them that I’m going to do everything in my power to keep the offers the same that we have in the past few years.’” Bulliard said.

Authement’s daughter, Julie Authement Johnson, said her father’s own experience as a student motivated him to help others. “Academically it came easy to him, but financially, just to stay in school every day was a struggle, to have enough money to buy books to be able to study. You have to know that hunger for education and hunger to learn. I think that translates now into his desire to see everybody have access to education.”

Providing access for students has not only been linked to financial assistance. In the 1970s, for example, the university offered some classes on a special schedule to accommodate people who worked in the oil field “seven and seven.” They worked offshore for seven days and then returned to land to work the following seven days off.

Also, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita shut down colleges and universities in southeast Louisiana, Authement extended the registration deadline at UL Lafayette. About 800 displaced students signed up for classes. It’s impossible to determine how many individual students Authement has helped over the years. But sometime he’ll mention the success of former students, such as Paul Cloutier. Authement was a math professor at SLI when Cloutier was attending high school in Opelousas, La. One of Cloutier’s teachers recognized he had exceptional talent, she asked Authement to meet with him.

Authement also saw Cloutier’s potential. So, he gave the young man a couple of computer kits. “Computers were just coming out then. You could buy a little computer kit for $60 or $70. You could wire it and energize it with batteries and it could add, subtract and multiply. I thought Paul was someone who would enjoy that,” Authement said in a 2004 interview.

Cloutier connected the kits and figured out how to use the computers to make the phone ring, creating a primitive computerized phone system. He had offers to attend MIT, Cal-Tech and Princeton after graduating from high school, but he chose to enroll at SLI instead.

Cloutier went on to become principal investigator of 15 NASA atmospheric sounding rocket probes. He was lead investigator on the Pioneer Venus Bus and Orbiter Ion Mass Spectrometer experiments. Shawn Wilson is another student who was influenced by Authement. He’s a confidential assistant in the Office of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. He served as UNO Student Government Association president in 1994 and was elected president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association in 2009.

Wilson said Authement treated him and other student leaders with respect. “He allowed us to disagree, he allowed us to object and he also allowed us to make mistakes. He never strong-armed me or other students and I’ve been pretty close to other past SGA presidents and past Alumni Association presidents.”

Wilson noted that Authement was always thinking ahead. “Many days, I’d go into his office – about to ask for something – and he would already know what I was going to ask. He would already be committed to say ‘No, and this is why,’ or ‘Yes, and here’s how I’m going to help you. I’ve never known him to absolutely say flat out ‘No,’ without an alternative or a better option made available. He will always find a way to achieve your goal, maybe not with your strategy.”

As a UL student, Wilson worked with Authement to secure financing for construction of the Student Aquatic Center on campus. Students approved a self-assessed fee to land that ultimately funded it. The center opened in 2002.

Wilson said Authement showed him how to “stay focused on a long term vision and not let it change the lenses that I use to see the present environment.”

When Authement was dealing with a controversial matter, Wilson assumed it would dominate the president’s attention. “But there were other issues of advance- ment for this institution that he was very much focused on. That, in and of itself, is a tremendous skill and gift and talent. It’s so easy to be distracted by what’s right in front of you that you forget about what you’re trying to end up at the end of the day.”

Berthelot said she treasures a letter Authement sent to her as she neared the end of her term as SGA president. “He expressed his gratitude for my service and well wishes for the future. I have placed it next to my diploma because the education I received while solving student problems – through collaborations such as Dice’s – was also an education in itself.”

Formed SGA President Shawn Wilson.
On Campus

Lasting Mark
Campus reflects advancement during fifth president’s term

More than 30 buildings were constructed and more than 25 facilities were expanded or renovated during Dr. Ray Authement’s presidency. Campus development since 1974 includes the addition of University Research Park, the Cajundome and adjacent Convention Center, the Advanced Computer Technology Research Center, Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, Moody Hall and Abdalla Hall. The university also acquired:

- 600 acres in Cade, La., for agricultural use;
- the former Lou Ana Gardens in north Lafayette, a 51-acre tract that’s now UL Lafayette’s Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology;
- Gulf South Research Institute in New Iberia, La., which is now known as the New Iberia Research Center; and
- several residences near campus.

A parking garage is under construction on campus.

Advanced computer technology and research hall. The $9 million facility, which opened this year, houses the Center for Advanced Computer Studies and the Computer Science Department. Features include a motion capture lab, 161-seat auditorium, nanotechnology lab and video conference room. Its supercomputer is connected to the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise in University Research Park. The building faces Girard Park Circle.

Estuarine habitats coastal fisheries research center. The second facility built in University Research Park is owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Occupants include a variety of federal and state agencies, as well as Ducks Unlimited. The building design earned a premier award presented by the American Institute of Architects in 2002.
A $14 million renovation and expansion project, completed in 2000, transformed UL Lafayette’s library. About 88,000 square feet were added and it’s now one of the most technologically advanced university libraries in Louisiana. The interior design emphasizes convenience for students; the exterior maintains the Georgian architectural style of many buildings on campus. The library was constructed in the 1960s.

Forrest K. and Chantal Dowty Foundation Centre The 6,000-square-foot home of the UL Lafayette Foundation opened in 2000 at the intersection of St. Mary Boulevard and Taft Street. It features offices, an elegant rotunda and a large board room. Its Greek revival style incorporates some of the elements of the Foundation’s previous office building on Girard Park Drive, which was designed by architect A. Hays Town.

Moody Hall This $10 million, three-story structure on Hebrard Boulevard was built for the B.J. Moody III College of Business Administration. It opened in 2005. High-tech classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms and a large auditorium are located here, along with faculty offices. Moody Hall is officially an expansion of F. G. Mouton Hall. The buildings are connected by two walkways. F. G. Mouton Hall was completely renovated in 2006. It contains classrooms and meeting rooms.
ON CAMPUS

PAUL AND LULU BILLIARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM In 2004, a stunning art museum made of steel, stone and glass opened on UL Lafayette’s campus. It literally mirrors architect A. Hays Town’s striking design of an adjacent plantation-style building. Cascading water on a free-standing granite wall offers a tranquil space between them. Visitors who step inside the museum are treated to more wonders, such as a 5,000-square-foot gallery that is the largest free span gallery of any museum in Louisiana.

LEGACY PARK Apartment-style housing for students opened on campus in 2003 at the intersection of Girard Park Circle and East Lewis Street. Eight buildings can accommodate 468 students; additional buildings are in the planning stage. Units feature washers and dryers, cable television, Internet access, private balconies or patios and nine-foot ceilings. There is a gated parking lot for Legacy Park residents’ vehicles. McCullough Dorm, a seven-story, unoccupied men’s dorm, was imploded to make room for Legacy Park.

FLETCHER HALL For UL Lafayette art and architecture students, Fletcher Hall becomes a home away from home. Its resources include a stereoscopic virtual reality lab that enables them to display architectural, interior design, industrial design and animation models in 3-D; a metals fabrication lab; a well-equipped wood fabrication lab; a 145-seat proce- nium theater used for studio productions; and sophisticated equipment and software for computer animation. Fletcher Hall opened in 1977.
BOURGEOIS HALL Located on Cajundome Boulevard, it provides recreational resources for students, as well as classrooms and faculty offices. Offerings include: racquetball courts, an indoor track, a weight room, exercise equipment, basketball courts and aerobics classes. Outside, the Student Aquatic Center is one of the most sophisticated facilities of its kind in the South, with an eight-lane lap pool, leisure pool, large spa and sand volleyball courts. A major expansion is planned for Bourgeois Hall; the project is in the design stage.

CAJUNDOME This 12,800-seat multipurpose arena opened on UL Lafayette’s campus in 1986. It’s the home of Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® basketball team. Concerts and other large events, such as commencements for UL Lafayette and area high schools, are held here. In 2005, the Cajundome became an emergency shelter for thousands of south Louisiana residents forced from their homes by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In 2002, the $16.7 million Convention Center opened for business next door to the ‘dome. The complementary facility provides nearly 100,000 square feet of meeting space on two levels. Its versatile design enables it to be used for a sit-down dinner for 2,000 people or for a convention or trade show. Both buildings are used for social events during Mardi Gras.
LOUISIANA IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES ENTERPRISE: LITE is a $27 million immersive visualization facility in University Research Park. A three-story, egg-shaped enclosure, known as a Total Immersive Space, is a focal point. At LITE, a supercomputer can convert huge amounts of data into 3-D graphical models. Wearing special equipment, researchers can immerse themselves in those models in the TIS. LITE is the first facility of its kind to provide affordable data visualization to private companies as well as university and government researchers.

LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING AT THE NEW IBERIA RESEARCH CENTER: The 30,000 square-foot facility has laboratories, conference rooms and offices for staff, researchers and students. It also contains a specialized housing and cognitive testing facility for 20 adult chimpanzees. The NIRC provides nonhuman primates used for applied and basic research aimed at promoting human quality of life. About 5,000 nonhuman primates reside there.

USGS NATIONAL WETLANDS RESEARCH CENTER: University Research Park’s first tenant opened in 1992. Scientists here conduct biological research and development related to protecting, restoring and managing natural resources, such as Louisiana’s fragile coast. A spatial analysis team provides maps, remote-sensing research and geographic information systems.
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT, 1974-PRESENT

CONSTRUCTION
Advanced Computer Technology and Research Center
Bourgeois Hall
Cajun Village
Collette Tennis Center
Cade Dairy Barn and Lab
Cafe Fleur-de-Lis
Cajundome
Cajun Track Complex
Convention Center
Day Care Center
Forrest K. and Chantal Dowty Foundation Centre
Fletcher Hall
Lafayette Primary Care Facility
Legacy Park
Leen Mondla Indoor Practice Facility
Life Sciences Building (at New Iberia Research Center)
Louisiana Accelerator Center (former Acadiana Research Lab)
M.L. “Tigue” Moore Field
Multipurpose Facility at the Alumni Center
Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum
Printing Services
Rougeau Hall
Student Aquatic Center
University Research Park
Abdalla Hall
Estuarine Habitats Coastal Fisheries Research Center
Hilton Garden Inn
Lafayette Economic Development Authority
Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise
National Wetlands Research Center
Primary Care Center
Visitor Information Center

MAJOR RENOVATIONS/EXPANSIONS
Angelle Hall
Athletic Complex
Bank One Building (Small Business Development Center)
Billeaud Hall
Broussard Hall
Conference Center
Continuing Education Center (former Eckerd building)
Coronna Hall
Earl K. Long Gym
Edith Garland Dupré Library
F. G. Mouton Hall
French House
Guillot Hall
Hamilton Hall
Heymann House (now the Alumni Center)
Judice-Rickels Hall
Lee Hall
Madison Hall
Marine Survival Training Center
Martin Hall
McLaurin Gym
Montgomery Hall
Mouton Hall
New Iberia Research Center (nonhuman primate facility)
O.K. Allen Hall
On the Geaux (former Snack Hut)
Parker Hall
Stephens Hall
Track/Soccer Complex
Whittington House

LAND/FACILITY ACQUISITIONS
600 acres in St. Martin Parish for Cade farm
69-acre Gulf South Research Institute (now the New Iberia Research Center)
Hawkins House
Roy House
51-acre Lou Ana Gardens (now the Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology)
Heymann House, Property (now the Alumni Center)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
Parking Garage
Burke-Havermose Hall expansion, renovation

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
Fiberoptic Network
Burial of overhead utility lines
Replacement of electrical distribution system

ON THE DRAWING BOARD
Cecil J. Picard Hall
Bourgeois Hall expansion
Student Union expansion, renovation
Fletcher Hall annex

REMOVED
Vochevies Dorm
McKeeough Dorm
McNealy Stadium
Vet Village
SGA Day Care Center

This map shows the extent of campus improvements made during Dr. Ray Authement’s presidency. It also illustrates a challenge his successor will face – accommodating growth.

Bill Crist, director of UL Lafayette’s physical plant, said the university’s goal is to give students the best environment possible. “There’s a balance between keeping the campus beautiful and having green space, and providing buildings that are necessary to educate students.”

The first parking garage on campus is under construction; a master plan calls for six more. Authement is not optimistic. “It took 107 years to get one,” he quipped.
To put Dr. Ray Authement’s tenure at UL Lafayette in perspective, consider this: a child born in 1974 – the year he was named president – could have grown up, graduated from college and had children of his own by now. Authement is the longest-serving president of a public university in the United States. But that’s just one aspect of a personal story that rivals the plot of a made-for-TV movie. A synopsis: A boy in a remote bayou town grows up to lead Louisiana’s second largest university to regional and national prominence. He devotes himself to the university, putting its success above almost everything else. As he begins to contemplate retirement, his eldest daughter is diagnosed with leukemia. She dies a year later. Here’s the twist, the part in a movie that would leave viewers shaking their heads over how life can take such unexpected turns: When grief threatens to consume him, it is the university that saves his life.

TRUE LOVE

BY KATHLEEN THAMES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP GOULD
Shy and often taciturn, Authement prefers for his accomplishments to speak for him. They are numerous. Collectively, they paint a portrait of a man who is patient, shrewd, persistent, innovative, self-confident and prescient.

He is well known as president of the second largest university in Louisiana and widely acknowledged as one of the most influential leaders in Acadiana. But few people have the opportunity to get to know Ray Authement or to witness how much he and his family have willingly sacrificed for the university.

Family members and university personnel who have worked with him closely for many years offer insight into his character and reveal the intensity of his devotion to UL Lafayette. They describe a man guided by a moral compass that never fails him. Someone who is sensitive but whose judgment is not colored by emotion. And they portray him as one of those rare individuals who finds the greatest reward in giving.

Some critics claim that Authement's frugality and micromanagement have held the university back in some ways. Others think. He is able to erase emotion from any situation before asking himself: What's best for the university in the long run?

He never used the place to further his personal agenda. He has always used himself to further the university's benefit, never himself. "We have some dedicated employees." Then it hit me: We don't close at 4:30 any more!" Authement reported. He went into his office, flipped the lights back on and sat down at his desk to work until 5 p.m.

It's a telling anecdote. It illustrates Authement's work ethic. "He is willing to work as hard as anybody on this campus and probably harder than anybody," said Dr. Steve Landry, UL Lafayette's vice president for Academic Affairs. Like many CEOs of major corporations, the president's workday doesn't end when he walks out of his office at 5 p.m. It just changes locations. He often works at home at night if he's not attending a board meeting for a civic organization or he's not at a Ragin' Cajun athletic event.

Few people would have braved the president a 30-minute head start that day. But Authement doesn't make decisions based on what others may or may not think. He is able to erase emotion from any situation before asking himself: What's best for the university in the long run?

"I admire his courage to take on an issue without regard for any early feedback and sensationalism that surrounds it. He has had enough experience to know how the public reacts. If he has an issue that's pretty confident about, he'd ride that wave and then find a way through it. It's not blind courage. It's informed courage," Landry observed.

The anecdote also brings to mind an observation often attributed to best-seller author St. Jack Brown Jr.: "Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking."

In late April, when Authement announced his intention to retire, Dr. Sally Claussen, president of the University of Louisiana System, thanked him for his service.

"You have served as our 'dean,' both as a leader for our System office and presidents. You've also been a friend – the best friend higher education has had. Thank you for giving us your life." she said.

Julie Authement Johnson, the Authement's youngest daughter, is a consultant in Atlanta. She grew up watching her father pour his energy into running the university and was affected by his devotion to the university and was affected by his devotion to the university. In their own ways, her parents taught her that, sometimes, love means putting other people's needs first.

Barbara Authement ultimately found a way to avoid the stress of abbreviated vacations, for instance. "I told him, 'Ray, why don't we travel with the football team?' So, we leave on Fridays at 12 o'clock and we come home on Sunday mornings. We have Sunday to rest and recoup and we can go out to dinner. We've been doing that for many years. It has been a good balance for me."

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THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

at Lafayette has had only five presidents in its 107-year history. Three of them dominated the school's development. Dr. Edwin L. Stephens, Dr. Joel L. Fletcher Jr. and Authement.

Combined, their presidencies spanned 96 years and four school names. Such longevity on a college campus is uncommon. In 2006, the average term of a university president was 8.5 years, according to a study conducted by the American Council on Education. That's up from 6.6 years in 2001.

Serving as president of a university is not for the faint-hearted.

A Chicago Tribune article, published in 2006 after the University of Chicago hired a new president, offered a job description. "Wanted: an educational visionary with the political skills of a senator and the diplomatic polish of a secretary of state. The only omission? His money management skills, which are so refined that he can almost squeeze 11 dimes out of a dollar. And, an unusual combination of supernatural memory and extraordinary attention to detail, it forms a tightly woven net that keeps little from getting past him."

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Barbara Authement's dedication to UL Lafayette is matched only by Barbara Authement her husband. When Ray Authement was in Gradu-
ate school. “When Dad was writing his disserta-
tion for a master's degree, he took care of her at night. They didn’t have a crib, they had a dresser and she was in the dresser drawer next to him. He kept company,” Johnson said. “There was a bond between the two of them that was extremely special.”

Kathy earned a bachelor's degree from UL in 1973 and a master's degree in special education in 1982. A special education teacher at Duson Elementary, she married Philippe E. Prouet, a Lafayette architect. Kathy shared Authem-
t's passion for Ragin' Cajuns® sports, especially men's basketball. They would sit next to each other at home games. When he traveled to out-of-town games without her, they would talk by phone — sometimes before the game had ended.

In 1999, on the day before Thanksgiving, Kathy was diagnosed with leukemia. Her son, Philip, was 12 years old; her twin daughters, Lauren and Michelle, were 9. The next year was spent coping with her illness and seeking treatments for it.

The president’s plans were suspended when Kathy became ill. In the somber days after her death, the world that was suddenly different, one that he could not control: He gravitated to what he knew as a place of comfort, Cajun® University at Lafayette, a familiar place that could dis-
tract him from his sorrow.

He was looking for,” Barbara Authement would recall more than 50 years later. She had enrolled at SLI but changed her plans after she began dating Au-
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Johnson is married to Chris Johnson of Atlanta. She said the birth of their first child, Jacob, in 2004, seemed to be a turning point for her father. “When Ray was born, it was the first time in a long time that I could see the sparkle in his eye again. It was as if Jacob were proof that life goes on and he found such joy in a new grandson,” Johnson said.

In August, Michelle and Lauren en-
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Johnson said Kathy was never far from Authement’s thoughts. “There have been so many times after my sister’s death when Dad has said, ‘Oh, how much fun it would be to share this with Kathy.’” Johnson said her parents react differ-
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tacked and takes it personally for him.”

And he said, “I wouldn’t love you if you did. So that was the main hurdle.”

She paused for a moment before add-
ing, “I told him, ‘Don’t fuss if I get out and work in my flower beds’!”

THE LATE HERBERT HEYMANN.

Barbara Authement prepares to cut a cake during a reception held in 1994 to mark her husband’s 10th anniversary as SLI’s president.

Barbara Authement, a close friend of the Authements. “I’ve had the pleasure of knowing all five of the university’s presi-
dents and by far, she was the best woman that was truly different, one that he could not control: He gravitated to what he knew as a place of comfort, Cajun® University at Lafayette, a familiar place that could dis-
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THE LATE HERBERT HEYMANN.
Dr. Ray P. Authement

BORN: Chauvin, La.

MARRIED: Former Barbara Braud; two daughters, Kathleen (deceased) and Julie; two grandsons; twin granddaughters

EDUCATION:
1950 Bachelor of Science, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, La.
   Major Field - Physics
   Minor Field - Mathematics

1952 Master of Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
   Major Field - Mathematics

1956 Doctorate, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
   Major Field - Mathematics
   Minor Field - Physics

EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
September, 1954 - August, 1956
   Instructor of Mathematics
   LSU, Baton Rouge, La.

September 1956 - August 1957
   Associate Professor of Mathematics
   McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La.

September 1957 - August 1959
   Associate Professor of Mathematics
   USL

September 1959 - Jan. 30, 1966
   Professor of Mathematics
   USL

1962-63 Session
   Visiting Professor of Mathematics
   University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Feb. 1, 1966 - June 30, 1970
   Academic Vice President
   USL

July 1, 1970 - June 30, 1973
   Vice President
   USL

July 1, 1973 - July 25, 1973
   Acting President, USL

July 26, 1973 - June 30, 1974
   President-Elect, USL

July 1, 1974 - Present
   President, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, formerly USL

Photos courtesy of Barbara Authement.
LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

F or anyone interested in acquiring or polishing management skills, UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement has been a walking textbook for more than three decades. He has steered the university deliberately and confidently as it has advanced from a solid regional university to one worthy of national and international attention.

His list of major achievements is impressive, by any measure. Under his leadership, for example, the university:

• changed its name to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette;
• implemented academic admission standards;
• became the first Doctoral university in Louisiana;
• has always competed in NCAA Division I, the highest level of collegiate competition;
• increased its gifted assets from about $300,000 to more than $150 million;
• weathered numerous financial crises caused by state revenue woes;
• helped diversify the economy by establishing 17 research centers;
• has been ranked in the same research category as Baylor and Auburn by the Carnegie Foundation;
• has constructed more than 30 buildings and facilities, and renovated or expanded more than 23 others.

Dr. Steve Landry, vice president for Academic Affairs, has professionally interacted with Authement on many levels. At UL Lafayette, he has been a doctoral student, faculty member and researcher, department head, center director and university administrator.

“It’s a very enlightening process to study an individual who has had so much success. I think there’s a lot for people to learn from him about principles of management,” Landry said. “Below is a brief look at some key aspects of Authement’s leadership.”

MANAGEMENT BY WALKING AROUND

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru arrived at UL Lafayette in 1992 as a graduate student.

“I was so surprised to see Dr. Authement walk into the lab on a weekly basis, asking for updates, progress on my projects. I would tell him I was waiting for a part to come in and that it would come in a week or 10 days. Sure enough, 10 days later, he would be back in the lab, asking me if the part had come in and how it fit into my research.”

“It was amazing to me, that as a graduate student, he took such an individualized interest in my work. Here he was, the president of the university, with a million or so things to do on a daily basis. And yet, that essentially is what defines him.”

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

For more than 30 years, Authement has reigned on the skills of Ovey Hargrave, UL Lafayette’s vice president for Business and Finance. Their diligence has kept UL Lafayette financially sound.

In late 1993, for instance, the university became debt free, when it paid what it owed on dormitories and other auxiliary facilities. “This accomplishment allowed us to contain our dormitory fees and meal tickets, in spite of escalating expenses,” Hargrave said.

And, every year, for the past 15 years, faculty members have received raises.

“Dr. Authement was able to make a lot of good decisions because he always knew exactly what our financial condition was,” Hargrave said.

PRIORITIES AND PERSEVERENCE

When Authement became president of USL in 1974, state revenues were limited. He decided to direct as much money as possible to the burgeoning field of computer science.

“I believed that if we were perceived as being great in one area, we would be perceived as great in other areas,” he explained in 1994. “He was vilified at the time by some faculty and students who resented his concentration on one academic area. But USL became nationally recognized for its computer science program. As finances would allow, Authement turned his attention to other departments and programs. He remained patient when striving to reach his goals. He pushed for almost 20 years to get USA name changed, for instance.

VISION AND PASSION

“Vision and passion have long been a winning combination for Dr. Authement and certainly for UL Lafayette,” said Julie Simon-Dronet, director of Public Relations and News Service for nearly half of Authement’s presidency.

“His vision is truly remarkable. Is it guesswork? No. He is a gatherer of information and has a methodical mind that, I believe, maps out game plans. He’s so driven by passion for moving this institution forward that he stays the course until it’s done.”

INTEGRITY

“Over the years we’ve experienced many challenges at the university and he has never asked me to do anything that I was uncomfortable with or tried to mislead anyone to advance a cause. In crisis, we’ve been on the same page – truth-seekers,” said Simon-Dronet.

“He does not rush to volunteer information because that’s not his personality but when asked for information, you will get the truth.”

“I believe that if you were to ask Dr. Authement what he would most like to be known for, it would be his integrity. I can only think of twice over the past 10 years that he was truly upset about something university-related. On both occasions his integrity was wrongly questioned. I know his integrity to be impeccable.”

ATTENTION TO DETAILS

Some critics accuse Authement of micro-managing. “My style is to educate myself on a daily basis about what’s going on in the university and what areas are moving forward. That way, you can better assist people in reaching their goals,” Authement said in a recent interview.

According to Landry, Authement’s ability to focus on details also enables him to prevent trouble. “You can handle a lot of things as little problems before they become big problems.”

And, attention to detail has been crucial in managing the university’s money, said Hargrave. “You have to know where your resources are coming from, where they are being spent. Set goals and you set priorities, but if you don’t manage your financial resources, then sometimes it’s hard to achieve your goals.”

1973

• Dr. Clyde R. Ruegxen, president of USL, begins year-long leave of absence
• Dr. Ray P. Authement becomes acting USL president
• Center for Louisiana Studies is established
• First Lagrange Day held on campus in the spring
• Constitutional Convention creates new higher education governing boards
• USL acquires Van de Graaf accelerator from NASA

1974

• Stephens Memorial Library converted to a computer center
• Authement reigns as King Gabriel XXXVI during Mardi Gras
• UL hosts French President Giscard D’Estaing
• Shuttle bus transportation system begins operation
• Authement receives prestigious Order of the Palms from the French government for efforts on behalf of French bilingualism in Louisiana

1975

• USL hosts French President Giscard D’Estaing
• Gymn U established

1976

• Louisiana Legislature approves $18 million for a new convention and assembly center
• Authement receives prestigious Order of the Palms from the French government for efforts on behalf of French bilingualism in Louisiana

1977

• College of General Studies established

1978

• Offers first master’s degree in computing engineering in the Southeast

1979

• Only university in nation to offer bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with telecommunications option

1980

• University in nation to offer bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with telecommunications option

1981

• Parking lottery begins

1982

• Recession begins

1983

• Louisiana governor proposes budget cuts

1984

• Dr. Authement begins second term as president

1985

• Louisiana state government proposes budget cuts

1986

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1987

• Authement attends University of Paris for seminar

1988

• Authement receives honorary degree from Morehouse College

1989

• Authement receives honorary degree from Berry College

1990

• Authement receives honorary degree from Texas A&M University

1991

• Authement receives honorary degree from The Catholic University of America

1992

• Authement receives honorary degree from Georgetown University

1993

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin

1994

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Texas at Austin

1995

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Kentucky

1996

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe

1997

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette

1998

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern Mississippi

1999

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Alabama

2000

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of North Carolina

2001

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of New Orleans

2002

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California

2003

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California

2004

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California

2005

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California

2006

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California

2007

• Authement receives honorary degree from the University of Southern California
President’s tenure ‘has been transforming’

By Dr. Gary Marotta

Dr. Gary Marotta served as UL Lafayette’s vice president for Academic Affairs from 1988-1999. Self-described “recovering administrator,” he is now professor of history at Buffalo State College, the largest four-year institution in the State University of New York system. Marotta is former University Dean at Long Island University and former provost of Buffalo State College.

The University of Louisiana has been fortunate to have had a number of remarkable presidents in its long history; their stewardship, at key moments, has been decisive. But President Ray Authement’s tenure – of unprecedented duration and intensity – has been more than decisive: it has been transforming.

Today, the University commands regional and national, indeed global, recognition. It is a recognition grounded in the academic and research core of the University, identified by distinguished programs in each of its colleges. A strong and productive faculty, an aspiring student body, committed alumni, all supported by state of the art infrastructure, backed by endowments, have been assembled. And that is what matters and that is what endures – a place that cherishes the human mind.

The impact of Dr. Authement is, I believe, comparable to the impact that President Charles William Eliot had on Harvard in the late 19th century and Nicholas Murray Butler had on Columbia in the first half of the 20th century. The transformation of the University during Dr. Authement’s presidency, from a provincial to a nationally competitive institution, has been achieved in the face of financial and political dainties of resistance. By consolidating authority on campus, partnering with city and parish, astutely avoiding dangers, mastering details, and pursuing a large vision, Dr. Authement has overcome the obstacles and created a modern, dynamic university.

There is an e-mail I send to my graduates: it says, “The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.” The message helps them to sustain the focus on the essence of the research projects or theses they are developing. Once they grab its import, they get the job done. I do not recall the source of the aphorism, but it is the big lesson I have learned from Dr. Authement. The “main thing” is not some strategic plan vetted by the university stakeholders. It is Dr. Authement’s head. But we can discern its shape in the details of decades of decisions and projects. Look around to see their fruits: nothing less than the University of Louisiana.

I have worked with several university presidents and chancellors, in both the public and independent sectors. All have been smart, all have been dedicated, but none as tireless or as determined as Dr. Authement. He is not, like too many higher education CEOs, a careerist, opportunist, or mere image-maker. The University of Louisiana is not smoke and mirrors. It has been built the old fashioned way: through long-term engagement, attention to detail and hard work.

Dr. Authement knows how to order priorities, make adjustments, get results – and survive. No man is a success in Louisiana, or any place else in higher education for that matter. He is not an easy man to work for because he believes in equality: He believes that everybody should work as hard and as smart as he does. If we did, he implies, we would be contributing to the building of a great institution, and that would invest our lives with meaning. And so it does. Dr. Authement wants things to be on his team. What kind of team was it? It was a track team, and I had a 53-year run. Others fell out early, some continued the pace. But the best run of all was that unprecedented, intense long-distance run – the one that transformed the University.
‘Real Leadership Is Very Unselfish...’

How did Dr. Ray Authement remain an effective, innovative university president for more than 30 years? That’s a question Dr. Sally Clausen, president of the University of Louisiana System, is particularly qualified to answer. She served as state commissioner of higher education and was president of Southeastern Louisiana University from 1995 to 2001. Earlier this year, she was inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

Clausen noted that university presidents must satisfy many “bosses,” including state education boards, state legislators, parents, students, faculty, sports fans and community leaders. So, university presidents are “decision makers by consensus and if you cannot draw consensus among major issues, you cannot succeed. Anyone who can attain consensus over such a long period of time is truly an amazing leader.”

“You do so by the sheer power of your drive, your intellect, your personality and sometimes very difficult. Yet, they have the courage of conviction of a moral leader to do what is right by the people they represent.”

Authement has those qualities – and more, she continued.

“He’s dedicated. He has vision. He works hard. He collaborates with people and sometimes he has to make some isolated decisions, knowing that he’s going to take some heat.

“But his vision has always been impressive because he seems to anticipate where the university ought to be in the next few years and makes conscious decisions now to ensure that it gets there. Otherwise, we wouldn't have university of research Park, the LITE Center, the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum or Moody Hall. We wouldn't have necessarily need to have over $100 million in endowments.

“So many things that he has envisioned and worked to accomplish are the sheer genius of his thoughtful anticipation, while always, however, staying in tune with the politics of the area, the state politics, the students and their needs, and the faculty’s need for resources.”

Clausen noted that Authement doesn’t seek the limelight. “His quiet, daily work, every day, day in and day out, on little issues and big issues, keeps the enterprise moving forward.

“Real leadership is very unselfish and he is one of the most unselfish leaders that I’ve ever worked with. He sets high expectations. He shares. He stays engaged. He encourages. He’s not afraid of assessment. He’s always in direct contact with students. In fact, he keeps his focus on the students. He believes that diversity is something that should define us but not divide us; he embraces it. And, he changes with the times.”

Authement earned credibility over the years by building a record of success, Clausen said.

Members of the University of Louisiana System

- Grambling State University, Grambling, La.
- Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, La.
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La.
- Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, La.
- Northeastern State University, Natchitoches, La.
- Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, La.
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, La.
- University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, La.
- Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (then known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana); and Tulane University in New Orleans.

In general, larger schools compete in Division I.

NCAA Division I members voted in 1978 to create three sub-divisions, I-A, I-AA and I-AAA. Again, the larger universities sought the top tier, I-A. So did Authement.

Ultimately, all major Louisiana universities joined Division I. But not all made the climb to Division I-A. This year, there are four state, public universities in Division I-A: LSU, UL Lafayette, UL Monroe and Louisiana Tech.

In addition to conveying prestige, the Division I-A designation affects guarantees and scholarships. “Guarantees” refers to the amount a team will pay an opponent to entice it to play. Guarantees are much bigger in Division I-A. Also, Division I-A programs can offer more scholarships.

NCAA Division I affects the status of other university sports by increasing a school’s visibility in its conference and beyond.

Dr. Ray Authement looks down on Cajun Field from a stadium skybox.

Continued from page 32

But until 1998, Louisiana did not have a statewide community college system, so there were few postsecondary options. Once one was established, UL Lafayette implemented selective admissions, gradually raising the academic requirements. The results are gratifying: The average ACT score and high school GPAs of incoming freshmen have been rising steadily. And, UL Lafayette has attracted a record number of high school valedictorians.

So, UL Lafayette’s graduation rate will rise, too, in coming years.

DOCTORAL II

For the average person, UL becoming a Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral II university in 1992 was hardly a reason to pop open a bottle of champagne. But for the university, it was cause for celebration.

One reason: The Louisiana Board of Regents allocates more state funding to Doctoral II universities. So, UL Lafayette received an extra $2.023 million.

That “big step” took five years to achieve. It started when Authement committed to an expansion of the doctoral fellowship program at UL. The fellowship program steadily increased the number of doctoral candidates at the university.

NCAA DIVISION 1

After the National Collegiate Athletic Association decided in 1978 to create competitive divisions, only three Louisiana universities chose to join the top tier – Division I.

They were: Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and Tulane University in New Orleans.

Dr. Ray Authement looks down on Cajun Field from a stadium skybox.
P

assion for his work and keeping focused on priorities are two keys to Dr. Ray Authement’s success and longevity as president of UL Lafayette. That’s the assessment of Dr. Norman Francis, president of Xavier University in New Orleans.

Francis is the longest-serving president of a private university in the United States. He has been Xavier’s president for 40 years.

Authement is the longest-serving president of a public university in the nation. In late April, Authement announced he will retire after 33 years as UL Lafayette’s top leader.

According to a survey conducted by the American Council on Education, the average tenure for a university president in 2006 was 8.5 years. That’s up from an average of 6.6 years in 2001.

Francis and Authement are friends, as well as colleagues, who enjoy mutual respect.

Francis will deliver the keynote address at UL Lafayette’s Commencement in December, when Authement will be honored. He will also receive an honorary doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette during that ceremony.

“Dr. Authement has a commitment to education young people in Louisiana and, particularly, in Acadia and Lafayette. He gives his total talents, every day,” Francis said. “He gives that willingly. That commitment inspires others at the university to work as hard as he does. “The key is that he has kept his attention and his focus on the core elements—students first and faculty second—no matter what,” Francis said. “What counts is the quality of his time.”

Authement is featured in an upcoming issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education, which will examine the president’s career and life.

Today, UL Lafayette is the second largest university in the state, with more than 16,000 students. Under Authement’s leadership, the university has grown, and Lafayette has more than $130 million in endowed funds.

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION DESIGNATION

What does Clemson, Baylor, Auburn and UL Lafayette have in common?

They are all universities with high research activity, according to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Universities want to share categories with other top universities because there’s value in name-dropping. It’s all about image, all about others’ perception.

Dr. Brad Clark, dean of UL Lafayette’s College of Sciences, likes it to the university’s name change in 1999. Before then, UL Lafayette was capable of competing with major institutions in the country. But, a normal sounding name became the University of Southwestern Louisiana – set the wrong level, it’s another example of bringing reality and perception of reality together for us,” he said.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Due to a decline in world oil and natural gas markets, the Hub City’s economy started spiraling downward in the mid-1980s, taking the rest of Louisiana’s dependent economy with it.

Under Authement’s leadership, the university has made a conscious effort to diversify its economies. Over the next several years, he created a tasty alphabet of programs, the Small Business Development Center, the Center for Marine Studies and the Center for Marine Research and Education.

“Dr. Authement is amazing because Dr. Authement did all this during the worst economic times in the county. It was even worse than during the Depression when half the campus was built by various governmental programs,” said Dr. Joseph Savoie, commissioner of higher education, in an article published in Louisiana Business in 2000.

UL Lafayette is capable of competing with major institutions in the country. But, a normal sounding name became the University of Southwestern Louisiana – set the wrong level, it’s another example of bringing reality and perception of reality together for us,” he said.

Authement faced and continues to face those funds have helped and continue to help in UL’s complete program.”

ENDOWMENTS

A review of UL Lafayette’s financial progress after Authement became president in 1974 shows a gradual increase in private donations. The amounts of financial contributions, grew, also.

But the university’s financial status was vulnerable to the fluctuations of state funding. Authement repeatedly had to pare USL’s budget when state revenues were cut. So, he decided to establish a stable revenue source that could supplement state monies.

By the early 1970s, USL had accumulated about $500,000 it could invest. Authement asked the late Alfred Lamson, a successful Lafayette oilman, to help raise another $500,000. The combined total of $1 million would be invested; only the earned interest would be used by the university.

Lamson would only agree to raise funds if the goal was raised to $10 million.

Within four years, that total had been obtained.

In 1986, UL Lafayette got a huge break when citizens approved the creation of a permanent trust fund with $305 million in offshore oil royalties and future offshore revenues. Half the interest generated by the fund was ear marked for higher education. Interest from those endowed state funds was used to attract large private donations. A $600,000 gift from a private donor for instance, would be matched with $400,000, in state money to establish a $1 million endowed chair.

Authement embraced the opportunity. He aggressively sought contributions for endowments. UL Lafayette launched the Investing in Our Future Campaign in 1997. Its goal was to raise the university’s endowment to $75 million. Today, UL Lafayette has more than $130 million in endowed funds.

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LA LOUISIANE | FALL 2007

When a presidential search committee asked for the public’s opinion about the qualities UL Lafayette’s next leader should have, it got a rare perspective from one man. Retired Lafayette City Judge Kaliste J. Saloom Jr. has known all five university presidents. He also served as parliamentarian for the panel which ultimately recommended Dr. Ray Authement to become UL Lafayette’s fifth president in the 1970s.

Saloom asked committee members to select who will continue to improve the entire state by continuing to improve the university.

In an interview with La Louisaîne a few weeks later, he provided his views on the university’s presidents.

Authement, Saloom said, showed strong leadership skills while serving as vice president in Dr. Clyde Rougeou’s administration.

When Rougeou took a one-year leave of absence in 1973, Authement became acting president. In 1974, he was named Rougeou’s successor.

Saloom credits Authement with increasing the amount of national and international recognition UL Lafayette has received in several different areas. He noted Authement’s success in recruiting and keeping top-notch teachers and researchers. The university’s president has “a broader vision and he created a confidence in the faculty. He’s always taught to keep a high level of faculty,” he said.

Here’s a brief look at UL Lafayette’s first four presidents, along with Saloom’s observations about them.

Dr. Edwin L. Stephens became the first president of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute, at age 27, on Jan. 3, 1900. The school had no campus, no faculty and no students.

So he literally began to build it from the ground up. In January 1901, Stephens planted oak trees on the campus. Many flourished; a few remain today and are known as the Century Oaks.

When SLII began offering classes, it was a vocational educational institution. By the time Saloom was born in 1918, much progress had been made. The “Main Building,” DeClouet Hall and Foster Hall had been built. Baseball, football and track teams had been formed and Stephens had formed an alumni association.

The Vermilion student newspaper and D’Auden yearbook had been established.

Saloom said he grew up “in the shadows of the university.” When he enrolled in 1935, the street in front of the school was known as “Industrial Avenue,” decades later, it would be renamed University Avenue.

Southwestern had become a four-year college in 1925 and had dropped “Industrial” from its name. By 1932, it was accredited as a College of Teacher Education, with degrees ranging from art to biology to physical education.

Saloom described Stephens as “an academic leader. He believed in a well-rounded education and liberal arts. He encouraged people to go to college. He was known for encouraging students to excel in education and to do well academically.”

According to the retired city judge, one of the keys to Stephens’ success was his selection of faculty members. “Dr. Stephens was instrumental in getting some excellent teachers who stayed with the school for many, many years,” he said. One of them was Stephens’ wife, Beverly Randolph Stephens, who taught drawing and gymnastics.

Saloom recalled that Stephens was an avid photographer who used his camera to document much of the first four decades of campus life.

As an SLI student, Saloom was a sportswriter for the Vermilion. Stephens would also organize events for students. “On freshman day, we’d have what we called the freshman parade. The male freshmen usually shored their hair, and they wore skull caps,” Saloom said. They would parade from their dormitories, down Jefferson Street and then back to campus.

P. Edward Frazier succeeded Stephens in 1938. Although he served only two and a half years, Frazier supervised the construction of many campus buildings, such as the president’s house, Minton Hall, Broussard Hall, Burke Hall, Haskell Hall, Earl K. Long Gym and Stephens Memorial Library.

Saloom said Frazier also helped the campus grow through the purchase of additional land, primarily the former Whittington Estate.

Frazier, who was 34 years old when he became the school’s second president, developed the Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering and added the Departments of Music, Commerce and Publicity.

Saloom said Frazier “believed in modernizing the college and bringing in faculty that would expand the college.”

The second president also created the campus marching band and the school’s first intercollegiate athletic program.

According to Saloom, Frazier organized the effort to get a railroad company to take students to out-of-town football games on trains, so the team would have fans “on the road.”

Frazier resigned from SLI in 1940. He went on to serve as a state representative and a dean of McNese State College and as lieutenant governor during the Earl K. Long administration. He died May 13, 1960.

The university’s third president, Dr. Joel Lafayette Fletcher Jr. was known for his personal interest in student welfare. Any student who was planning to resign from SLI was required to first talk with Fletcher so the president could determine whether anything could be done to enable him or her to stay in school.

As dean of the College of Agriculture, he had taken advantage of the National Youth Administration and the Works Projects Administration to provide jobs for poor students who needed money to attend SLI. Some of those students grew vegetables on the schools farm. Others worked in campus offices. Many worked in the dairy, where they helped make cheese and butter.

The dairy farm made some of the best cheese in the world. From time to time, they would distribute it in the community,” Saloom said. Fletcher would also have barbecues at Whittington Hall.

Saloom said Fletcher encouraged people “on the road” to serve as paragraphists for the selection committee that would recommend his successor.

When Fletcher took a year-long leave of absence in 1973, Authement became acting president of SLI. Rougeou died in 1980.

Dr. Clyde L. Rougeou began teaching at SLI during Stephens’ presidency. He was also head of the Department of Animal Husbandry before being named the institution’s fourth president.

From 1966 to 1974, Rougeou guided the university through a critical period of rapid growth and constrained budgets. During his term, enrollment rose from 8,000 to more than 12,000 -- a 43 percent increase.

To accommodate the larger student population, Rougeou coordinated $30 million in construction projects. Maxim Duson Hall, Wharton Hall, the Student Union, Cajun Field, the Athletic Complex and the two upper floors of Dupre Library were constructed during his presidency.

The university also expanded academically, as it added graduate programs in English, history, microbiology, mathematics, statistics, computer science and education. In 1968, USL began granting doctoral degrees.

He said that the university would have to move to more liberal arts teaching than agriculture or the applied sciences," Saloom said. Although Rougeou was a “very quiet president,” according to Saloom, he kept “a high profile” for the institution.

Near the end of his presidency, Rougeou asked Saloom to serve as parliamentarian for the selection committee that would recommend his successor.

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Saloom served as Alumni Association president from 1958-59.

In 1960, SLI earned university status, which is enabled to change its name to the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Fletcher retired in 1965 after 23 years of service. He died April 25, 1972.

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SPORTS

Authement Set the Bar
Cajuns compete at top level of NCAA collegiate competition

If there were an MVP award for Ragin’ Cajun athletics, President Ray Authement would be the top candidate this year. Here’s why:

• In September, he accepted the largest single sponsorship in the history of UL Lafayette’s athletic program—a 10-year pledge totalling $2 million in cash and in-kind services from Cox Communication.

• Also in September, the $4 million Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility opened near Cajun Field. UL Lafayette is only the second university in Louisiana to provide its student-athletes with a weather-proof place to prepare for games.

• This summer, Authement helped initiate a funding plan that, when approved by the state Board of Regents, will raise the amount of state monies public universities can earmark for athletics.

The net result: UL Lafayette’s budget for athletics increased $1.4 million for this fiscal year.

Oh, what a difference 34 years can make.

When Authement was promoted from vice president to acting president of USL (now UL Lafayette) in 1975, he faced the unenviable task of defending the university against the NCAA’s charges of 125 basketball recruiting violations. The school ultimately received the NCAA’s Death Penalty, which shut down the men’s basketball program for two years and put other Ragin’ Cajun sports on hold.

Also in 1975, the Ragin’ Cajun football team had the worst season in USL’s history: Ten games. Ten losses.

Authement was undaunted. The NCAA created three divisions for collegiate competition in 1973—Divisions I, II and III. In 1974, he chose to join the top tier. “We wanted to send a clear message,” he recalled in an interview for the Spring 2002 issue of La Louisiane, “that we haven’t looked back.”

And when the NCAA subdivided its collegiate divisions for football in 1978, Authement again chose the most competitive level, Division I-A.

Former UL Lafayette Athletic Director Nelson Schenckner said Authement’s decision reinforced the university’s ambitious goals. “UL Lafayette, Tulane and LSU were the ones who made the decision to be in 1-A from the start. No one else (in Louisiana) Some other universities have joined since. So, he made a wonderful decision.”

A look at Ragin’ Cajuns’ success during Authement’s tenure confirms that assessment.

Take baseball, for example. In late September, Rivals.com released its pre-fall rankings. The Ragin’ Cajuns® are in its Top 23 teams in the nation. Last season, UL Lafayette had a 45-17 season and won the Sun Belt Conference regular-season title. The Cajuns made it to the SBC Tournament and to the final round of the NCAA Tournament’s College Station Regional.

In 2000, the Ragin’ Cajuns® took their first trip to the College World Series and placed third. The Ragin’ Cajun softball team is consistently one of the best in the country. It went to the Women’s College World Series in 1993, 1995, 1996 and 2003. It has had 33 All-Americans, including six-time All-American and softball coach Stefni Whitton.

UL Lafayette’s men’s basketball team has competed in the NCAA Tournament seven times and in the National Invitational Tournament five times.

Without question, the pinnacle of Ragin’ Cajun football success was the 29-22 defeat of the Texas AM Aggies at Cajun Field on Sept. 14, 1996. The Cajuns earned that victory in front of the largest crowd in UL Lafayette’s history, 38,783. It was the first time that a Ragin’ Cajun football team had defeated a nationally ranked team.

Jare Delhomme of Breaux Bridge, La., was captain of USL’s team that year. He went on to become quarterback of the Carolina Panthers and led that team to the Super Bowl in 2003. He’s one of a long list of top drawer UL Lafayette players who went on to play professional football, such as Brandon Stokley, Charles Tillman, Orlando Thomas, and Brian Mitchell.

Authement’s support of Ragin’ Cajun student-athletes started long before he became president in 1974. “USL athletes returning from road trips have become accustomed to finding Dr. Authement there to greet them. As vice president of Southwestern, he recognizes the place of athletics within the university framework as a rallying point for students, alumni and interested citizens of the community,” the late Mario Mamatulak, USL’s director of publications, wrote in a press release in the early ’70s.

Sports fans
who have spotted Autheurn at Ragin’ Cajun basketball games in the Cajun dome might have noticed him recently. He would withdraw a few minutes later on the court clock. He would walk to the other side of the court, where he would offer a handshake or pat on the back to players as they headed to their locker room – win or lose.

“He likes to know the athletes by name, likes to talk with them, wants to know how they are doing in school,” Schexnayder said. Many stay in touch with the university president after they leave UL Lafayette. For the record, about 90 percent of Ragin’ Cajun student-athletes had a 3.0 or better grade point average for the Spring 2007 semester.

First-time freshmen student-athletes are required to attend sessions that offer time management tips, study techniques and information about campus resources. Danny Cottonham, director of UL Lafayette’s Student-Athlete Academic Center, stresses that the goal is graduation.

“After our student-athletes finish their athletic careers, we want them all to have the academic experience to not only finish their degree, but to make a meaningful contribution to society with what they have learned,” he said.

UL Lafayette’s athletics program got a boost in 1999, when a new logo – featuring a peeper on fire – was unveiled. Ragin’ Cajuns® was already one of the most popular nicknames in collegiate sports. Adding the peeper spiced up the university’s brand and helped boost sales of UL Lafayette merchandise.

Over the past decade, public support of Ragin’ Cajun athletics has increased, too. In the past five years, for instance:

• more than $1 million has been generated for building improvements and unrestricted funds;
• about $250,000 has been raised for football recruiting;
• about $400,000 of recurring revenue has been generated by naming opportunities, such as signs, and
• about $1 million in “in kind” gifts or discounted services has been donated or provided to improve athletics facilities.

That money has been crucial in light of restrictions on how much state funding can be allocated for a university’s athletics program.

For fiscal year 2006-07, UL Lafayette’s athletics budget was about $7.8 million. About $3.1 million of that total was state revenue. The Board of Regents’ decision earlier this year to allow universities to put more state funds into their athletics programs took UL Lafayette’s athletics budget to a little more than $9 million.

“This is a significant step in helping to put our athletic program on an even field with other Division I programs. These changes will give us the ability to provide the resources our programs need to be competitive,” said David Walker, who was named the university’s athletic director in July. He had served as interim director since Schexnayder resigned in 2005.

“I’ve been amazed at what Dr. Autheurn and Nelson Schexnayder were able to accomplish with the restrictions placed on them by the old policy. As I have come to understand how very fortunate we are to have a president, a supporter and a fan like Dr. Autheurn,” Walker said. 

Throughout his career, Autheurn has taken more than his share of heat from Ragin’ Cajun fans for what many perceived as a lack of support – mostly financial – for the athletic program. Those critics, though, didn’t know the whole story.

They didn’t know of his work behind the scenes to help the school’s sports programs or how he squeezed every cent possible in the direction of Reinhardt Hall.

They didn’t see him out on the field at football practice, or quietly in attendance at too many athletic events to count. It’s not many presidents that would spend lunch hours in Cal. Ragin’ Cajun

Schexnayder said. “He’s the role model president in Louisiana,” said interim athletic director David Walker, a part of the university administration for many years before his recent involvement with athletics. “He’s kept us financially stable, put us in a rack in the right technology fields, and grown this university into a very well-respected research institution.”

“At the same time, he’s taken care of all the auxiliary areas, including athletics.”

Thrusting himself in the right technology fields, and grown this university into a very well-respected research institution. "At the same time, he's taken care of all the auxiliary areas, including athletics."
Dr. Ray Authement was honored with the UL Lafayette Alumni Association’s Outstanding Alumni Award in late October, he expressed his appreciation, then deflected the attention.

Like a polite guest who takes a hostess gift to a dinner party, Authement offered some announcements about UL Lafayette’s most recent success.

He just learned that its Mathematics Department was ranked by the National Science Foundation as one of the top 100 universities in the country.

The NSF also ranked UL Lafayette’s Computer Science Department in the top 60 universities for computer science departments in the nation. Authement said that recognition was especially rewarding because the university began developing its renowned computer science program years ago, when the school’s budget was tight.

“Our budget was tight when the university began developing its computer science program. Now, we have money thanks to you, thanks to the UL Lafayette Foundation and thanks to the governor and legislature. This has been the best year ever in the history of the university.”

“Thank you so very much for this honor and I don’t really deserve it. You do, because you have done so much for the university,” he told Alumni Association members.

Authement also thanked his wife, Barbara. “What a magnificent partner and lady who has helped me in so many crises,” he said.

The Alumni Association paid tribute to Barbara Authement, too, by surprising her with its Honorary Alumni Award. It is presented to individuals who are not UL Lafayette alumni but deserve recognition for their “loyalty, service and support of the university,” said Alumni Association President Martin Audiffred. The award has been presented only three times in the past 15 years.

Barbara Authement thanked the Association. “It has been a wonderful journey and all of you have made it possible,” she said.
President’s Legacy

Authement pledges, ‘When I go, we’ll be in good shape.’

At Louisiana State University in Thibodaux, there were three co-chairs of the Investing in Our Future campaign: Matt Stuller, an attorney, of Stuller Inc.; Clay Allen, an attorney, and Allen Gosch, and Bill Fenstermaker, chairman and chief executive officer of C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates Inc. Honorary co-chairs were Herbert Abdalla, the late Herbert Heymann, former U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston and the late Alfred Lamson. They, in turn, worked with other community leaders to solicit contributions.

AUTHEMENT was also instrumental in establishing a joint operating agreement between the Foundation and UL Lafayette, which serves as the management agreement for the private 501c3 organization with its public institution counterpart.

“As a nonprofit entity of the university, it behooves you to have those types of agreements in place,” Falgout said. “That was done a number of years ago, before most people even realized that it was considered best practice.”

UL Lafayette’s Development Office was established in 1991. John T. Landry, director of development, said Authement stressed from the start that its focus would be on endowments. “A lot of our foundations sit around and look at endowments, for example, and they focus on keeping the doors open. His focus is long-term,” Landry said, adding that the permanency of an endowment is compelling to donors.

When the Investing in Our Future campaign began in 1997, UL Lafayette’s endowment assets totaled about $45 million. The campaign pitch was based, in large part, on Authement’s fiscal responsibility. A booklet given to prospective donors states:

“UL has succeeded because it has always strived to be more than it is, setting its goals higher and higher, fueled by a determined spirit. It has advanced steadily, using limited resources wisely for the maximum benefit. If UL can do so much with so little, what can it do with more? Through support for the Investing in Our Future campaign, the answer is clear: anything it puts its mind to.”

The original goal was to increase the sum of gifted assets to $75 million. But by the time the campaign concluded, the total had reached $100 million.

“That’s a testament to the generosity of our public, which includes alumni and non-alumni. We’ve had gifts come from people who did not graduate from here, but who realize the importance of the university to the region,” Falgout said.

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UL Lafayette has one super chair and twice as many $1 million endowed chairs – 20 – as any other school in the University of Louisiana System. Louisiana Tech in Ruston has 10, the University of Louisiana at Monroe has seven and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux has six.

UL Lafayette has almost twice as many $100,000 endowed scholarships – 217 – as any other institution in the UL System. Louisiana Tech in Ruston ranks second, with 126. McNeese State University in Lake Charles is third, with 68.

The Foundation manages 446 endowed scholarships, 47 endowed faculty development funds, a lot of endowed fellowships and 20 non-endowed faculty development funds. Although these are not matched with state monies, they are invested with the Foundation’s portfolio and have returned earnings to the accounts each year to help them grow.

Falgout said having such a large sum of endowments and program funds is advantageous because “you can diversify your portfolio quite a bit more to achieve a greater rate of return. With our growing endowment, we’ve had the ability to do that. We have some very astute investment managers and board members who have a clear understanding of investment management that allows us to achieve a high rate of return. At the end of the 2007 fiscal year the Foundation’s investment portfolio averaged over an 18 percent return. The portfolio is well diversified with an asset allocation blend of 60 percent equities (stocks) and 30 percent fixed income (bonds), which continues to sustain the Foundation’s primary investment objective of prudent growth, through conserving principal and enhancing capital appreciations.”

For more information about the Foundation, send an e-mail to juliefalgout@lafayette.edu or call (337) 482-0700. To contribute to UL Lafayette, send e-mail to giftsoflouisiana.edu or call the Office of Development at (337) 482-0922.

Those campaign leaders could offer a potential incentive to prospective donors by matching state funds. In 1988, Louisiana established a permanent trust fund with $305 million in offshore oil royalties and future offshore revenues. Half the interest generated by the fund was earmarked for higher education. The Louisiana Board of Regents manages those monies, which are used to attract large private donations by providing a 60/40 match. A $600,000 private gift is matched with $400,000. A $1.2 million gift is matched with $800,000.

Under Authement’s leadership, UL Lafayette aggressively took advantage of the opportunity to parlay a $1.2 million donation into a $2 million endowed super chair; a $500,000 donation into a $1 million endowed chair, and a $600,000 donation into a $1.2 million endowed professorship. Interest earned on those endowments is used to supplement faculty salaries.

UL Lafayette has one super chair and twice as many $1 million endowed chairs – 20 – as any other school in the University of Louisiana System. Louisiana Tech in Ruston has 10, the University of Louisiana at Monroe has seven and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux has six.

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In May 2008, Dr. Ray Authement will present his grandson, Phillip Prouet, with a bachelor’s degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. They are shown here in the late 1980s in front of Martin Hall.

“The university is an instrument, a tool one can use to open the door of success and opportunity.”

DR. RAY AUTHEMENT, JAN. 21, 1966
What’s your sign?

Academy Sports and Outdoors
4232 Ambassador Caffery

Albertson’s
2678 Johnston Street
2863 & 4400 Ambassador Caffery
1818 NE Evangeline Thruway

Bell’s Sporting Goods
4313 Johnston Street

Follett’s—The Book Store
210 E. St. Mary Boulevard

Golfballs.com Inc.
126 Arnould Blvd.

LIDS
Acadiana Mall / 5725 Johnston Street
www.LIDS.com

Louisiana Hot Stuff
4409 Ambassador Caffery

Pieces of Eight
902 Coolidge Boulevard
Sports Avenue
Acadiana Mall

Teche Drugs and Gifts
505 Jefferson Street

University Bookstore
600 McKinley
www.louisiana.edu/bookstore

Wal-Mart
2428 W. Pinhook Road
3142 Ambassador Caffery
1229 NW Evangeline Thruway

Women’s and Children’s Hospital Gift Shop
4600 Ambassador Caffery

www.RagincajunGEAR.com
Translation: Drop by for a visit. In Cajun country, we’ll make you feel right at home - whether you prefer to dance at a festival or catch a sunset over the cypress trees.

With Zydeco rhythms, Cajun & Creole flavors,
Louisiana scenery and Southern hospitality
you’ll agree – there’s no place like Lafayette.