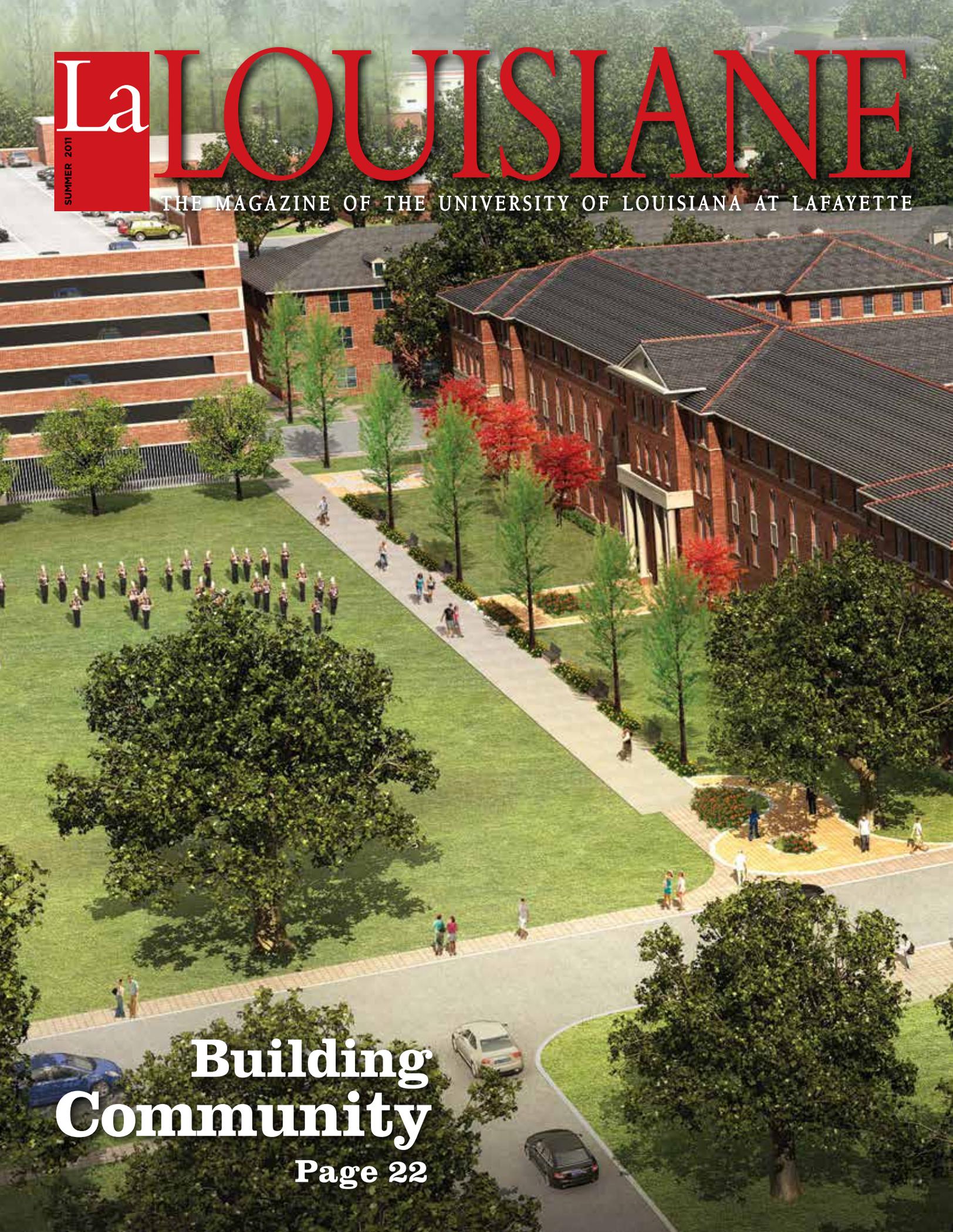


La

SUMMER 2011

# LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE



## Building Community

Page 22





**ON THE COVER:**  
UL Lafayette's newest residence hall, on Tulane Avenue, is set to open soon.

Photos on this page:  
*Left, Center:* Catherine Guidry; *Right:* Courtesy of Architects Southwest

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# LaLOUISIANE

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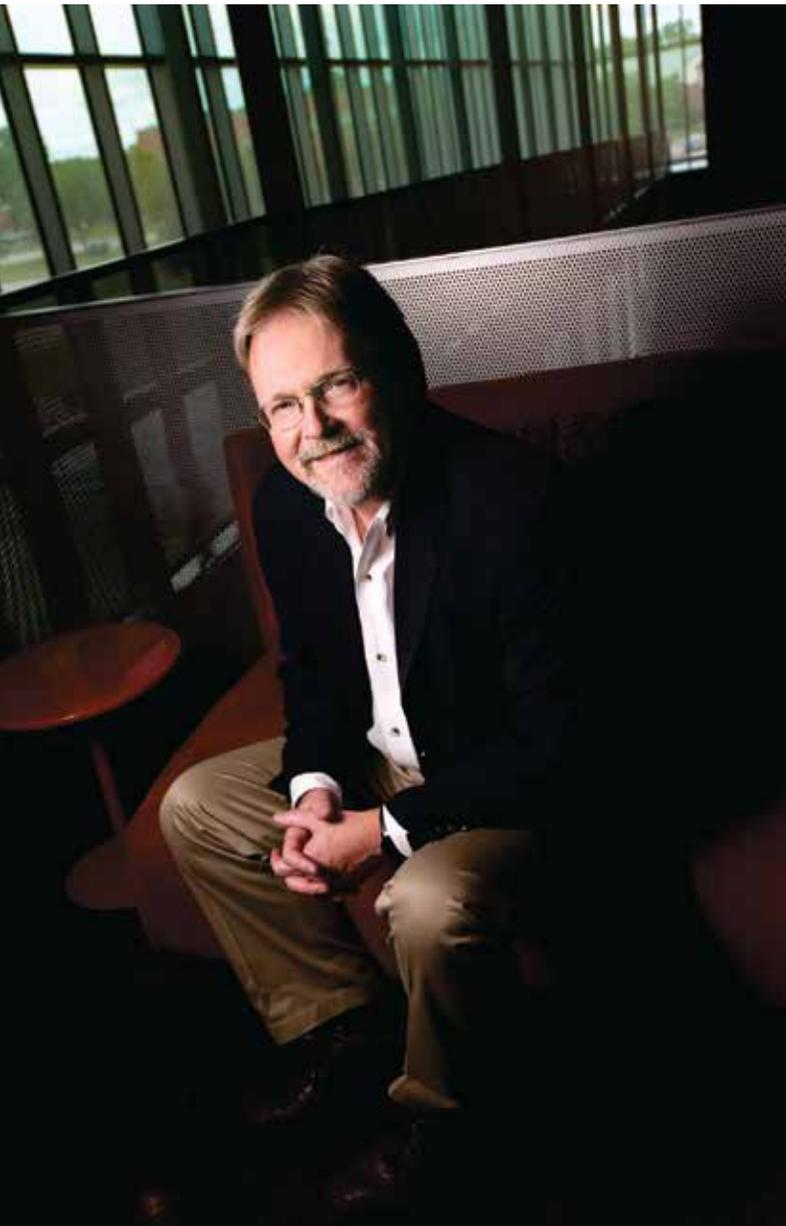
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## Change Agent

UL Lafayette vice president sparks community investment in research



Dr. Robert Twilley

**I**N THESE TIMES of economic uncertainty, UL Lafayette's newest vice president for research is drawing from a reliable well — the curiosity and creativity of university scholars — to stimulate economic development.

“Building a bridge between pure research and the commercialization of knowledge can have a tremendous impact. That’s because economic development creates more than jobs — economic development improves the quality of life,” he said in a recent interview.

A professor of biology and a prominent coastal ecologist, Twilley taught at UL Lafayette for 13 years, from 1986 to 2004. He then taught at Louisiana State University before becoming associate vice chancellor in its Office of Research and Economic Development.

He returned to UL Lafayette last summer. Soon after he arrived on campus, Twilley met with the directors of UL Lafayette’s 17 research centers. He assured

them they would have all the support the university could provide.

But he also addressed a sobering reality: UL Lafayette and its research centers must become more competitive.

“Research universities must define their role in commercializing knowledge by developing new technologies and new products.

“To do that, we have to generate and examine new ideas, which is the essence of scholarship,” he said.

“University research is driven by the curiosity of individual faculty members to solve an intellectual problem. It is not a corporate approach to problem solving.”

UL Lafayette’s reputation as a research university has been growing steadily over the past decade. The university is ranked third statewide in research and development funding among public institutions.

**‘University research is driven by the curiosity of individual faculty members ... it’s not a corporate approach to problem solving.’**

**DR. ROBERT TWILLEY**

The university attracts a total of about \$69 million each year in external research funds. Twilley plans to increase that amount by attracting public and private investment.

The model of research-university-as economic-powerhouse has worked well in states like North Carolina and California, and in The Netherlands, where Twilley has carefully studied the impact of focused research matched with strategic investment.

Twilley is working to forge new partnerships between university researchers and private enterprise.

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

Twilley addressed the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in June. He shared his vision of a Regional Innovation Corridor that would link Acadiana and south Louisiana via U.S. Route 90 and La. Highway 1.

The corridor already has a high concentration of engineers and scientists, businesses and government agencies. Its research themes could include energy and health care — as well as environmental and water management.

When he speaks to groups like the Chamber, Twilley often cites Dr. Geoffrey Nicholson — who helped create the 3M Post-It Note™ — to explain the distinction between research and innovation: “Research,” Nicholson said, “is the transformation of money into knowledge. Innovation is the transformation of knowledge into money.”

Twilley knows a lot about the connections between innovation and economic development.

He studied biology at East Carolina University, where he received bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He earned a doctorate in systems ecology from the University of Florida and completed post-doctoral work at the University of Maryland.

In 2003, the UL Lafayette professor was part of an elite 12-member team that developed a \$14 billion proposal to restore and rehabilitate Louisiana’s coastal wetlands. The U.S. Congress approved \$1.2 billion for the project; however, those funds have not yet been allocated.

In 1999, Twilley established UL Lafayette’s Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology. The facility, which is on a 51-acre site near Carencro, La., supports research, education and community outreach in ecology and environmental biology, with an emphasis on sustainable resources and energy. It’s used by UL Lafayette faculty and students and by researchers from other institutions.

Twilley is also interim director of the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise in University Research Park. LITE was created specifically as an economic development tool through a partnership among UL Lafayette, the State of Louisiana and the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

University Research Park has seven tenants, whose annual payroll totals about \$36 million. About 60 UL Lafayette student interns work there.

Two additional facilities are under construction in the research park: the Cecil J.



Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, and the Child and Family Studies Early Childhood Laboratory. Small business development offices will also be consolidated at the research park.

But just having a research park is not enough, Twilley contends. “There must be a nexus of university research and industry applications to stimulate innovation and strengthen the economy.”

Over the past 20 years, Twilley has studied flood control in Latin America and also in The Netherlands.

Much of The Netherlands, including highly populated areas, is below sea level. Instead of relying on levees to keep water out of flood-prone regions, Dutch engineers allow water to flow in and out, while managing the tide with systems that include manmade islands, dikes and sea gates.

In 2010, Twilley revisited The Netherlands, along with U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu and 27 other Louisiana leaders, including scholars, lawmakers and environmentalists.

While there, he focused much of his attention on Deltares, a research institute that is a model for collaborative research, investment and innovation. Universities, government and private enterprise work together on water management issues to help people safely live in areas that are likely to flood.

“Here in Louisiana, we are facing similar issues,” said Twilley.

UL Lafayette researchers are part of the Northern Gulf Coast Hazards Collaboratory, an interdisciplinary team of scientists from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. They communicate and collaborate online “in a virtual laboratory,” Twilley explained.

The researchers are working to reduce the risks of living and working on the Gulf coast. Their work is funded by the National Science Foundation, an independent federal agency known for supporting only the most promising research proposals.

Twilley is developing a Coastal Sustainability Studio on the UL Lafayette campus, which is sponsored by Chevron Corporation.

“It will be like an art studio — without walls,” said Twilley. Faculty members from the disciplines of science, engineering and architecture will work together to design projects that integrate smart growth with coastal restoration and protection projects.

“University research can help solve complex problems that affect people. That’s our area of expertise,” he said.

“When we match that innovative power with collaborative investment, everybody wins.” ■

# Beyond the Deep Horizon

UL Lafayette scientists investigate impact of BP oil spill

**U**L LAFAYETTE RESEARCHERS ARE using funding from the National Science Foundation to learn more about the ecological impact of last year's massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. An explosion at British Petroleum's Deepwater Horizon drilling site on April 20, 2010, killed 11 workers. Crude oil flowed into the Gulf for three



ROBERT MEYERS/COURTESY OF GREENPEACE

Yellow buoys attached to acoustic recording devices float in the Gulf of Mexico near the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Six of the devices, anchored to the Gulf floor at three sites, recorded the sounds of marine mammals. Greenpeace provided its ship, the Arctic Sunrise, so that UL Lafayette researchers and their partners could collect data.

months, until a cap was successfully placed over the wellhead. The well was permanently closed in September.

Five UL Lafayette scientists received more than \$375,000 in NSF Rapid Response Grant funds, which enable researchers to respond to unanticipated events such as environmental disasters.

Drs. Azmy Ackleh, Nabendu Pal and Natalia Sidorovskaia were granted \$192,197 to study how whales may have been affected by the spill.

Drs. Darryl Felder and Suzanne Fredericq received \$185,608 from the NSF. Felder is investigating the possible effects on shrimp, crabs and lobsters. Fredericq is studying the spill's possible effect on varieties of seaweed.

Dr. Bradd Clark, dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences, said the strong reputation of UL Lafayette's faculty influenced the NSF funding. "The National Science Foundation is very familiar with these researchers because of their previous work. NSF can rely on our faculty to conduct needed research in a timely manner," he said.

Sidorovskaia is an associate professor of physics with an interest in underwater acoustics. She is also chair of the Department of Physics. Ackleh and Pal, both professors of mathematics, use mathematical modeling to predict population data.

The three researchers are part of a consortium of scientists that uses acoustics to study marine mammals. They collaborate with researchers from the U.S. Navy, the University of New Orleans, the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Texas at Austin.

In September, Sidorovskaia and her colleagues installed six recording devices — Environmental Acoustic Recording Systems, or EARS — on the floor of the Gulf. The non-profit organization Greenpeace provided a ship to reach the installation sites. The EARS recorded continuously for 12 days. Some of the recordings were made about nine miles from the Deepwater Horizon rig site.

At UL Lafayette, researchers isolated the sounds made by sperm whales,

which are an endangered species, and by beaked whales. Researchers know very little about beaked whales. Because they spend most of the time below the surface of the water, they are seldom observed, Sidorovskaia explained.

Acoustic studies are a non-invasive way to study marine mammals. "The listening devices are completely passive. We can get a glimpse of what's happening beneath the surface without disrupting the animals or their habitat," she said.

The researchers are comparing post-spill data to information collected in 2001, 2002 and 2007. They will use mathematical models to determine whether the number of whales has declined or remained stable in the wake of the spill.

Both Felder and Fredericq are professors of biology. Felder is head of UL Lafayette's Laboratory for Crustacean Research. Fredericq is an expert on multicellular marine algae, or seaweeds.

During two Gulf expeditions — in November and April — they collected samples of algae, shrimp, crabs and lobsters. The professors, along with undergraduate and graduate students, are comparing the biological material with samples taken before the spill.

The test results may reveal which organisms are sensitive to oil pollution and which have the potential to subsequently recover, Fredericq explained.

Because algae are the base of the aquatic food chain, a negative impact on them could be ominous.

"Algae produce oxygen and food for other organisms. If it can be shown that crude oil or dispersant contamination is found inside their cells, instead of coating the surface of the algae, this could indicate serious consequences for the entire food chain," she said. ■

# Former Nursery School Rebuilds in University Research Park



UL Lafayette's new Child and Family Studies Early Childhood Laboratory building is about 25 percent larger than the one it occupied on Coliseum Road.

UL LAFAYETTE'S CHILD AND FAMILY Studies Early Childhood Laboratory is expected to move to University Research Park by the start of the Fall 2011 semester. During university semesters, preschoolers attend class at the lab school. UL Lafayette students earn course credit for observing and teaching them.

The interdisciplinary research facility was previously known as the UL Lafayette Nursery School. In 2008, its 2,900-square-foot building on Coliseum Road was destroyed by fire when Hurricane Gustav made landfall. Strong winds pulled electrical wires from the building, which caused the blaze. Since then, the lab has been housed in Hamilton Hall.

Dr. Mary Sciaraffa is the laboratory's director and an assistant professor of child and family studies. She said the 3,660-square-foot building will enable the lab to increase the number of preschoolers from 12 to 16. Children between the ages of 3 and 5 may attend the school.

Child and Family Studies majors observe the children and teach them in a capstone course. Students who major in areas such as psychology and communicative disorders also use the facility.

Federal disaster funds and insurance payments will pay for the new building. It will include two classrooms and two observation rooms, so students can learn first-hand how children interact and play.

Sciaraffa said children learn through exploration and discovery. So, they need authentic experiences to enhance their learning capabilities.

During the Spring 2011 semester, UL Lafayette students and the children planted and maintained a vegetable garden, which was used as a hands-on learning tool.

The children explored language, literacy and creative arts by discussing the garden and drawing pictures of the plants. They measured the plants' growth, learned about fruits and vegetables, and ate lettuce harvested from the garden.

UL Lafayette Instructor Jim Foret and his students have designed a playground for the new facility.

Instead of swingsets and slides, the playground will have small grassy hills for the children to climb, and stands of bamboo and piles of wood chips where they can play. It will include a butterfly garden and rock garden.

It is designed to meet certification standards to become a Nature Explore outdoor classroom. These spaces, designed in accordance with research-based learning principles, are certified by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Dimensions Foundation, an educational research group.

The design project was part of Foret's *Environmental Landscape Design* course. This fall, students taking *Landscape Construction*, along with community volunteers, will help build the playground.

## UL LAFAYETTE RESEARCHER RECEIVES NSF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION recognizes junior faculty who are outstanding scholars and teachers with its annual Faculty Early Career Development Award, which includes substantial research funding. The NSF selects about 425 recipients each year.

Dr. Miao Jin, an assistant professor at the Center for Advanced Computer Studies, will receive \$419,780 to help fund her research over the next five years. She is the fourth CACS faculty member to receive the prestigious honor.

Jin's work focuses on the applications of computational quasiconformal geometry. She also teaches graduate courses in her area of expertise.

Quasiconformal geometry is a bridge between abstract mathematics and computer programs such as animation, human face recognition and medical applications.

"Quasiconformal geometry gives us a theoretical foundation, but computers don't understand theory — only people do," Jin said.

One of the areas she is exploring is facial recognition by computers.

"When a person laughs or cries, the shape of his face becomes distorted. As a human heart beats, its shape changes. These changes can be described by quasiconformal geometry," she explained.

"Currently, computer software does a poor job of recognizing the same person

with different facial expressions. If the computer has a model of a person who is smiling, it may not recognize the same person when he is crying or laughing."

Jin is developing an algorithm that could enable a computer to recognize people regardless of their facial expression. The technology could be used in security software, for example.

She is also working to design other algorithms and find applications for them.

Jin joined the UL Lafayette faculty in 2008. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunication, and master's and doctoral degrees in computer science from Stony Brook University.

## UL Lafayette Grows Native Plants to Produce Seed Supply

NATIVE PLANTS grown at UL Lafayette's Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology are going to seed — and that's good. Researchers there are working to conserve a vanishing resource — indigenous plants that once covered Louisiana's coastal prairie.

Native plants, including flowers and grasses, are used in conservation projects such as roadside plantings and agricultural buffers. The plants' extensive root systems reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

CEET is part of the Louisiana Native Plant Initiative, a 19-member consortium that includes McNeese State University and Nicholls State University, conservation groups and government agencies. Dr. Susan Mopper, director of CEET and a professor of biology, is UL Lafayette's project administrator.



Ashy sunflower is a native plant that is grown at CEET.

Seth Touchet is CEET's operations manager; André Daugereaux and Troy Primeaux are project coordinators who work there. They're stocking up on native seeds by collecting them in the wild and growing them to produce more seeds. Nine acres of the 51-acre site, which is near Carencro, La., are devoted to growing native plants.

Morris Houck works for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, which coordinates the initiative. He is the NRCS state plant materials specialist for Louisiana.

Native prairie once covered more than nine million acres in Louisiana and Texas. But because of agricultural practices and urban sprawl, less than 0.1 percent remains, Houck explained.

The native-plant initiative received \$1.5 million in federal funding last year. Its immediate goals include collecting and planting seeds, increasing seed

stock and studying native plants. Its long-range goal is to produce enough seed to support future development of a native seed industry.

"Louisiana has a well-established native plant industry. But it doesn't have a native seed industry," said Houck.

Native plants seeds are available commercially but because they come from other parts of the country, the plants they produce are not adapted to local conditions.

By the end of 2011, Houck expects to have enough seed of one plant, ash sunflower, to release about 20 pounds to commercial growers. The NRCS will advertise the seeds' availability in publications such as farm journals.

"Hopefully, farmers or other conservationists will want to use it. They'll likely contact a distributor, who will get in touch with us to obtain seed to plant a production field," he said.

In the meantime, researchers are collecting data, including germination rates and the best time to plant. That's the kind of information commercial growers will eventually need.

## Vaccine May Help Protect Wild Apes from Deadly Ebola Virus

RESEARCHERS AT UL LAFAYETTE'S New Iberia Research Center are testing a vaccine that could help protect chimpanzees and gorillas from the deadly Ebola virus.

Dr. Thomas J. Rowell, NIRC's director, said this is the first time the center has engaged in research focused on the protection of wild animals.

"Disease is a major threat to great apes living in the wild, including chimpanzees and gorillas. The work we are doing here may help save them from extinction," he said.

Exposure to the virus can lead to Ebola hemorrhagic fever, which causes extensive bleeding and organ failure. There is no cure for the disease, which also affects humans.

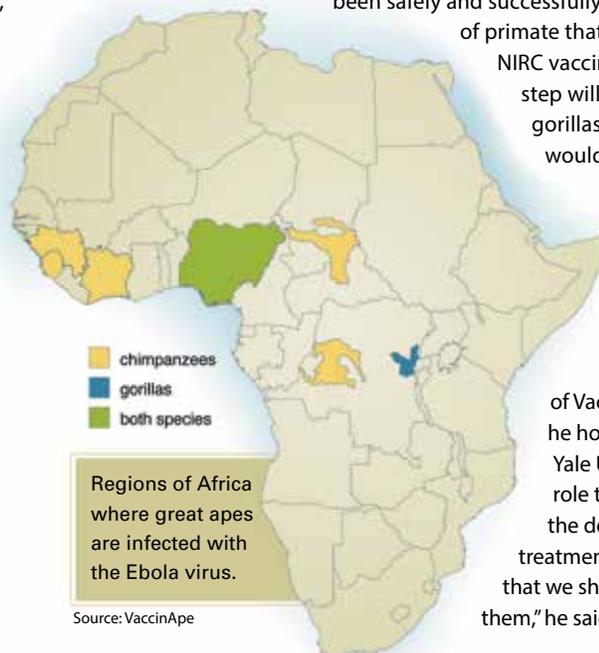
Six chimpanzees at NIRC were vaccinated in February. They were not exposed to the Ebola virus. The vaccine is made from proteins taken from the virus. These virus-like particles cannot replicate and cannot cause disease.

Through testing, researchers will learn whether the vaccine prompts the chimpanzees' immune systems to produce antibodies to the virus. The vaccine has already been safely and successfully tested in monkeys, a species of primate that is distinct from apes. If the

NIRC vaccine trial is successful, the next step will be to test the vaccine on gorillas in the wild. Field vaccinations would be delivered with a dart.

The NIRC is collaborating with VaccinApe, a non-profit organization that is working to develop vaccination as a tool for the conservation of great apes in the wild.

Dr. Peter Walsh is director of VaccinApe. A qualitative biologist, he holds a doctorate in biology from Yale University. "Given the important role that chimps have played in the development of vaccines and treatment for humans, it seems only fair that we should give something back to them," he said.



Source: VaccinApe

## COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCHERS GAIN NEW INSIGHT

A NEW UL LAFAYETTE laboratory is helping researchers learn more about how people with communicative disorders interact with computers — and with other human beings.



TRAVIS GAULTHER

Holly Damico, director of UL Lafayette's Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, wears the Mobile Eye, a portable device that records what its wearer sees.

Drs. Jack S. Damico and Ryan Nelson have established the Meaning and Eye Tracking Laboratory in Burke-Hawthorne Hall.

Damico is a professor and the Doris B. Hawthorne Eminent Scholar in Special Education and Communicative Disorders.

Nelson is an assistant professor of communicative disorders. He was UL Lafayette's first doctoral graduate in applied language and speech sciences.

Their lab is located in a small room adjacent to Nelson's office. It includes two desktop units that track the eye movements of computer users and a portable unit called a Mobile Eye, which features a camera mounted on safety glasses.

Two grants covered the cost of the equipment: \$75,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents and \$10,000 from the Robert and Evelyn McKee Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

Nelson established an eye-tracking lab at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he taught before returning to UL Lafayette as a faculty member in 2009.

He said only a handful of universities and research facilities use eye tracking to study communicative disorders.

He explained how desktop eye

trackers and mobile units work.

The tracking device is housed in a small box, mounted below the computer screen. While a person reads information on the monitor, the tracker emits harmless infrared light that causes the reader's pupils to contract. At the same time, the tracker detects light that is reflected by the person's eyes.

The system translates those two measurements — reflection and pupil response — into x and y coordinates. Those coordinates can later be superimposed on the information that was shown on the screen while eye movements were captured.

"Then we can see where the person was looking," Nelson said.

The information can be helpful in understanding miscues — mistakes readers make as they read aloud.

"Perhaps the readers substituted one word for another — or skipped a word altogether. If we know where he was looking when the miscue happened, it can tell us something about the process of reading," he said.

The system can also be used to analyze how novice readers process information.

The Mobile Eye enables researchers to collect data while the subject carries out everyday activities. The glasses record what the person wearing them sees.

"We may have someone who's recovering from a stroke and is resuming a regular routine. When he or she goes to the grocery store, how is that person using visual cues? With this equipment, we can look at all types of human interaction.

"In the initial stages, we'll be doing a lot of discovery. If we want to know how visual information influences a particular process or activity, we'll be able to investigate that," Nelson said.

## NSF Grant Helps Prepare Students for Graduate School

FOURTEEN COLLEGE juniors and seniors from around the country got a taste of graduate school at UL Lafayette this summer.

The students were part of a program created by UL Lafayette faculty and funded by the National Science Foundation: Smooth Transition for Advancement to Graduate Education. The NSF awarded UL Lafayette \$548,880 to implement the three-year program.

Fewer minority students are completing doctoral degrees in mathematics and related fields, including science, engineering and technology, said Dr. Nabendu Pal, a professor of mathematics at UL Lafayette.

He and his colleagues — Dr. Aghalaya Vatsala, a professor of mathematics, and Drs. Patricia Beaulieu and Christina Eubanks-Turner, assistant professors of mathematics — designed the STAGE program to help reverse that trend, he said.

The program has three components: intense courses in selected areas, guided research and professional development.

The students spent eight weeks on UL Lafayette's campus this summer.

The four faculty members helped them improve their skills in writing academic papers. And they introduced them to other aspects of graduate study, such as seminar presentations and classroom teaching.

Four UL Lafayette graduate students assisted the instructors and supervised study sessions.

To qualify for the STAGE program, an applicant must be a member of a minority group that is underrepresented among professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The student must be a junior or senior majoring in one of those academic areas with a minimum GPA of 2.75.

When the project is complete, UL Lafayette researchers will stay in touch with the participants.

"We want to know if they go on to earn Ph.Ds, become researchers or teachers, or if they go into the workforce in related fields," Pal said.

## Playing It Forward

Students learn music from Louisiana masters



CATHERINE GUIDRY



CATHERINE GUIDRY

Students practice traditional tunes with fiddler Michael Doucet in the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home on the UL Lafayette campus. Top: Forest Huval accompanies Doucet on accordion. Bottom: Megan Brown plays rhythm guitar.

**U**L LAFAYETTE STUDENT Megan Brown grew up in Louisiana with a close connection to Cajun music. But it wasn't until she traveled to West Virginia four years ago that she began to fully appreciate it.

Her grandparents, Daniel Issac and Sherry Fruge, own D.I.'s, a Cajun restaurant near Basile, La., in Evangeline Parish. Along with gumbo, étouffée and boiled crawfish, Cajun music is a staple there.

"There was a Cajun band every weekend, so I heard Cajun music all the time. But I thought it was just old men who played it," Brown said.

In July 2007, she and her family visited the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, W. Va. The center offers workshops in regional music, cooking and crafts. During a week focused on Cajun and Creole culture, Brown's brother, Briggs, studied accordion. She and her mother, Michelle, taught Cajun dance.

"I saw all these Northerners really interested in what I'd been around my whole life — the cooking, the language, the dancing, the music. And it really embarrassed me that I didn't know a whole lot about the music. I knew how to dance and I knew what the music sounded like, but I didn't know very much about the artists — about the people who are our ancestors in this music.

"I decided that they weren't going to be better than me, in what is mine. So, I decided to start learning it," she told *La Louisiane*.

In West Virginia, Brown met Jane Vidrine, an Acadiana folklorist and a founding member of the Magnolia Sisters, an all-female Cajun band. Vidrine became a mentor to Brown, teaching her traditional songs.

"When I realized that women were also a part of this music, I felt there was a place for me in it, too," she said. Brown is a vocalist and guitarist in two bands. She is majoring in French.

This spring, she was one of the first students to take a new course, *Traditional Music Ensemble*. Students must audition to be chosen for the class. They earn one hour of college credit upon successful completion.

Brown, Forest Huval and Joe Vidrine (Jane Vidrine's son), completed a section of the course taught by Dr. Mark DeWitt, who created the class. An ethnomusicologist who specializes in Cajun and Creole music, he joined the UL Lafayette faculty last year as a professor of music. DeWitt is the first to hold the Dr. Tommy Comeaux Endowed Chair in Traditional Music.

Six other students — Lance Boston, Danny Devillier, Colin Gould, Nico Guiang, Dane Thibodeaux and Garret Wood — studied with Wilson Savoy, accordionist, vocalist and songwriter for the Pine Leaf Boys.

The ensemble students also studied with Michael Doucet and members of the band BeauSoleil, who served as artists-in-residence. They are ambassadors of Cajun music and culture: Doucet on fiddle; his brother David on guitar; fiddler and bassist Mitch Reed; accordionist Jimmy Breaux; and percussionists Tommy Alesi and Billy Ware.

Doucet spent a week on campus in February to teach the ensemble students. In March, the full band coached students and jammed with them in a master class. They worked with both dance and music media students and performed with the UL Symphony Orchestra at a public concert held in Angelle Hall.

Teaching on campus was a return engagement for Doucet, who was an adjunct instructor in the 1980s. He created what is believed to be the first course at UL Lafayette on Louisiana French music. He taught *French Music in Louisiana: Opera to Zydeco* for five years.

Doucet received an honorary doctorate from UL Lafayette in 2002. Three years later, the National Endowment of the Arts named him a National Heritage Fellow.

The award, which is given for artistic excellence and contributions to the nation's cultural heritage, is the highest honor in U.S. folk and traditional arts.

Like Brown, Doucet's passion for Cajun music was ignited when he discovered that people outside of Acadiana have a deep appreciation for the genre.

In the early 1970s, Doucet and his cousin, Zachary Richard, played Cajun music in Acadiana, but they did not have a large following. A music promoter invited the two musicians to perform in a folk festival in Vierzon, France.

"It took us by surprise to find how much the people respected us and our music," said Doucet.

And he was astonished to discover clues about the origins of Cajun music.

"It totally floored me when I heard some young people in France singing the same ballads that my family used to sing. I had no idea where those songs had come from, and there I was, hearing those songs almost word for word.

"When I came back to Louisiana, I was in a fever to learn more about the music I had grown up with.

"I could just see it slipping away so quickly. When someone in the family died — maybe they were a storyteller or a musician — their stories and their music died with them.

"I was lucky to have people of my grandparents' generation who were still around and had time to spend with some young, curious people like us musicians. We definitely didn't want to let this go — we really wanted to understand."

In 1975, Doucet received an NEA Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grant to study the playing styles of southwest Louisiana fiddle masters such as Varise Conner, Hector Duhon, Canray Fontenot, Lionel LeLeux and Dennis McGee.

Doucet recorded and transcribed their music, then placed the materials in the Library of Congress.

"I was fortunate to know people like Dennis McGee and Canray Fontenot. I was able to learn from them one-on-one. It was my true education," he said.

"Happily for me and for everybody else, the music has blossomed. It just refuses to die. It is the resilient music of a resilient people." ■

## MUSICAL MEDICINE

**F**RIENDS OF THE LATE Dr. Tommy Comeaux know about grief — and about giving. Over the last 13 years, they have helped raise more than \$1 million to honor Comeaux and establish traditional music studies at UL Lafayette.

Comeaux died Nov. 8, 1997. The 45-year-old doctor was head of pathology at a Lafayette hospital. He was a world-class musician who had performed and recorded with influential southwest Louisiana bands, including Coteau, the Basin Brothers and BeauSoleil. He was a marathon runner who had recently taken up a new sport: bicycling. Comeaux was riding his bike when he was struck and killed by an oncoming vehicle.

Chef Pat Mould is a member of the fund-raising committee for the Dr. Tommy Comeaux Memorial Endowed Fund for Traditional Music. Informally, group members call themselves The Comeauxtians.

"Tommy was one of the most generous people I've ever known. He went out of his way to be kind to others — as a musician and as a doctor — but he never sought recognition. We knew that to truly honor his spirit, we had to do something

that was good for the community as a whole, or else it wouldn't ring true," Mould said.

The group has organized 14 annual concerts, dubbed Medicine Shows, to raise money for the cause. In 2007, it met its initial goal of \$600,000. That amount was matched with money from the Louisiana Board of Regents to create a \$1 million endowed chair.

Dr. Mark DeWitt holds that endowed chair. He was hired in July 2010 to lead the emerging program. An ethnomusicologist who specializes in Cajun and Creole music, DeWitt earned his master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music and his doctorate at UC Berkeley.

"There will be a lot of emphasis on Cajun and Creole music, but we're not looking exclusively at those genres. We're looking at the transmission of traditional music — whether it's Cajun or bluegrass — as a process," said DeWitt.



Dr. Mark DeWitt

"Traditional music is demonstration, imitation and critique. You're in the presence of musicians who are more accomplished than you are. They demonstrate to you, you play or sing the music back to them. It's that interaction, that live contact with traditional artists, that's important."

Long-range goals include the creation of a research center for traditional music and the development of a degree program. "In the short term, we will create new courses and invite community artists to participate with students," said DeWitt.

Meanwhile, The Comeauxtians continue to raise money to support traditional music programming at UL Lafayette. They have raised about \$46,000 toward a \$60,000 goal for an endowed professorship. When that goal is reached, the state will provide a \$40,000 match.

 <http://www.tommycomeaux.com>

## UNIVERSITY ASKS FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

UL LAFAYETTE HAS BEGUN its first campaign dedicated solely to raising money for scholarships. Its Office of Development launched the public phase of the campaign in mid-April.

"In some cases, a scholarship can influence a bright student's decision to attend UL Lafayette. For some students, a scholarship offer determines whether they will pursue a college degree at all. We are inviting the community to make a difference in a student's life with a gift to this campaign," said UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie.

The campaign goal is \$4.5 million; \$3 million had been raised by July.

Author Rebecca Wells is the campaign's honorary chair. She spoke during a press conference held on campus to publicize the campaign.

"I am storyteller. And I know that every scholarship helps someone create his life story," she said.

Wells is best known for her book, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, published in 1997. It rose to the top of *The New York Times'* best-seller list and was made into a motion picture starring Sandra Bullock in 2002.

Wells' novels are set in her native Louisiana. She now lives near Seattle.

Wells grew up near Alexandria, La. Her father, a cotton farmer, worked long hours to support his family and give her the opportunity to attend college.

"I'm proud to be Louisiana-educated," Wells told *La Louisiane*. She earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Louisiana State University.

Wells said she chose to support UL Lafayette as its honorary chair because she has family ties to the university.

Two of her nieces are UL Lafayette graduates. Emily Wells Moody earned a bachelor's degree in public relations in 2007. Claire Moody received a bachelor's degree in hospitality management in 2008.



Rebecca Wells

TRAVIS GAUTHER

"Louisiana has bright students who are ready for the academic challenges of higher education. But they also face significant financial challenges. Scholarships ease students' financial stress and reduce the burden of academic debt," she said.

**'We are inviting the community to make a difference in a student's life.'**

**DR. JOSEPH SAVOIE**

David Comeaux, interim director of UL Lafayette's Office of Development, said that although the campaign is focused on funding endowed scholarships, all contributions help reach the \$4.5 million goal.

Endowed scholarships are investments managed by the UL Lafayette Foundation. These scholarships are perpetual sources of funding because the principal is untouched. Only a portion of the earned interest is spent.

A donor may establish a named, endowed scholarship with a minimum gift of \$10,000. Contributors may choose to support students

in a particular area of study with an endowed gift.

Comeaux said the scholarship campaign is part of a strategic effort to better meet students' needs.

"As the university grows, its capacity to provide scholarships to deserving students must grow as well.

"We want to be able to offer a wide variety of scholarships for a diverse student population that includes first-time freshmen, as well as transfer students and older, non-traditional students," Comeaux said.

## Students Enrich Community With Service-Learning

**UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS**

and faculty are making a multi-million dollar economic impact on Acadiana through community service.

Dr. David Yarbrough is UL Lafayette's dean of Community Service and an associate professor of child and family studies. He surveys faculty members each fall to learn how they incorporate service in their courses. During the 2009–2010 academic year, they taught more than 60 courses with direct service-learning components.

As a result, faculty and students contributed 540,000 volunteer service hours. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the economic value for service is about \$20.85 per hour. So, those service hours represent \$11.2 million. At \$7.25 per hour, which is minimum wage, those hours still have a major impact: \$3.9 million.

Those numbers don't reflect the work of UL Lafayette's AmeriCorps students, who provided 20,000 hours last year, or UL Lafayette Greeks, who donated more than 23,000 hours.

Course-related service projects included UL Lafayette students who helped elementary students improve their math skills. Engineering students provided energy and environmental assessments of low-income homes. And, architecture students worked with Lafayette Habitat for Humanity to create an energy-efficient home that could become a prototype for future Habitat construction.

More freshmen are becoming involved in community service. That's because it's part of a required first-year seminar course called The Cajun Connection.

Yarbrough has created a website so that students, faculty and community members can stay in touch about service projects. The site includes online forums, a photo gallery and links to volunteer opportunities.

 [www.louisiana.edu/scholarships](http://www.louisiana.edu/scholarships)

 [www.service-louisiana.com](http://www.service-louisiana.com)

## UNIVERSITY PREPARES TO UNVEIL APPS

UL LAFAYETTE PLANS to launch a mobile application for iPhone® and Android® smartphones. The app will enable mobile users to access information and features such as Ragin' Cajun® sports scores and schedules, a campus map, phone directory and events calendar.

David Lynch, an instructor in the College of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, initiated the project. He said he expects the app to be ready in time for the Fall 2011 semester. Classes begin Aug. 22.

"We are on two development tracks," Lynch explained. The university has purchased a commercial application that will be customized for UL Lafayette and used for a year or two.

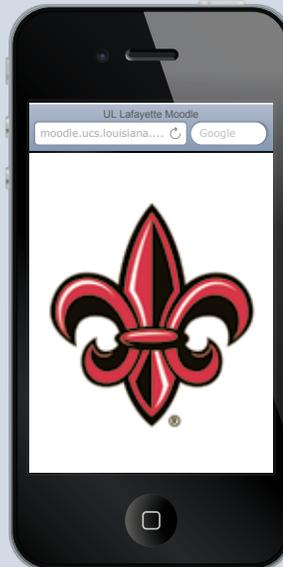
Meanwhile, George Kalangi, a computer science graduate student, is creating an app designed exclusively for UL Lafayette.

The prepackaged program costs \$15,000 per year. It includes the app and a website that will carry the same information for users of other platforms, such as Windows® and Blackberry®.

Lynch wrote and received a Student Technology Enhancement Grant from the Student Government Association that will pay for the first year's use with student self-assessed fees.

Lynch said the commercial app includes many useful features, "but it doesn't give us everything we want."

For example, it will include UL Lafayette's fight song. "We would also like to add our cheers but the



software isn't designed to do that. By creating our own app, we'll have more flexibility."

So, Kalangi, who is pursuing a master's degree, is creating the in-house app.

He began working on it in November 2010, when he took an iPhone programming course with Frank Ducrest, a UL Lafayette computer science instructor. He continued his work during the Spring 2011 semester in an independent study course taught by Ducrest.

Kalangi is also working with Lynch to customize the commercial software.

## Marching Band Will Queue Up for Macy's Parade in 2012

UL LAFAYETTE'S PRIDE of Acadiana Marching Band will return to New York City in November, 2012 to share some

Ragin' Cajun® spirit at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®, which features bands, floats and colossal balloons. It is

one of 11 marching ensembles chosen out of more than 150 bands from high schools and universities nationwide. The band marched in the parade in 2005.

"Our students always work very hard and this selection is recognition of the dedication they bring to each performance," said band director Dr. Brian Taylor.

"The Macy's parade is deeply connected to American culture. Almost every household watches the parade on Thanksgiving Day." The Pride of Acadiana marching band is scheduled to perform in the 86th annual parade.

The Macy's parade is the second-most watched television event in the United States, after the Super Bowl. An estimated 3.5 million spectators line the two-mile route, while more than 50 million viewers watch on television.

The Pride of Acadiana Marching Band has about 200 members. It performs at all UL Lafayette home football games.

The band has also appeared during the New Orleans' Saints halftime shows and has traveled overseas for performances in England, Scotland and Spain.



Under falling confetti, Wesley Whatley of Macy's, second from right, and Dr. Brian Taylor, UL Lafayette's band director, announce the return of the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. From left: Gordon Brooks, dean of UL Lafayette's College of the Arts; Dr. Garth Alper, director of UL Lafayette's School of Music and Performing Arts; Ken Ardoin, Vice President for University Advancement; UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie; and Sara Flores of Macy's.

 <http://www.ulbands.com>

## DOCUMENTARY EXAMINES LOUISIANA'S STRONG BOND WITH HORSES

EVERY OCTOBER at the Louisiana Cotton Festival in Ville Platte, La., men on horseback, dressed as medieval knights, engage in symbolic battle.

At Le Tournoi de la Ville Platte, the riders go at a gallop, carrying five-foot lances. They attempt to capture seven iron rings that represent the enemies of cotton, ancient and modern. So the horsemen take aim against the boll weevil and the boll-

worm, flood and drought. They also challenge nylon, rayon and silk.

UL Lafayette filmmaker and folklorist Conni Castille interviewed Tournoi participants for *Horse Play*, a radio documentary that explores connections between horses and southwest Louisiana culture. The hour-long broadcast includes interviews, as well as Cajun, Creole and zydeco music about horses. The free podcast is



Folklorist Conni Castille interviews Cajun jockey Calvin Borel at Evangeline Downs racetrack in Opelousas, La., while cinematographer Brian C. Miller records their conversation on camera.

She interviewed acclaimed jockey Calvin Borel. Like many notable Cajun jockeys, he got his start in Acadiana, riding on bush tracks, unsanctioned rural racetracks. He has won the Kentucky Derby three times: in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

Castille is working on a video version of *Horse Play* that

is partially funded by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. She is asking for some help.

“We’re seeking home movies and photos from bush tracks — the older, the better,” she said. The items will be copied digitally and returned to their owners. For more information, contact Castille at (337) 227-5292.

 <http://www.krvs.org>

## Efficient Design



Le Bois House, designed by a UL Lafayette faculty member, is one of the most energy efficient homes in the world. Utility bills for the 1,200-square-foot house cost about \$25 a year. Corey Saft, an associate professor of architecture and design, built it to meet the energy-efficiency standards of Germany’s PassivHaus Institute. The Lafayette residence was the first of only 10 in the United States to be certified as a Passive House.

## UNIVERSITY ADDS VERSATILE ACADEMIC DEGREE

A NEW DEGREE program gives UL Lafayette graduates lots of choices. Those who earn a bachelor’s degree in moving image arts may work in film, television, animation or advertising. They may create video games or educational media. They could also work for the military, which utilizes moving image media.

“There are many industries and businesses that have a need for talented, capable artists,” said Charles E. Richard, an associate professor of English and the program’s director.

More than 40 students are enrolled as Moving Image Arts majors at UL Lafayette.

Richard said the degree was created to help meet workforce demands of Louisiana’s growing entertainment industry.

The Bayou State ranks third, behind California and New York, in

domestic film production, according to Louisiana’s Office of Entertainment Industry Development.

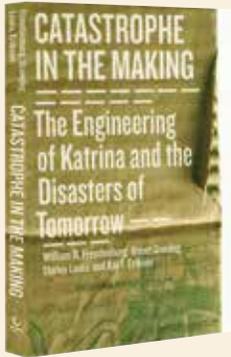
The interdisciplinary program is the only one of its kind in the state. It includes the study of the production and uses of moving imagery in creative communication and artistic expression.

Students will enroll in courses in various departments, such as *Single Camera Production* and *Editing* in Communication, *Screenwriting* in English and *Introduction to Animation* in Visual Arts, as well as several business courses.

The new degree was created with existing courses, faculty and equipment. So, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette did not incur any new costs by implementing it.

For more information, contact Richard at [cerichard@louisiana.edu](mailto:cerichard@louisiana.edu) or visit Moving Image Arts on Facebook.

## CATASTROPHE IN THE MAKING: THE ENGINEERING OF KATRINA AND THE DISASTERS OF TOMORROW



Robert Gramling and other authors  
Island Press

Although Hurricane Katrina is widely regarded as one of the nation's worst natural disasters, the authors of *Catastrophe in the Making: The Engineering of Katrina and the Disasters of Tomorrow* argue the storm's devastating effects were caused not by nature but by man.

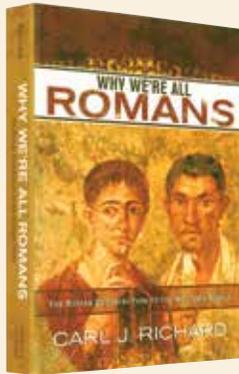
The book examines a chief cause of flooding in New Orleans: the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet. The shipping channel, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, opened in 1963. It was a shortcut from the Port of New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico.

The channel introduced saltwater into the region, destroying marshes and swamps that had provided protection from hurricane winds and storm surge. During Katrina's landfall, the MRGO became a funnel that directed water into the city.

"We, as a society, made ourselves vulnerable," said Dr. Robert Gramling, a co-author. He is a professor of sociology and anthropology and director of UL Lafayette's Center for Socioeconomic Research.

Co-authors are Dr. William R. Freudenburg, professor of environmental studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Dr. Shirley Laska, a professor of sociology at the University of New Orleans; and Dr. Kai T. Erikson, professor emeritus of sociology and American studies at Yale University.

## WHY WE'RE ALL ROMANS: THE ROMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN WORLD



Carl J. Richard  
Rowman and Littlefield  
Publishers Inc.

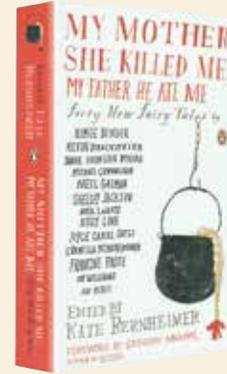
In his sixth book, *Why We're All Romans: The Roman Contribution to the Western World*, Dr. Carl J. Richard explores the intellectual inheritance passed down from the ancient world to Western civilization. He is a UL Lafayette history professor.

"The pragmatic Romans brought Greek and Hebrew ideas down to earth, modified them, and transmitted them throughout Western Europe. Without Roman conquest, these ideas probably would not have gained a hearing in most of the West," writes Richard in the book's preface.

Dr. E. Christian Kopff, director of the Center for Western Civilization at the University of Colorado, Boulder, described Richard and his work this way:

"In *Why We're All Romans*, America's premier intellectual historian surveys the culture of the ancient Mediterranean with scholarly acumen and humane wit. Whether discussing Roman law, architecture, history or 'the Romanization of Christianity,' Carl Richard's well-written and informed account is an excellent introduction to the ancient culture that shaped the United States and is still important for American freedom and creativity."

## MY MOTHER SHE KILLED ME, MY FATHER HE ATE ME: FORTY NEW FAIRY TALES



Edited by Kate Bernheimer  
Penguin Books

Kate Bernheimer, UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence and an associate professor of English, pays homage to the fairy tale as literature with a collection of contemporary stories.

Neil Gaiman, Michael Cunningham, Aimee Bender, Joyce Carol Oates and the late John Updike are among contributors to *My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me: Forty New Fairy Tales*. Gregory Maguire penned the foreword. He is the author of *Wicked*, the book that was reinvented as a hit Broadway play in 2007.

Although the fairy tale is among the oldest of genres, it has been trivialized and even rejected as "serious literature," Bernheimer notes in the book's introduction.

"I realized how essential this volume was, for it would gather all kinds of literary writers in the service of fairy tales. I realized that while people may know and love — or love to hate — these stories, they really are not aware of the many ways they pervade contemporary literature."

Bernheimer is founder and editor of a literary journal, *Fairy Tale Review*. She is editor of two other fairy tale anthologies and the author of several books. Her story collection, *Horse, Flower, Bird*, was published in September 2010 by Coffee House Press.

## Engineered for Television

Students, assistant professor make Discovery Channel appearance



Above: This Egyptian-inspired concrete obelisk was one of seven models UL Lafayette created for the Discovery Channel. Right: Students gather around a model of the Roman Pantheon. From left, back row: Kalan Couvillion, Craig Girouard. Second row, seated: Joseph Easley, Toby Landreneau, Dr. Chris Carroll, Reed Boudreaux. Front row: Rachel Fradella, Heath Michel and Garrett Noel.

**A** TEAM OF UL Lafayette students delved into some of the mysteries of ancient engineering while getting some face time on the Discovery Channel.

Eleven students helped Dr. Chris Carroll, a UL Lafayette assistant professor of civil engineering. They built models of Roman and Egyptian structures, then used the models to demonstrate engineering principles. Carroll and the students appeared on the two-episode series, *Engineering the Impossible: Rome and Egypt*.

Atlantic Productions, a London-based company that produced the series, contacted Carroll because it was already familiar with him. He had worked with Atlantic in 2007 when he was earning a doctorate at Virginia Tech. He appeared on *Lost Worlds: Secret U.S. Bunkers*, which aired on The History Channel.

Carroll designed seven models for the Discovery Channel. Three were inspired

by Egyptian architecture: a pyramid, an earthen ramp and an obelisk. Four were Roman: an arch; an aqueduct; a people-powered crane; and a version of the Pantheon, a first century temple.

Roman builders made concrete from rocks, lime and volcanic ash. The UL Lafayette team used modern-day concrete to build most of their models.

Carroll relied on student Tim Rhinehart to build wooden forms to create some of the projects' challenging components, such as curved elements of the Pantheon

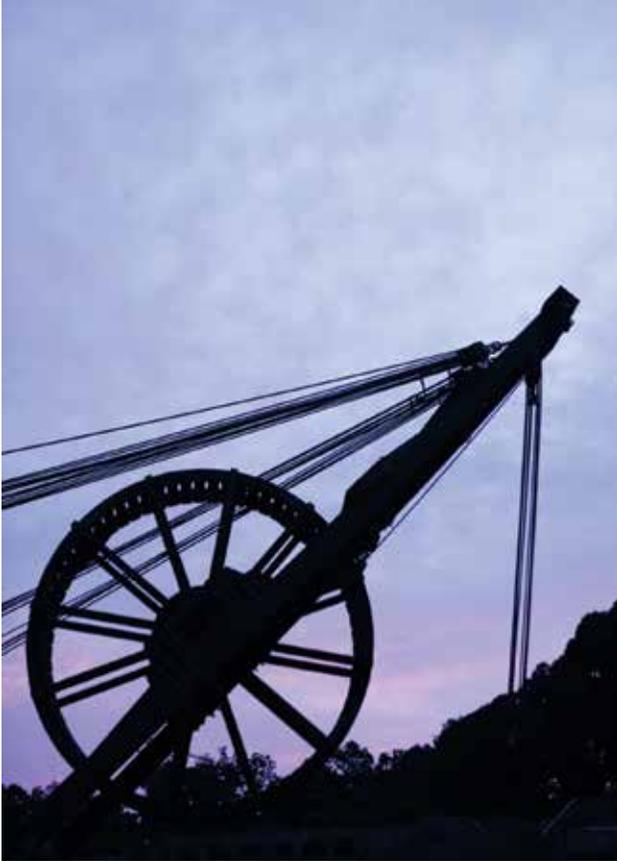
and aqueduct. Forms are used to hold poured concrete in place until it has dried. Rhinehart, a senior majoring in nursing, has considerable carpentry experience.

The other students were undergraduates studying civil engineering. Chris Giglio, Harrison Hymel, Toby Landreneau and Heath Michel graduated in December; Hymel is pursuing his master's degree in civil engineering at UL Lafayette. Kalan Couvillion and Joseph Easley graduated in May. Reed Boudreaux, Craig Girouard and Garrett Noel are seniors; Rachel Fradella is a junior majoring in civil engineering.

"I knew it would be a lot of work. I also knew it would be a great opportunity for them," Carroll said in a recent interview.

He and his team built six of the seven models in about three weeks at UL Lafayette's Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology, a research center near Carencro, La.





DOUG DUGAS

Bottom left: Assistant Professor of Engineering Dr. Chris Carroll gives an on-camera explanation of how an aqueduct works. Left: Coastal Timbers built this reproduction of a Roman crane. Above: Student Chris Giglio walks inside the crane's treadmill to lift concrete blocks.



DOUG DUGAS

"I didn't have time to create detailed drawings of each model. I taught the students a lot of things on the fly, in the field, sketching out ideas and making adjustments as we went along," said Carroll.

The seventh model, a 32-foot-tall crane, was built by Coastal Timbers, a construction firm in New Iberia, La. The treadmill crane is a smaller version of those used to create structures such as the Roman Coliseum. Its treadmill is like a hamster wheel but large enough to accommodate three people. As the occupants walk or run inside, the wheel turns, winding a rope around its axle to lift a load.

Three students, Fradella, Hymel and Giglio, demonstrated the crane's lifting power for the Discovery Channel cameras. "Running inside the wheel, I picked up 1,200 pounds by myself," Fradella said.

Hymel joined her to lift 4,000 pounds — two tons. When Giglio climbed in, the trio lifted 5,200 pounds of stone about four feet off the ground.

Carroll said the aqueduct model was the most fun to build.

Rome's aqueducts were miles long and carried water from various sources into the city. UL Lafayette's version was 70 feet long and fed by a water hose — but it was constructed using an ancient design.

Carroll said people often associate the aqueducts with above-ground arcades, which are bridges supported by arches. However, much of the Roman water system was underground. The UL Lafayette team recreated the subterranean sections with buried PVC pipe.

The Romans employed five building techniques in their water system. Covered trenches were used when the slope of the land allowed water to flow; tunnels carried water through mountains.

To carry water through valleys, Roman engineers used pressurized pipes. The pipes drew water down one side of the valley and up the other by the pressure of the water flowing in the downward pipe. Elevated portions consisted of walls and arcades.

"We used all five components in our aqueduct," Carroll said.

The team's most challenging project was the Pantheon. There was a lot of geometry involved in producing the model, which was 8 feet tall, or about one-eighteenth the size of the original.

Rome's Pantheon is an engineering marvel. The circular structure boasts the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome, which spans more than 140 feet. Its walls, about 20 feet thick, include imbedded arches that increase their supporting strength.

The Pantheon's oculus, a round opening at the top of the dome, is 27 feet in diameter. Structurally, it serves as a compression ring, helping the dome hold its shape. It is also the building's only light source.

"Our dome was unreinforced, just like the original Pantheon's," said Carroll.

The dome was created with a series of concrete rings that decreased in diameter and thickness from base to crown. "To create the final portion of the dome, we packed the concrete by hand up to the compression ring," he explained.

Carroll and the students created three Egyptian models: a 14-foot-tall obelisk and a 8-foot-tall pyramid, both made from concrete; and a ramp 50 feet long and 8 feet high.

The ramp was used to demonstrate how workers might have built the pyramids. No one knows for certain how the pyramids were constructed. One hypothesis is that the pyramids' massive stones were carved from nearby quarries, delivered to the construction site, then lifted into place by dragging them up a ramp.

The UL Lafayette team tested that method. It built the ramp with 13 dump-truck loads of clay and covered it with concrete. It also cast a 4,000-pound concrete block to represent a sandstone block found in an Egyptian pyramid.

"The students attempted to pull it up the ramp but it only moved a few feet," Carroll said.

He described his students' work ethic as "amazing."

"They saw the project through from start to finish. It's something they'll always be able to look back on with personal pride.

"And it's also a pretty cool thing to have on their résumés." ■

## Public Servants

Internship program gives students rare chance to work with lawmakers

**S** EVEN UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS spent their summer at the Louisiana State Capitol, gaining an insider's perspective. The Future Leaders Internship Program, which pairs students with state representatives and senators from Acadiana, is the first of its kind in the state.

Dr. Ryan Teten, an assistant professor of political science, launched the program in 2010. Students of all majors and classifications may apply.

Keely McGiboney, a senior majoring in political science, conducted her second internship in the capitol. Last year, she was an intern for District 46 Rep. Fred Mills, a Democrat. Mills is now a state senator for District 22. McGiboney worked for him again, along with Rep. Bernard LeBas, the Democratic legislator for District 38.

McGiboney said interns have a more in-depth experience than legislative pages, who are typically high school students.

"The pages help to keep the gears turning. They perform tasks for the legislators, such as making and distributing copies for them, or getting them food if they haven't had time to eat. They distribute mail and promotional items and deliver messages throughout the building.

"As interns, we are more deeply involved in the legislative process, working with legislators, attending committee meetings and tracking bills."

Teten said the students are learning lessons that cannot be taught in the classroom. "They essentially become support staff for legislators," he said.

The students commute from campus four or five days a week, working 28 hours a week. They conduct research, follow bills in committee sessions, and in some cases, draft speeches for lawmakers and letters to constituents.

Six other students participated this year: Helen Umstead, a graduate student pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership; Caitlin Atkinson, a sophomore studying political science; Erin Marrero-Savoie, a senior majoring in account-

7th Congressional District, which includes the southwest portion of the state.

Hollier, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science in May, was an intern for Boustany during the Fall 2010 semester. Richard, a senior studying political science, worked for him this spring. Richard said his experiences in Louisiana helped prepare him for Capitol Hill, where he interacted with members of Congress and their staff.

"Working on the Hill was a very different experience from working in Baton Rouge, especially in light of the budget issues and near government shutdowns. The experience was one of tremendous education and insight," he said.

Six additional students were interns last year. Three graduated in May: Joshua Carver earned a master's degree in music theory and composition; C. Gabriel Senette received a master's degree in counseling education; and Satchel "Dax" Broussard earned a bachelor's degree in political science.

Imani Guillory is a senior studying political science; Jayme Liles is a junior majoring

in sociology.

Angelle Pearce is pursuing a master's degree in public relations. She served as Teten's assistant in 2010, coordinating students' schedules and monitoring their progress. She also interviewed and observed lawmakers for her thesis, which examines how female legislators communicate.

Pearce said the experience affirmed her decision to run for office.

"I definitely want to go into public service at some point in my life," she said. ■



Courtney Hollier, right, confers with state Rep. Nancy Landry on the floor of the Louisiana House of Representatives during the 2010 regular session.

ing; Quincy Mouton, a senior political science major; Cranay Murphy, a junior studying English; and Tracy Protti, a sophomore psychology major.

Each student kept a daily journal of activities and followed a specific bill through the legislative process. Each was required to write a 10-page paper about the bill's outcome.

Courtney Hollier and Scott Richard participated in 2010 and gained additional experience in Washington, D.C. working for U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany. The Republican represents Louisiana's

BLANE FAUL

## STUDENTS FIND RAGIN' CAJUN SOUL

NEW UL LAFAYETTE FRESHMEN have an opportunity to find out what it's like to be a Ragin' Cajun® — before they ever enter a UL Lafayette classroom.

The Office of Orientation has created a four-day introduction to university culture with Soul Camp, an orientation and transition program.

"Soul Camp promotes the principles of service, outreach, unity and leadership. It's designed to invite new students into the UL Lafayette family and give them a strong foundation for academic and social success by getting them connected to the university," said Paul Eaton, UL Lafayette's director of Orientation.

This year's camp was held Aug. 11-14; 168 students signed up. Last August, 144 new students attended the first-ever Soul Camp.

Students spend the first day on campus and stay overnight in residence halls. They spend the next three days at Tall Timbers Campground near Alexandria, La.

The campers are divided into groups of 12, called krewes. Each krewie is led by

two student mentors.

"There are fun activities where students learn the fight song and make up their own cheers, so they can really get into the Ragin' Cajun spirit. And there are also activities that help them learn time management skills, how to set goals, how to develop their leadership skills," Eaton added.

Javier Dunn attended Soul Camp last fall. He is studying electrical and computer engineering at UL Lafayette.

"I had heard about Soul Camp but when I found out that we'd be doing community service work, I was definitely interested," said Dunn. During high school, he gave 1,200 volunteer hours to the Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation, a youth development program in Baton Rouge.

Dunn and his fellow UL Lafayette students helped spruce up the grounds of four Lafayette Parish schools. Soul Camp



LAUREN LANDRY-SARVER



staff and 30 UL Lafayette faculty members also volunteered. Eaton said the

students get to meet some of the faculty in an informal setting, so they'll already know them when they arrive on campus.

"We want them to feel connected to UL Lafayette from the very start, because students who are engaged in campus life are better students," said Eaton.

"We want them to know there is a network of people who will help them succeed."

 <http://ulorientation.com/soul-camp>

## Police Presence Expands Off Campus

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICERS and officers from the Lafayette Police Department are working together to increase patrols where students live and socialize.

The UL Lafayette Student Government Association purchased a sport utility vehicle for the City and University Safety Program, which began in May.

Two officers, one from each agency, patrol the McKinley Street area, which is adjacent to campus; downtown Lafayette; and some off-campus apartment complexes that house students. About 11 percent of UL Lafayette students live on campus.

"The CUSP unit will provide patrols, specialized operations, crime prevention presentations and intelligence-gathering activities, all in an effort to create a safer environment for students," said Joey Sturm, UL Lafayette police chief. "It's an opportunity for us to extend our services to our students who live near but not on campus."

Chris Groh, the outgoing SGA president, said a group of students have been meeting with officers from both departments.

"The group's purpose is to work with the University Police and Lafayette Police to make them aware of certain areas that are of concern to students," said Groh. The student group will provide feedback to help develop future safety programs.



MATT TARVER

UL Lafayette's Student Government Association provided a police cruiser to help ensure student safety off campus.

UL Lafayette's CUSP initiative is modeled after a similar partnership between Ohio State University and the Columbus Police Department.

## GREEKS SERVE UNDER ONE ROOF

UL LAFAYETTE GREEKS built a home for Carolyn Batiste, a former university employee, this spring. Batiste retired in 2008 after working for 30 years as a custodian.

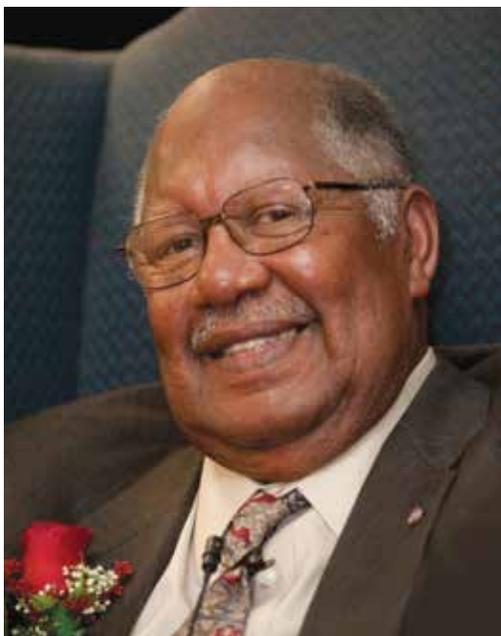
Three hundred students from UL Lafayette's nine sororities and 12 fraternities volunteered more than 1,300 hours to construct the Habitat for Humanity home in Lafayette.

"Greek organizations emphasize community service — and more students are choosing to serve as Greeks," said Associate Dean of Students Dana Bekurs.

Over the past six years, the number of students who have joined fraternities and sororities has increased 52 percent.

In 2010, UL Lafayette Greek organizations donated more than 23,000 service hours and raised more than \$127,000 for charities.

 [www.ulgrieks.com](http://www.ulgrieks.com)



# A LITERARY LEGACY

by SARAH SPELL

Photography by CATHERINE GUIDRY

Handmade stained-glass panels frame the entrance to the Ernest J. Gaines Center on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library. The images in the glass reflect the landscape of Gaines' childhood: oak trees and butterflies, cane fields and bayous.

"The world I write about no longer exists. So, if people want to know something about that world, they may find what they're looking for here. They can learn what it was like — the land, the music, the food. And the people — their love, their hatred, their prejudices," Gaines told *La Louisiane*.

The center holds the only complete collection of the author's papers and manuscripts.

Dr. Marcia Gaudet is the center's part-time director. She is also the Dr. Doris Meriwether/Board of Regents Support Fund professor of English and a Research Fellow for UL Lafayette's Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism.





Scholars review translations of *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Long Day in November* in the Ernest J. Gaines Center. Clockwise, from left, are: Amanda LaRoche and Jessica Reeves, UL Lafayette English doctoral students; Dr. Marcia Gaudet, director of the center; alumnus C. Gabriel Senette; and Jordan Precht, a senior majoring in management.

“Very few universities have complete collections of any writer’s work,” Gaudet said. “Usually, that’s because they may not pursue such a collection until after the writer passes away. If items aren’t collected early, they end up being dispersed. In giving the university the gift of his papers, Ernest Gaines made a commitment to extend his legacy here.”

Gaines served as writer-in-residence and taught at the university from 1983 until 2005, when he was named writer-in-residence emeritus. In 2007, he and his wife, Dianne Saulney Gaines, donated his papers to UL Lafayette. The university agreed to preserve the collection, to make it available to scholars and to present programming about the author’s work through the center, which opened Oct. 31, 2010.



‘THE WORLD I WRITE ABOUT NO LONGER EXISTS. SO, IF PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WORLD, THEY MAY FIND WHAT THEY’RE LOOKING FOR HERE.’

— ERNEST J. GAINES

In June, the university hired archivist Derek Mosley to manage the collection. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Morehouse College and earned a master’s degree in science with a concentration in archive management from Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The 3,000-square-foot center includes reading areas, office space and a conference room. There is an archive room dedicated to Gaines’ notes, manuscripts and correspondence. The collection includes secondary materials, such as scholarly articles and doctoral dissertations about Gaines’ writing.

The collection also features audio and video recordings of interviews with Gaines. The center shares a viewing and listening room with UL Lafayette’s Cajun and Creole Music Collection.

All of Gaines’ original drafts are written in longhand. “I have to feel the words. There’s a connection — from the brain and the heart — to the words on the page,” he said.

After completing handwritten drafts, Gaines typed his manuscripts. The center’s collection includes the ink pens Gaines used to write *Of Love and Dust* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. It includes



a small table and chair, and the manual Royal typewriter he used to transcribe *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. Gaines also used the table as an ironing board. It bears evidence of its domestic role — a burn mark from the iron.

These days, his drafts evolve from the pen to the computer. “Even if I’m writing a simple letter to a friend or relative, I always begin in longhand,” he said.

Gaines’ work is beloved by readers and admired by literary critics.

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey encouraged her fans to read *A Lesson Before Dying* by selecting it for her book club. The work was also chosen by the National Endowment of the Arts for its Big Read initiative, alongside titles such as *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and *The*

*Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

Gaines has earned Guggenheim and MacArthur fellowships and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for his 1971 novel, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. He was nominated again for *A Lesson Before Dying*, which earned him a 1993 National Book Critics Circle Award.

In 2000, former President Bill Clinton awarded Gaines the National Humanities Medal.

In 2004, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature for his body of work.

Gaines’ writing is widely taught in high schools and universities in the United States and abroad. His books have been translated into 17 languages.

Dr. Rudolph Byrd, a professor of American studies at Emory University, is writing a biography of Gaines. “His story possesses elements of the great American story of self-invention, perseverance, nobility, success, and a deep connection to a region and history. He has enriched, transformed and elevated our national literature,” Byrd said.

Gaines was born in 1933 on River Lake Plantation in rural Pointe Coupee Parish, west of Baton Rouge, La., where his ancestors had been slaves. After emancipation, family members became sharecroppers.

When Gaines was 8, his father left the plantation to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. Gaines’ parents later separated and divorced and his mother remarried. Four years later, his mother and stepfather moved to California to find work.

Gaines and his siblings were reared by his aunt, Augusteen Jefferson, who would become the model for many of Gaines’

noble, strong-willed characters, including Miss Jane Pittman.

Although his aunt was unable to walk, she cared for the children, maintained the house and even worked in the family's vegetable garden.

In an interview, Gaines told CNN: "I never heard her complain a day. And I felt, 'If she can do it, then there's no reason in the world why I should complain about anything,'" he said.

Gaines' education was limited. School was held only five months of the year, when members of the community — including school children — weren't planting and harvesting. On weekdays, the plantation's church served as a one-room schoolhouse where a visiting teacher offered grades one through six. Gaines completed sixth grade, then attended a segregated Catholic school for two years in nearby New Roads, La.

When he was 15, he joined his mother and stepfather in Vallejo, Calif. It was there that he first entered a library.

Gaines was drawn to "any book with a dirt road or a river or a tree on its cover — or any book with one of those three things in the title." His selections led him to discover Russian literature.

"I was from the country and I would read any book that spoke of nature or peasants or serfs or fields. I liked the way the Russians described those things. They reminded me of my Louisiana past of working in the fields and hunting in the woods."

The teenager discovered writers such as Anton Chekhov, Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Turgenev and Leo Tolstoy. But he still could not find stories of his people, of his Louisiana. He began writing to fill the literary void.

"I learned to write by reading Homer and Shakespeare, Tolstoy and Turgenev, Faulkner and Joyce — and many others," he said.

Gaines taught writing for more than two decades. His admonition to his students: "Read, read, read. And write, write, write."



## THE WORKS OF ERNEST J. GAINES

*Catherine Carmier* (1964)

*Of Love and Dust* (1967)

*Bloodline* (1968)

*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1971)

*A Long Day in November* (1971)

*In My Father's House* (1978)

*A Gathering of Old Men* (1983)

*A Lesson Before Dying* (1993)

*Mozart and Leadbelly: Stories and Essays* (2005)

Gaines' first novel, *Catherine Carmier*, was published in 1964. In the decades to follow, he adopted a pattern: visiting Louisiana to immerse himself in its landscape and cultures and returning to California to write.

"All of my books were written in San Francisco but I could not have written them without coming back. I was constantly coming back to Louisiana — back and back and back.

"I had to walk the fields, go into the swamp, go along the bayous and the river. I had to be with the people who were here — my family, my friends," he said.

Six years ago, Gaines returned home to stay. He and his wife bought land near the plantation where he grew up — land that includes the cemetery where his ancestors are buried, many in unmarked graves. For years, he feared that sugar cane farming would encroach on the burial ground and the family graves would be plowed under.

Maintaining the cemetery has become his life's work. But he hasn't given up writing entirely.

"I don't write as much as I should," Gaines lamented. "Writing for me means writing five hours a day, five days a week and I'm working maybe one or two hours a week. I don't feel as though I'm writing. Perhaps I'm just jotting things down.

"There will never be a better love story than *Romeo and Juliet*, no better war story than *War and Peace* and no better adventure than *The Odyssey*. But there are still love stories going on. And mysteries. And adventures.

"So, we have to keep writing. We have to write about our time because no one else can do that for us.

"We write to say, 'We were here.'" ■

 <http://library.louisiana.edu/Gaines/>

Artist Karen Gonsoulin Bourque, a 1968 UL Lafayette alumna, created the stained glass at the entrance to the center. Its images depict the landscape where Gaines grew up in rural Louisiana.





# Building Community

BY SARAH SPELL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG DUGAS

*A Ragin' Cajun building boom is under way across campus – construction and renovation projects totaling more than \$130 million. The improvements are complex, choreographed and crucial – part of a master plan to help the university achieve its mission: transforming lives through education and service.*



COURTESY OF ARCHITECTS SOUTHWEST

A VIDEO CAMERA, TRAINED ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF UL LAFAYETTE'S NEWEST STUDENT residence, streams a live feed 24 hours a day. Baker Hall has gone up so quickly that the online images could almost be mistaken for time-lapse photography.

Seven days a week, 75 to 150 workers have pulled 12-hour shifts to make sure the building will be finished on time. The goal is to have students settled into their new digs by Aug. 22, the first day of class for the Fall 2011 semester. An adjacent six-level parking tower should be completed by then, too.

The urgency to finish construction of those buildings is fueled by more than an unforgiving academic calendar. UL Lafayette has launched an aggressive, multi-faceted campus improvement campaign intended to enhance students' college experience and ultimately help boost the university's graduation rate.

By the summer of 2012, four new residence halls will have been built on campus. Student Health Services will have been relocated to the renovated O.K. Allen Hall, along with the Counseling and Testing Center. Some research and recreation facilities will have been expanded and improved. By 2014, the Student Union will have been remodeled and enlarged.

These campus changes will require the demolition of nine buildings and the restoration and renovation of five others.

By the time the last construction worker leaves, the UL Lafayette campus will be a vibrant place — where more students live *and* learn.



Smith and Benoit have been friends since 2004, when they both lived on campus. Both are from small towns in south Louisiana.

“Lafayette was a big city compared to the places we grew up. And it was the first time either of us had lived away from home for an extended period of time,” said Smith. They were among the last group of students to live in Bancroft Hall, which closed after the Spring 2005 semester, along with its twin next door, Denbo Hall. The buildings opened as women’s dormitories in 1968.

After Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005, Bancroft became the temporary home base for medical personnel who assisted hurricane victims throughout south Louisiana.

Smith recalled that Bancroft was in poor condition — but that didn’t matter much to him because of the camaraderie he found there. “There were eight dorm rooms along our hallway. And all eight of us would leave our doors open if we were home.

If a door was closed, it meant someone was probably taking a nap. But when we got home from class, it was like an eight-bedroom apartment. All the doors were open, and if we wanted to talk to someone else, we just hollered down the hall. I was in other people’s rooms as often as my own — hanging out, watching TV and playing video games.”

The new residence halls are designed to foster the kind of student experiences Benoit and Smith thrived on.

*continued on page 27*

Top left: Justin Benoit, left, and Kyle Smith were among the last residents of Bancroft Hall, which was closed in 2005. They say living on campus made college life more fulfilling. Below: Two new residence halls will be built in the Rose Garden housing complex, along Boucher Street. Previous pages: UL Lafayette’s Pride of Acadiana Marching Band will drill on its practice field alongside new construction this fall. Two residence halls and a six-level parking tower are being built on Taft Street between Tulane Street and St. Mary Boulevard.

## OLD FRIENDS, NEW VISION

**J**ustin Benoit, a UL Lafayette senior, and Kyle Smith, a university staff member, are especially interested in the housing project.

Benoit, a senior majoring in criminal justice and political science, has lived on campus since he began taking classes in 2004. He’s a resident assistant at Legacy Park, the university’s apartment-style student housing complex on Lewis Street. He’s also president of the Residence Hall Association, which represents students living on campus.

Smith is community director for Legacy Park, where he supervises staff and develops programming for student activities and student community development. After earning a UL Lafayette bachelor’s degree in psychology, Smith completed an intensive one-year program at Southern Mississippi University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in counseling and personnel services with a concentration in college student personnel.



COURTESY OF ARCHITECTS SOUTHWEST

# Master Planner

Architect Steve Oubre designed the Village of River Ranch, a residential and commercial community of more than 2,500 people in Lafayette. Now, he is working to create a campus community where people live, work and learn.

“The objective is to create a beautiful campus built around the dynamics of a full campus life,” he said.

A native of Loreauville, La., Oubre earned his bachelor’s degree in architecture from USL in 1976. He is a principal of Architects Southwest, a Lafayette firm.

Oubre and his staff are practitioners of New Urbanism. The design philosophy emphasizes pedestrians over vehicles, so that the places where people live, work, shop and socialize are all within walking distance. Oubre studied with the movement’s founder, architect Andrés Duany, who created the community of Seaside, Fla.

Oubre and his team are working on three UL Lafayette projects: new residence halls, an expanded Student Union and a campus master plan.

“We are examining the needs of the university today and what its needs may be 10 years from now. Essentially, we’re designing a campus village,” he said.

Oubre is considering roughly 700 acres that comprise the main campus and University Common, which includes research and sports facilities along Cajundome Boulevard between Johnston Street and Eraste Landry Road.

He has enlisted experts to study transportation, including traffic engineers, parking consultants, and specialists in pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

This fall, he will lead a series of charrettes, public planning sessions, to get input from those on campus and other



Steve Oubre

community members. As the project proceeds, he will create a form-based code for buildings, streets and landscaping.

“Instead of a two-dimensional view, a form-based code creates a three-dimensional presentation. So, we can forecast what it will feel like to be in an environment once it’s actually built,” he explained.

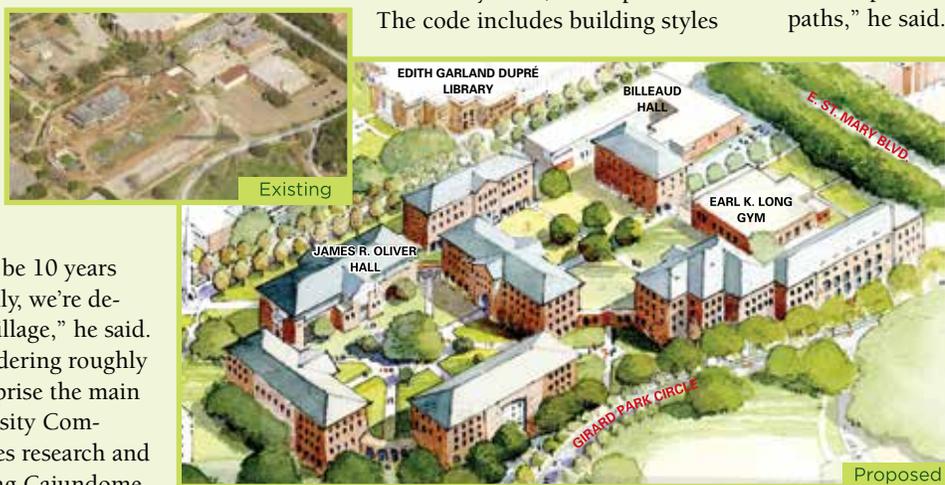
The code includes building styles

Government approved the purchase of the property in April. Officials plan to transform the open land into a public park with walking trails, bike paths, gardens and green space.

“We’re also looking at how downtown Lafayette can be better connected to the campus with pedestrian and bicycle paths,” he said.

Planners are also exploring ideas about how the property formerly occupied by Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center could complement the university master plan. The hospital complex on St. Landry Street, just blocks from the main UL Lafayette campus, is vacant. The hospital moved to a new building on Ambassador Cafery Parkway near Verot School Road in June.

“As we extend the form-based code to the edges of the campus, we’ll create a more exciting urban realm,” said Oubre. “This will move us away from a suburban model — one that’s somewhat disconnected — to an urban model that helps maintain connection and community.” ■



Plans for the UL Lafayette campus could include new buildings along Girard Park Circle near St. Mary Boulevard.

and placement, materials and colors, and detailed specifications for landscaping.

Meanwhile, the City of Lafayette is also creating a master plan. The university’s plan will complement the city’s development, said Oubre.

# Student Union Poised For Upgrade

When UL Lafayette's Student Union opened in 1971, Watergate was just another hotel. U.S. troops were stationed in Vietnam, not Afghanistan. And it was Cher, not Lady Gaga, who held audiences in thrall.

In 2011, university officials are preparing to give the building a 21st century makeover.

Architect and alumnus Steve Oubre said the renovated and expanded Student Union will become the centerpiece of a campus village. The project is part of a master development plan he is creating for the university. (See related story on page 25.)

The 1976 architecture graduate has gained a reputation as a proponent and practitioner of a design philosophy called New Urbanism. He applied its principles when he designed the Village of River Ranch, a thriving traditional neighborhood development in Lafayette. And he's using them again to help improve the UL Lafayette campus.

"The Student Union will become the equivalent of a town center, with restaurants, a post office, university administrative offices and wellness components," said Oubre.

The redesigned building will face McKinley Street, which Oubre predicts will become "the ceremonial main street" of the campus community.

UL Lafayette students are paying for the \$40 million project. They established self-as-



COURTESY OF ARCHITECTS SOUTHWEST

The entrance to UL Lafayette's new Student Union will face McKinley Street. The building's design incorporates familiar elements, including red bricks and arches.

sessed fees in 2003 to prepare for the upgrade.

Three areas will be renovated: the university bookstore, ballroom and Bayou Bijou theater. The rest will be demolished, redesigned and rebuilt.

The rear of the Student Union will overlook Cypress Lake.

"The lake is one of the most beautiful spaces on campus," said Oubre. To take advantage of the site, the building will be pulled closer to McKinley Street to make room for a lakeside plaza.

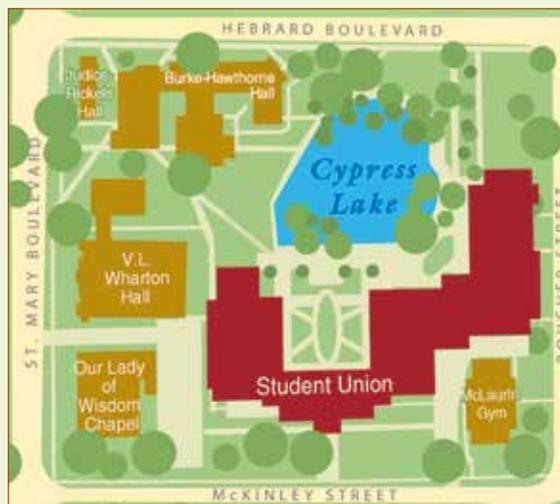
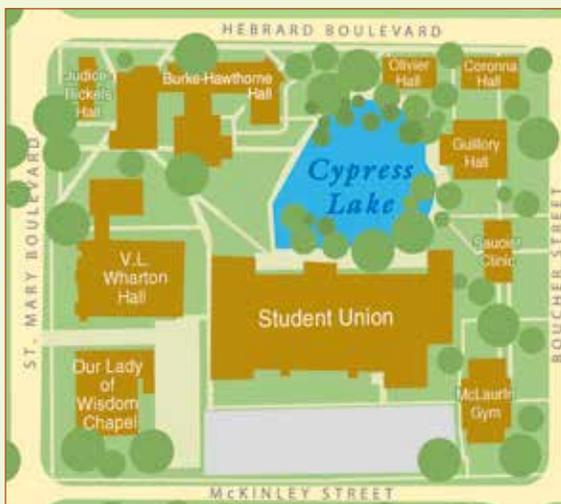
Dining facilities will be incorporated throughout the updated and upgraded structure, offering views of the campus wetland. The spaces will seat about 700 people.

"We've created dining that is either internal to the building on large expanses of glass or external dining that is covered with arcades," said Oubre.

Even though it will feature lots of glass, the new Union will be an energy-efficient building. Oubre is designing it to meet international green building certification standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design set by the U.S. Green Building Council.

A new pedestrian crossing on Boucher Street will connect the Student Union with the Rose Garden's residence halls.

"Boucher will feel much more like a residential street," said Oubre. "Students will be able to walk across the street and pick up their mail or go into the union for dinner or coffee. We hope to enliven the street and enhance this part of campus." ■



Four buildings — Saucier, Guillory, Olivier and Corona Halls — will be removed to make room for an updated, upgraded Student Union. The redesigned building will be positioned closer to McKinley Street to accommodate a plaza near Cypress Lake.

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New housing will enable UL Lafayette to create residential learning communities, where students with common interests will live and study together. They may be first-year students, honors students or band members, for example. More than 600 living-learning communities have been established at universities throughout the country, including Texas A&M, Baylor and Clemson.

UL Lafayette's first living-learning community will include first-time freshmen majoring in business. During the Fall 2011 semester, they will live in Baker Hall. Their academic schedules will include three common courses: introductory English and economics, and a course on campus life.

Smith said living-learning communities can prompt a level of accountability and concern that may not exist in traditional residence halls. "Someone will be saying, 'Hey, I noticed you weren't in class the other day. Where were you?'"

**'WHEN YOU LIVE ON CAMPUS, THERE ARE FEWER DISTRACTIONS. AND YOU HAVE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME THINGS YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.'**

JUSTIN BENOIT, UL LAFAYETTE SENIOR

"Interaction builds community and community encourages student involvement. Instead of just going to class and studying, they invest more of themselves in the overall college experience," said Smith.

Benoit agrees. "I'm more likely to be involved in what's going on. I'm more likely to go to an event on campus if I can walk there, than if I have to drive.

"When you live on campus, there are fewer distractions. And you have people around you who are going through the same things you're going through."

In 2009, a national survey showed that 65 percent of 14,000 college students said participation in campus activities helped them balance their social and academic lives; 25 percent said their grades improved when they were involved in campus organizations.

Some universities require students to live on campus for the first year. UL Lafayette's student handbook includes this requirement but the rule has historically been waived due to a lack of desirable housing.

## HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

- New residence halls will increase UL Lafayette's student housing capacity by **37 percent**.
- Before construction began, UL Lafayette could house 1,887 students. When construction and renovation is complete, that number will increase to 2,999.
- About 11 percent of UL Lafayette students live on campus. At universities with similar enrollments, more than 20 percent of students live on site. When construction is complete, UL Lafayette will be able to house 18 percent of its students.

## PROMISING POSSIBILITIES

Lisa Luquette Landry is director of UL Lafayette's Department of Housing. She lived on campus in the 1980s while earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education. As a resident assistant, she lived in every residence hall.

"So, when I talk about living on campus, I think that comes across to students and parents. Things were not always perfect when I lived here but the best friends that I have, I found in those residence halls," she said.

Landry became UL Lafayette's housing director in 1997. During her tenure, the residence halls have had full occupancy, even though some facilities have needed improvement.

"We've been very honest with students and their parents about what living on campus has been like. And I think that's been a big part of our success.

"We couldn't promise that an air conditioner wasn't going to leak. Or that the fire alarm would not go off while someone was in the shower. But we *could* promise that students were going to meet interesting people from all over the world. We could promise that they would make life-long friends.

"We could also tell parents that their children would be in a safe environment and have a safety net, with lots of people around who really want them to succeed as a student. We can



CATHERINE GUIDRY

UL Lafayette's Legacy Park has played a pivotal role in the evolution of campus housing; it offers apartment-style suites. Two new buildings were added to the complex last fall.



'WE COULDN'T PROMISE THAT AN AIR CONDITIONER WASN'T GOING TO LEAK ... BUT WE COULD PROMISE THAT STUDENTS WERE GOING TO MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE COULD PROMISE THAT THEY WOULD MAKE LIFELONG FRIENDS.'

LISA LUQUETTE LANDRY, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Department has been at a disadvantage for recruiting because of housing limitations.”

Ambling University Development Group is overseeing the construction of the new residence halls on campus, including Baker and Huger. Three other Sun Belt Conference schools have turned to Ambling to improve campus housing: Troy University, Middle Tennessee University and the University of North Texas.

The company has also built residence halls at Georgia State University and Old Dominion University in Virginia. In Louisiana, Ambling has completed projects at McNeese State University, Grambling University and on the campuses of Southern University in Baton Rouge and in Shreveport.

Landry said the rooms in Baker Hall were reserved for the fall semester by late spring. “We’re 100 percent full — with a waiting list.”



## CAMPUS LIVING 101

UL Lafayette’s new residence halls will have furnished, single- and double-occupancy suites with a private bathroom for each student. The cozy suites will feature kitchenettes with a small refrigerator and microwave.

But they won’t have living rooms.

Instead, the residence halls will feature common areas for studying, watching television and socializing.

*continued on page 30*



always make that promise to parents,” said Landry.

“Of course, we don’t make everybody happy every single day but we do our best. If students aren’t happy with their roommates, we teach them skills to fix the situation. If a light bulb doesn’t work, we change it as soon as we can.”

Legacy Park opened in 2003 with eight buildings that provided apartment-style housing to about 600 students. Two buildings were added to the complex in September 2010 but there is still a waiting list.

Legacy Park was funded through Ragin’ Cajun Facilities Inc., a private nonprofit organization established by the late Robert Trahan, a businessman and UL Lafayette alumnus.

The organization acts as a financial extension of the university. It maintains funds needed to design and construct student housing. Because of its nonprofit status, it qualifies for tax-exempt bonds. Bond funding allows the university to construct facilities more quickly than competing for state capital outlay funds.

Landry said new housing options will make UL Lafayette more attractive to a high-profile group: student-athletes. “I don’t know who’s more excited — housing staff or Athletics. The Athletic

**Above: Bill Crist, UL Lafayette’s director of Facilities Management, says the scope and pace of construction on campus are unprecedented. Right: New UL Lafayette residence halls will feature suite-style rooms designed for single or double occupancy.**

# University Research Park Expands

**A**s a master plan for UL Lafayette's campus unfolds, some of the most dramatic changes could come to University Research Park in University Common.

It may eventually resemble Lafayette's River Ranch neighborhood, with mixed-use housing and businesses such as shops, offices and restaurants. The development could include a new hotel and performing arts center.

Architect Steve Oubre, who designed the Village of River Ranch, is creating the master plan, which includes new residence halls, and an enlarged and renovated Student Union. (See related stories on pages 25 and 26.)

Oubre will hold a series of public planning sessions, called charrettes, this fall, to help shape the future design of the campus.

"We are going to enhance the research component of University Common, while using the same techniques we're using on the main campus: walkability, bikeability and concentrated parking," he said.

In the meantime, two buildings are under construction in University Research Park: the Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning, and UL Lafayette's Child and Family Studies Early Childhood Laboratory. And nearby athletic facilities have also been improved.

The \$5.6 million Cecil J. Picard Center is expected to be open in time for the Fall 2011 semester. The 40,000-square-foot structure is near the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise on East Devalcourt Street.

The Center employs about 40 researchers who study childhood and K-12 education, school-based health and the effects of poverty on families and lifelong learning.

Other occupants will include UL Lafayette's Counselor Education Department, Center for Innovative Learning and Assessment Technologies, Educational Foundation and Leadership Department,



MICHAEL BROUSSARD / COURTESY OF THE SELLERS GROUP

UL Lafayette's Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning will include a research library, distance education conference center and a data analysis center.

Center for Gifted Education, and Department of Psychology.

The building will include a data analysis room with state-of-the-art computer stations and the Loyd Rockhold Distance Education and Conference Center, which

will have distance learning and video conferencing capabilities.

The early Childhood Laboratory is under construction on Devalcourt Street, between the Picard Center and LITE. Students will use the facility to learn about child development by observing and teaching children between the ages of 3 and 5. It is expected to open for the Fall 2011 semester. (See related story on page 5.)

In the Athletic Complex, across Congress Street, a two-story 20,000-square-foot fitness center has been added to Bourgeois Hall, which is used by students, faculty and staff.

The center's upper level features an array of flat-screen televisions to entertain people working out on treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines and stationary exercise bicycles. The lower level will offer weight machines and other equipment for physical conditioning that includes resistance training and high-intensity aerobics. The facility also features a two-story climbing wall.

The fitness center overlooks the Student Aquatic Center, which features a lap pool, leisure pool, 20-person whirlpool and a sand volleyball court.

Students are paying for the \$3 million addition; they began contributing a self-assessed recreational services fee in 2004. ■

## UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARK

**UL Lafayette's University Research Park, established in 1988, has nine tenants:**

- USGS National Wetlands Research Center
- NOAA Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center
- Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise
- Lafayette Economic Development Authority
- Abdalla Hall
- Cecil J. Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning
- Child and Family Studies Early Childhood Laboratory
- Lafayette Primary Care Center
- Hilton Garden Inn

continued from page 28

Jeremy Doss, Ambling's vice president of development, said the common areas are "intentionally designed to create spaces where students will interact."

Each building will also have a high-tech laundry room adjacent to a community kitchen and lounge. Students will be able to check online, via computers or Internet-capable cell phones, to find out whether a washer or dryer is available — or if their clothes are dry.

The residence halls offer 24-hour security. Cameras will monitor the interior and exterior of the buildings. Residents will be required to swipe their identification cards at four access points: at building entrances, elevators, suites and individual rooms.

Huger Hall is expected to be ready in time for the start of the Spring 2012 semester. A total of 930 students will live in the two structures.

Two more student residences will be built within the Rose Garden housing complex, which is bordered by University Avenue, Hebrard Boulevard, and Boucher and McKinley streets.

Baker-Huger Hall, Bonin Hall and Evangeline Hall will be replaced to create space for 882 students. Harris Hall will be renovated to provide 122 beds.

Bill Crist, director of Facilities Management at UL Lafayette, said the new buildings in the Rose Garden will complement the remaining buildings: Harris, Randolph and Buchanan Halls.



They will be placed 10 feet farther from University Avenue than the current structures of Bonin and Baker-Huger.

"That's going to help protect the mature oaks that are growing along University during construction — and give the trees more room to grow when the project is complete," said Crist.

There will still be roses in the Rose Garden. The new residential complex incorporates two courtyards. One will feature formal landscaping. The other will provide open green space.

Randolph Hall will become a student activity and learning center with high-tech classrooms with computerized projectors and digital whiteboards. Students will have access to support services, such as tutoring, where they live and study.

Buchanan Hall, which was built in



**RESIDENCE HALL RENOVATIONS**

**Two buildings have been demolished:**

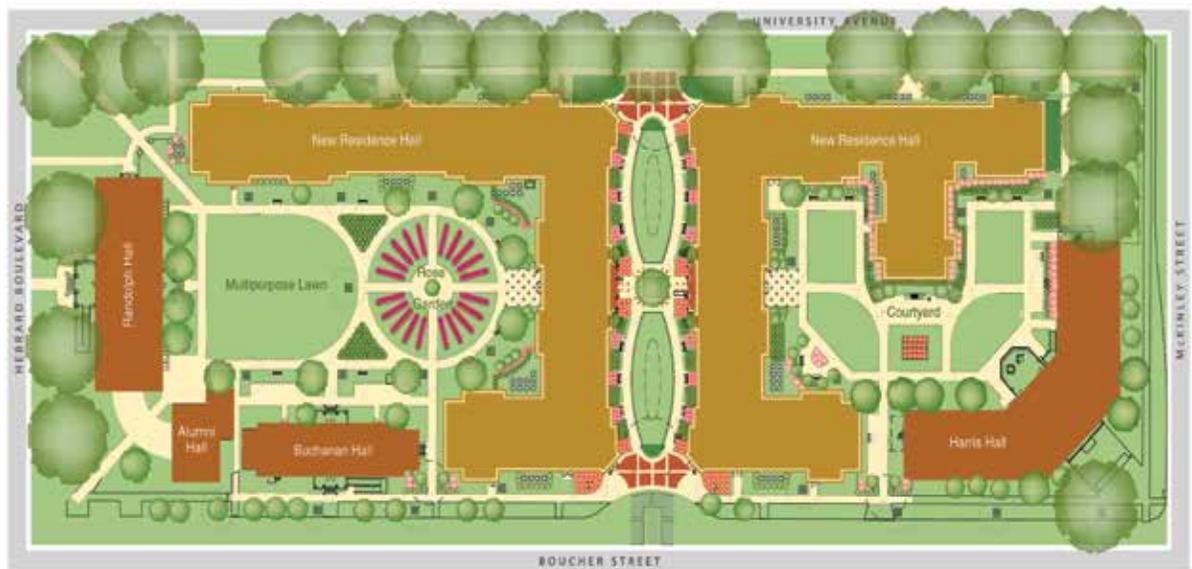
- Bancroft Hall
- Denbo Hall

**Three more will be removed:**

- Baker-Huger Hall
- Bonin Hall
- Evangeline Hall

**Four will be renovated:**

- Harris Hall
- Randolph Hall
- Buchanan Hall
- Alumni Hall



Top: Harris Hall was built in 1939 as a girls' dormitory. It will be renovated to provide living space for 122 students. Center: The renovated Rose Garden complex will feature two courtyards: one with an open lawn for recreational activities and a rose garden. The other, adjacent to Harris Hall, will feature formal landscaping. Left: Mature live oaks line University Avenue at the perimeter of the Rose Garden complex. The new buildings will be placed 10 feet farther from the street, to give the trees room to grow.

1927, is the oldest building in the Rose Garden. Crist said it has architectural significance, even though it is too small to function as a modern residence hall. It will be renovated to provide flexible campus office space. Alumni Hall, located next door, will also be renovated and will continue to house *The Vermilion*, UL Lafayette's student newspaper.



## Polished Performer

**U**L Lafayette's Girard Hall is an architectural gem. And it's shining once again after a \$3.2 million renovation. Work on the 1923 Craftsman-style structure was completed in time for the start of the Spring 2011 semester.

Designs of the Craftsman era emphasized quality construction, beauty and functionality. Girard Hall's improvements hold true to those concepts.

Workers upgraded the building's technology system and replaced its plumbing, lighting and air conditioning systems. They installed energy-efficient windows and waterproofed the building's bricks. Inside, they installed sheetrock and painstakingly refinished wooden staircases throughout the structure. Finally, they painted Girard Hall inside and out.

Soil around the building was treated to nourish nearby trees, including several Century Oaks, which were planted by Dr. Edwin Stephens, UL Lafayette's first president, in 1901. Additional trees, including live oaks, magnolias, maples and redbuds, have been added to the landscape.

The building, which cost about \$67,000 to build, is named for Crow Girard, a Lafayette banker, and his mother, Maxime Anna Crow Girard. They donated 25 acres of land to create UL Lafayette's original campus.

The three-story structure is located at the intersection of Johnston Street and University Avenue. ■

## A STRUCTURED STRATEGY

**T**he physical changes to UL Lafayette's campus reflect a policy shift in Louisiana higher education: top-down demand for improved academic performance — in exchange for increased fiscal and operational independence among colleges and universities.

In Louisiana, 37 percent of students earn a college degree in six years. That's well below the national average of 52 percent. At UL Lafayette, that figure is 42 percent.

The statewide goal is to graduate more students in less time while producing graduates in high-demand fields to help meet workforce needs.

In 2010, Gov. Bobby Jindal signed Louisiana's Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act into law. The LA GRAD Act creates incentives for institutions to become more competitive in the education marketplace. The law established 52 measurable outcomes, or metrics, in areas such as retention and graduation rates, and operational efficiency.

As colleges and universities meet established benchmarks, they will be able to make limited increases in tuition without the direct consent of the Legislature. Louisiana is the only state that requires a two-thirds vote to adjust tuition.

Policy makers tweaked the legislation in 2011. In June, Jindal signed GRAD Act 2.0 into law. At a press conference, he said the revised law will help reduce red tape and make state oversight less burdensome. He also discussed its potential to transform higher education in Louisiana.

"For too many years, we've paid schools simply to be bigger, simply to offer more degree options whether they were needed or not," Jindal said.

When Dr. Joseph Savoie became president of UL Lafayette in 2009, his first priority was to create a comprehensive, strategic plan for the university's development. That plan includes goals such as increased enrollment and graduation rates. It calls for increased support of first-year and non-traditional students. And it specifically identifies projects such as grounds improvements; the restoration of historic buildings; construction of new student housing; and the creation of a student union to serve as a campus gateway.

"Despite budget concerns, the university will continue to protect its core mission of education by investing in resources designed to help ensure student success," Savoie said.

"We take pride in the work we do here and our campus reflects that pride." ■

**To learn more about UL Lafayette student housing, visit**

[www.housing.louisiana.edu](http://www.housing.louisiana.edu)

## Hud at the Helm

Head football coach brings new energy to Ragin' Cajun program



Mark Hudspeth, the Ragin' Cajuns 25th head football coach, barks an order during spring practice.

**U**L LAFAYETTE'S FOOTBALL season opens Sept. 3 in Stillwater, Okla., with a game against a Big 12 Conference team, the Oklahoma State University Cowboys.

Mark Hudspeth, the Ragin' Cajuns' new head football coach, is ready for the challenge. He is fit, focused and fired up.

"Coach Hud sets a fast tempo. He likes to bounce around and coach every position," said quarterback Chris Masson in a recent interview. Masson, a senior, has been on the team since 2007.

The Cajuns practice on two, 100-yard fields alongside the Leon Moncla Indoor Practice Facility near Cajun Field. During spring drills, Hudspeth sprinted from field to field, delivering commands via bullhorn: "Hurry, hurry, hurry! Compete, compete, compete!" As players scrambled to get into formation, Hudspeth was right beside them.

The team drills three days a week; each session lasts about two hours. Hudspeth's predecessor, head coach Rickey Bustle, divided the time into 10 or 12 periods, said Masson. Hudspeth has upped the pace by carving out 25 five-minute periods.

Instead of the typical spring scrimmage, this year's workouts culminated in a full-length game held April 9. Tents and campers surrounded Cajun Field as tailgaters prepared for the contest. More than 5,200 fans watched as the Red Team, made up of first-team players, defeated the White Team, 37-3.

"Our fans are critical to our success. We're going to work hard every day to win football games but we cannot have a suc-

cessful program without the support of the community. This is everybody's game," Hudspeth told *La Louisiane*.

Hudspeth became a Ragin' Cajun on Dec. 13, 2010. He was one of six coaches who was interviewed — and the only one offered the position. He signed a five-year, \$360,000 contract.

Pundits at AthlonSports.com liked UL Lafayette's choice. They recently ranked it as the third-best college football coaching hire in the nation and predicted that the UL Lafayette program "will be a Sun Belt contender in the near future."

Hudspeth's career spans 19 years and includes a national championship, four conference championships, eight post-season appearances and four coach-of-the-year awards.

He is crystal clear about his ambitions. "I'm here to coach a top Division I team. And I won't be satisfied with anything less," he said.

Division I is the highest level of collegiate sports sanctioned by the NCAA, which recognizes three divisions. UL Lafayette competes in the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly known as NCAA Division I-A.

The top spot at UL Lafayette isn't Hudspeth's first head-coaching gig, although it is his first in a Division I program.

He holds a bachelor's degree in health and education from Delta State University and a master's degree in secondary school administration from the University of Central Arkansas.

Hudspeth spent two years at Mississippi State University, where he was a passing coordinator and wide-receivers coach. In 2010, he helped the Division I, Southeastern Conference Bulldogs earn a 32-14 Gator Bowl victory over the University of Michigan, a Big Ten Conference team.

Before coaching at Mississippi State, Hudspeth was head football coach at the

DOUG DIGGAS



BRAD KEMP

Tight end Jacob Maxwell, No. 86, and defensive end Blake Commie grapple for dominance in a full-contact drill called Cajun in the Ring. The exercise requires intensity and balance, as one player tries to force another out of an imaginary circle. The drill energizes the team before practice begins.

University of North Alabama, a Division II program. The team made five NCAA semi-final playoff appearances and produced 15 All-Americans during his tenure.

Scott Farmer, UL Lafayette’s interim athletic director, said Hudspeth is a perfect fit for the Ragin’ Cajun program. “He’s the right person, at the right time. The university has been developing its resources for increased success in athletics, with improved facilities and increasing community support. I believe Coach Hud can help us achieve even greater success.”

The Ragin’ Cajuns have had one winning season since 1995. In 2002, the team finished with a 6-5 record and shared the Sun Belt title with the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Arkansas State University.

Hudspeth is planning to turn that record around with the return of seasoned players such as Masson, who threw for 1,842 yards last season, and tight end Ladarius Green. “Ladarius Green is one of the elite tight ends in the country. He might be the best in the nation,” said Hudspeth.

He has recruited 29 new players, including quarterback Terrance Broadway, a Baton Rouge native who transferred from the University of Houston. In 2010, Broadway received offers to play at Alabama,

Oregon, Nebraska, Mississippi State and Louisiana Tech.

The recruiting class also includes freshmen Alonzo Harris and Qyendais Griffin. Harris, a graduate of Gadsden City High

School in Gadsden, Ala., was ranked as the country’s No. 2 fullback prospect by Scout.com. Griffin was named Mississippi’s Mr. Football; he ran for 2,670 yards and 37 touchdowns in his senior season at South Panola High School in Batesville, Miss.

Hudspeth expects a lot from his players. “We demand excellence every day in the classroom, in the weight room, in practice and preparation,” he said.

At the start of the spring semester, he imposed a new classroom requirement. As always, student-athletes are expected to be punctual. But Coach Hud has added a caveat: football players must sit in the first two rows of seats. If they sit elsewhere, they are considered absent.

Masson said Hudspeth is enforcing the rule “pretty fiercely.” During the spring semester, the few players who broke the rule were made to push a wooden board along the ground with their hands — across the practice fields and up the steep embankments surrounding Cajun Field.

Hudspeth said he believes the level of discipline he requires will pay off.

“You can’t strive for excellence on just some days. You’ve got to strive for excellence every day in everything you do. When our players understand and grasp that, then we are going to make huge strides.” ■



## 2011 LOUISIANA’S RAGIN CAJUNS® FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG 21	FAN DAY	CAJUNDOME
Sept. 3	Oklahoma State University	at Stillwater, Okla.
Sept. 10	Kent State University	at Kent, Ohio
11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Herbert Heymann Classic		
SEPT. 17	NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY	CAJUN FIELD
Sept. 24	Florida International University*	at Miami, Fla.
OCT. 1	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY*	CAJUN FIELD
OCT. 8	TROY UNIVERSITY*	CAJUN FIELD
66 <sup>th</sup> Homecoming		
OCT. 15	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS*	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 22	Western Kentucky University*	at Bowling Green, Ky.
Oct. 29	Middle Tennessee State University*	at Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NOV. 5	UL MONROE*	CAJUN FIELD
Nov. 12	Arkansas State University*	at Jonesboro, Ark.
Nov. 26	University of Arizona	at Tucson, Ariz.

\*Sun Belt Conference Games

# Turnaround Team

Men's basketball squad shares conference championship

**I**N JANUARY, HEAD COACH Bob Marlin's team had lost 14 of 17 games. Then a 94-62 victory over Centenary College on Jan. 19 sparked an 11-game winning streak that earned the Ragin' Cajuns® a share of the Sun Belt Conference West Division championship. The Cajuns tied for first place

skills and rebuilding their confidence. Instead, they earned UL Lafayette's 4th division championship by finishing 11-5 in the conference and set a school record of 10 consecutive Sun Belt victories.

The winning streak was the longest achieved by a UL Lafayette basketball team in 38 years.

"We went from being a team that was not able to finish a game to being a team that had everything it needed when it needed it — whether we needed to score ... or whether we needed to stop the opponent and make free throws.

"Our guys stepped up and over-achieved. As a coach, you can't ask for more than that," said Marlin.

At the close of the 2010-11 season, CollegenInsider.com named him Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year. In 2010, he

received the Skip Prosser Man of the Year Award, which honors successful basketball coaches who exhibit high standards of integrity.

The beginning of the season seemed dictated by Murphy's Law, Marlin recalled. Several players became sick or injured. And there were frustrating losses — twice, the Cajuns were ahead by double digits at halftime, only to see victory slip away in the second half.

On Jan. 22, four days after the Centenary win, the team held a basketball reunion that included a halftime

ceremony during the game against the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Fans and former head coaches Bobby Paschal and Jim Hatfield were there. Former head coach Beryl Shipley, who was among the first in the South to desegregate collegiate basketball, delivered a moving message via video on the Cajundome's viewing screens. Shipley, who was too ill to attend the reunion, died of lung cancer in April.

The 84-75 win over ULM was the second of 11 victories. "There's no doubt in my mind that the reunion played a part in that winning streak," Marlin said.

The team's three seniors — Travis Bureau, Randell Daigle and La'Ryan Gary — helped keep the streak going. So did the energy and points generated by J.J. Thomas, who was named Freshman of the Year by the Louisiana Sports-writers Association.

Thomas led the Cajuns in scoring for the season with an average of 11.6 points per game. While his performance on the court energized fans, his beard inspired imitation.

UL Lafayette promoted its Feb. 19 home game against Western Kentucky University as the Fear the Beard Night, honoring Thomas and his bearded teammates Daigle and Gary. Fans with beards were admitted free.

The game drew 7,071 fans. More than 1,200 of them wore fake whiskers, including UL Lafayette President Joseph Savoie. Thomas contributed 25 points to help the Cajuns win, 67-64.

During the season, the team rallied fans who increased attendance at games by 42 percent over last season.

Thomas, who is majoring in public relations at UL Lafayette, said he expects another stellar season. "I just can't wait to get back to school," he said. ■



MATT TARVER

UL Lafayette head basketball coach Bob Marlin reviews strategy with players during the Feb. 19 home game against Western Kentucky University, which ended in a 67-64 win for the Cajuns. Clockwise, from left: Travis Bureau; Marlin; Raymone Andrews; J.J. Thomas; and Josh Brown.

with Arkansas State University and earned a spot in the conference tournament. The team lost 81-76 to Western Kentucky in the quarterfinals.

But before that final game, Marlin reminded reporters just how far the Cajuns had already come.

"To go from 3-14 to 14-14 is a pretty good story," he told them.

Fans didn't expect the team to shine so brightly. During its previous two seasons, the squad lost more than 60 percent of its games. This season was going to be a time for honing players'

# Getting Personal

Sales team connects with fans

**S**EASON TICKETS FOR FOOTBALL, men's basketball, baseball and softball now come with an added perk for Ragin' Cajun® fans: personal service.

Four full-time customer service representatives are handling season ticket sales at an office adjacent to M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field, home of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® baseball team. Fans are matched with customer service representatives.

"We'd love it if all our fans became season ticket holders," said Scott Farmer, UL Lafayette's interim athletic director.

"Of course, we want to increase sales but we also want to emphasize the importance of the relationships we've built with fans over the years. That's why personal service — and a personal connection — is so important."

To provide that kind of attention, the university formed a partnership with College Ticketing LLC, a Florida company that promotes and sells season passes. The university provided office space for the College Ticketing staff by expanding the ticket booth at the entrance to the baseball park.

**'We value our fans.  
We want them to know  
they're not just  
a number.'**

**SCOTT FARMER**

"With the downturn in the economy and its effects on higher education, we couldn't have added four positions. But we were able to enhance our facilities to help make this service available. By expanding the facility, we now we have a presence there every day of the week," Farmer said.

The College Ticketing staff includes three UL Lafayette graduates. Matt Casbon earned a bachelor's degree in sports management in 2007 and a master's degree in



The College Ticketing staff includes three UL Lafayette alums. From left: Scott Dietrich; Leslie Saloom, '09; Matt Casbon, '07; and Joey Harden, '08.

business administration in 2010. He was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns baseball team for three seasons. Joey Harden, '08, holds a bachelor's degree in marketing. Leslie Saloom, '09, who holds a bachelor's degree in public relations, served as Homecoming queen during her senior year. Scott Dietrich holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans and earned a master's degree in sports management from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Staff members regularly attend games, where they hand out game schedules and get to know their customers.

"It gives us an opportunity to put a face with a name and to answer any questions that a client may have," said Casbon.

"Often, people want to move their seats to be closer to a group of friends. It's the kind of thing that may not occur to them until they are actually at a game, so it's helpful if we're on hand to facilitate that."

College Ticketing staff members are also working the phones, contacting former season ticket holders and encouraging existing season ticket holders to purchase season tickets for additional sports.

Season ticket sales have increased in three of the targeted sports: softball, baseball and men's basketball. Sales are at an all-time high in softball, with an increase of 42 percent over last season, and in baseball, which saw a 9 percent uptick.

Sales of season passes for Ragin' Cajun men's hoops are the highest in 10 years. The university began keeping track of those sales in 2001.

Farmer couldn't say whether the increases were a direct result of the arrangement with College Ticketing.

"I think there are a number of factors, including the great successes of our softball and basketball programs and the excitement and anticipation fans have about the upcoming football season," said Farmer.

"This arrangement serves the university well. And it helps convey to fans the spirit of personal connection that's so much a part of UL Lafayette's culture — in academics and in sports. We value our fans. We want them to know they're not just a number."

Season tickets for women's basketball, soccer and volleyball are available at the Cajundome box office or by calling (337) 265-2100. Individual game tickets for all sports will still be sold at the Cajundome box office and all Ticketmaster outlets.

For information on season tickets for football, men's basketball, baseball and softball, fans should contact the sales associates at College Ticketing by phone at (337) 851-2011 or in person at the Moore Field ticket office.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■

## Map Quest

UL Lafayette alum travels the globe to add to cartographic collection

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C. – In the Library of Congress, there are maps of Louisiana that date back to the 1700s. Ed Redmond, a reference specialist in its Geography and Map Division, locates a particular cabinet and slides out a wide, shallow drawer to reveal one of those historical documents.

A few minutes later, he is looking at a computer screen in an adjacent room. It displays a map of the United States' coastline that has been created from satellite imagery. A huge, dark blob in the Gulf of Mexico is unmistakable. It is crude oil that has gushed from the sea floor at a rate of more than 50,000 barrels a day since the Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling rig exploded about two months earlier.

The digital map was produced at the request of a Congressional committee. It shows the Gulf Stream, a powerful current along the East Coast. There were growing fears that the oil could drift eastward across the Gulf of Mexico and into the Atlantic Ocean, where the Gulf Stream would draw it north, along the entire Eastern Seaboard.

In the 10 minutes it takes to show a visitor the printed and digital maps, Redmond has demonstrated why the Library of Congress was created and the importance of its Geography and Map Division.

The largest library in the world was founded in 1800 as the research arm of Congress. Three maps and one atlas were among the first items it acquired.

Today, the Geography and Map Division has the biggest and most comprehensive cartographic collection on earth, with more than 5.5 million items. It fills about two and a half acres in the James Madison Memorial Building, which is one of three buildings on Capitol Hill that the Library of Congress occupies.

Dr. John Hebert, a 1965 graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been chief of that division since 1999.

**'Maps provide a context, a boundary to a place you are trying to understand.'**

**DR. JOHN HEBERT**

The significance of maps exceeds their value as drawings that illustrate the location of physical features, such as borders, cities, rivers or highways, according to Hebert.

He began to understand their scope

while pursuing a doctorate in Latin American history from Georgetown University in the nation's capital. He had already spent many hours conducting research in the Library of Congress to earn a master's degree in that subject from Georgetown.

Hebert was working on his doctoral dissertation at the Library one day in 1969 when he learned of a job opening in its Geography and Map Division. He applied for the position and was hired about a month later.

"I began to appreciate that maps were more than simply direction finders. They began to define space and location and culture. It made what I did as a Latin Americanist come alive," he recalled in an interview with *La Louisiane* in 2010. He had returned to UL Lafayette's campus as a presenter at the 26th annual Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop at the Convention Center.

"Today, maps are important for understanding crises or potential events, whether it's war in Afghanistan or Iraq or an earthquake in Haiti or in Chile. Maps provide a context, a boundary to a place you are trying to understand," Hebert said.

Over the years, his work has taken him all over the world. He can quickly recite more than two dozen countries he has visited. And, because of his position at the Library of Congress, he's had the chance to meet leaders of many nations.

Regardless of how far he travels, Hebert remains emotionally connected to UL Lafayette because of what it has meant to his family and to him.

His father, Leo P. Hebert, was the son of a sharecropper who graduated from UL Lafayette. "This school meant a great deal to him. It gave him an opportunity," Hebert said. Leo Hebert went on

### AMAZING MAPS

The U.S. Library of Congress' collection includes:

- A 1507 map of the world — the first known document to include the name "America."
- A map George Washington drew of his farm in 1766.
- Maritime maps depicting the 14th century voyages of Sir Francis Drake.
- Maps used by Lewis and Clark as they explored the American Northwest.
- Military situation maps used by American commanders during World War II. The maps show the progress of Allied Forces as they moved toward Germany.

to earn a Ph.D. and become head of a major experimental station in sugarcane research.

Because of his dad's affection for UL Lafayette, Hebert grew up in Houma, La., knowing where he and his brother, Dr. Leo P. Hebert Jr., '63, would go to college. "There was no choice. We were coming here, regardless of where else we may have been accepted."

Hebert said the undergraduate degree he earned at UL Lafayette prepared him well academically. "The background education I was provided by the faculty here was equal to anything I encountered, whether it was the kids from the Ivy League or from some of the Big Ten universities."

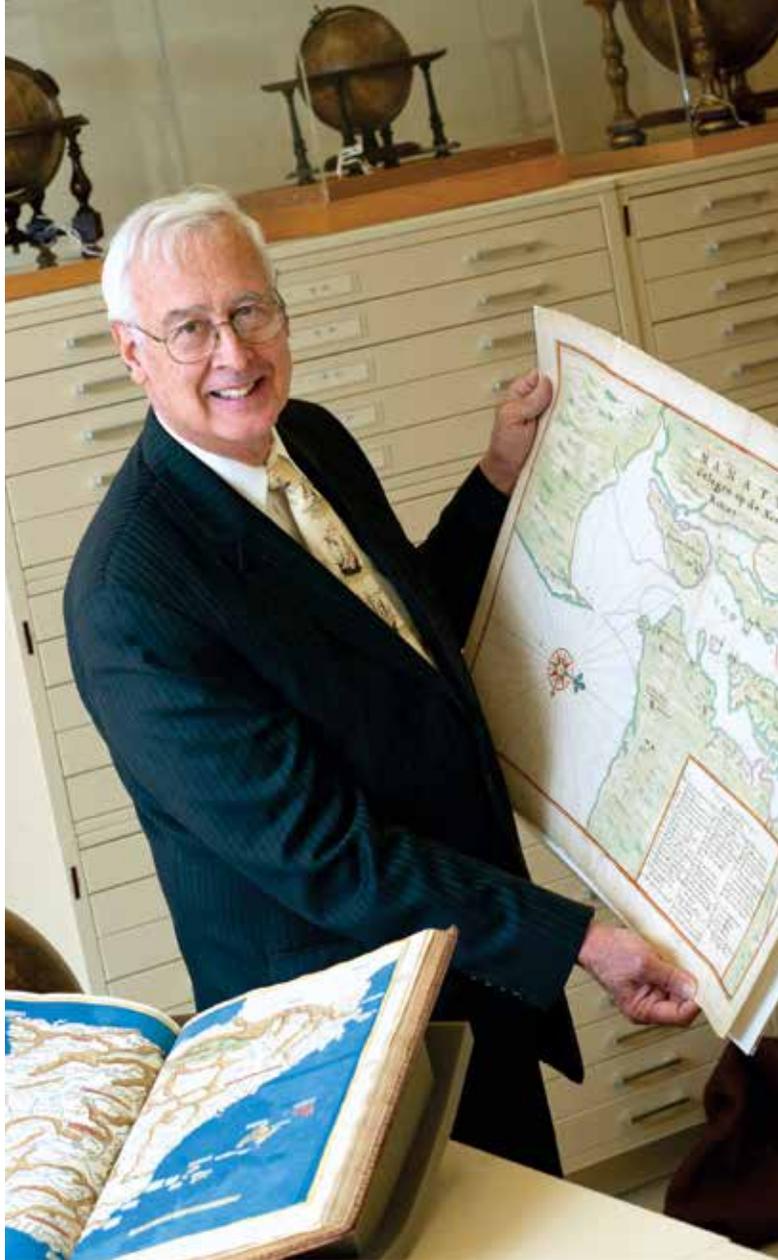
During his 42-year career at the Library of Congress, Hebert and the Geography and Map Division have grappled with giant leaps in technology. "The big thing in my field is the rapid movement from typewriter to computer to geographic information systems to all things digital, and going from paper to digital for online," he observed.

The Geography and Map Division has been scanning maps since 1995. Its first digital map shows George Washington's plantation on the Potomac River in 1766, a decade before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

Since then, it has scanned about 32,000 documents, a tiny fraction of its holdings.

Hebert noted that personnel can scan maps quickly to convert them into digital files. Software compresses large digital files into small files that open quickly on computer screens.

But processing the images and creating metadata takes a long time to complete. Metadata identifies an item and makes it easily accessible. "There is no panacea, no machine that automatically identifies that piece in a way that is distinctive. It's still human input, whether we call them librarians or catalogers or bibliographers," Hebert explained.



Dr. John Hebert

He hasn't seen any technology on the horizon that will make that tedious identification faster. The time lag limits how much original material can be provided on the Internet.

And, Hebert said there is still a need to provide researchers with physical access to original documents. "Content is important and therefore traditional research methods still have to apply. Unfortunately, a lot of the stuff that historians do, and even geographers do, requires a great deal of primary research. At this point especially, historical primary research materials are not readily available on the Internet and probably won't be for a long, long time."

As a freshman at UL Lafayette, Hebert intended to earn a bachelor's degree and then attend law school. But his plans changed. "I realized that history was something that really caught my attention because there was more unknown than known

within that field. I could not turn back from it and I just followed it through."

He assumed that his love of history would lead him to a career as a university professor. "There was very little in my experience to suggest that the Library of Congress or a research institution like that would become home base for as long as it has," he said wryly.

It took his leaving Louisiana to gain a greater appreciation of his native state. "I think I learned more about Louisiana and its history after I left UL Lafayette and discovered it at places like the Library of Congress, the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain, or the British Library when I was doing research there . . . When I started working with maps in the Geography and Map Division, I began to see things that spoke to me about the history of Louisiana, who our people were and what was going on here. I rapidly became quite interested in trying to learn more."

He plans to someday conduct research about the initial Spanish and French

presence in North America, especially along the Gulf Coast. He is drawn to the period in history before Louisiana became part of the United States and to the transfer of power after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

During his career, Hebert has helped the Library of Congress acquire maps, atlases, globes and other cartographic items from around the world. He has contributed to numerous publications, coordinated major exhibitions and made presentations to groups throughout the United States and in many other countries.

"I've had a great time doing all this. It has given me a lot of opportunity to see the world, to see people. It's not every day that you get to meet the chancellor of Austria or the king and queen of Spain or the president of the United States. That's kind of heady." ■

 [www.louisianaalumni.org](http://www.louisianaalumni.org)

# ALUMNI

## 1947

**JAMES H. BOOKSH JR.** has self-published his memoir, *My Life with Rita*, which tells the story of his marriage to Rita Larcade Booksh. The couple were married 58 years before her death in 2005. Booksh was attending SLI when he was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve in World War II. He returned to SLI to complete a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. "I graduated on a Friday, got married on Tuesday and started work the following Tuesday," he told *La Louisiane*. Booksh served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1946 until 1961, retiring with the rank of captain. In 1985, he retired from Ford, Bacon & Davis, an engineering firm in Denver, Colo. Booksh lives in Broussard, La.

## 1951

**DORIS MEAUX WEAVER** retired as office manager for the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering in 2007. She had worked at the professional engineering society's international business office in Covina, Calif., for 29 years. Weaver holds a bachelor's degree in business education. She and her husband, Bill, live in Glendora, Calif. They have two children, Billy Weaver and Patty Weaver Ludwig.

## 1955

**DR. JAMES E. KENNISON** received a 2010 Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award from the UL Lafayette College of Education Alumni Chapter. He earned a bachelor's degree in science and physical education from SLI. From 1955 to 1959, he was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, concluding his service with the rank of captain. Kennison returned to campus, received

a master's degree in education in 1962 and taught graduate courses in education at USL until 1972. He later earned a doctor of education degree from Louisiana State University. Kennison retired in 1985 as superintendent of schools in Pointe Coupee Parish. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Port Barre, La. They have two sons, **DAN KENNISON, '85**, and Kearns Kennison; and five grandchildren.

## 1957

**MARY J. KAUFMANN** holds a bachelor's degree in medical technology from SLI. In 2003, she retired from Huntsville Memorial Hospital in Huntsville, Texas, where she worked as a medical technologist. She and her husband, L.D. Kaufmann, live in Spring, Texas. They have two children, Karl Kaufmann and Lisa Kaufmann Kelley, and two grandchildren, Justin and Chase Kelley.

**CHARLOTTE BEERS** is director of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. Its operations include magazines, books, radio, electronic commerce and music publishing. She has held the position since 2008. *Ad Age* magazine ranked Beers as No. 49 on its list of the 100 most influential people in advertising history. Beers was the first female vice president and chairman of the board of directors at J. Walter Thompson Worldwide and later served as chief operating officer and then chief executive officer of Tatham-Laird & Kudner. She was chairman-CEO of Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide. Beers also served as undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs for President George W. Bush after 9/11. She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts.

## 1960

**BOBBY P. DUPRE** has hosted The Bobby Dupre Talk Show on KSLO radio station in Opelousas, La., since 1976. The weekly hour-long program is simultaneously broadcast on cable television in nine Acadiana parishes. "In 34 years, I haven't run out of good news," he told *La Louisiane*. He is a co-owner of KDCG, the television station that produces the show. Dupre, who earned a bachelor's degree in education, also owns OUPAC Financial Services in Opelousas. He plays Santa for a breakfast fundraiser for the Opelousas Cerebral Palsy Clinic. The event has raised about \$35,000 a year for the past seven years. Dupre also serves on the Louisiana State Boxing Commission. He has two daughters, Kelly and Meghan.

## 1961

**BILL MASON** is president emeritus of the Baptist Health System of Northeast Florida, where he served as CEO for 20 years. Baptist Health System includes five hospitals in the Jacksonville, Fla., area. After Mason retired as CEO in 1998, he was elected chairman of its board of directors. He has served as chairman of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville Port Authority. He also taught for five years as executive-in-residence in the College of Business at the University of North Florida. Mason previously worked for 15 years for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The agency provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. During his tenure, he worked in the Philippines, Vietnam, Kenya, Tanzania and India.

He also oversaw construction of hospitals in Yemen and Paraguay. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from USL. Mason earned a master's degree in business administration from Trinity University and a doctorate in education leadership from the University of Florida. He and his wife, Julie, live in Jacksonville.

**RICHARD WEBER** received a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators at its 2010 national convention. He is one of only six people to have received the honor. Weber has been a member of the NAAE since 1961 and served as its president from 1976-77. He has been involved with the NAAE (formerly Future Farmers of America) since 1953. He taught high school agriculture for 34 years, including 32 years at South Lafourche High School. After he retired in 1995, Weber taught animal science at Nicholls State University for four years. He holds three degrees in agricultural education: a bachelor's degree from USL and master's and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University. He and his wife, **BRENDA, '63**, live in Larose, La.

## 1898-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

## 1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

## 1960-1999

University of Southwestern Louisiana

## 1999-PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

## 1963

**DR. JOHN R. MORELLA** is the author of *Give Teens a Break*, which was released in January by the American Book Publishing Group. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in special education. He received a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from the University of Oklahoma. Morella taught at Northeast Louisiana University from 1966 until 1973 and at USL from 1973 to 1980. He also maintained a private, clinical practice in Lafayette for 20 years. Morella is an adjunct instructor at South Louisiana Community College. He and his wife, Charlene, have two children, **JOHN R. MORELLA JR., '90**, and **DENEEN MORELLA WEATHERLY, '86**.



The award honors individuals who have helped shape and define Cajun culture. Gauthier has been a member

of Lafayette's La Table Française for more than 20 years. The group meets weekly to speak French while sharing a meal. He is also a Cajun singer and musician, who plays the washtub bass in local jam sessions. Gauthier served two years in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from USL and a *juris doctor* from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center. A trial attorney, Gauthier has practiced in Lafayette since 1978. He is vice chairman of the Lafayette Parish Democratic Executive Committee.

## 1965

**DR. GLENN G. BERNARD** is president of SimuCorp Inc., a Houston consulting firm he established in 1986 that specializes in pipeline technology. Bernard earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from USL and a doctorate in chemical engineering from Rice University. His wife, **MARLENE BOUDREAUX BERNARD**, attended USL for two semesters. They have two children, Mark and Kirsten.

## 1966

**ADELENE ALFANO** is a licensed clinical social worker. She retired from the Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority's Child and Adolescent Clinic in Marrero, La., in 2004. Before her retirement, Alfano maintained a private, part-time practice and worked part-time at the Jefferson Children's Advocacy Center in Gretna, La., where she counseled abused children and their families. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from USL and a master's degree in social work from Tulane School of Social Work. Alfano has one daughter, Bridget R. Cabibi-Wilkin, and six grandchildren. She lives in Gulfport, Miss.

## 1970

Attorney **LESTER J. GAUTHIER JR.** was inducted into the Order of Living Legends in June 2010 by the Acadian Museum of Erath, La.



The award honors individuals who have helped shape and define Cajun culture. Gauthier has been a member

**MIKE P. GENDRON** is president of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries, a non-profit organization he established in 1991. He was a guest speaker at The Lamb and Lion Ministries Annual Bible Conference held in Allen, Texas, in June 2010. Gendron holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from USL, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Dallas and a master's degree in biblical studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is the author of two books. Gendron and his wife, Jane, live in Garland, Texas.

## 1973

**INGRID ACCARDO BIMBO** was named a Cambridge Who's Who Professional of the Year in School Administration in May 2010. In 2008, she retired as assistant principal of Chatham Middle School in Siler City, N.C. She has 32 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, assistant principal and principal in elementary and secondary education. Bimbo holds a bachelor's degree from USL in elementary education and a master's degree in special education from the University of Memphis. She is certified in exceptional child program administration and a certified principal. Bimbo also is a licensed teacher of the visually impaired. She and her husband, Carl, live in Apex, N.C. They have two daughters, Carla Stoner and Donna Bimbo.

## 1974

**DAVID G. ADAMS** is a partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Venable LLP. He focuses on Food and Drug Administration approval and marketing of drugs and devices, as well as regulation of food and dietary supplements. He also teaches food and drug law at George Washington University Law School. Adams is an editor of *Food and Drug Law and Regulation*, a food and drug law reference text. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL and a *juris doctor* from New York University School of Law.

## 1976

**SAM IRWIN** is press secretary for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. In June 2010, the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation Inc. named him the Regnal Wallace Ag Communicator of the Year. The award is named for the Farm Bureau's former public relations director, who retired in 1997. Irwin is editor and primary photojournalist for the department's *Market Bulletin* and a freelance journalist. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history. Irwin is a member of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana, the Baton Rouge Area Mountain Bike Association and the Baton Rouge Symphony Chorus.

**GARY M. LAVERGNE** has published his fourth book, *Before Brown: Heman Marion Sweatt, Thurgood Marshall, and the Long Road to Justice*. It recounts a pivotal civil rights battle that paved the way for the Supreme Court's landmark 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. That decision declared laws establishing separate schools for black and white students to be unconstitutional. He earned a bachelor's degree in social studies education and a master's degree in secondary education. He is director of Admissions Research for the University of Texas at Austin.

## 1977

**DR. PAUL A. RESWEBER** has been district manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service in Jackson, Miss., since 2004. The Jackson district is the largest in the United States. Resweber supervises more than 1,000 federal employees, including over 100 veterinarians who regulate meat, poultry and egg processing plants in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee, and meat and poultry state inspection programs in Mississippi and Alabama. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from USL and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Resweber is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. He is married to Sheilah Dian Turner Resweber. The couple lives in Florence, Miss.

## 1979

**DR. RYAN BARILLEAUX** is a professor of political science at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He was named Miami University Effective Educator for 2010 – 2011 by the Miami University Alumni Association. Barilleaux joined the faculty in 1987. He is the author or editor of nine books about the American presidency and American politics. Barilleaux holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Marilyn, have six children, Gerard, Madeleine, Christine, Paul, Thomas and Michael.

**JANET LEMAIRE LANDRY** is a first-grade teacher at Delcambre Elementary School in Delcambre, La. She holds a bachelor's degree in lower elementary education and has taught for 31 years. She and her husband, Murray, have two children, Shandi Landry and **CHIP LANDRY**, who is a senior at UL Lafayette, majoring in biology.

## 1981

**ROSANNE COULON CLARE** edits a weekly, 10-page church bulletin at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Katy, Texas, where she is a parishioner and catechism teacher.

## ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

If you enjoy reading about where your former classmates are now and what they're doing, consider this: They'd like to read about you, too. Please fill out the form below and mail it back to UL Lafayette or go to [www.louisiana.edu/louisiane](http://www.louisiana.edu/louisiane) to submit the information online.

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FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

### ADDRESS

STREET OR BOX

CITY STATE ZIP

### PHONE

HOME OFFICE

### E-MAIL

### FAX

### MAJOR & DATE OF GRADUATION

OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY

### CURRENT JOB TITLE

### BUSINESS NAME

### BUSINESS ADDRESS

### PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### SPOUSE'S NAME

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

### SPOUSE'S USL OR UL LAFAYETTE GRADUATION DATE

AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT

### CHILDREN

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

### CURRENT DATE

Please mail this form to La Louisiane, Box 41009, Lafayette, LA 70504-1009 or send it online at [www.louisiana.edu/louisiane](http://www.louisiana.edu/louisiane)

She holds a bachelor's degree in art education. Clare and her husband, David, have two children, Rebecca and Steven.

In 2003, while working full time as a registered nurse, **MARIANNE BOURGEOIS** established Apex Innovations, a medical education software company. Bourgeois saw the need for health care workers to be better trained to interpret electrocardiograms. Using a sheet protector and a permanent marker, she created a template for reading ECGs. It was the prototype for a more detailed, color-coded template called MI Rule® Visions™. That tool led to the creation of web-based, interactive software programs. Bourgeois holds a bachelor's degree in nursing.

## 1982

**LISA FERNANDEZ COOKMEYER** is chief operating officer of Trigon Associates LLC, a consulting, engineering and management firm in New Orleans. She is a cofounder and partner of the firm, which was established in 2009. Cookmeyer has more than 27 years of experience in planning, designing and executing large capital improvement programs and projects. She helped restore sewer, water and drainage systems in New Orleans and Slidell after Hurricane Katrina. Cookmeyer holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from USL and is a registered professional civil and environmental engineer, as well as a licensed contractor. She and her husband, Perry, live in Covington, La. They have two children, Eric and Evann.

**DAVID SMITH** is a sales representative for Cellular Sales in Columbia, S.C. He also helps his wife, Renee, with her business, which sells stuffed toys for patients in pediatric hospitals. They donate most of the proceeds to CURE Childhood Cancer, a non-profit organization. Smith self-published *Broke But Not Broken*, a memoir about his spiritual approach to financial hardship. He holds a bachelor's degree in marketing. The Smiths have three children, Chase, Marae and Aubrey.

## 1987

**DIANA GARY** is president of the Acadiana chapter of the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants for 2010 – 2011. She is director of financial reporting and tax compliance for Knight Oil Tools Inc. in Lafayette. Gary holds a bachelor's degree in business administration.

**MALCOLM L. QUILLEN** is president of the Georgia School Nutrition Association. His one-year term as president began in April of last year. As a nutrition manager



for the DeKalb County School System, he manages two school cafeterias. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL, a master's degree in leadership from Luther Rice University and a master's degree in organization and management from Capella University. Quillen and his wife, Vanessa, live in Snellville, Ga.

**DIONNE VIATOR** is executive vice president and chief business development officer for Baton Rouge General Medical Center/General Health System. BRGMC is a full-service community hospital with two campuses. General Health System is the corporate parent of the hospital. Other subsidiaries include Baton Rouge General Physicians, Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, Baton Rouge General Medical Center's Foundation and other health care programs in a nine-parish region. Viator is helping the organizations grow by exploring the potential for mergers and acquisitions and other ventures. She develops strategic business plans and marketing strategies. She has been with the organizations since 1993. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. She and her husband, Scott, have two children, Tyler and Lauren.

## 1994

**ARMONDO FRANK** directed and produced a documentary film *Gospel Unrap*, which was released in October 2010. The two-hour film follows 10 gospel

rap ministers in south Louisiana. It explores the controversy surrounding the emergence of rap music in Christian ministry. Frank holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in public relations from Southern University.

## 1995

**TIFFANY HARRIS** was named



president of Foster Marketing Communications in August 2010. Harris joined the Lafayette-based firm in 1995

after earning a bachelor's degree in public relations. A member of the UL Lafayette Athletic Hall of Fame, she was an All-American, All-South region and two-time All-Louisiana selection as catcher for the university's nationally ranked softball team.

## 1996

**ALMETA RICHARDS KEYS** is executive director of the Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center in Washington, D.C. She oversees five Head Start and Early Head Start Centers that serve 280 children. Keys also is a member of the national Head Start Association Board and its Government Affairs Committee. She received a *Washington SmartCEO Magazine* 2010 Brava! Women Business Achievement Award in July of last year. The award honors female business executives in the District of Columbia. Keys holds associate and bachelor's degrees in general studies and a master's degree in education from USL.

## 1997

**DR. THOM BRUCIE** has published a chapbook of poems, *Moments Around the Campfire With a Vietnam Vet*. He is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from Hobart College, a master's degree in English and creative writing from USL and a doctorate in creative writing from Binghamton University.

## 2001

**DAMON BEYER** is a senior executive adviser at Booz and Company, a global management consulting firm. Beyer is co-author of *The Right Fight: How Great Leaders Use Healthy Conflict to Drive Performance, Innovation and Value*, published by Harper Collins. His writing has been published in *Harvard Business Review*, *the London Evening Standard* and *Financial Times of London*. Beyer holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School. He and his wife, Cindy, and their two children, live in Katy, Texas.

**U.S. ARMY CAPT. JASON W. LOPEZ** is commander of Team Blackfoot, a 130-member light cavalry troop integral to the 3rd Squadron, 89<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division stationed at Folk Polk, La. He is serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School and Officer Candidate School, Lopez has earned numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal and Combat Action Badge. He previously served in Jordan in a peacekeeping mission and also in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 82nd Airborne Division. Lopez holds a bachelor's degree in history. He and his wife, Nicole, have a daughter, Landri, and two sons, Jackson and Andrew.

## 2003

**MARCUS MANUEL** is a compliance officer at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Gonzales, La. He oversees and monitors the hospital's compliance program to ensure that employees and managers follow state and federal laws and guidelines. Manuel is certified in health care compliance. He is also a certified internal auditor and a registered respiratory therapist. He holds a bachelor's degree in cardiopulmonary science from LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans. He earned a master's degree in business administration, with a concentration in health care administration, from UL Lafayette.

## 2004

**DR. SHUHUA HU** is a research assistant professor at the Center for Research in Scientific Computation at North Carolina State University. She is developing a system to integrate mathematical and statistical modeling to help design innovative treatment strategies for HIV patients. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Qingdao University and a master's degree in computational mathematics from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She earned a doctorate in applied mathematics from UL Lafayette.

**JAMES SAVAGE'S** first book, *Jim Garrison's Bourbon Street Brawl: The Making of a First Amendment Milestone*, was published in May 2010 by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press. The late Garrison was district attorney of Orleans Parish from 1962 to 1973. He became widely known for his investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Savage explores an earlier chapter in Garrison's career. In 1962, the prosecutor publicly accused criminal court judges of restricting funds used to conduct vice raids in the French Quarter because of their ties to organized crime. Garrison was convicted of defamation. His conviction was eventually overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that his rights were protected by the First Amendment. Savage is a former *La Louisiane* student editor and newspaper editor. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history from UL Lafayette. Savage received the Louisiana Historical Association's 2006 Hugh F. Rankin Prize and the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools' 2009 Master's Thesis Award. He lives in Louisville, Ky., and is pursuing a doctorate in history at the University of Kentucky.

**JENNIFER ZERANGUE** serves on the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants' Young CPA Board. The board represents members of the statewide non-profit organization who are 35 and younger. Zerangue represents the Acadiana chapter as a member-at-large. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2004 and a master's degree in business administration in

2006. She is an in-charge auditor at Broussard, Poché, Lewis and Breaux LLP in Lafayette.

## 2006

**AHMED MOUSTAFA** is a postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He builds computational models of brain disorders, including Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia and stress disorders. He tests model predictions in patients with neurological or psychiatric disorders. Moustafa also oversees research projects dealing with Parkinson's disease in the United States, Israel, Egypt and the West Bank. He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from Cairo University. He holds a doctorate in cognitive science from UL Lafayette.

## 2009

**TARA SCOTT** is a loan officer with TJD Financial Services in Houston. She handles accounts and data entry and is a title clerk. Scott earned a bachelor's degree in general studies.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DR. WALTER J. SAUCIER, '42**, died July 17, 2010, in Raleigh, N.C., at the age of 88. He helped establish meteorology programs at three universities: Texas A&M in 1952, the University of Oklahoma in 1960 and North Carolina State University in 1969. He held a bachelor's degree in science education from SLI and earned a doctorate in meteorology from the University of Chicago in 1951. Saucier served in Europe during World War II as a weather officer with the U.S. Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force. Saucier became a reserve officer, retiring with the rank of colonel. He was the author of a widely used meteorology textbook, as well as writings on early French settlement along the Mississippi River. He is survived by his wife, **HELEN NOBLES SAUCIER, '42**; two sons; four daughters; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son.

# A Look Back



**1927** In the spring of 1927, the UL Lafayette campus housed 1,201 refugees displaced by historic flooding along the Mississippi River. Caroline "Caro" Stephens, a daughter of UL Lafayette's first president, Dr. Edwin L. Stephens, sketched and described a scene on campus in a letter to a family member. "One mother and brood passed thru the hall in this formation," she wrote. "There were a few men there, but it was women and children first." Caro Stephens graduated from SLI with a bachelor's degree in education that year. Because of the flood, Commencement was delayed until July.

**HENRY LLEWELLYN CARY, '46**, died Oct. 1, 2010, in Baton Rouge, La. He was 85. He held a bachelor's degree in music from SLI and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Columbia University. At SLI, he was feature editor of *The Vermilion*, a member of Theta Kappa Phi fraternity, Blue Key National Honor Society, and Phi Mu Alpha professional fraternity. Cary worked for the Acadia Parish School Board for 20 years, as director of federal programs and director of curriculum and instruction. He developed the Southwest Louisiana Educational Information Center, a computer center that served eight parishes. Cary retired in 1983 but returned to education as a counselor at Midland High School in Acadia

Parish for 11 years. He also taught graduate-level courses in counseling and served in the counseling center at McNeese State University. Cary received the Educator of the Year Award from the Louisiana Association of School Executives. He is survived by two nieces, Emily C. Duhon and Sylvia Duhon; two nephews, Douglas D. Duhon and Alden P. Duhon; eight great-nieces and nephews; and a great-great-niece.

**DOLORES GEORGE WEBSTER '50**, died June 30, 2010, at the age of 80. She held a bachelor's degree in sociology. While a student at SLI, she met and later married **WILBER OWEN WEBSTER, '50**. They had been married for 59 years at the time of her death. Webster

was preceded in death by two daughters, Melanie Ann Robbins and Susan Ann Webster. Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Robin Webster Franklin; sons-in-law Jimmie Franklin and David Robbins; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**JOHN "J.J." BURDIN JR., '65**, died Nov. 21, 2010. He was 68. Burdin, who received the Lafayette Civic Cup in 2006, was known for his distinguished professional career and community service. He was president emeritus of the Louisiana Health System; he retired as CEO of Lafayette General Medical Center in 2001, after working there for 26 years. Burdin was a member of the UL Lafayette Foundation's Board of Trustees for six years. He helped secure funding for professorships and scholarships throughout the university. He also taught graduate-level courses in the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration. Burdin served on the board of directors of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting agency of higher education. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from USL. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps from 1965 to 1969, including a year of service in Korea. After completing a master's degree in health care administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, he concluded his administrative residency in 1971 at Montgomery Baptist Hospital in Montgomery, Ala. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Monique Faulk Burdin; a son, J. J. Burdin III; a daughter, Claire Alvarado; and three grandchildren. He is also survived by three sisters: Vaughan Simpson, Barbara Renaudin and Kathryn Leonard. He was preceded in death by his son, Paul Winston Burdin.



**JAY MUESCHKE, '66**, died July 19, 2010, at his home in Carenro, La., at the age of 70. An architect, he practiced in Galveston, Houston and Louisville, Ky., before establishing a practice, Barras Mueschke Architects, in Lafayette.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, **CHRISTINE BORDELON MUESCHKE, '00**; two sons, Michael Mueschke and **NICHOLAS MUESCHKE, '02**; a daughter, Anne-Marie Mueschke; a brother, Maurice M. Mueschke; two nieces; and one nephew.

**WALTER J. "WALLY" ROMERO JR., '79**, died Sept. 4, 2010, at his Lafayette home. He was 53. Romero received a bachelor's degree in business administration and was a member and past president of the UL Lafayette chapter of Kappa Alpha fraternity. He also completed culinary training at the Cordon Bleu Institute in Paris. Romero was an insurance businessman and antiques dealer. Survivors include four sisters, Diane Schomburg, and Gail Liggio, Terry Wofford and **JULIE DUPRE, '90**. He is also survived by four nieces, four nephews and 12 great-nieces and great-nephews.

**RUSSELL WAYNE GARRETT, '97**, died July 15, 2010, when he was struck by a car while riding his bicycle. He was 38. Garrett was a research scientist at Haverford College in Philadelphia, Pa., where he was conducting stem cell research. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from UL Lafayette. He received master's and doctoral degrees in toxicology from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Survivors include his parents, Peggy Smith Garrett and Rodney Gregg Garrett Sr.; his brothers, Rodney Garrett Jr. and **SCOTT GARRETT, '01**; his grandfather, Russell E. Garrett; his grandmother, Doris Smith; two nephews; and a niece.

**EDWARD JACOBS "JAKE" SMITH, '10**, died Aug. 16, 2010, at the age of 23. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in land and resource management. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Smith is survived by his parents, Linda Martin Smith and Walter Smith; his twin brother, Martin Smith; a sister, **ELIZABETH SMITH, '11**; and his maternal grandparents, Lorraine and Norman Martin. Memorial contributions may be made in Smith's name to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation.

**KENYON COTTON, '96**, a former professional football player, died July 17, 2010, from complications following surgery. He was 36. Cotton was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns football team from 1992 to 1996. It earned Big West Conference championships in 1992 and 1994. Cotton is ranked fifth in school history for rushing yards, with a total of 2,311. He played two seasons in the National Football League, from 1997 to 1998, as a fullback for the Baltimore Ravens. He attended UL Lafayette during the 2010 summer semester, pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies. Cotton is survived by his parents, Jerry and Melva Cotton of Minden, La.; two sons, Kennedy Cotton of New Iberia, La., and Timothy Kenyon Cotton II of Carencro, La.; two brothers, Talandis Cotton of New Orleans and Marcus Cotton of Houston; and one sister, Camalla Cotton of Houston.

**PORSCHA F. JACKSON, 23**, died Aug. 26, 2010, in New Iberia, La. She was an honor student pursuing a bachelor's degree in health information management. Survivors include her son, Paris Joe, and daughter, Cameron Clark. She is also survived by her mother, Stephanie Jackson; father, Barron Keith Davidson; three brothers, Jamal, Jamaine and Austin Jackson; one sister, Ladaysha Jackson; her maternal grandfather, Nolan Jackson; and paternal grandmother, Gloria Gibson.

**GERALD JUDE "J.J." STREVA JR.** died Aug. 31, 2010. He was 43. A graduate of Louisiana Southern Technical College, he worked for 23 years as a sales representative for Streva Distributing. He was a junior at UL Lafayette who was pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies. Survivors include his parents, **GERALD "JERRY" STREVA, '64**, and **ROSALIE GUARISCO STREVA, '01**, of Lafayette; a brother, Philip Streva of New Iberia, La.; and two sisters, Lisa Perry and Maria Milazzo of Lafayette.

UL Lafayette student **DAVID TROSCLAIR, 23**, died at his Lafayette home on Aug. 31, 2010. A senior majoring in kinesiology, he had a 3.8 grade point average and was a member of the UL Lafayette Kinesiology Honor Society. Troscclair had passed the entry exam for graduate school; he was pur-

suing a career in physical therapy. A licensed personal trainer, he was a staff member at Lafayette Health Club. He is survived by his father, Richard Keith Troscclair; his mother and stepfather, Carol and Gary Lamson; one sister, Kathryn Troscclair Weaver; his paternal grandmother, Theresa Daigle Troscclair; five stepbrothers and stepsisters, **GARRET, '01**; Gerren; **GANNON, '04**; **TORI, '08**; and Tiffany Lamson.

**U.S. NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER JACQUES FONTAN** was honored during a ceremony at The National World War II Museum in New Orleans on June 28, 2010. It was the fifth anniversary of his death. Fontan was one of 11 U.S. Navy SEALs killed in Afghanistan that day. He and seven other Navy SEALs were in a helicopter, headed to the site where a four-man Navy SEAL team was pinned down by fire from more than 100 Taliban fighters. An enemy rocket-propelled grenade destroyed the helicopter. It was the largest loss of life in a single day in U.S. Navy SEAL history. Fontan attended UL Lafayette from 1986 to 1987. At the time of his death, he was a member of U.S. Navy SEAL Team 10, based in Little Creek, Va.

Former USL athletic director and head coach **NELSON STOKLEY** died June 5, 2010, of complications related to Alzheimer's disease. He was 66. Stokley led the Ragin' Cajuns from 1986 to 1998 and was athletic director from 1988 until 1993. During his 13-year tenure as head coach, the Cajuns posted seven winning seasons. Stokley guided the school to two Big West Conference championships and coached future NFL players Brian Mitchell, Orlando Thomas, Jake Delhomme and Brandon Stokley, his son. Brandon Stokley, now a wide receiver with the Seattle Seahawks, won a championship ring in Super Bowl XXXV as a member of the Baltimore Ravens and another in Super Bowl XLI as a member of the Indianapolis Colts. Nelson Stokley is perhaps best known for leading the Cajuns to a 29-22 upset of Texas A&M in 1996. It was



the school's first win against a Top 25 football team. Stokley's coaching career began at LSU in 1968, when he was hired as an assistant to head coach Charlie McClendon. He later served as offensive coordinator at Virginia Tech University and Clemson University. In 1981, he helped the Clemson Tigers win the national title. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen "Kathy" Randol Stokley; three children, **JAMIE STOKLEY KIRSCH, '92**; **SHAWN STOKLEY, '94**; and **BRANDON STOKLEY, '02**; four stepchildren, Michael Guidry, Elizabeth Guidry Badeaux, Robert Guidry and Colleen Guidry Ottinger; a brother, Bobby Stokley; and 11 grandchildren.

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**J. KELLEY HALL**, Ragin' Cajuns head women's basketball coach from 2002 to 2007, suffered a fatal heart attack Sept. 2, 2010, at his home in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He was 51.



Hall led the Cajuns to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in the university's history. His team finished first or second in the Sun Belt West Division for four consecutive seasons. In 2005, he was named Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year. Hall is survived by his wife, Meredith, who was an assistant women's basketball coach at UL Lafayette; two daughters, Brynley Michele and Jordyn Kelley; and one son, Aubrey Oneal.

**BERYL SHIPLEY**, the former USL head basketball coach who helped desegregate Louisiana collegiate sports, died April 15, 2011. He was 84. Shipley's 17-year career included 16 winning seasons, seven conference championships, a district championship and 3rd-place NCAA tournament



finish. His coaching record of 293 wins in 419 games remains UL Lafayette's best. Shipley joined SLI in 1957, three years after the college became the first all-white, state-supported school in the Deep South to enroll black students. At the time, black students were not allowed to participate in sports and Louisiana teams did not compete against desegregated teams from other states. In 1965, Shipley defied that practice when his Ragin' Cajuns won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 27 Tournament Championship. In the fall of 1966, Shipley signed three black players. The team continued its success on the court, despite racial tension. Players were taunted on and off the court and police escorted the team during road trips. During the 1970-71 season, USL joined the NCAA and the team finished third in the nation in its first NCAA tournament. Shipley was named Louisiana Collegiate Coach of the Year in 1973, his final year at USL. He was inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1984. He retired from Fluid Dynamics and Drilling Measurements Inc. in 1992. In 2001, he established the endowed Beryl Shipley Mended Hearts Scholarships for UL Lafayette students with heart problems. A World War II veteran, Shipley served in the U.S. Navy for two years. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Dolores Gerrard Shipley; three daughters, Marilyn Shipley Watson, Patty Shipley and Amy Shipley Cowand; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Thomas E. Shipley Jr. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jack Shipley.

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DENISE GALLAGHER

## First-rate Faculty

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Michael McClure

**T**HE UNIVERSITY of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation honored four exceptional faculty members in April who inspire their students and colleagues.

Michael McClure, professor of architecture, and Dr. Hongyi Wu, associate professor in the Center for Advanced Computer Studies, received the Distinguished Professor Award. Allan Jones, professor of visual arts, and Toni Cade, associate professor of health information management, earned the Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award. The awards, which include stipends, are given each spring at a banquet held to honor the recipients.

Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation, described these exemplary educators as university ambassadors. “They represent the values of the university, expressed

in its finest work: helping to transform the lives of our students, collaborating with their colleagues and improving our community and our world.”

Honorees are nominated and chosen by their peers. The Distinguished Professor Award has been given since 1965. The Excellence in Teaching Award was

established in 1992. It was renamed in 2008 to honor former UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray P. Authement.

Falgout said this year’s award recipients have a lot in common.

“They share a passion for teaching, a willingness to experiment with new ideas, techniques and tools — and dedication to their students’ success.”

### PROFESSOR SEEKS 'INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS'

Michael McClure

**A**rchitect Michael McClure is more interested in how a structure works than what it looks like.

His pragmatic design sense has earned him international acclaim. In 2008, he received the prestigious Gorham P. Stevens Rome Prize for Architecture. Past recipients include John Russell Pope, who designed the Jefferson Memorial.

The Rome Prize, created in 1894, enables 30 American scholars and artists from a variety of disciplines to live and work in Rome each year. McClure’s wife and business partner, Ursula Emery McClure, shared the honor with him. She is an associate professor of architecture at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Together, they are partners in the firm *emerymccclure* architecture.

Michael McClure earned the 2011 Distinguished Professor Award presented by the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Gordon Brooks, dean of UL Lafayette’s College of the Arts and an architect himself, said McClure has integrated highly theoretical research and scholarship into his professional practice in Louisiana.

“In a world that has only recently awakened to the value of the wetlands, he provides highly creative solutions to the coexistence of the built environment

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

and the preservation of coastal conditions that protect us from the horrific losses of hurricanes and other natural disasters,” Brooks said.

In 2006, McClure completed a design project called “NOkat: no category, no catastrophe.” It featured designs for high-density housing in New Orleans’ 9th Ward to replace homes destroyed by post-Katrina flooding in 2005. The city is vulnerable to flooding from hurricane storm surge and the Mississippi River. Instead of relying entirely on levees for protection, McClure’s design allows water to rise in low-lying areas.

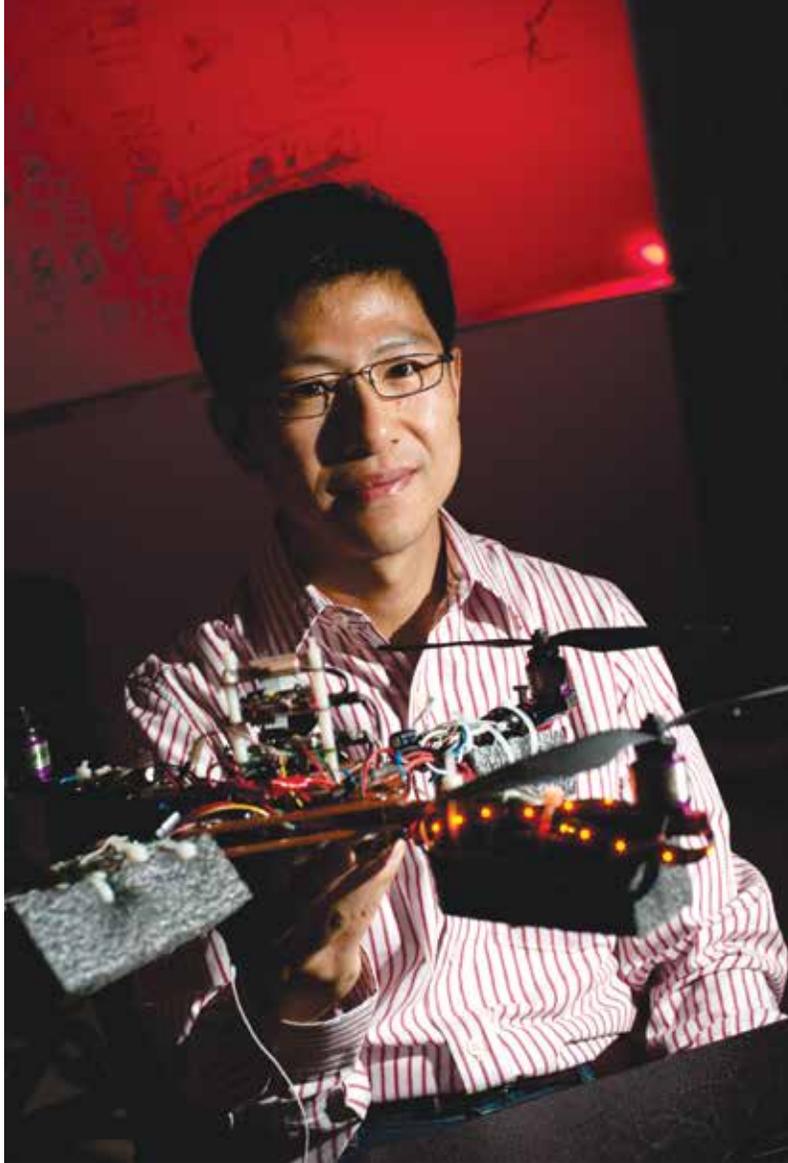
“For a long time, we’ve been trying to create fail-safe buildings and infrastructure in vulnerable areas, and it hasn’t served us well. Instead of trying to find something that’s fail-safe, it might be better to design things that are safe to fail,” McClure said.

“Design is about finding solutions to problems,” he continued. “I’m looking for inclusive solutions. Instead of looking at a situation and saying, ‘either/or,’ I’m looking for solutions that say ‘both/and.’”

One of the courses McClure teaches is *Advanced Architectural Design*. His students call it “the plant class.”

“I ask them to choose a plant that’s native to the coastal environment. It may be an oak tree or marsh grass. I want them to gain an intimate understanding of how that plant survives in the environment. What strategies has it adopted to be successful? What kind of root system does it have?” McClure explained.

“As students begin to experience the coastal environment, they can apply the design principles they find in nature. If we’re going to build structures in a coastal environment, we really have to understand the dynamics of that environment. That includes its geography and geology, its his-



Dr. Hongyi Wu

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

tory and the culture of its people. We’re part of a bigger system.”

McClure joined the UL Lafayette faculty in 2001 after teaching at the Pratt Institute, Tulane University and LSU.

## RESEARCHER THRIVES ON CREATIVE SPIRIT

### Dr. Hongyi Wu

**D**r. Hongyi Wu considers himself as much an inventor as he is a researcher.

“Computer science is different from other science fields like physics, chemistry or even biology. In those fields, we try to understand what’s going on in the world, to understand the theory behind something we observe. But in computing, there’s a spirit of creativity. A computer scientist seeks to invent something — a computer, a program, an application.

“I want to make something new, something that has real-life applications,” the associate professor in UL Lafayette’s

Center for Advanced Computer Studies said in a recent interview. He earned the 2011 Distinguished Professor Award presented by the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Wu is known nationally and internationally in the field of wireless technology. In 2004, he became the first UL Lafayette faculty member to receive the National Science Foundation’s Faculty Early Career Development Award. The award is the most competitive and prestigious given by the NSF to young faculty members in the fields of science and engineering.

Wu arrived at UL Lafayette in 2002. In 2008, he was named the Alfred and Helen M. Lamson Endowed Professor in Computer Science.

Dr. Magdy Bayoumi, director of CACS and head of UL Lafayette’s Computer Science Department, said Wu’s research is distinguished by “its novelty, its rigorous mathematical foundation and its applicability to real-life problems.”

Wu is applying creative solutions in areas as diverse as offshore drilling and wildlife management.

He is part of an interdisciplinary effort to develop wireless communication networks for offshore oil platforms. He is working on wireless sensors that collect, analyze and transmit data about drilling operations.

The NSF is funding Wu’s research in radio frequency identification technology. RFID readers and tags are beginning to replace barcode technology in retail stores, Wu explained.

An RFID tag resembles a paper label. It has an antenna and a computer chip, which gives it a unique identity. An RFID reader transmits a radio signal that energizes the chip. Then the chip sends information through the tag’s antenna to the reader.

Because the systems don’t require a line of sight, they can track items more efficiently than barcode systems, which require individual items to be manually scanned.

Wu hopes to use the lightweight tags to replace battery-powered tracking devices used by biologists. The devices don’t work well on small animals because they

are too heavy. RFID tags are less likely to interfere with an animal's movements, Wu said.

He involves undergraduate and graduate students in his research to give them real-life experience. "They become more capable of doing research. They are prepared to be involved in research projects as they move forward academically and professionally."

He teaches graduate courses in mobile computing and applications, and computer networks. He holds a weekly meeting with graduate students. "We study problems. We discuss ideas and solutions in our meetings. We do experiments, collect results and write papers and proposals together. We are a team," he said.

### PROFESSOR STRESSES ARTISTIC DISCIPLINE

#### Allan Jones

**E**ach semester, Allan Jones emphasizes the "degree of discipline" art requires.

He tells his freshman students, "We're artists. Class starts at 8 o'clock. So, if you continue to miss class, you should expect a phone call."

"They don't believe me," he added with a smile.

Jones' message isn't a threat. It's a promise. If a student is frequently absent, he delivers a firm but friendly wake-up call.

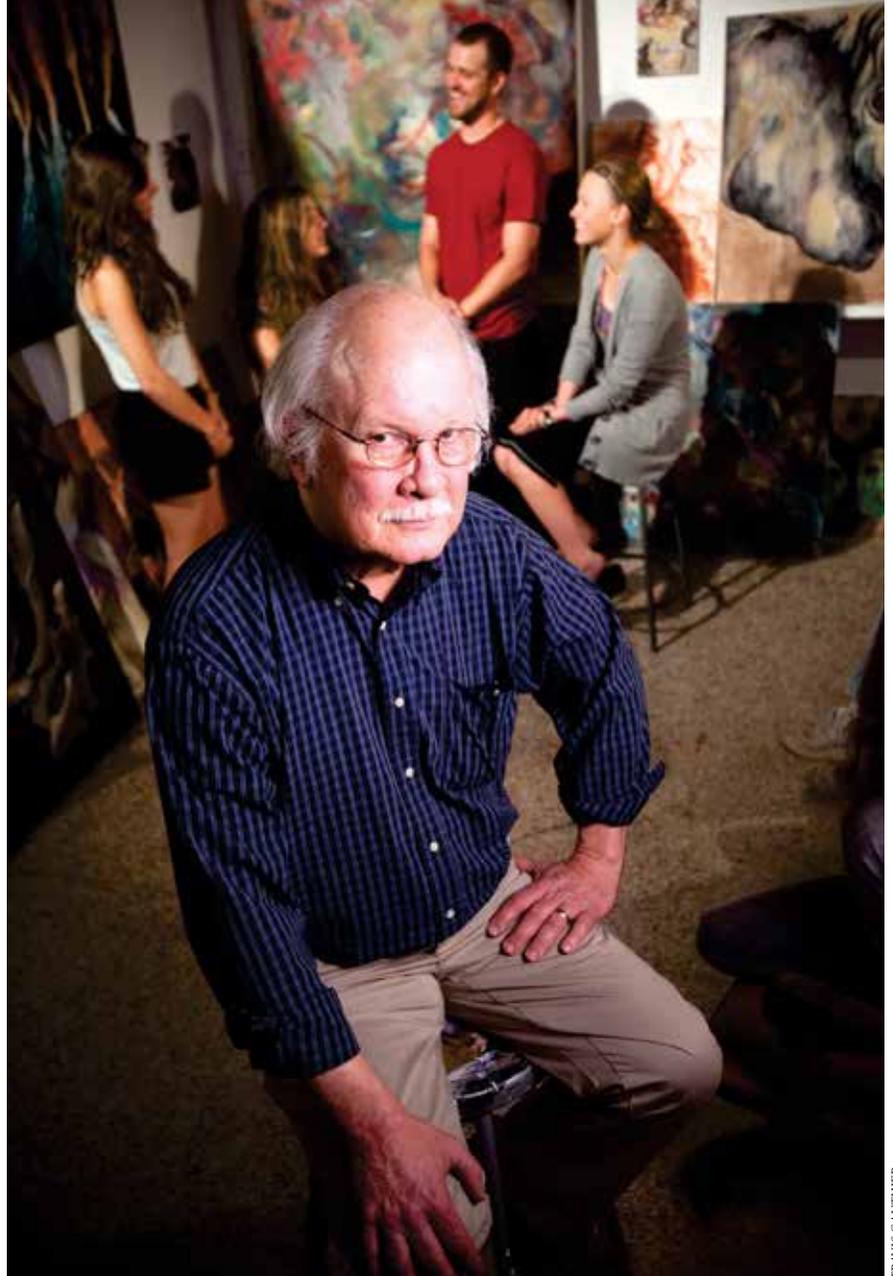
"I may do that a time or two. Some students won't tolerate it but others seem to appreciate the fact that somebody cares enough to make a phone call."

The professor of visual arts has made plenty of those caring calls during his career. He has taught for 46 years, 29 of them at UL Lafayette.

Jones joined the UL Lafayette faculty as an assistant professor in 1986. After five years, he took a job at Antioch College in central Ohio to pursue professional development as an artist and teacher. He remained there for 16 years before returning to UL Lafayette.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Jones said the warmth of the Acadiana community drew him back to the university.

"There's an openness here that you don't find at many other places," he said.



Allan Jones

Jones received the 2011 Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Chyrl Savoy, head of UL Lafayette's Department of Visual Arts, said Jones provides "support and guidance to students in their pursuit of higher degrees. Our students have consistently been accepted into quality graduate programs. They have gone on to build successful professional careers."

Gordon Brooks, dean of UL Lafayette's College of the Arts, noted that Jones "has infused the Department of Visual Arts with many of its best values."

Jones was head of that department from 1986 to 1989. He initiated a policy requiring all faculty members to serve as academic advisors; that policy is still in place.

Jones said demands on student's time require careful scheduling. "Students are working multiple jobs, often putting in hours that are equivalent to a full-time job. As an advisor, you've got to be aware of what you're asking of the student and of the faculty," he said.

The result has been a more cohesive system of planning classes to avoid scheduling conflicts. "The students are better served and faculty communicate more," he said.

Throughout decades of teaching, Jones has developed a reputation as an accomplished painter and printmaker. His work has been shown at the New Museum in New York, the San Diego Art Institute and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans.

His masterwork is *Indulgences: A Book of Common Images*. The fine art

book is made up of 23 leaves of mounted plates. Each leaf is an original print, created with a printing process called *chine-collé*, in which images are transferred to delicate paper, such as rice paper. A copy is held in the rare book collection of Edith Garland Dupré Library.

For Jones, teaching is as important a pursuit as ever. “Artists belong in the university. These days, few students can afford to attend a private school. So, the public university is the place where artists will be trained and, hopefully, nurtured,” he said.

## TEACHER PREPARES STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

### Toni Cade

**T**oni Cade, an associate professor of health information management, describes the profession as “ever-changing.” She should know. She has been involved in the field as a teacher and professional for more than 30 years.

“When I first started teaching in the late ’80s, we were teaching concepts about a paper-based medical record. That has evolved into something much bigger and more important,” Cade said. “Now that we rely on electronic records, students have to learn more.”

For example, they must learn about voice-recognition technology to transcribe medical reports, optical disc imaging to store records and bar-coding technology to locate records.

Cade received the 2011 Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award presented by the UL Lafayette Foundation.

Carol Venable, a professor and head of the Health Information Management Department, said Cade has a gift for teaching complex and challenging topics. “She has the ability to take an ordinary course filled with difficult material and make it fun for the students to learn it.

“Her experience in the working world is also an asset in the classroom. She is always updating her professional skills and incorporating them in her classes.”

Cade teaches an array of courses: medical terminology; hospital statistics; health care reimbursement, which includes Medicare and Medicaid policies; quality improvement of patient care and hospital processes; risk management; and case management.

HIM graduates must pass a national certification exam to become registered health information administrators. Cade is co-author of a series of books written to help graduates prepare for the exam.

Over the years, her students have performed well on the national test. As a result, UL Lafayette’s program has achieved a high pass rate. “The book has not only helped our students but students across the United States, to earn that credential. I’m really proud of that,” she said.

“One of the strengths of our program is that students don’t spend all their time in a classroom,” she added. Students complete two semesters of clinical rotations in local hospitals, learning about the clerical aspects of the profession.

The capstone course is a senior internship. Students spend a month learning management practices at a hospital or other

health-care facility. Cade coordinates the internships, which take place throughout the United States. “They tell me where they would like to go and I work out a contract, if possible, with the hospital of their choice.”

In 2004, Cade was named a Fellow by the American Health Information Management Association. It’s the highest professional honor bestowed by the organization. She is one of about 100 Fellows across the United States and one of only six in Louisiana.

Cade said she enjoys the freedom that comes with teaching.

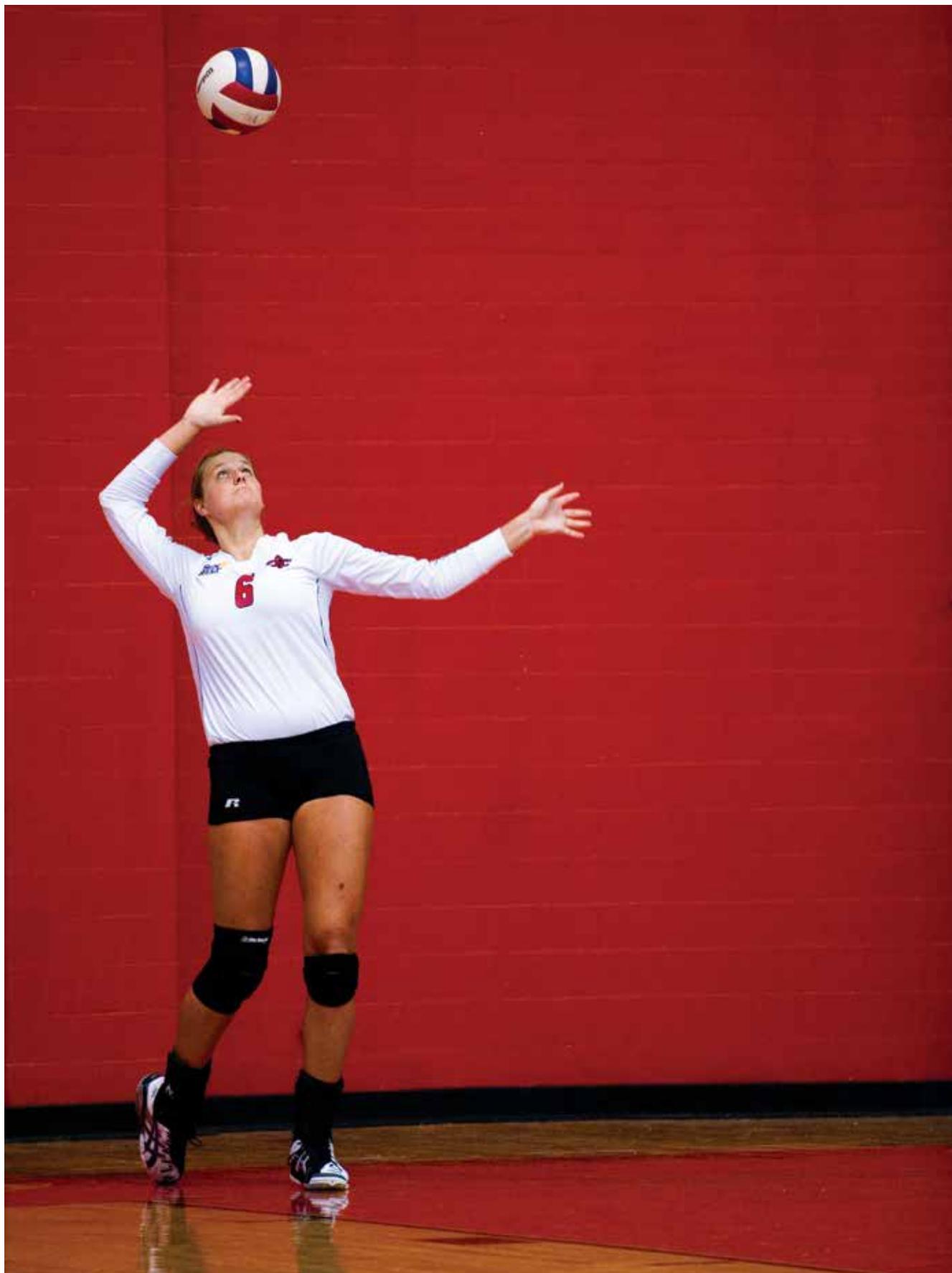
“Teaching gives you the freedom to pursue your passion, to specialize in an area of expertise. The freedom to publish, to do consulting ... the freedom to work as hard as you would like.” ■

 [www.ullafayettefoundation.org](http://www.ullafayettefoundation.org)



Toni Cade

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CATHERINE GUIDRY

UL Lafayette's Mandi Gavin delivers a powerful serve to help the Ragin' Cajuns® gain a 3-2 victory over Houston Baptist University at Earl K. Long Gymnasium. Gavin is a junior majoring in nursing. In 2010, the volleyball team had its first winning season since 2002, finishing with a 17-16 record. That includes the most home wins — 10 — since 1988.



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