TechKnowledge:
From cell phones to CajunBot II, students’ world is high-tech
I glanced over at the doctor as he reviewed my latest test results. His face was impassive. No clues there.

Finally, after what seemed like a long time, he spoke.

“You could live to be 120 years old,” he said.

I smiled because I thought he was joking. “I’m not sure I want to be 120 years old,” I replied, flippantly.

“You’re assuming that you would be 120 and have some sort of impairment. What if your quality of life were still good?” he countered, with an earnestness that surprised me.

It took me a second to grasp that he was serious. He went on to say that he believes it might be possible to live much longer than we can imagine right now.

The timing of our conversation was apropos, because I’ve been thinking about the passage of time a lot as we have prepared this issue.

An article about the new Ernest J. Gaines Center, for instance, reminded me that the first cover story I wrote for La Louisiane, in Fall 1993, was about Ernest Gaines. He told me that he would always be loyal to the university because of the opportunity it had given him to concentrate on his writing. Like one of the honorable characters in his novels, he has kept his word.

This issue also has an update on Dr. Darrell Bourque, UL Lafayette professor of English emeritus, who was named Louisiana’s poet laureate in November. La Louisiane featured him on the cover of its Fall 1997 issue. He was way cool even then, with rimless glasses and a ponytail. We reprinted one of his poems, “Le Courir de Mardi Gras.”

“Early in the morning all the men
of the grand courir line up
behind our leader, dressed in passion’s
red . . .” it began.

And, the “In Memoriam” section includes entries for two alumni with special ties to the university: Glynn Abel, a former dean of men who is often cited for his role in the peaceful desegregation of Southwestern Louisiana Institute in the 1950s, and Robert Trahan, a generous and devoted UL Lafayette supporter. They will be missed.

We hope you enjoy this issue of La Louisiane.

— Kathleen Thames
A NEW INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY of Louisiana at Lafayette is tackling disaster management full force.

The National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAt) Institute is set to empower national, state and local incident managers during catastrophic times.

After witnessing the effects of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and other disasters that followed, NIMSAt leaders knew questions about management, homeland security, private sector supply chains and critical infrastructures needed to be addressed.

“At the foundations of NIMSAt are efforts to enhance the understanding of threats and vulnerabilities to the nation’s critical infrastructure and improve the resiliency of private sector supply chains that fuel the national economy,” said Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, NIMSAt’s executive director.

“NIMSAt will do this by processing and analyzing data using supercomputing and visualization technologies. The Institute is built on the expertise of researchers from UL Lafayette’s Colleges of Business Administration, Science, Liberal Arts and Engineering, along with those of its national partners.”

These national-scale partners include James Lee Witt Associates – a part of GlobalOptions Group, WalMart, SGI, Priority 5, CISCO, Tulane University, San Diego State University and many others. At NIMSAt’s core is a partnership between the public, private and governmental sectors leading to cross-cultural collaborations that could fundamentally impact the way the nation manages disasters – regardless of their cause.

“NIMSAt is a key public-private partnership working to prepare us for the next disaster that strikes, be it natural or manmade. Its state-of-the-art technology provides the kind of testing we need to simulate disasters and smartly direct the response of government and the private sector,” said U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu. “I am proud that Lafayette is the home for this institute – bringing together the best and brightest to bolster our homeland security. I will continue to work to ensure UL Lafayette and NIMSAt have the funding they need to continue their success.”

By leveraging the expertise of its 20 public and private sector partners from across 10 states, NIMSAt is pursuing an all-hazards approach to homeland security and disaster lifecycle. Plans are to conduct research, develop applications, prepare the next generation workforce of homeland security and provide operational and decision support to enhance the nation’s ability to manage incidents on any governmental level.

NIMSAt will tap into supercomputing systems across the nation, including the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) and the National LambdaRail (NLR).

In addition, the Institute has formed a partnership with the Louisiana Immersive Sciences Enterprise (LItE) at UL Lafayette. The facility is one of the world’s most advanced technology resources for industry, government and research. LItE’s supercomputers – 160-processor SGI Altix 4700 – feature 4.1 trillion bytes and can compute and visualize complex disaster models, data and scenarios.

“Public-private partnerships are essential in facing many of the challenges in preparing for disaster. NIMSAt will be vital in the creation of these partnerships,” said James Lee Witt, chief executive officer of James Lee Witt Associates, one of the Institute’s partners. “NIMSAt will bring together stakeholders and encourage the real-time coordination needed during a crisis to improve situational awareness and make good decisions.”

NIMSAt seeks to contribute to the mission of saving human lives, strengthening the private-sector supply chains that drive the national economy and providing the nation’s critical infrastructure and key resources that support the economy and everyday life.

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SENIOR MARY LANDRIEU

www.nimsat.org
The Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development will focus on making children’s lives better.

The center’s director said, “With the access to data we currently have, we are undoubtedly the best resource for educational information in Louisiana.” The center’s financial support has included donations by Lloyd J. Rockhold and the Special Children’s Foundation, and includes: the Lloyd J. Rockhold Endowed Chair, the Paula Chavers Rockhold Endowment, the Special Children’s Gifted Education Endowed Professorship, and a $2 million donation earmarked for building the facility. The center also receives support from the Cecil Picard Endowment through the Community Foundation of Acadiana.

Latest Addition

Picard Center will focus on making children’s lives better

track schools’ short-term and long-term assistance to children displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. As the center expands the scope of its work, it will focus on tracking children’s educational progress in Louisiana from birth to age 25. “We are well on our way to becoming the national model for child development centers,” said Dr. Billy Stokes, the center’s director. “With the access to data we currently have, we are undoubtedly the best resource for educational information in Louisiana.” The center’s financial support has included donations by Lloyd J. Rockhold and the Special Children’s Foundation, and includes: the Lloyd J. Rockhold Endowed Chair, the Paula Chavers Rockhold Endowment, and the Special Children’s Gifted Education Endowed Professorship.

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Engineers Study Alternative Energy

A $1 MILLION SATURN diesel turbine generator has given biodiesel research at UL Lafayette a boost. It was donated to the College of Engineering by Solar Turbines in Lafayette. The company, which is owned by Caterpillar, has corporate headquarters in San Diego.

“The new equipment positions UL Lafayette’s engineering program with a developmental capability not found at many colleges. It will be used in conjunction with other donated equipment to form the cornerstone for a fast-growing alternative energy research focus within the College of Engineering,” said Dr. William Emblov, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering. The new equipment will be used by several faculty members who are working with area industries to make Acadiana a leader in energy management. For example, they are studying the use of biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from vegetable oil, to power the turbine generator. Their goal is to assess economic and technical benefits derived through the use of biodiesel.

“Other related work includes the use of the solar turbine and generator system in conjunction with the Combined Heating and Power Process,” Emblov said. “The CHP process is being used by companies across the nation to reduce energy costs by first generating electricity and then using the waste heat to provide cooling or heating for buildings and other applications.”

The turbine generator is capable of producing enough electricity to power about 700 homes. Along with an electrical generator, it’s permanently mounted inside a tractor-trailer that is fully transportable.

**FISH DNA MAY YIELD VALUABLE CLUES**

**DOES THE DNA of the electric fish hold secrets that could someday advance the treatment of human spinal cord injuries?**

Dr. James Albert, an assistant professor of biology at UL Lafayette, is intrigued by the possibility. The eel-like, electric fish may also help scientists develop bio-fish frequently bite off the tails of this species; the electric fishes have responded by growing back what has been removed. “You can cut off the back third of the body and they will regenerate everything, including the spinal cord,” Albert stated in Nature News in February. If scientists can figure out which genes are responsible for an organism’s ability to generate electricity, the information might also be useful in the treatment of medical conditions such as Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy and muscular dystrophy. Albert and some colleagues have started genome sequencing of the electric fish to try to get the information they need. “Sequencing gives you the pieces of the puzzle. But you have to sequence it 30 times over and then do a lot of analysis of the data to put the puzzle back together,” he said. A proposal to sequence the whole genome of the Electrophorus electricus is being reviewed by the Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute.

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Among The Elite
UL Lafayette earns a place in the nation’s ‘solar village’

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is one of only 20 colleges and universities from around the world chosen to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy’s fourth Solar Decathlon.

Teams from those schools will each design, build and operate a small energy-efficient house that’s powered entirely by the sun. Their entries will form a “solar village” on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in Fall 2009. UL Lafayette is the only Louisiana university represented in the decathlon.

Other participants include Cornell University, Penn State, Technische Universität Darmstadt in Germany and the University of Texas.

UL Lafayette’s BeauSoleil Team will design and build the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home over the next two years. BeauSoleil means “beautiful sun” or “sunshine” in French.

“It’s kind of our Cajun foot,” said Geoff Gjertson, an associate professor and architecture coordinator at UL Lafayette.

Cajunfoot is the university’s autonomous land vehicle, which has competed in three prestigious, national contests sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The BeauSoleil Team represents collaboration among the UL Lafayette School of Architecture and Design, the College of Engineering and the College of Business, Architecture, design, business and engineering students, along with Louisiana System Built Homes and other community partners, will design and build the BeauSoleil Home over the next two years.

The Solar Decathlon gets its name from 10 specific areas of competition: architecture, engineering, market viability, communications, comfort, appliances, hot water, lighting, energy balance and transportation. Each house must produce enough electricity and hot water to perform all the functions of a home, including cooking and washing clothes. A house may earn extra points by generating a surplus of energy.

The team that earns the most points is the winner.

There are three main criteria for the BeauSoleil Home:
- It must represent the region, be a marketable prototype and have a balanced hybrid of passive and active systems.
- The team’s name, inspired by the Grammy-winning Cajun band, reflects the team’s intent to relate the project to its Cajun roots.
- “We’ll bring our own kind of Louisiana, French,” the team’s name, “la casa es un mundo de cultura” (the house is a world of culture), reflects the team’s intent to relate the project to the Cajun roots.

Each house must produce enough electricity and hot water to perform all the functions of a home, including cooking and washing clothes. A house may earn more points by generating a surplus of energy.

By early April, several designs were under consideration for the BeauSoleil Home. One will be chosen by the end of the spring semester in May. Shown, from left, are students Chris Leger, Jean Paul Accomando, Chris Dufreche, Cat Guidry, Denise Castro, Tim Dumatreau, Jeremy Cradeur and Dr. Geoff Gjertson, an assistant professor and BeauSoleil Team coordinator.

TERRI FENSEL

“It’s a teaching tool for students.”

Gjertson noted that UL Lafayette was drawn to the solar decathlon, in part, because it requires more than just meeting technical specifications. “It’s really got a lot of subjective things about living in a house and what a Louisiana house means,” he said.

In addition to promoting Louisiana culture, the BeauSoleil Home is intended to be affordable and practical.

“We’re trying to make it a marketable and viable housing alternative, rather than a very high-tech toy that’s beyond reach of most people,” Gjertson said.

The BeauSoleil Team has done its homework. It cites 2005 census statistics that show the median household income in Louisiana was $36,729. According to federal guidelines, a family with that income could afford a house that costs a maximum of $100,000. So the cost of a 700-square-foot solar house could not exceed about $145 per square foot.

UL Lafayette’s interest in energy-efficient designs that complement Louisiana’s landscape and culture is not new: “It’s not a fashionable thing. It’s part of our program,” Gjertson said.

For example, two of its architecture professors, Edward J. Cazayoux and Hector LaSalA, designed and built a solar house on university property more than 20 years ago. Their innovative design won an award from the U.S. Department of Energy and the house continues to be used as a teaching tool.

Faculty and students prepared UL Lafayette’s application to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. Forty universities applied; only 20 were chosen.

Gjertson said UL Lafayette wasn’t intimidated by the caliber of the other applicants. “We may not have the resources of some of schools that may be able to throw millions of dollars at a project, but we really make the most of what we have,” he said.

‘First and foremost, the design has to be there and it has to be an educational tool for students.’

At press time, 12 UL Lafayette students were working on several possible designs for the BeauSoleil Home. They were scheduled to hold a charrette, or public meeting, in early April to get feedback. One design will be chosen by the end of the spring semester in May.

In addition to working on its design, the BeauSoleil Team is busy raising funds.

The U.S. Department of Energy provided $100,000 to each of the 20 schools competing in the decathlon. But the BeauSoleil Team needs an additional $300,000 to pay for research, construction material and transporting the home to Washington, D.C.

“We’ve been trying to get the word out far and wide and to develop partnerships and relationships with all kinds of different
A Bad Boy Buggies representative demonstrated the solar utility vehicle's power by using its reverse gear to climb the outdoor stairs of Martin Hall.

“Every now and again, a project comes along that has transformative power. This is one of them,” said DaGian.

But DaGian said the vehicle's silent operation is an advantage. “The solar utility vehicle is primarily useful for wildlife areas, where noise or pollution is a problem,” he said.

Current uses for the solar buggy include wildlife areas, such as Yellowstone National Park and the Sandy Point State National Park in Maryland. DaGian said the solar panel could be adapted to applications involving boats.

DaGian and BP are also working on a charging station that uses solar panels to recharge the SUV when it's not in use, eliminating the need to have an electrical source to charge the buggy.

DaGian developed the solar panel and attached it to the vehicle, which was manufactured by Bad Boy Buggies in Natchez, Miss. The SUV given to UL Lafayette was the 14th developed by DaGian, BP and Bad Boy Buggies.

Megan Broussard

A junior majoring in public relations is the newest student editor of La Louisiane.

Megan Broussard of Lafayette began her magazine duties in March. She will also serve as student editor for the Fall 2008 issue.

The position gives a UL Lafayette student the chance to be involved in almost every aspect of magazine production, from planning content to editing articles to checking print quality during press runs. The student editor also serves as a liaison between the student body and La Louisiane.

“Megan’s resume is already lengthy and impressive. It reflects active participation in campus organizations and events, leadership skills and a strong work ethic,” said Kathleen Thames, editor of La Louisiane.

Broussard is president of the LaFayette chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America and a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and is a member of several honor societies.

“I have worked with Megan in her role as president of the Public Relations Student Society of America and she is a dedicated leader who has the ability to make deadlines under pressure,” said Dr. Dedria Greens-Carroll, an assistant professor in UL Lafayette’s Communication Department.

Broussard serves in the legislative branch of UL Lafayette’s Student Government Association. Each college has elected representatives: a president and a minimum of two senators. She is SGA’s Liberal Arts president.

Earlier this year, Broussard arranged the Liberal Arts Career Day Job Fair and conducted a fund-raiser for the Public Relations Student Society of America. In 2007, she was in charge of a fund-raiser for Kappa Delta and coordinated an International Coffee Hour to help UL Lafayette international students become integrated into college life.

Broussard has worked part-time at Le Centre International de Lafayette. She was an intern for the Bobby Jindal Campaign for Governor and for the American Heart Association’s office in Lafayette. She is a former reporter for the Vermilion, UL Lafayette’s student newspaper.

This summer, Broussard will spend six weeks in France as a participant in UL Lafayette’s Study Abroad Program. After graduation, she plans to pursue agency work in the field of public relations and eventually enter corporate public relations, applying the writing skills she honed while working for La Louisiane.

“In public relations, it is important to know all styles of writing,” Broussard said. “At La Louisiane, I’m learning techniques specific to magazines that will make me a more well-rounded writer and, in turn, a more effective public relations practitioner.”

Fraternity Returns With Larger Membership

PI KAPPA ALPHA Fraternity has reclaimed its place on campus.

The Zeta Omega chapter voluntarily disbanded in 1990 after its membership dwindled. It was founded in 1908.

Two years ago, it got a fresh start. “We were colonized as the second largest fraternity on campus in 2006 and continue to grow our numbers,” said Noah Brandon, a UL Lafayette senior who is Pike’s recruitment chairman. That was a major step toward earning a charter in 2007.

This year, UL Lafayette’s chapter has 51 members. It occupies the former Sigma Nu house on Fourchon Row.

“The men of Pi Kappa Alpha have worked two long years to reestablish their fraternity on campus,” said Roxpee A. Forson, UL Lafayette’s assistant dean of students. “They are a welcome addition to our Greek family.”

Brandon said many Pike alumni have told him they’re pleased about the chapter’s return to campus and are “impressed with the quality of men we have recruited and the successes they’ve achieved on and off campus.”

For example, PFA received an academic achievement award last year presented by UL Lafayette’s Office of Greek Affairs.

“The fraternity supports Faith House, a local shelter for battered women. It has raised $4,900 for the agency’s last year and $10,000 this year,” Brandon said.

Andrew Bulklock, president of the Zeta Omega chapter, said members helped renovate the shelter last year. “We also held a candlelight vigil for victims of domestic violence in Louisiana, raising awareness of the issue and of Faith House,” he said.

The Zeta Omega chapter is one of five PiKE chapters at Louisiana universities.
Students ‘Work With Their Hands and Give With Their Hearts’

Some UL Lafayette students spent their spring break working on a Habitat for Humanity project that will provide 12 homes for families displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

UL Lafayette hosted the 2008 X-treme Spring Break in late March. It was joined by students from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. Also lending a hand were members of UL Lafayette’s Americorps program, some university personnel, and Habitat for Humanity volunteers and staff.

The workers began constructing 10 sheds near Kaplan, La. The units were to be used to store building materials during a Habitat for Humanity blitz in April. Six houses were to be built in less than two weeks.

“We have really made a tremendous difference,” Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, executive vice president of the University of Louisiana System, told volunteers at the construction site.

According to an agreement signed in February, Sodexo and UL Lafayette will each receive a percentage of Zeus on the Geaux’s net profit. The restaurant will also pay the university a monthly fee.

Zeus Café, a popular Lafayette restaurant that serves Greek and Lebanese food, will operate the new takeout eatery. It will be located next to Rougemont Hall, in a small building known as On The Geaux.

Zeus on the Geaux is expected to offer an abridged version of Zeus Café’s menu, including its popular Chicken Shawarma dish and a Gyros plate.

Some UL Lafayette students, like O’Brien, who were majoring in design, the housewares shows offer the opportunity to meet potential employers or representatives of companies that might produce their designs. This year, it attracted about 60,000 visitors from more than 100 countries, who were all focused on buying and selling the latest products.

“Winning projects are selected for the National Design Society of America-affiliated design schools. Her prizes: $2,400 and an all-expense-paid trip to the International Home + Housewares Show in Chicago.

Two UL Lafayette students, Justin and Dustin Domangue, placed fourth out of more than 100 teams from around the nation. They claimed an upset victory over Binghamton University in acti-finals. That was significant because Binghamton was ranked as the No. 1 debate program in the country at the start of the competition.

During the championships, UL Lafayette defeated teams from Cornell University, the United States Military Academy, New York University and other schools across the nation.

A patent is pending for Sarah O’Brien’s innovative fruit bowl.

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A New Lab in Wharton Hall That mirrors a hospital pediatric, newborn and labor/delivery unit is about as real as it can get.

The Maternal/Child Life Skills lab is equipped with some of the latest technologies, including life-like, computerized patient simulators.

There, senior nursing students test and implement nursing theories and interventions on four infant simulators and two pediatric simulators that are about the size of pre-K children. The lab also has two birthing simulators; newborn simulators will be added later this year.

“UL Lafayette is the only university in Louisiana and in the country, to our knowledge, that has a simulated neonatal, pediatric and labor/delivery unit,” said Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, head of the Nursing Department.

Interactive patient simulators provide immediate feedback for each nursing decision. Students begin with assessment, which includes checking temperatures and listening to and interpreting heart sounds. Later, they treat symptoms for bronchiolitis (respiratory infection), hyperbilirubinemia (jaundice) and cellulitis (skin inflammation), and perform newborn stabilization.

With the birthing simulator, students can administer nursing care for preterm labor, preeclampsia (high blood pressure) and conduct general assessments related to labor and delivery.

“We try to make this experience for the students as realistic as possible,” said Dr. Lisa Broussard, assistant professor of nursing and lab director. “Before we opened the lab, faculty members created different nursing scenarios for the simulators. Each semester, we’re going to build on those scenarios and create new ones.”

Instructors also can use handheld devices for “on the fly” changes while students are administering care. “Faculty like the ‘on the fly’ method because it gives them the opportunity to challenge students based on immediate changes in a patient’s status,” Broussard said.

The simulators can mimic real-world hospital situations that students may not otherwise experience. “These scenarios can be played out in a safe environment where students can still make mistakes without putting anyone in danger,” Broussard said.

Damon Fontenot, a senior nursing major, has spent time in the lab this semester. “The simulators are like real children and babies,” he said.

The future nurses have a chance to play different roles during each scenario. Some may be nurses, some may be doctors and others may be parents. Between 50 and 60 nursing students will work through the simulation lab each semester.

The Maternal/Child Skills lab is the second nursing lab at UL Lafayette that uses sophisticated patient simulators. A lab that resembles a high-tech, hospital intensive care unit opened two years ago. It is equipped with adult-size simulators.

“Simulation is sweeping the country as a new pedagogy in nursing education. We have been ahead of the simulation integration curve at UL Lafayette and we think this gives our program a distinct advantage in several ways,” Oberleitner said.

“It solidifies our positioning as a national leader in the integration of simulation technologies in nursing. It is a very powerful message,” she continued.

“It tells the students that we put them and their learning first. This investment also tells prospective employers of our graduates that we will graduate students who are working in hospitals, having utilized and mastered the most advanced and sophisticated technologies that are likely to encounter in hospitals and other health care settings across the U.S. today.”

The benefits of students’ training on patient simulators is apparent to Michelle Crain, interim chief nursing officer at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center.

“I think what the Sim labs have allowed for students is a greater sense of critical thinking. They come out of college and still have a need to master some skills, but they can work quicker through this because of their experiences in the lab,” Crain said.

“I believe the simulation labs gives students real-world experience. They are still in a lab with simulators, but the patient response is so realistic. The students don’t need as much coaching when they’re starting out (in the workplace) because they have confidence in their skills. It’s phenomenal.”

In 2005, the National League for Nursing named UL Lafayette’s College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions a Center of Excellence for Nursing Education. UL Lafayette is one of only 10 such centers in the country.
NOT LONG AFTER ERNEST GAINES became writer-in-residence at UL Lafayette in 1983, a colleague in the English Department asked about the status of his original manuscripts. The author of The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman responded that his papers were stored in several trunks in San Francisco, where he had lived before moving to Lafayette.

"What are you going to do with them?" asked the colleague, Dr. Joseph Richi, a professor of English.

"I don't know. No one has asked me (for them)," Gaines replied.

"Well, I'm asking you," Richi said.

So the trunks were shipped from California to Lafayette. Their contents would become the foundation of a newly established international center for Ernest Gaines studies, which will be built in a now-unfinished section of the third floor of Dupré Library.

Gaines recounted the story during an event held at the library in early March to celebrate creation of the center. Now writer-in-residence emeritus, he and his wife, Diane, had traveled from their home in Pointe Coupee Parish near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Gaines is one of the most significant American authors of the 20th century. He is widely known for The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Lesson Before Dying, and A Gathering of Old Men.

His work has been translated into at least 17 languages and has earned him a National Book Critics Circle Award, National Humanities Medal and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, popularly known as "the genius award." A Lesson Before Dying was chosen by talk show host Oprah Winfrey as an Oprah Book Club selection in 1997. Gaines' relationship with UL Lafayette began in 1981 when he accepted an invitation to serve as a visiting professor of creative writing for one year.

"For 25 years, the university's library and its students have had the privilege of enjoying a taste of the freedom promised from slavery and lived long enough to enjoy a taste of the freedom promised by the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s," Gaines said.

The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines is in press with UL Lafayette’s Center for Louisiana Studies, Gaudet said. One of the first projects will be the publication of two books by Gaines, The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, and A Lesson Before Dying. The center will coordinate research and publication of works related to Gaines and possibly other African-American writers in Louisiana. There are already plans to conduct an Ernest J. Gaines Scholars Conference at UL Lafayette in Spring 2010. Gaudet envisions the Ernest J. Gaines Speakers and Writers Series in 2011, which would draw major scholars and writers to UL Lafayette.

"The availability of the author's papers will provide students with the opportunity to understand first hand the workings of literary genius," stated in a proposal for the center that was approved by the University of Louisiana System and the Louisiana Board of Regents. The collection will also enhance the university's historic commitment to diversity," she continued.

The Ernest J. Gaines Center will pursue publishing ventures in cooperation with UL Lafayette's Center for Louisiana Studies, Gaudet said. One of the first projects will be a complete collection of all published translations of his writing. The center would anticipate, as well, the eventual donation/acquisition of Gaines' papers to the university. It would be the site of the only complete collection of Ernest J. Gaines' original manuscripts are displayed in Dupré Library, along with pens he used to write them.

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Gauert said. According to Gaudet, the new center will also include "all books, journal articles, essays, interviews, theses and dissertations on Ernest Gaines and his work." It will have a complete collection of all published translations of his writing. The center would anticipate, as well, the eventual donation/acquisition of Gaines' papers to the university. It would be the site of the only complete collection of Ernest J. Gaines' original manuscripts are displayed in Dupré Library, along with pens he used to write them.

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This Louisiana Thing That Drives Me:
The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines

(Editor’s note: The following is the intro-
duction to a new book published by UL Lafayette’s Center for Louisiana Studies.)

By Marcia Gaudet

When I read Gaines, the poet said,
The sky is not gray but gold.
— Isaac J. Black

On Super Bowl Sunday 1981, Er-
nest J. Gaines received a telegram from the University of Southwestern
Louisiana offering him a position. When he decided to return to Louisiana as our Visiting Writer-in-Residence, the sky was certainly gold over our communi-
ity. For the last twenty-seven years, we have been privileged to be major bene-
factors of Ernest Gaines’ time, energy, and generosity. He has contributed inmeasurably to Creative Writing at (the) University of Louisiana at Lafayette while continuing to build an international reputation on the merits of his artistic accomplishments.

Gaines’ reputation as a writer and artist is secure. Equally secure is his reputation as a man, as a teacher, as a colleague, as a friend, as a person pas-
sionately devoted to his people and his home state. He has deep concern for the land and the people who provide him with the roots of his artistic vision.

This concern is apparent in his quiet activism in preserving and refur-
ishing the cemetery on River Lake Plan-
tation where his ancestors are buried and to maintain the cemetery, where he wants to be buried among the unmarked graves of his people. His writing has given him the power to determine how his people will be remembered. Gaines’ narratives of his people have become stories of identity, stories of one’s people. Gaines recognized the injustices to his people, and he addressed those injustices in his writing with a gentle but powerful anger. Perhaps more im-
portantly, he recognized the worth of his people. He saw in them something worth studying, something worth remembering — their character, their concern for others, their ability to sur-
vive with dignity, their belief in him and what his future could be. Gaines’ stories give us a cultural narrative of the people he knows so well, a history of their lives and who they really were.

Along with his culture’s legacy of poverty and injustice, Gaines also received a strong legacy of personal dignity. Using the language of his community, he has made this place and these people a model for the simple but universal rights to one’s own humanity, one’s own dignity, one’s own voice. By giving voice to those who traditionally had no voice outside of the ex-slave quarters, Gaines continues to fulfill his intent from the beginning of his writing career: to give voice to an unvoiced people, giving them the power to affirm their own existence.

The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines

When he first came to Arbolada, that first night, I didn’t believe this was happening to me. This house was too beautiful. There were flowers in the yard, pine trees, oak trees.

Gaines’ good fortune was real. ‘I was in that house from 1983 to 2003, the one in Arbolada, my graduate house.’

Said the graduate student on the proper-
ly paid for it, is not a dream. It is real.

I wish I was in that house from 1983 to 2003, the one in Arbolada, my graduate house.

Sometimes, I wonder if what’s happening today is happening to me. I, one of the lucki-
est men on the earth. We’re not going to compete that way. We want to progress and progress comes from being creative and innovative.

UL Lafayette has three programs rarely found at the roughly 2,000 busi-
ess schools in the United States: insur-
ance and risk management, hospitality management, and professional land and resource management.

John estimates that about 25 American business schools have insur-
ance and risk management programs. About 10 have hospitality management programs. Only four business schools in North America have professional land and resource management programs.

UL Lafayette’s specialized programs were created to meet particular needs in Louisiana. John said, he wants to be able to provide more graduates in those fields and to capitalize on what other colleges can contribute. “There are ways

in which other departments could support any one of these three.”

John noted that the College of Business Administration has paid more on the international busi-
ness in the past couple of years. An international business concentration was added, for example. And, it now offers minors in French or Hispanic language and culture.

John has been getting to know key business and community leader-
s in Acadiana, in part, by serving on boards or committees for organi-
izations such as Rotary, Le Centre International and Lafayette General Medical Center.

Through those contacts, he has learned there is a need among small businesses in Acadiana for profes-
sional development. So, we want to find a way to deliver professional development workshops for small businesses, either through UL Lafayette’s Small Business Development Center or through the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration,” he said.

John has also created the Acadi-

an Chief Financial Officer’s Roundtable with 35 participants from the last com-

munity in Acadiana. It convened for the first time in March, it will meet quarterly.

“You can submit ideas for small businesses. They’re not able

It turns out that their major prob-

lems right now is labor. They’re not able to hire the people they need. We’re in the business of providing an educated work force. I’m hoping this forum can help us keep our curriculum relevant in the region,” he said.

New Direction

‘Creative, innovative things happen when you cross boundaries’

Dr. Joby John

O N C A M P U S

This excerpt is reprinted from the book This Louisiana Thing That Drives Me: The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines, published by UL Lafayette’s Center for Louisiana Studies.
First On Campus

New 440-space parking garage ready for business

U.
U. LAFAYETTE’S FIRST PARKING garage may not be its last. It was not even open yet this spring when university officials began trying to determine the best site for another one.

The Talt Street Parking Garage, nestled among trees at the intersection of Talt Street and St. Mary Boulevard, has room for 440 vehicles. The four-and-a-half-story structure will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

There is a minimum $1 fee for up to an hour. After the first hour, it will cost 25 cents for each additional 15 minutes.

The parking garage and parking lots on campus are open to the public, as well as students, faculty and staff. Students will be able to pay cash or use their Cajun Cards to park in the new facility. A Cajun Card, which doubles as a UL Lafayette identification card, is like a debit card.

Simon Broussard, director of parking and transit at UL Lafayette, said the parking garage can be used after hours for university-related special events it’s adjacent to Angelle Hall, which has a theater. It’s also near the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum and the UL Lafayette Alumni Center.

Broussard said an additional 7,000 parking spaces would be needed on campus to accommodate demand. About 3,300 students park their vehicles at Cajun Field and take a shuttle bus to campus and back. Others pay to park in nearby private lots.

In 2002, UL Lafayette students voted to pay an extra $25 per fall and spring semester for construction of the parking garage and other improvements to the parking and transit system.

The original plan was to provide parking spaces for 500 vehicles, but in 2005, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita drove up the cost of materials. So, the number of parking slots was reduced to stay within the university’s budget.

Inherit the Atchafalaya

Barry Ancellet, Philip Gould Center for Louisiana Studies

Greg Guirard, C. Ray Brassieur Center for Louisiana Studies

ONE GENERATION AT A TIME

Inherit the Atchafalaya is the first printed collection of Greg Guirard’s full-color photographs in over 12 years. Most of the images have never before appeared in print.

The photos were chosen to help convey the stories of Guirard’s fellow Atchafalaya Basin inhabitants—ordinary individuals who make a living from the 950,000-acre wetland.

“Through Greg’s stunning visual artistry and through the narratives he and his Atchafalaya acquaintances share, we are treated to intimate glimpses of the Basin as only an insider could see it,” writes Dr. C. Ray Brassieur, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in the book’s 40-page introduction.

Brassieur puts Guirard’s work into historical and cultural contexts, providing supplemental maps, timelines, and profiles of boat styles and boat builders. Together, Brassieur and Guirard make a compelling case for the need to preserve a natural and national treasure that the U.S. Geological Survey calls “one of the last great river swamps left in the nation.”

Brassieur observes: “Through the everyday experiences of people over time, a common wetland heritage has been forged in the Atchafalaya. We are the inheritors of that great heritage and it falls to us to insure that it has a chance to pass down for many generations to come.”

HISTORIC LAFAYETTE

Michael M. Martin
Historical Publishing Network

Historic Lafayette: An Illustrated History of Lafayette and Lafayette Parish gives readers an overview that stretches from pre-Columbian inhabitants to the year 2006.

Dr. Michael Martin, an assistant professor of history at UL Lafayette, has organized the content by era. Sections include, for example, the Territorial and Antebellum period, 1803-1860; the Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861 to 1877; and New South, 1878-1900.

Historic Lafayette also has profiles of local businesses. This publication is a fundraiser for the Vermilionville Living History Museum Foundation Board. The board helps support Vermilionville, a Cajun and Creole living history museum on Bayou Vermillon that recreates life in Acadiana from 1765 to 1890.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Arcadia Publishing

Jean Kiesel’s careful selection of more than 200 images shows Lafayette’s progress from its founding in 1822 as Vermilionville through the beginning of the 21st century.

Lafayette is part of Arcadia Publishing Company’s “Images of America” series, which focuses on individual towns and cities, large and small. Kiesel is the Louisiana Room librarian in the Special Collections Department of UL Lafayette’s Dupré Library.

She has worked with historical material related to Lafayette’s history for more than 20 years. For Lafayette, she used that familiarity to put together a mix of photos that depict key people, places and events.

Kiesel will donate profits from sales of the book to Dupré Library.

LA LOUISIANE | SPRING 2008
Getting Ready
Team to offer recommendations to UL Lafayette’s new president

A transition team is helping Dr. E. Joseph Savoie prepare to become the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s sixth president later this year.

Savoie, Louisiana’s commissioner of higher education, will succeed Dr. Ray F. Authement, who will soon retire after 15 years as UL Lafayette’s president.

Savoie was chosen for the university’s top post by the University of Louisiana System in December after a seven-month national search.

The transition team was formed primarily “to make sure that we don’t disrupt the momentum of the university,” Savoie said, in a recent interview. He has spent time each week on UL Lafayette’s campus, meeting with a variety of groups to learn more about the school’s strengths and areas that need improvement.

“The university is very solid, academically and financially,” Savoie said. “We have strong leadership in place.”

In January, he appointed Jerry Luke LeBlanc to lead his transition team.

LeBlanc was commissioner of administration during former Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco’s administration, from January 2004 through December 2007. He had previously served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and was chairman of the powerful House Committee on Appropriations.

In 1999, LeBlanc authored legislation that established performance-based budgeting, a method of measuring the value produced by public services and programs.

Louisiana was the first state to implement performance-based budgeting. That accountability system earned LeBlanc the Public Official of the Year award presented by Governing Magazine.

As the state’s chief financial and administrative officer, LeBlanc was in charge of a $30 billion budget.

Savoie said LeBlanc “made strategic investments to improve quality of life in the state. He managed that through the greatest natural and man-made disaster in American history and left over a billion dollar surplus in the process.”

LeBlanc has lived in and worked in Louisiana for more than two decades and has been “instrumental” in many key legislative and administrative changes.

Savoie received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Columbia University and a doctor of educational leadership and administration in educational leadership and administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Before becoming the university’s chancellor in 1996, he served as the university’s vice president for University Advancement, executive director of the Alumni Association, program director for the Union Program Council, and student general manager.

“The university has begun doing some of those things and we can build on that,” he said.

New President has Close Ties to UL Lafayette

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie’s connection with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is strong and his experience in higher education is broad.

“The university has been a very important part of not only my life, but my family. My mother finished here in the 1940s. I came here as a high school student on debate trips. I was so enamored with that I decided to stay,” he said in a recent interview.

“I think my professional experiences have prepared me for the responsibility (of president). But my commitment is more than a professional commitment. It’s a personal commitment.”

Savoie is a 1978 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, now known as UL Lafayette.

Before becoming the state’s commissioner of higher education in 1996, he served as the university’s vice president for University Advancement, executive director of the Alumni Association, program director for the Union Program Council, and student general manager.

They are a natural result of two decades of underfunding.

“Longer term, we have to solidify the university’s academic status, such as its designation by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with high Research Activity. One way we’ll do that is by continuing to develop our graduate programs.”

The groups will complete their reports before he takes office “so we can hit the floor running,” he said.

Savoie won’t develop a long-term strategic plan until he can gather more information and opinions from the public and UL Lafayette students, faculty and staff. But he already has a few overall goals in mind.

“I think one thing we can do right quickly is address some physical issues on campus, such as the appearance and conditions of facilities. It is no one’s fault.

The university has begun doing some of those things and we can build on that. We will take a very comprehensive approach to student success.”

Savoie said it’s important that “there be regular and open communications, not only in the university community but the broader community.”

He has long-standing relationships with many key leaders in Acadiana.

“UL Lafayette is over 100 years old. It has seen any number of changes and crises and progress. It has provided educational opportunities, created economic opportunities and improved the quality of life of people in the region and it will continue to do that.”

The role of a university president is to make sure that the assets of the university are being used for the greatest benefit of the people it serves, he continued. At the same time, the president must “always have an eye out for what the university will need 10 years from now, 20 years from now.”

“Thinking about the future is as important as responding to the present. Obviously Dr. Authement has done that. I hope I can do as good a job.”

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie and his wife, Gail, are shown at the University of Louisiana System meeting in December, where he was named UL Lafayette’s next president.
Ragin' Red® Locks Down Its Name

Puis de l’été, l’auditorium est officiellement emblème de Louisiana’s new poet laureate. Dr. Darrell Bourque, former head of the English Department and Friends of the Humanities/BORSF Endowed Professor of the Humanities, was given a two-year appointment by former Gov. Kathleen Blanco in November. The Louisiana Senate confirmed the appointment.

Louisiana’s poet laureate traditionally delivers readings across the state.

In an Associated Press article published in November, Bourque said poetry is a vital part of a people and their culture. “The ideas that we have about art, that we have about the world we live in, that we have about our human interrelation are interrelated and connected to the geography that we grow out of,” he stated. “The whole of Louisiana is connected on some basic level that to me is almost poetry.”

Bourque’s published collections of poetry include The Blue Boat, Burnt Water Suite, Where Land Meets Sky, The Doors Between Us and Plainsongs. He has directed the Deep South Writer’s Conference and was project director for Significant Voice, a reading series featuring poetry by young African-American writers in Louisiana. Bourque received the UL Lafayette Foundation’s Distinguished Professor Award in 1997.

Full Court Press Raises Grad School Enrollment

A PUSH TO RECRUIT more graduate students paid off this spring.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Graduate School enrollment rose nearly 11 percent, from 1,300 in Spring 2007 to 1,440 in Spring 2008.

“This increase is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Graduate School staff and each graduate department at the university,” said Dr. C. Eddie Palmer, dean of the Graduate School.

“We implemented a ‘recruiters all mission. Everyone is helping to grow the Graduate School.’ That includes UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement. ‘We added 50 new assistantships and increased stipends by $2,000 per year,’ the president said. ‘Thanks to the pay raise, grad students in master’s programs now earn $7,500 per year; students in Ph.D. programs earn $12,000 per year.’

Other recruitment tactics included:

• advertising UL Lafayette’s graduate programs nationwide via the Internet;

• resuming marketing materials;

• hosting workshops to provide information to students interested in seeking advanced degrees; and

• enabling students to apply for Grad School and pay a $25 application fee online.

Palmer said the entire university benefited when 50 assistantships were added. “Graduate students are the people who assist with teaching courses and help with research projects,” he explained. ‘So, UL Lafayette could offer more undergraduate classes to apply for Grad School and pay a $25 application fee online."

The HEAD OF UL Lafayette’s English Department was in Washington, D.C., in late March for the screening of a PBS documentary, “Triumph at Carville,” at the National Museum of Health and Medicine.

Dr. Marcia Gundel, the university’s Dr. Doris Mertwether/BORSF Professor of English, was a consultant for the documentary about the Gills W. Long Hansen’s Disease in Carville, La. Her book, Carville: Knowing Leprosy in America, won the 2005 Chicago Folklore Prize. That prize is awarded by the University of Chicago each year for the best book on folklore published worldwide.

From 1894 to 1999, the center was the only inpatient treatment for leprosy in the United States to sign up to participate in the program. “There’s a heightened national and state interest in accountability and transparency, and that is what we are all about,” said UL System President Sally Clausen.

Anyone interested in attending UL Lafayette can access the VSA’s student-friendly College Portrait through the prospective students’ link on the university’s website, www.louisiana.edu. The College Portrait concisely presents five pages of information about UL Lafayette’s status in the 2006-07 academic year. It shows, for example:

• 16,345 students are enrolled; 58 percent are full-time, and 42 percent are men.

• 62 percent of undergraduate classes have fewer than 20 students, and 99 percent of seniors who participated in a national survey said UL Lafayette provides support for student success.

The VSA is a joint effort of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

http://estrella.louisiana.edu/VSA/VSA.pdf

ECONOMIST WEIGHS IN ON FARMERS’ STRIKE

WHEN NICELY NIGHTLY news looked into Louisiana crawfish farmers’ economic woes in March, it sought the opinion of a UL Lafayette economist.

Nic Nc News producer Al Henkel, center; interviews Dr. Rand Reeser, a UL Lafayette economics professor, on campus.

When Nc News producer Al Henkel interviewed Dr. Rand Reeser, an economics professor, to get his views on the Louisiana Crawfish Farmers Association’s attempts to get paid more for their harvests, Reeser replied. “I expect intrigue and cheating will push that price right back down.”

Reeser holds the Edward G. Schlieder Educational Foundation/BORSF Professorship in Money and Banking at UL Lafayette.

In a blog posted March 14, Henkel previewed the story that would be aired on March 17. “Think OPEC on a much smaller scale,” he wrote. “On a personal note, I love crawfish. I wish we could bring you smell-a-vision.”

TEMPLE SIMPLIFIES Obtaining Facts About Universities

HOW DOES THE UNIVERSITY OF Louisiana at Lafayette stack up against other higher education institutions? A text-based web program makes it easier for prospective students to compare what universities offer. The Voluntary System of Accountability uses standardized format to present useful information, such as graduation rates and students’ opinions. A “Cost Calculator” enables prospective students to estimate expenses.

The University of Louisiana System, which consists of UL Lafayette and seven other universities, was the first in the United States to sign up to participate in the program. “There’s a heightened national and state interest in accountability and transparency, and that is what we are all about,” said UL System President Sally Clausen.

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BOURQUE TEACHES NOW AS POET LAUREATE

A UL LAFAYETTE PROFESSOR emeritus of English is Louisiana’s new poet laureate. Dr. Darrell Bourque, former head of the English Department and Friends of the Humanities/BORSF Endowed Professor of the Humanities, was given a two-year appointment by former Gov. Kathleen Blanco in November. The Louisiana Senate confirmed the appointment.

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Throughout its history, Louisiana has been known for the quality of its crawfish, which are a staple of the state’s culinary tradition. However, the crawfish industry has faced challenges in recent years, including fluctuating prices and increased competition from imported seafood. Despite these challenges, the crawfish industry continues to be an important part of Louisiana’s economy.

In an interview with Nic Nc News, Dr. Rand Reeser, an economics professor at UL Lafayette, discussed the economics of the crawfish industry and the challenges faced by crawfish farmers. Reeser noted that the price of crawfish can be highly volatile, with prices fluctuating based on factors such as supply and demand, weather conditions, and international trade. He also highlighted the importance of diversification in the crawfish industry, noting that many farmers are also involved in other activities such as fishing and tourism to help stabilize their income.

To help crawfish farmers navigate these challenges, UL Lafayette has launched a new program designed to provide support and resources. The program includes a range of services, such as financial assistance, market research, and training opportunities. Through this program, UL Lafayette aims to help crawfish farmers improve their productivity and profitability, while also promoting the sustainability of the industry.

The program reflects the university’s commitment to supporting Louisiana’s agricultural sector, which is a major contributor to the state’s economy. UL Lafayette’s Graduate School enrollment rose nearly 11 percent this spring, from 1,300 in Spring 2007 to 1,440 in Spring 2008. This increase is a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the Graduate School staff and each graduate department at the university, according to Dr. C. Eddie Palmer, dean of the Graduate School.

Meanwhile, Dr. Darrell Bourque, former head of the English Department and Friends of the Humanities/BORSF Endowed Professor of the Humanities, was given a two-year appointment by former Gov. Kathleen Blanco in November. The Louisiana Senate confirmed the appointment. Louisiana’s poet laureate traditionally delivers readings across the state.

In an Associated Press article published in November, Bourque said poetry is a vital part of a people and their culture. “The ideas that we have about art, that we have about the world we live in, that we have about our human interrelation are interrelated and connected to the geography that we grow out of,” he stated. “The whole of Louisiana is connected on some basic level that to me is almost poetry.”

Bourque’s published collections of poetry include The Blue Boat, Burnt Water Suite, Where Land Meets Sky, The Doors Between Us and Plainsongs. He has directed the Deep South Writer’s Conference and was project director for Significant Voice, a reading series featuring poetry by young African-American writers in Louisiana. Bourque received the UL Lafayette Foundation’s Distinguished Professor Award in 1997.
If that single letter “K” doesn’t mean anything, you probably haven’t been keeping up with communication technology. Although e-mail is still around, college students have moved on to a faster method of exchanging information: text messaging. It doesn’t require a stationary computer, so it’s perfect for a population that seems to always be on the move. All that’s needed is a cell phone or PDA (that’s short for personal digital assistant) with built-in wireless telecommunication. “K”, by the way, is text message speak for “OK.”
Cell phones are everywhere on campus. Apple iPods are ubiquitous, too. Treadmills at Bourgeois Hall keep track of calories expended during a brisk “walk” on an elliptical machine. And, CajunBot II, an autonomous land vehicle, is still a high-tech teacher, as shown on the previous page.

Using digital cameras, which have made film practically extinct, professional photographers have documented some of the ways UL Lafayette students use technology to learn and have a little fun.

“It is increasingly evident that the influence of technology on higher education will be more profound than any previous circumstance or resource that has impacted teaching and learning in recent history. Both the method and organization which currently characterize universities are being transformed. This transformation is accelerated by rapid and continuous advancements in communication technologies, changing population demographics, and the expectations of the market place. The advancement of UL Lafayette will depend largely on its ability to anticipate and accommodate these changes. The University must be prepared to compete nationally, and eventually globally, for a growing nontraditional technologically astute clientele. To do so effectively and economically will require a product-oriented organizational structure marked by cooperation and by a dynamic plan of action: The implementation of which will help define UL Lafayette as an Information Age University.”

Source: 2002 SGA Student Technology Enhancement Program Plan
Monday through Friday, Ray Lucas is responsible for the safety of what is essentially a small city.

He’s chief of University Police at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the second largest university in the state. With 16,345 students and about 1,900 employees, it begins to approach the size of Opelousas, La.

Numbers aside, a university is different than a municipality in many ways. Take crime, for instance.

“The amount of violent crime that happens on college campuses nationwide is lower than that of cities and towns of comparable size,” Lucas noted in a recent interview.

Security on campus became a hot-button issue across the United States after a disturbed student shot and killed 32 students on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life last year.

That tragedy had a chilling twist: The shooter killed two people at a dorm, then seemed to drop out of sight. Two and a half hours later, he resurfaced on campus and killed 30 people in an academic building.

Virginia Tech administrators sent an e-mail alert to students after the first shooting. But a review panel that studied the crime said they could have done more.

The second-guessing that followed the Virginia Tech slayings galvanized colleges and universities across the country into examining their own responses to emergencies on campus.

Unlike most small cities, UL Lafayette is geographically compact. When a significant incident is reported on campus, University Police officers’ goal is to get to the scene in less than four minutes.

Although the campus is densely populated, it presents a challenge to university officials who need to communicate quickly with students, faculty and staff.

“We have learned that to be effective, multiple overlapping technologies must be used,” said Joey Pons, director of Environmental Health and Safety at UL Lafayette.

In March, the university implemented another tier of its emergency notification plan. It activated FirstCall, an interactive communications network that uses voice, e-mail and text to alert registered users to emergencies on campus.

“Should an emergency develop on campus, this system would simultaneously begin notifying students, faculty and staff via phone calls, text messaging and e-mail alerts,” Pons said.
Students, faculty and staff can provide additional e-mail addresses and phone numbers for emergency voice and/or text messages. For instance, a student may choose to include their parents’ home phone number as an additional contact number.

The FirstCall service is part of an initiative by the Louisiana Board of Regents and supported by the University of Louisiana System. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette was one of the first in the state to implement emergency messaging when it rolled out a plan with Mobile Campus in 2007. This system uses text messaging to notify subscribers to events on campus. Although FirstCall will now be the university’s emergency text messaging service, Mobile Campus will continue to serve as a mobile communications tool for campus organizations and students.

The more than 3,000 subscribers to MobileCampus.com should check the online registration page for FirstCall – ens.louisiana.edu – in case of an emergency. UL Lafayette has a backup to distribute information related to severe weather but it can be used for any emergency announcement. UL has a backup campus hotline that’s out of state.

• **Departmental Radio Receivers** These emergency radio receivers broadcast alerts through the National Weather Service Network. These alerts – known as local area emergency alerts – can be broadcast to more than 125 emergency radio receivers that have been placed in offices throughout campus.

• **Campus Hotline** In case of an emergency, a recorded message is played on the university’s hotline: 482-2222. This hotline has been in operation for several years. It has primarily been used to distribute information related to severe weather but it can be used for any emergency announcement. UL has a backup campus hotline that’s out of state.

• **University Web Sites** A text-only web site has been developed to automatically replace the university home page – www.louisiana.edu – in case of an emergency.

“Business hours by requiring access with a Cajun Card. And, it is installing surveillance cameras at key locations. The Cajun Card, which serves as official identification at UL Lafayette, is a multipurpose card issued to all students, faculty and staff.”

Lucien Gastineau, director of the Cajun Card System, said the card will drastically reduce the number of keys to university buildings that are issued to UL Lafayette personnel.

Equipment that enables Cajun Card access to buildings has been installed at all residence halls, Fletcher Hall and the new Advanced Computer Technology and Research Hall. Installation of the equipment is under way at Madison Hall and Angelle Hall.

“The goal is to have Cajun Card access at every building,” Gastineau said.

Surveillance cameras also are being installed gradually. About 90 were in operation at press time. Gastineau said the Cajun Card system provides a record when a Cajun Card is used to enter a building, that information is supplemented by surveillance cameras. “I can tell whose card was used, but closed caption TV shows who used the card,” he explained.

Steve Mahler, director of Information Networks at UL Lafayette, has implemented another safety feature that uses technology. PE911 makes it faster and easier to identify a phone used on campus to place a call to 911.

Mahler explained that a main trunk line delivers phone service to campus. Wiring then branches off to phones in buildings. The 911 system worked well if the person calling for assistance could speak and state his or her location on campus. But if, for any reason, the caller couldn’t speak, the 911 dispatcher could not determine the source of the call. Ultimately, the call could be traced by Mahler, but it was a time-consuming process. So he came up with PE911.

“We have built a database of every university phone number, on and off campus, the physical building and room it’s located in, the street address of the building, the building’s official name and its common name. We’re adding the longitude and latitude of all the locations now,” he said.

Mahler has configured the main telephone switch so that it provides the telephone number where the 911 call is originating to the 911 operator. The 911 operator can then obtain location information from the PE911 database to send help to the correct location. The PE911 database can also be used for calls made directly to University Police.

There are Code Blue phones at nine locations across campus. Most of those phones are on poles that have blue lights attached. The Code Blue phones are secured to walls on each floor of the new Taft Street Parking Garage.

“You hit a button and it automatically calls University Police. It’s just like a speaker phone. We can talk to you, you can talk to us. There’s light on the top of the pole that flashes blue when someone activates it. We automatically dispatch an officer when a Code Blue is alerted,” Lucas said.

When a student calls University Police on a cell phone, it takes a little longer to respond because the dispatcher has to determine the caller’s location. “With Code Blue, the dispatcher knows exactly which phone is being used.”

Lucas, who is also an attorney, noted that although campus security is a top priority, any steps the university takes to keep students safe must be weighed carefully.

“It’s an open campus. We’re an open society. There’s a tradeoff between security and openness.

“We are an institution of higher education and we have to be open to the free exchange of ideas and also the free movement of people. It has to be that way. We have to balance those two competing needs. I think we do that very well.”
Installation of artificial turf this summer will take away her ability to affect Cajun Field's playing surface.

Scott Farmer, UL Lafayette's senior associate athletic director, said switching from natural grass to artificial grass will ensure that the gridiron remains in optimum shape and always looks its best. “This field will become a showcase for our university, for our Athletic Department,” he said.

Farmer ranks the artificial turf as the second most important athletic facility improvement at UL Lafayette in recent years. The first, he said, was construction of the huge Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility, which opened in Fall 2007. It enables all Ragin' Cajun teams to stay dry and safe when they must practice during inclement weather.

“There’s no doubt that the No. 1 strength in the Athletic Department today is the indoor practice facility because no one else in the Sun Belt Conference has that. It sets us apart,” Farmer said.

He offered several ways artificial turf at Cajun Field will benefit the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Scott Farmer, senior associate athletic director at UL Lafayette, shows off a new generation of artificial turf to be installed at Cajun Field.

Faux Grass
Artificial turf will take mud out of The Swamp

IT'S CHEAPER
Maintaining a natural surface requires equipment, supplies and labor. For instance, crescein-powered lawn-mowers and string trimmers. Water, weed killers and fertilizer are needed to keep grass healthy. Paint is used for stripes and logos on the field.

The new field will cost about $100,000. It is expected to have a 10-year life, with minimal maintenance costs.

“When you add up all the costs associated with a natural grass playing field, it’s more economical to put in artificial turf,” Farmer said.

LOUISIANA’S RAGIN’ CAJUNS® WILL GAIN ANOTHER PRACTICE FIELD

There’s already an outdoor practice field next to the Alfred and Helen Lamson Ragin’ Cajun Softball Park. When it rains, the football team heads for the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility. “But when we put 120 guys on that field at one time, it gets crowded in a hurry,” Farmer said.

Depending on the season, rains can be brief. The artificial turf will be ready for practice as soon as rain ends. Cajun Field’s proximity to the newly renovated weight room in the Cox Communications Athletic Center is a plus, it’s convenient for strength coachs to use to condition student-athletes.

CAJUN FIELD CAN BE USED FOR MORE THAN FOOTBALL

To make sure the natural grass surface stayed in the best condition possible, the Athletic Department rarely granted requests from other teams or organizations to use Cajun Field during football season.

The artificial surface, Farmer said, “will enable us to say ‘Yes’ more often.” For example, UL Lafayette’s Pride of Acadiana Marching Band could use it for practices on occasion. Events such as Kiwanis Jamboree, an area high school football tournament, could be held at Cajun Field without the risk of damaging the playing field.

‘IT'S AN IMAGE THING’

“This field will look great every day of the year. It’s something that our coaches can use to recruit every day,” Farmer said.

Recruitment is the lifeblood of collegiate athletics, he explained.

The new field will also make a positive impression on potential students – not just student-athletes, but on potential donors and athletic event sponsors, he continued.

“It’s an image thing. It will help strengthen the image of our Athletic Department.”

Image 1

IT TAKES A TEAM TO SCORE A FIELD GOAL • BY DREW EDMISTON

I line up my kick with where I want it to go, taking into consideration wind, rain and field conditions.

Before every kick, I look up, picture the ball going through the uprights, take a deep breath, then nod to the holder to tell him I’m ready.

This is the most important part of my kick. A good plant into the ground with my left foot keeps me balanced and directs where the ball will go.

My head is down and I kick the ball at a steep angle to get the height and distance it needs. My goal is to, after a second or two, look up and see the ball right where I pictured it.

(Editors’ note: La. Louisianians asked Drew Edmiston, Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® kicker, how he expects artificial turf at Cajun Field to affect his kick and to describe what’s needed for a successful field goal. A senior, he has made 21 career field goals.)

THE SWAMP HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY favorite place to play. Maybe it’s the uniqueness of competing on a field that’s two feet below sea level. Or maybe it’s the excitement of hearing the echoes of teammates yelling and cleats clacking as we walk down the long, dark tunnel to the field. Either way, once a Cajun plays in the Swamp, anywhere else just isn’t home.

When I heard of the switch to artificial turf, I was excited. I had practiced a lot in the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility, which has artificial turf, as did my alma mater, Owasso High School in Owasso, Okla. It is too hard to play on and it helps me out a lot at my position. I will be able to kick without worrying so much about sticking my “plant foot” firmly into the ground without it slipping out from underneath me mid-kick due to bad field conditions.

As much as I love Cajun Field, a little bit of rain turns it into a mud pit, even with its underground drainage system. About two hours before every game, I have walked the field, scooping out all the hazards and planning how I would approach a kick if the ball happened to be placed in a little bayou on the field. Since the artificial turf will be more consistent, I could almost do away with my pre-game field check ritual, but I’ll probably still do it out of habit.

The condition of the field and foot placement are important, but there is a lot more involved in the success of a field goal. It’s my name that is printed in the newspaper after a game winner, but a kicker’s success depends on a lot of efforts from other team members.

Once the offense has gotten the ball in field goal range, the coach can elect to go for a field goal. There has to be great protection from the line blocking the opposing team. A small miscue there can result in a blocked kick and turnover, which ultimately could mean points for the other team.

There has to be a good snap to the holder so that he can make a good hold. Even a small variation in the way the ball is placed for the kick can send it in the wrong direction. Any kicker will tell you that the hold can make or break you, so there has to be a lot of trust and confidence between holder and kicker. The last part of an effective field goal is the kick.

Thankfully, I have been blessed in my kicking career with always having a group of guys that I can count on whenever I’m called onto the field. The new artificial turf will relieve some nerves for me and will have many benefits for some of our other players as well, but we will all remember the days when “The Swamp” truly was a swamp. 48
In the past, it was often made of dirt, by the way, to build up our "Cajun Field" will take about 90 days. Farmer explained what will happen.

"The current field, like most natural grass fields, has a crown on it. That means the center of the field is about 18 inches higher than the two sidelines. That mound is pretty significant but that's what helps it to drain. The field for the artificial turf will only have about a 4-inch crown."

"So first, the installers will remove the sod. Then they will remove the area down the center part of the field to bring that crown down. We are going to use that dirt, by the way, to build up our outdoor practice field, to build a larger crown on it so it drains better." (The current practice field is two feet below the gridiron.)

"It will enable us to park carts by the field. And once you're down there you can connect the artificial turf."

The only maintenance required is to lightly vacuum the artificial turf to remove any debris.

Cajun Field's nickname is "The Swamp," primarily because the gridiron is two feet below sea level. A sophisticated underground drainage system has kept the grass field in playing condition, even during rainstorms.

Farmer said the manufacturer of the artificial turf claims that it can drain about four inches of rain an hour.

"If it rains any more than that, we're going to have someone in the stands anyway," he joked.

The university has teamed up with some Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® fans to create a special look for tailgaters.

It has designed two logos that enable tailgating groups to add their names to elements of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® logos.

"To our knowledge, no other university has ever produced quality products which support the university and offer fans an opportunity to show their affiliation."

"The flag and pennant logos each have versions that incorporate either the round, primary Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® mark; the Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® word mark; or the interlocking initials "UL." "Fans are drawn to different logos, so we decided to offer them choices of three of our most popular marks," Simon-dronet said.

"A tailgating group can add its name to these designs. But the new logos look sharp without a name, too. So tailgaters who don't have official names, or whose groups don't have official names, will also be able to use them to identify themselves as proud Ragin' Cajun fans," Simon-Dronet said.

"We have 20 local licensed manufacturers who own the right to reproduce the logos, so all tailgaters need to do is go to one of them and order what they would like," Simon-Dronet said. The new tailgating logos can be reproduced on t-shirts, caps, flags and any other items that licensed manufacturers offer. A list of those manufacturers is posted on the university's web-site: Louisiana.edu/Advancement/PNNS/licensing.

The university's licensing program was created to positively promote UL Lafayette, while protecting its trade-mark rights. Through the program, licensed manufacturers produce quality products which support the university and offer fans an opportunity to show their affiliation.

"This is another phase of our branding strategy. It's inspiring to have such loyal tailgaters who want to show pride in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette," Simon-Dronet said.

More than 175 official tailgating sites near Cajun Field are filled for each home football game and there is a waiting list. Lots of tailgaters also turn out to support Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® baseball. M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field, home to the Ragin' Cajuns baseball team, was the sixth consecutive semester that there had at least a 3.0 student-athlete team, which won the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Tournament, captured the highest academic honor for men's programs, with a 3.08 GPA.

Eighty-four of UL Lafayette's 148 female stu- dent-athletes – or over 60 percent – had GPAs of 3.0 or higher, while 85 male student-athletes matched those grades. The football Cajuns team captured the best team GPA, with a 3.461. This was the 10th consecutive semester that the team earned a 3.0 or higher GPA.

The women's volleyball team posted a 3.165 GPA. It was the sixth consecutive semes- ter that it had at least a 3.0 GPA.

The men's golf team, which won the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Tournament, captured the highest academic honor for men's programs, with a 3.08 GPA.

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Giving More
Members show support for university through Annual Fund

For the second consecutive year, the UL Lafayette Alumni Association’s Annual Fund has raised a record-breaking amount. “Prior to last year, the largest dollar amount was in 1990, right after the Ragin’ Cajuns defeated A&M,” said Dan Hare, executive director of the Alumni Association. “The Annual Fund peaked again in 2006. This past year, it surpassed that amount. So we are pleased that the past two years have been record breakers.”

The 2007 Annual Fund brought in about $343,000, according to Association records. Through the Annual Fund, donors can contribute to any area of the university, such as an academic college.

There’s a built-in incentive to donate: membership in the UL Alumni Association. A couple can join with a $60 donation to the Annual Fund; an individual can join with a $40 contribution. Recent UL Lafayette graduates only need to contribute $20 to become an Association member.

“Membership matters,” Hare said. “The Association exists to support the university, while strengthening the ties between alumni and their alma mater.”

In addition to the satisfaction of helping the university, Association members enjoy some specific benefits, such as discounts from area businesses and national companies, discounts on tickets to UL Lafayette’s Performing Arts Department events and complimentary entry to the Association’s hospitality tent at all Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns® home football games. Association members are eligible for discounts from Dell Computers, for example. “We’ve had people tell us that the discount on the Dell computer they purchased was more than what they paid to be a member of the Alumni Association,” Hare said.

In the past few years, the Association has taken some steps to increase its membership, such as making it more convenient for some graduates to join. It set up payroll deduction for UL Lafayette employees and extended the reduced membership cost for new graduates to five years, for example.

The Association works continually to improve its programs and services, such as scholarships. Its scholarships are funded, in part, by the Annual Fund. Scholarships are also supported by the sale of prestige license plates.

“We recently doubled our 10 scholarship endowments. In the past, we had $10,000 endowments that would each generate a $500 scholarship annually. They are now $20,000 endowments that each generate $1,000 a year,” Hare said.

At its annual Spring Gala in April, the Association announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship in honor of the university’s president and his wife: the Dr. and Mrs. Ray Authement Endowed Scholarship for a First Generation Student.

“While Annual Fund contributions for the past two years have surpassed previous years’ successes, the Alumni Association’s membership represents only 9 percent of our alumni base,” Hare said. “We are thankful for the support that we have and encourage others to join them in their support to enable us to maintain and continue to improve our programs and services.”

For more information about Alumni Association membership, call (337) 482-0900.

www.louisianaalumni.org

Find your seat
With the Community Information Pages in AT&T Real Yellow Pages, you’ll find seating charts for major sports and entertainment venues in your area. And on YELLOWPAGES.COM™ you can find detailed maps and directions. Find your seat and the theatre with AT&T Real Yellow Pages and YELLOWPAGES.COM. The new AT&T. Your world. Delivered.


**1951**

**A. J. ANTOINE** was a retired educator with 52 years of service. He was a science and math teacher, principal, supervisory principal, science and math, and director of secondary education for the Lafayette Parish School System for 35 years before retiring in 1985. Antoine then joined UL Lafayette's faculty, where he was an adjunct supervisor of science teachers in math and science for 14 years. During his career, he taught teachers in math and science for Lafayette's faculty, where he was an adjunct supervisor to student education advisory committee.

**1956**

ROSE M. GILBAY BROWN, a Real Estate professional, established the Rose M. Gilbey Brown Family Endowment Fund in 1994. She has been an active member of the Lafayette community, serving on numerous boards and committees. Brown received her bachelors degree in art history from the University of Texas in Austin and her masters degree in fine arts from New York University. She is currently a member of the University of Louisiana Alumni Association and the Lafayette Art Gallery. Brown was honored to receive the B leagueship from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the City of Lafayette. She is a member of the University of Louisiana Alumni Association and has been actively involved in numerous community service organizations. She is the proud mother of two children, and lives in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**1959**

GERHARD K. LANDRY J. was inducted into the Louisiana Educational Association's Hall of Fame in 2000. He has been a member of the Louisiana Education Association since 1960 and has served as president of the local chapter. Landry is a retired high school principal and has been an educator for over 40 years. He currently serves as a consultant for the Louisiana Department of Education. Landry was a member of the Louisiana Education Association's Hall of Fame in 2000 and has been actively involved in the community. He is a member of the Louisiana Education Association and the Lafayette Parish School Board. Landry was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Lafayette Parish School Board in 1967.

**1961**

JAMES N. BURNEY is a dentist in Fort Worth, Texas, who specializes in prosthodontics. He is a fellow in the American College of Prosthodontists and the International College of Dentists. In 1983, he was named Texas Dentist of the Year by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry. Burney has received a Distinguished Service Award from the Fort Worth District Dental Society and the American Dental Association. A U.S. Navy veteran, Burney was on active duty in World War II and the Korean War, where he served in the Navy Reserve for 34 years. He is a Rotarian, Mason, Shriner, and helping artists, especially Cresoles and Houma Indians, market their work. She is the only Louisiana artist represented in the prestigious 20th anniversary Artists Book Exhibit at the National Museum of Women Artists in Washington, D.C. She received a bachelors degree in fine arts from UL and a masters degree in fine arts from College of Charleston. She and her husband, WARREN PERINI, '63, live in Lafayette.

**1966**

**JAY AND PATRIS BROWN** was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Forensic League Debate and Speech Honor Society. She directs the forensics program at Leland High School in San Jose, Calif. San Jose's debate team is the largest in the United States, with more than 300 members. Leland High School named its new auditorium in Brasher's honor. She holds bachelor's and masters degree in education from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. She has two children. Paul A. Billings and Herbert E. Billings.

**1969**

JIM CHAMBERLIN is a retired educator in Houston, Texas. He is a former assistant vice president of Bank of America in Addison, Texas. During his tenure, he was a member of the Texas Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

**1971**

MARY K. PERINI was recently honored at the 13th annual National Women of Excellence award ceremony. The Louisiana Department of Education is proud to announce that She is the only Louisiana artist represented in the prestigious 20th anniversary Artists Book Exhibit at the National Museum of Women Artists in Washington, D.C. She received a bachelors degree in fine arts from UL and a masters degree in fine arts from College of Charleston. She and her husband, WARREN PERINI, '63, live in Lafayette.

**1973**

DIANNE BROWN WHITTINGTON is a clinical instructor in communicative disorders at UL Lafayette. She holds a bachelors degree in communicative disorders from UL and a masters degree in communicative disorders from Bowling Green State University.

**1975**

DAVIE CAVALLaro was named the

**1984**

JACK LANGLOIS is one of three attorneys establishing a Houston office for DLJ Piper, the nation's largest law firm. He was formerly head of Alou Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP's energy projects practice in Houston. Langlois received a bachelors degree in mechanical science and a masters degree in business administration from UL. He lives in Nashville.

**1985**

LOWELL HINCHEE recently earned the designation of master certiﬁed flight instructor – aerobatics, which is held by only 13 of the 90,000 certiﬁed ﬂight instructors in the United States. He learned to fly in 1969 while serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Lewis, Wash. After completing his military service, Hinchee received a bachelors degree in engineering from the University of Washington and a masters degree in aerospace engineering from MIT. He is a member of the University of Louisiana Alumni Association and the Lafayette Alumni Association. Hinchee was honored to receive the B leagueship from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the City of Lafayette. He is a member of the University of Louisiana Alumni Association and has been actively involved in numerous community service organizations. He is the proud mother of two children, and lives in Lafayette, Louisiana.

**1988**

THOMAS COTTON was recently reelected to a two-year term as a board member-at-large for the Society of Louisiana CPAs. He graduated from Louisiana College in 1979 and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants since 1981. Cotton is currently a partner in the accounting ﬁrm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP's energy projects practice in Houston. Langlois received a bachelors degree in mechanical science and a masters degree in business administration from UL. He lives in Nashville.

**1990**

MICHAIL LANGSTON, a U.S. Navy chaplain, recently returned from a two-year tour of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. This summer, he will become the new commanding ofﬁcer of the Naval Chaplain School in Newport, R.I. He is the only commissioned ofﬁcer position for chaplains in the U.S. Navy. He will have seven weeks of specialized training prior to assuming his new post. Langston was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns football team from 1973-77. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Michael and Jeff, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

**1991**

WARREN PERINI was recently honored as one of the Ragin' Cajuns football team from 1973-77. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Michael and Jeff, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

**1992**

JAMES WHITTINGTON JR. was recently inducted into the Louisiana Educational Association's Hall of Fame. He is a former assistant vice president of Bank of America in Addison, Texas. During his tenure, he was a member of the Texas Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

**1993**

BRIAN L. LANDRY was recently inducted into the Louisiana Educational Association's Hall of Fame. He has been a member of the Louisiana Education Association since 1960 and has served as president of the local chapter. Landry is a retired high school principal and has been an educator for over 40 years. He currently serves as a consultant for the Louisiana Department of Education. Landry was a member of the Louisiana Education Association's Hall of Fame in 2000 and has been actively involved in the community. He is a member of the Louisiana Education Association and the Lafayette Parish School Board. Landry was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Fort Worth District Dental Society and the American Dental Association. A U.S. Navy veteran, Burney was on active duty in World War II and the Korean War, where he served in the Navy Reserve for 34 years. He is a Rotarian, Mason, Shriner, and helping artists, especially Cresoles and Houma Indians, market their work. She is the only Louisiana artist represented in the prestigious 20th anniversary Artists Book Exhibit at the National Museum of Women Artists in Washington, D.C. She received a bachelors degree in fine arts from UL and a masters degree in fine arts from College of Charleston. She and her husband, WARREN PERINI, '63, live in Lafayette.
Bonnie Schloegel has been named commissioner of the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners. Schloegel is fulfilling the remainder of a term that was initially awarded to a different commissioner. She will serve a term that expires June 30, 2011. The Louisiana Medical Board of Examiners regulates the practice of medicine in the state. Schloegel is a certified registered nurse anesthetist and anesthesiologist. She received her bachelor’s degree in health sciences from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette and her master’s degree in medical management from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz. She is a fellow in obstetrics and gynecology at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Lafayette.

If you’re a UL Lafayette graduate, attended the university or have a close connection to the university, you’re invited to submit your nominations for alumni recognition. Nominations will be accepted through Sept. 1, and the ten nominees with the most votes will be honored at the Alumni Hall of Fame dinner Sept. 10, at the McNeese Tower Ballroom.

An Alumni Hall of Fame dinner will be held by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The event will be held Sept. 10 at the McNeese Tower Ballroom. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette and its Alumni Association will honor the ten nominees with the most votes.

You can submit a nomination online at www.ul Lafayette.edu/alumni/alumni_hall_of_fame/nominate.html or by mail to University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Alumni Association, 1000 University Place, Lafayette, LA 70503. The nomination period ends Sept. 1.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will honor ten nominees with the most votes for the Alumni Hall of Fame dinner Sept. 10 at the McNeese Tower Ballroom.

You can submit your nomination for the Alumni Hall of Fame dinner by Sept. 1 at www.ul Lafayette.edu/alumni/alumni_hall_of_fame/nominate.html or by mail to Alumni Association, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 1000 University Place, Lafayette, LA 70503.

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member of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal’s staff. She focuses on initiatives related to people with disabilities. She served in that capacity in former Governor Kathleen Blanco’s administration. Dunbar, who holds a bachelor’s degree in political science (pre-law) from UL Lafayette, received a juris doctor degree from Southern University Law Center.

IN MEMORIAM

OLIVE PITRE THOMS, ’28

Jeanette Pitre Doucet, 27, died May 24, 2007, at age 100 in Opelousas, La. She graduated from SLI with a degree in education from SLI and is a registered health information specialist. Her husband, Thomas, was a teacher and past president of the PW Auxiliary Post No. 2483. She held a degree in education from SLI. Survivors include two daughters, Eugenia T. “Gena” Doucet and Elizabeth T. “Betty” Dougal, six great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren. Thoms was preceded in death by her husband, Hicks Thoms, one daughter, Muriel Elgie T. Pommier, and one great-grandson, Joseph Floyd Pommier and Lawrence Pommier. Her sister, Jeanette Pitre Doucet, died May 24, 2007.

EDGAR GLYNNE ABL, ’29

Former dean of men at UL Lafayette, Edgar Glynne Abl, 86, died March 22, 2008, in Lafayette. While a student at Soutwestern Louisiana Institute, he was vice president of the Student Body and president of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army and was employed by several organizations for his work with athletic programs for youth. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Sallie Glynne Governor of Dugas, and his children. Abl was director of Computing Support Services during his career.

LUCIEN BERNARD ‘FRIENDLY’ GOVERNALE, SR., ’69

Barbara Governale, 86, died Jan. 9, 2008, at his residence in Carencro, La. He was 87. While attending SLI from 1936 to 1938, he had been a student at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette. Survivors include his wife, Barbara, and two sons, Arthur and Richard. He was an active member of the St. Landry Parish Retired Teachers’ Association. Survivors include his wife, Judith Pitre, and two daughters, Shane and Karen Becker; a sister, Mary DeLouche; and three brothers, Frank Deblanc, ’79, 87, and Michael Deblanc, ’79, 87, all of New Iberia, La.; this grandmother, Marcelle Langlinais, of Baton Rouge, La., and a master’s degree in computer science from USL. He is survived by his parents, Paul and Mary Ann Dugal of Opelousas, La., his grandmother, Irene B. Dugal; two sisters; Clau- dius Ann Dugal and father, Robert Garborino; and one brother, Mark Dugal; one niece; and two great-nieces.

JACKIE GOVERNALE, 61, died Oct. 27, 2007, at the age of 38. He was director of bartiatric operations at the Metabolic Surgery Center at Baptist Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. Woodward held a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from USL, where he was president of Theta Xi fraternity. A licensed physical therapist, he received a master’s degree in clinical exercise physiology, and he was a registered dietitian. Survivors include his wife, Shelly; one son, Michael; and two grandchildren.

TULLY YANDALL, 63, died Dec. 30, 2007, at age 38. He was employed by C.C. Techni- cal Services in Lafayette. DeLousche received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from UL Lafayette. He is survived by his father, C.C. DeLousche, Sr.; his mother, Darlene M. Matt; his stepfather, Robert Owens; two sisters, Renee DeLousche and Dar- lene DeLousche-Cox; two nephews, Evan and Christopher Cox; and their maternal grandmother, Marie Matt.

Lafayette Alumni Association

Become a Member Because It Matters

Join Online or Contact Us:
Phone: (337) 482-0900
Fax: (337) 482-0931
Email: alumni@louisiana.edu
Website: www.LOUISIANAalumni.org
Dr. L. Dwynn Lafleur

Teaching Honor
Foundation says ‘Thanks’ to university president in a lasting way

Dr. L. Dwynn Lafleur, a physics professor, is the first recipient of the Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award. Lafleur was one of Authement’s students in the 1960s. But the committee of faculty members that chose Lafleur for the teaching award was unaware of that connection.

Recipients of the Foundation’s 2008 Distinguished Professor Award are John Hathorn, a professor of visual arts; Hector Lasala, a professor of architecture; and Dr. Anitha Sudduth, an assistant professor of nursing.

Authement was responsible, in a sense, for the Foundation’s coming of age in the 1980s. During its first 23 years, its board of trustees primarily managed contributions to the university. In 1981, the university’s president asked the late Alfred Lamson, an independent oilman in Lafayette, to lead a major fund drive. That campaign raised $10 million.

“When the UL Lafayette Foundation was established in 1957, Dr. Ray Authement was just beginning his career at the university as an associate professor of mathematics. After 50 years of service – the past 34 as president – he will retire this spring. The Foundation has named its annual Excellence in Teaching Award in his honor. Dr. L. Dwynn Lafleur, a physics professor, is the first recipient of the Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award. Lafleur was one of Authement’s students in the 1960s. But the committee of faculty members that chose Lafleur for the teaching award was unaware of that connection.

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“Since then, we’ve grown tremendously, in terms of our support for university capital projects and sophisticated investment fund management. We have a diversified portfolio due to the strength of our investment committees and the expertise of board members over the years,” said Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the Foundation.

By the late 1990s, the university’s endowments had reached about $45 million. The Investing in Our Future campaign, held in conjunction with UL Lafayette’s 100th birthday in 2000, substantially boosted that amount. Today, the university’s gifted assets total more than $910 million.

Falgout said the Foundation’s board of trustees will honor Authement in other ways. “But the board was especially interested in finding a way to convey to future generations that he was, first, an extraordinary teacher,” Falgout said. So it named its Excellence in Teaching Award.

The UL Lafayette Foundation has presented the Distinguished Professor Award since 1965 and the Excellence in Teaching Award since 1992.

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PROFESSOR CREDITS OTHERS FOR HIS SUCCESS

Dr. L. Dwynn Lafleur

Sitting on a shelf in Dr. L. Dwynn Lafleur’s office in Brusssard Hall is a copy of the manual of the first digital computer on campus. Having taught in the physics department since 1970, Lafleur said he has kept the manual of the IBM 1620 to remind him how far the university and the department have come. The manual is also a symbol for Lafleur of how computers and research have progressed over the past four decades.

A native of Jennings, La., Lafleur graduated from UL Lafayette in 1962 with a bachelor’s degree in physics. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Houston in 1969 and returned to Lafayette shortly after to begin what is now a 38-year teaching career.

Lafleur has taught nearly every undergraduate physics class at UL Lafayette as well as several graduate-level courses. He is the recipient of the Dr. Ray Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

Besides his teaching duties, Lafleur also performs research in computational acoustics and ultrasonics. His research involves penetrating the earth’s surface with sound for various purposes, including locating buried objects and measuring the quality and properties of different sediment in wetlands or coastal regions.

Lafleur said computer advancements have greatly reduced the time required to complete research. He vividly remembers the days when punch cards were the latest technology that allowed for one or two computations a day. And he remembers when the IBM 1620’s memory – a whopping 20K – or 20,000 bits – was considered “high-tech” in the 1960s.

“I’m not a patient person,” he joked.

“Now, you can run your simulations rapidly and get answers rapidly, doing calculations in a few minutes and producing graphics to illustrate the results.”

Despite the appeal of computers, Lafleur said teaching students is what he enjoys the most about his profession. “When you’re teaching it, you’re learning it,” he said. “I’m learning this stuff all over again, or really, some of it for the first time. That’s the part I really like about it.”

Spending whatever time it takes to ensure students are learning the material is something Lafleur said he learned from his professors at UL Lafayette, including University President Dr. Ray Authement, who have been included in numerous national group exhibitions and are represented in many private and public collections.

Gordon Brooks, dean of UL Lafayette’s College of the Arts, said Authement’s priorities are clear. “Student work first, personal work last.”

Hathorn, a recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Professor Award, said he considers it a privilege to teach. “It’s a huge opportunity to instill all kinds of things, in terms...
of confidence and work ethic,” he said.

Hathorn recently wrote a brief essay about teaching. In it, he noted that teaching requires a capacity to listen, and listening carries an obligation to nurture students’ talents.

“The capacity to listen and to observe what others may not hear or see in themselves, furthermore to shed some temporary light toward developing insight and confidence, is what distinguishes a good listener—one truly willing to assume the privilege and obligation of what is heard,” he wrote.

Hathorn’s students learn about the history of art and study the master painters. “At the same time, I encourage them to call all that into question. And, in the same light, I want them to call much of what they receive from me into question,” he said. He also challenges his students to explore what is unfamiliar, pressing into the unknown.

“Tensing of confidence, is what distinguishes a visual archaeologist. We charge a student to excavate layers of possibilities, layers of information, to get something that is really meaningful to him. It is at that point, he continued, when a student finds his own voice.

The professor said he learns from his students. “There are plenty of times when I wake up in the middle of the night thinking about a student’s work as well as my own,” he said. “When that happens, I’ve been reminded of the connection between teaching and his own work.

In addition to teaching, Hathorn takes an active role in the Department of Visual Arts’ studios. Brian Kelly, head of that department, credits him as “a major voice in our department developing into one of the premier visual arts programs in the country.” John possesses an endless amount of energy and freely devotes that energy to the betterment and support of the department’s and university’s educational mission.

Over the past 16 years, Hathorn has led 17 trips by faculty and students to Houston art museums. He and a colleague, Allan Jones, obtained UL Lafayette Instructional Improvement Mini-Grants to help finance 12 of those trips.

Dr. Ardith Sudduth

Dr. Ardith Sudduth can’t pinpoint why she became a nurse. But after decades in the profession, she’s not sure it was any other way.

“My mother was a great motivator because she insisted my sister and I go to college. She didn’t care what degree we majored in – just that we went to college and graduated,” said Sudduth, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions.

At the time, most female college students sought degrees in teaching or nursing. Sudduth said. Her sister became a teacher, while she became a nurse.

Sudduth earned a bachelor’s degree, two master’s degrees, and a doctorate. She is a nationally certified family nurse practitioner. In December, she completed a certificate program as a geriatric nurse practitioner.

“Learning is a lifelong adventure, especially in nursing and health care,” Sudduth said. “I want to excite young students about nursing and let them know that nursing is a profession that provides caring and competent care to all who need it.”

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, head of the Nursing Department, said Sudduth is popular with students, who describe her as “a clinical expert who is approachable, engaging and a great instructor. They often comment on her helpfulness and on her caring for students as individuals.”

Sudduth sometimes incorporates games into her lessons to engage her students. For instance, she has them participate in a game that helps them learn what it’s like to age and to be forced to deal with age-related conditions. “They go through different stages of aging, like walking with a cane or wearing glasses that depict cataract and macular degeneration. They really get a sense of what aging feels like,” she said.

Sudduth excels in research as well as teaching. Most recently, she and nursing colleague Dr. Sudah Patel presented their findings from a study on student stressors following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

“We realized that our students were feeling the effects of the hurricanes and that we could help alleviate some of their stressors,” said Sudduth. “We encouraged them to talk with friends and family and also told them about free resources on campus like counseling. We wanted them to take advantage of these offerings so their studies wouldn’t suffer.”

The two presented their findings at the prestigious World Psychiatric Association International Congress last year. Sudduth received the Outstanding Volunteer Award for her work as a nurse practitioner at the Lafayette Community Health Care Clinic. Sudduth also received the Col. Jean Migliorino and Lt. Col. Philippine Piccinone 1951 Commemorative Endowed Nursing Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. She holds the Hamilton Piccione 1951 Commemorative Endowed Professorship in Nursing.

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### ACADEMICS

- 100 percent of all undergraduate programs at UL Lafayette that are eligible for accreditation by professional agencies are accredited.
- The Carnegie Foundation has designated UL Lafayette as a "Research University with High Research Activity." That puts UL Lafayette in the same category as Clemson, Auburn and Baylor universities.
- UL Lafayette is a public, selective admissions university.
- The university offers 80 undergraduate degree programs.
- There are 29 master's degree programs and one post master's certificate program.
- Doctor of Philosophy degrees are offered in applied language and speech sciences, biology, cognitive science, English, Francophone studies, mathematics, computer science and computer engineering. A joint doctor of education degree is offered in educational leadership by UL Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana University.
- About 1,100 students are graduated each fall and spring.
- UL Lafayette has 10 colleges and schools:
  - College of the Arts
  - B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration
  - College of Education
  - College of Engineering
  - College of General Studies
  - College of Liberal Arts
  - College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions
  - College of Sciences
  - Graduate School
  - University College

### STUDENTS

- Total Fall 2007 enrollment* was 16,345, including 1,414 graduate students.
- Other Fall 2007 statistics:
  - Students represented 48 states and possessions, and 95 foreign countries.
  - There were 651 international students.
  - Female students, 58%
  - Male students, 42%

*The number of students attending in the fall semester is a university's official enrollment.

### ATHLETICS

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in NCAA Division 1, the highest level of collegiate athletics. Football is a member of Division 1A.
- Almost half of UL Lafayette's student-athletes posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher – on a 4.0 scale – during the Fall 2007 semester.

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® sports:
  - Football
  - Baseball
  - Softball
  - Basketball
  - Track and Field
  - Golf
  - Tennis
  - Volleyball
  - Soccer

- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® compete in the Sun Belt Conference.
- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® used the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility for the first time in Fall 2007. The new facility has a 120-yard practice field with drop-down batting cages and a separate wing for a basketball court.

### NOTEWORTHY

- UL Lafayette's Mathematics Department is one of the Top 100 university math departments in the nation, according to the National Science Foundation. The university’s Computer Science Department is among the top 60 university computer science departments. Those rankings are based on the amount of external research funding a department receives.
- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has established the Ernest J. Gaines Center in Dupré Library on campus. It will be an international center for studies of Gaines’ work. One of the most significant American authors of the 20th century, he is UL Lafayette’s writer-in-residence emeritus. His novels include *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.
- UL Lafayette’s Ragin’ Jazz is one of the top 10 college dance teams in the nation. It ranked ninth in the Division 1-A jazz category competition at the annual Universal Dance Association College Dance Team Championship in January. The Ragin’ Jazz ranked 12th in the country in Hip Hop among Division 1-A universities. The competition was held in Orlando, Fla.
- UL Lafayette is included in the Princeton Review’s 2008 edition of Best 366 Colleges.
- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is one of the most affordable universities in the nation, thanks to comprehensive scholarship and financial aid programs, including out-of-state fee waivers to qualified students.
- CAPE1, a small satellite, was sent into orbit from a site in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2007. It’s the first satellite to be designed, built and launched by students at a Louisiana university.