

La LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

SPRING 2004





I'm still a little giddy over the amount of national media attention UL Lafayette has received over the past few months.

The university has been featured by CNN, CBS, *National Geographic*, ESPN and *USA Today*, for example. Right when we were sending the magazine to press, we learned that The Discovery Channel will be on campus later this spring to document the work of a UL Lafayette biology professor.

I want to make it clear from the start that I don't believe coverage by national media is more important than coverage by area broadcast and print media. And, I believe the Acadiana media does a super job, for the most part, of covering the university. *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper, has a reporter whose regular beat is UL Lafayette, for instance.

But the value of national publicity can't be overestimated.

It all boils down to name recognition.

Companies like Nike and Chrysler spend oodles of money on advertising and promotions because they want consumers to remember their names and have a favorable impression of their products or services.

Name recognition is important to universities, too.

Consider research funding, for example. In theory, a grant application should be judged on its own merit. But, the truth is, people award funding and, like everyone else, they're influenced by what they see on television or read about in newspapers and magazines.

Of course, an agency won't fund a project just because it recognizes the name of the school where research would be conducted. But it's often to a researcher's advantage to be associated with a university that has received favorable nationwide publicity.

Student recruitment is another area in which name recognition can make a difference. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette benefits when top students across the country see its name among the 357 universities that *The Princeton Review* says are the best in the nation. For an outstanding student to want to attend a particular university, he or she has to know about it first. It's as simple as that.

Inside this issue of *La Louisiane*, you'll find some examples of the outstanding programs and people at UL Lafayette that have caught the eye of national media. We hope you enjoy it.

—Kathleen Thames

Exploring Mars

Scientist uses history to make a case for life on the Red Planet

WHEN PAUL CLOUTIER graduated from USL in 1964, "My Favorite Martian" was one of the Top 10 television shows in America.

On Sunday nights, viewers would turn on their black and white televisions to watch the adventures of Tim O'Hara, a newspaper reporter who discovered a spaceship that had crashed to Earth, stranding a martian. For three seasons, O'Hara managed to hide the extraterrestrial, dubbed "Uncle Martin," as they exchanged information about life on their native planets.

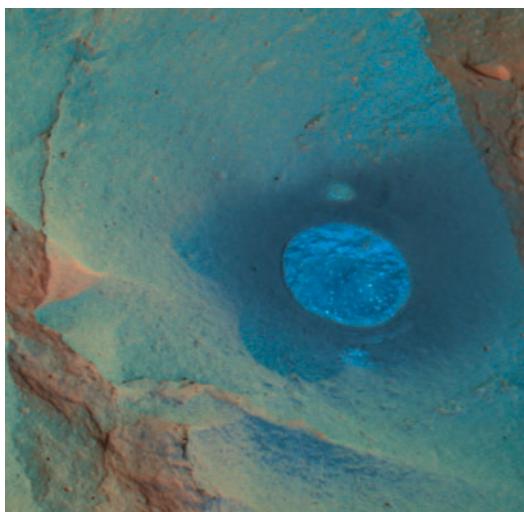
Cloutier didn't need a hit TV series to pique his interest in outer space. By the time he started high school in Opelousas, La., he and some buddies were already building their own rockets, using gunpowder as a propellant.

"We sort of understood at that point that space was going to be a big part of the future," Cloutier said in a recent interview. The "Space Age" had begun in 1957, when the Soviet Union catapulted Sputnik I, the world's first artificial satellite, into the Earth's orbit.

Today, the professor of physics and astronomy at Rice University in Houston is one of many scientists studying the Red Planet. He is a co-investigator for the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft, launched in 1996, which is still transmitting data as it orbits Mars. One of his research areas has been magnetic fields in outer space.

Cloutier returned to his *alma mater*, now known as UL Lafayette, in early March to give a lecture entitled, "Mars: The History of Its Water and Possibilities of Past and Present Life."

Just the day before, one of two NASA robots exploring Mars' surface



NASA/JPL/CORNELL/USGS

Above: This microscopic image was taken by Opportunity, one of two NASA robotic rovers exploring Mars. It shows concretions, which NASA scientists say are "balls of minerals that form in pre-existing wet sediment." **Below:** The Spirit rover transmitted this panoramic view of the Martian landscape.

had provided evidence of ancient water. Photos transmitted to Earth show concretions, balls of minerals that NASA officials say exist in water-drenched

rock. A few weeks later, a new photo showed evidence of an ancient pool of salty water that could have supported life.

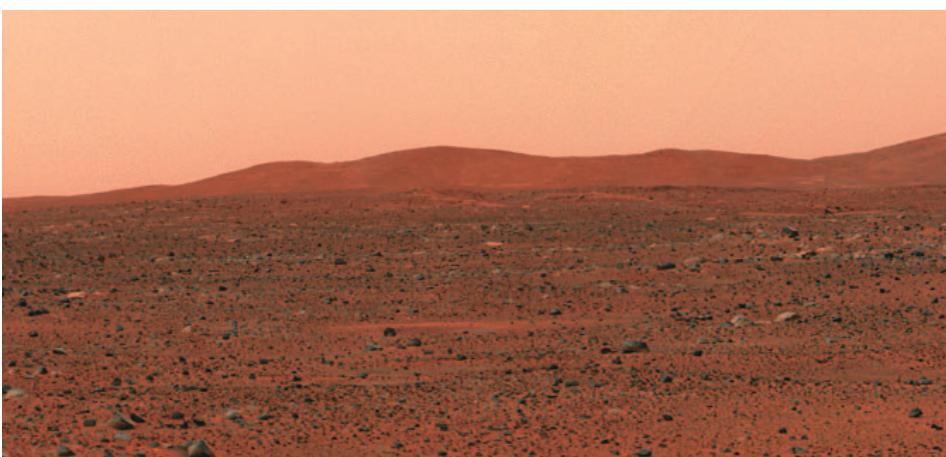
Scientists have long suspected that Mars once had water, based on photographs that show wide plains, deep canyons and winding scars on the surface that resemble dry riverbeds on Earth.

"I think Mars had life. I think Mars still has life," Cloutier told the group in a Broussard Hall classroom, where he once sat as a student majoring in physics.

He contends that the history of the solar system points to the probability that there was enough water and time for life to form on Mars.

He traced the presence of water on Venus, Mars and Earth, whose origins are similar. All initially had large amounts of surface water, he said.

Over billions of years, Venus lost



all of its water – and Mars lost 80 percent – due to reductions in magnetic fields caused by the cooling of their liquid cores and the “subsequent loss of atmospheric hydrogen and oxygen due to interaction with the solar wind,” Cloutier said. The Earth’s magnetic field, however, has remained strong. About 75 percent of the Earth’s surface is covered by water.

Cloutier said it’s possible that water in rocks deep beneath the Earth’s surface supported the first form of life on the planet – extremophiles, organisms that thrive in extreme conditions. Life could have begun the same way on Mars, he said.

The presence of water on Mars is significant, scientists say, because it may enable humans to travel there someday. It’s impossible now, for instance, to pack enough fuel, food, water and oxygen for a manned mission to Mars. But some scientists say hydrogen and oxygen found in water on Mars could be used to manufacture fuel needed to return astronauts to Earth.

In January, President George W. Bush announced a plan that could put astronauts back on the moon by 2015. “With the experience and knowledge gained on the moon, we will then be ready to take the next steps of space exploration: human missions to Mars and to worlds beyond,” he said.

In a twist to the fictional “My Favorite Martian” plot, humans may someday find themselves on another planet in the solar system.

“We only have about another 600 million years to go before the sun’s evolution starts increasing the temperature so much that the oceans will boil and life on Earth will not be possible,” Cloutier said.

“If humanity survives 600 million years, the next logical home is Mars.” ■

'I THINK HE TOOK EVERY CLASS I TAUGHT'

Lafayette President Ray Authement knew Paul Cloutier was sharp when they met in the late 1950s, but he didn’t know *how* sharp.

Authement was teaching math at SLI, now known as UL Lafayette. Cloutier was attending high school in Opelousas, La.

One of Cloutier’s teachers had called him to Authement’s attention. After visiting the young man at school a few times, Authement gave him a gift.

“Computers were just coming out then. You could buy a little computer kit for \$60 or \$70. You could wire it and energize it with batteries and it could add, subtract and multiply,” Authement recalled recently. “I thought Paul was someone who would enjoy that.”

He gave Cloutier a couple of kits.

Cloutier proceeded to put the computers together and rig them up to a telephone. Then he figured out how to use the computer to make the phone ring, creating a primitive computerized phone system. That’s when Authement knew this high school student was exceptional.

Cloutier’s crude device won parish, state and national science fairs. It took second place in an international science fair.

After graduating from high school, Cloutier became one of Authement’s students, although he had been accepted to attend MIT, Cal-Tech and Princeton.

“I think he took every class I taught,” Authement said. “One of them was linear algebra, where the class studied finite dimensional spaces. Paul wasn’t satisfied with that, so he learned about infinite dimensional spaces and came up with all sorts of theories and proofs. He was brilliant.”

In 1964, during his last semester at USL, Cloutier helped write a software program that enabled the school to register students by computer.

Authement went on to become president of the university in 1974.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in physics from USL, Cloutier earned a doctorate from Rice University and was asked to remain as a faculty member. There, he developed an instrument that could measure small variations of magnetic fields in the ionosphere.

Cloutier was principal investigator of 13 NASA ionospheric sounding rocket probes. He is lead investigator on the Pioneer Venus Bus and Orbiter Ion Mass Spectrometer experiments.

Cloutier is also a co-investigator on the Mars Global Surveyor Spacecraft MAG/ER experiment, which is orbiting Mars. ■



NASA/JPL/CORNELL

Top School

UL Lafayette makes *The Best 357 Colleges* guide

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT Lafayette will be included in the 2005 edition of *The Best 357 Colleges* guide published by The Princeton Review.

The best-selling guidebook provides prospective college students and their parents with information about The Princeton Review's top picks. UL Lafayette is one of eight universities receiving this designation for the first time by The Princeton Review.

There are more than 4,000 two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the United States, according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"Since the first publication of this book over ten years ago, our mission has never wavered; we provide useful and accurate information about specific schools to prospective college students from the real experts: current college students. What do fluctuate are the schools profiled in each edition," said Robert Franek, author of *The Best 357 Colleges*.

In a letter to UL Lafayette administrators, Franek congratulates the university.

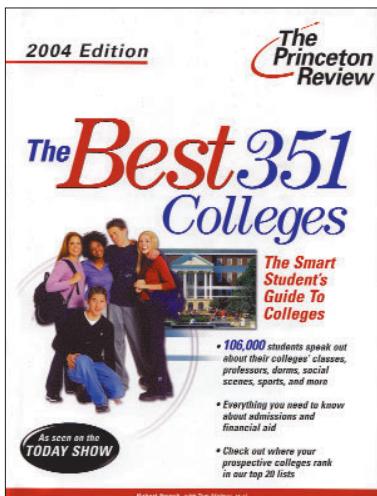
"Narrowing the field of applicants down to eight was a difficult process; some hard decisions had to be made along the way," he wrote. "The University of Louisiana at Lafayette clearly fit the criteria we were looking for, and we are pleased to include it in the new edition of our book."

To qualify for inclusion in this bestseller, the university had to detail its outstanding qualities, curriculum development and experiential learning.

Proving the university had what it takes for inclusion wasn't hard to accomplish based on its record, according to UL Lafayette President Ray Authement.

"With so many examples of strong academics, faculty and athletics, it's easy to understand why this university is among the best," he said.

Authement cited some recent achievements in those three areas, along with examples of experiential learning opportunities.



UL Lafayette will be featured in the 2005 edition of *The Best 357 Schools*, to be published in August. The 2004 edition of the college guide named 351 top schools.

In March, for instance, UL Lafayette students and faculty produced CajunBot, one of 25 autonomous vehicles that competed for a Department of Defense prize of \$1 million.

In February, writer-in-residence Ernest Gaines, author of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying*, was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Dr. Karl Hasenstein, a biology professor, was one of 80 scientists from

around the world whose experiments flew on the space shuttle Columbia last year. And Dr. Robert Twilley, director of UL Lafayette's Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology and a biology professor, is a leading expert in the field of coastal erosion. He is a leader in state and federal efforts to stop Louisiana's coastal erosion and rehabilitate its coastal wetlands.

In athletics, UL Lafayette was the only university in Louisiana whose team went to the NCAA basketball tournament this spring.

Authement said undergraduates at UL Lafayette are involved in important projects at many of the university's research centers, including the NASA Regional Application Center, the Center for Advanced Computer Studies and the Laboratory for Intelligent Systems. Students are also offered the chance to combine learning and community service through AmeriCorps or a Community Service Program.

UL Lafayette is experiencing one of the biggest building booms in its history, Authement noted. Construction projects totaling about \$130 million are under way, have recently been completed or are about to begin.

They include:

- a new art museum, set to open in April, that meets international museum standards;
- a Technology Immersion Center and a hotel that will be built in University Research Park;
- the expansion of USGS National Wetlands Research Center headquarters in University Research Park;
- the renovation and expansion of the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration building; and

• a student parking garage on campus. Before The Princeton Review chose UL Lafayette to be included in the 2005 edition of *The Best 357 Colleges*, it asked UL Lafayette Dean of Enrollment Dan Rosenfield for a letter outlining what sets the university apart from peer institutions.

One of the biggest differences is affordability, he wrote.

"With in-state tuition as low as \$1,469.75 per semester, and room and

board plans beginning at just \$1,563 for each semester, not many four-year public universities can compete with us."

"And, out-of-state students with appropriate high school GPA and ACT scores, as well as children of out-of-state grads, can qualify for in-state tuition."

Nearly \$4 million a year is awarded in scholarships and fee exemptions, in addition to state and federal funds available to students.

In August 2003, UL Lafayette was

included in The Princeton Review's first edition of *The Best Southeastern Colleges, 100 Great Schools to Consider*.

Authement said the significance of being included in *The Best 357 Colleges* is that "now even more prospective students and their parents will know what a quality, well-rounded education is offered here."

The newest version of *The Best 357 Colleges* will be published in August by Random House. ■

NATIONAL MEDIA FOCUS ON UL LAFAYETTE

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has recently drawn national attention.

"Broadcasts and publications covered a variety of topics. That's important because different audiences received the message that UL Lafayette has some amazing people and programs," said Julie Simon-Dronet, director of Public Relations and News Services. "Countless numbers of people across the nation were intrigued by CajunBot, a robotic vehicle that was a contender in a race for a million dollar prize. In addition, sports fans saw that Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® were one of the nation's top 64 basketball teams who competed in the 2004 NCAA Tournament. That sort of publicity is priceless."

Here are some examples of what the rest of the country saw about UL Lafayette in recent months.

- Freshman Ebony Martin's determination to seek a college degree after



DOUG DUGAS

Dr. Arun Lakhotia, who helped lead the development of CajunBot, was interviewed by a CNN crew in February. From left are: Lakhotia, cameraman Adam Shumaker, reporter Daniel Sieberg and producer Marsha Walton.

overcoming the death of her parents was featured by CBS' "Early Show," which flew her to New York City to give her a new car.

- National

Geographic cited the research of cognitive scientist Daniel Povinelli of the university's New Iberia Research Center in its January issue.

- CNN and "CBS Evening News" broadcasts features about CajunBot, an autonomous robotic vehicle that participated in the Department of Defense's Grand Challenge in March.



COURTESY OF CBS NEWS

Freshman Ebony Martin was surprised by the gift of a new car during CBS' "Morning Show." From left are Harry Smith, "Early Show" anchor; Martin; and Peter Butterfield, president and chief executive officer of Kia.

- ESPN's "Sports Center" chose Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns' Dwayne Mitchell's airborne slam dunk as one of its "Number One Play of the Day" segments.

That's in addition to coverage of:

- writer-in-residence Ernest Gaines' nomination for a Nobel Prize in Literature;
- Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns' trip to the 2004 NCAA basketball tournament;
- former Ragin' Cajun Jake Delhomme's journey to the Super Bowl in his first year as a starting quarterback in the NFL; and
- USL grad Kathleen Babineaux Blanco's election as Louisiana's first female governor. ■

State Deposits Funds Into Seed Bank

LOUISIANA WILDFLOWERS WILL BE popping up along road-sides soon, thanks to a seed bank to be created at UL Lafayette.

A \$1.7 million grant will enable the university to collect and propagate wildflower seeds. Ultimately, it will enhance Louisiana's welcome centers, highways and scenic byways.

The seed bank will be located next to the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center on Johnston Street. Once it has taken root, UL Lafayette plans to sell cut wildflowers and seeds and plow back proceeds into the project.

The seed bank is a collaborative effort among UL Lafayette, UL Monroe, Southeastern Louisiana University, the state Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana Project Wildflower and former Louisiana first lady Alice Foster.

Partner universities will help with seed source identification, collection and processing. Mary



ANNE DARRAH

Courville, director of Louisiana Project Wildflower, will help with species identification, site selection, seed collection and any future developments of seed production. DOTD will assist with implementation, monitoring and reporting.

"This is a wonderful project not only for UL Lafayette but for the whole state," said Dr. Linda Vincent, dean of the College of Applied Life Sciences at UL

Lafayette. "We are using our native wildflowers to enhance the already beautiful place we live in."

Foster said beautifying roadsides helps generate "a sense of pride, positively impacts our economy and can be a deterrent to litter."

Economic benefits could come via tourism. "Wildflower plots attract a tremendous number of visitors," Vincent said.

For example, the Neal Smith Prairie Learning Center in Iowa draws about 100,000 visitors a year, although it's about 30 miles from an interstate highway. A similar site in Missouri has nearly 70,000 visitors per year.

Dr. Kam Movassaghi, former DOTD secretary, said federal money allocated to the wildflower seed bank is earmarked for "just this type of project – scenic enhancement of our transportation system."

FACULTY HELP OTHERS SORT OUT COMPLEX CODES



BLAINE FAUL

Carol Venable and Anita Hazelwood

Anita Hazelwood and Carol Venable know all about diagnostic codes, those strings of numbers that insurance companies rely on to pay medical claims.

They also know how to explain the code to health information management professionals in a way that's easy to understand. So the UL Lafayette faculty members' coding manuals are bestsellers in their field.

The ability to convey information and ideas in a clear, concise manner earned the pair the American Health Information Management Association's Legacy Award. They were two of only six health information management professionals in the nation to receive the awards.

"For health information management professionals to use the coding system, they must understand the guidelines that have to be applied. They've got to know the coding system and why you pick one code over another. Our manuals explain these guidelines and give examples of the most frequent cases of miscoding," said Hazelwood, an associate professor of health information management.

Venable said proper coding is a necessity for correct insurance reimbursement. "So much of insurance reimbursement is tied to coding. Proper

coding ensures proper payment and helps prevent billing fraud."

Diagnostic codes that are added each year often mirror current events. "New codes include bioterrorism, Anthrax and West Nile Virus," Venable said. She is a professor and head of the Health Information Management Department.

She and Hazelwood will write a preview manual for the latest coding system, which could be implemented as early as 2005.

UL Lafayette is one of only two schools in Louisiana that offers a bachelor's degree in health information management. After graduation, students are prepared to take the certification exam offered by the American Health Information Management Association. Over the past several years, the average pass rate of UL Lafayette graduates has been well above the national average.

Nobel Committee Considers Gaines For Prestigious Literary Prize

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Ernest Gaines is one of about 60 writers from around the world nominated for the 2004 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The field will be winnowed in April; the winner will be announced in October.

Gaines' work is internationally acclaimed. It has been translated into French, Spanish, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese. Four of his books have been made into films, including *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying*.

Charles Rowell, professor of English at Texas A&M

University and editor of the black literary magazine "Callaloo," wrote the nominating letter to the Nobel Committee in Stockholm, Sweden. Supporting letters came from Oregon, New York, Louisiana, Kentucky and North Carolina.

"Ernest Gaines has contributed in numerous ways to contemporary world literature," Rowell wrote.

"Perhaps his most obvious gift is his extended and refined construction of the novel as an oral, rather than a written, text. That is, his marvelous marriage of storytelling with inscription has helped to extend and refine the novel as a living form."

"He gave voice to the voiceless and made visible the invisible by inscribing the nobility of a subjugated people in North American literature. With balance, eloquence and unadorned elegance, Mr. Gaines depicts his characters with grace and dignity."

Dr. Marcia Gaudet, head of UL



Ernest Gaines

Lafayette's English Department, said Gaines' contributions to American literature, "include his mastery of first-person storytelling voice, his use of humor as an essential element of human character and his major contributions to establishing an African-American literary tradition based on memory of the past."

Gaines has received many prestigious awards, including a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the Chevalier in the Order of Art and Letters Award from the French government and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

In 1997, *A Lesson Before Dying* was selected by television talk show host Oprah Winfrey for inclusion in her book club and subsequently sold about a million copies.

It has been 10 years since an American earned the prestigious award. Author Toni Morrison was the 1993 Nobel Laureate in Literature.

PARTNERSHIP UP FOR GOVERNMENT'S 'OSCAR' AWARD

When Louisiana's small and mid-size manufacturers need a hand, they can turn to UL Lafayette.

That's where they'll find the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of

Louisiana, a not-for-profit federal program that provides manufacturers with business and technical solutions that help them become more productive and more competitive.

MEPoL is part of the federal Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which has centers in every state in the nation and Puerto Rico.

The national partnership is one of 50 nominees for the Innovations in American Government Award. Often referred to as the Oscars among good-government prizes, the award is presented by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Award recipients will be announced in July.

Van Landry, executive director of MEPoL, gives others credit for its success, including UL Lafayette President Ray Authement.

"The commitment of the University and its people and assets to economic development is the main reason we have been able to achieve this and other important recognition," Landry said.

MEPoL project directors and third-party consulting firms provide hands-on assistance to Louisiana manufacturers at reduced costs. Last year, MEPoL added about 100 new clients.

There are more than 5,000 companies in Louisiana that manufacture products. They employ more than 183,000 workers and contribute about 15 percent to the gross state product. Ninety-nine percent employ less than 500 people.

MEPoL also houses the Polymer Technical Center, a full-service center focused on meeting the needs of Louisiana's polymer industry.

Nursing Honoree Delivers Doses of Wisdom

THE STAGE WAS CROWDED when Amy Dalcour was inducted into the Louisiana Nurses Foundation's Hall of Fame.

In spirit, Dalcour said, they were all there — her parents, her husband, the nurses and nursing students with whom she has worked over the past 50 years.

"It means a whole lot for me to be able to give thanks to other people who have helped me so much in life," said Dalcour, a lab assistant in UL Lafayette's College of Nursing for the past 20 years. "I accepted that honor in their honor. I couldn't have done it alone. I have had so many guiding forces in my life."

Dalcour is the first African-American to be inducted into the foundation's hall of fame. But she downplays that aspect, saying she would rather be a role model for all nurses, not just African-Americans.

"I hope this honor . . . can inspire any young nurse beginning a career of caring for patients. It is not



Amy Dalcour

Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Dalcour returned to her hometown of Lafayette and went to work, at the Lafayette Sanitarium (now Lafayette General Regional Medical Center) and University Medical Center. But she wanted to earn a bachelor's degree. In the mid-1960s, she entered USL's College of Nursing. She received her diploma in 1967.

After retiring from nursing in 1973, she had the chance to return to the college, this time as a lab assistant. She's been there ever since, prescribing wisdom and care for nearly two generations of nursing students.

"Coming here has given me the opportunity to continue to grow in nursing," said Dalcour, 71. "Here, at the university, at the academic level, working with students and working with faculty was a continuing process in education. They teach the latest procedures, the latest information. And, of course, working with students is such a pleasure. They keep you young and they keep you on your toes."

ROBIN MAY

just for me. It is to inspire others. We receive things in life, but we do things to help others, too. We cannot stand alone in this profession. It is not a one-man show."

After studying nursing at

MODEL FARM MAKES VISITORS FEEL WELCOME



ANNE DARRAH

A welcome center opened in March at UL Lafayette's Model Sustainable Agriculture Complex at Cade.

"We have visitors here all year 'round. It's a great place for everyone to learn about the agriculture of south Louisiana," said Dr. Linda Vincent, dean of the College of Applied Life Sciences.

The center features a large room for workshops, classes and social gatherings.

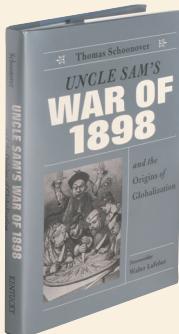
The 600-acre Model Sustainable Agriculture Complex is 5 miles from UL Lafayette's main campus. It's used for research, education, demonstration and outreach in agriculture and sustainability.

It has a working dairy, an equestrian arena, nature trails, managed wetlands and production acreage for beef, sugar cane and specialty crops.

The welcome center was named in recognition of the South Louisiana Mid-Winter Fair Association, which helped fund it, Vincent said.

"The South Louisiana Mid-Winter Fair Association has always been so generous when it comes to the College of Applied Life Sciences. It was only fitting that the Welcome Center bear the organization's name," Vincent said.

UNCLE SAM'S WAR OF 1898 AND THE ORIGINS OF GLOBALIZATION



By Dr. Thomas Schoonover
The University Press of Kentucky

The United States' globalization can be traced to the Spanish-American War, the nation's first major war on the world stage.

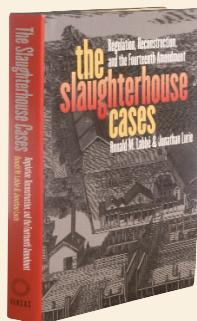
Thomas Schoonover, Sagrera Professor of History at UL Lafayette, examines America's growth from early nationhood to the War of 1898 to show the origins of its goal to expand its economy, political influence and cultural reach beyond its borders. As a result of that war, the United States acquired Puerto Rico and Guam and was able to purchase the Phillipine Islands from Spain.

Schoonover contends that a surge in U.S. activity in the Gulf-Caribbean and in Central America in the late 1800s and early 1900s was motivated by the same avarice and competitiveness that prompted European adventurers to seek a route to Asia centuries earlier.

In a review of *Uncle Sam's War of 1898 and the Origins of Globalization*, John D. Stempel, senior professor at the Patterson School of Diplomacy at the University of Kentucky, noted that Schoonover does a "masterful job of pulling together long-forgotten threads of mid-19th century history to explain why 'Mr. Hearst's war' against Spain was, 80 years of history to the contrary, actually our first global war."

"Publisher's Weekly" wrote: "His concise history of the U.S.'s early imperial maneuvering is scarcely comforting and should play a role in ongoing debates about current actions."

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE CASES: REGULATIONS, RECONSTRUCTION AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT



By Ronald M. Labb  
and Jonathan Lurie
University Press of Kansas

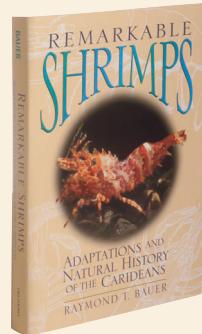
New Orleans in the 19th century was a sanitation nightmare. The city's slaughterhouses, for instance, would dump animal remains into neighboring backwaters. Louisiana's effort to force butchers to initiate sanitation reform ultimately put the 14th Amendment to the Constitution to its first important test, although that amendment was intended to protect the rights of newly freed slaves.

Ronald M. Labb  , professor emeritus of political science at UL Lafayette, and Jonathan Lurie, professor of history and adjunct professor of law at Rutgers University, examine the Supreme Court's controversial decision. With a 5-4 vote, the court upheld the state's actions as a fair use of its "police power" and rejected butchers' right-to-labor argument. The court's ruling also narrowed the interpretation of "privileges and immunities," "due process" and "equal protection" clauses of the 14th Amendment.

"In every way this is a vivid, intriguing, illuminating case study: a model for work of this kind," wrote Lawrence M. Friedman, Marion Rice Kirkwood Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, in a review.

Herbert Hovenkamp, a law professor at the University of Iowa College of Law who specializes in antitrust issues, described *The Slaughterhouse Cases* as "a superb work that tells a lively and compelling story."

REMARKABLE SHRIMPS: ADAPTATIONS AND NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CARIDEANS



By Raymond T. Bauer
University of Oklahoma Press

Caridean shrimps are a colorful group of organisms that inhabit freshwater and marine environments from the tropics to the poles.

Raymond T. Bauer, a biology professor at UL Lafayette, explores their evolution, natural history, biological diversity and commercial importance.

He writes in an informal style, profiling each of the nearly 30 families of caridean shrimps.

"Bauer draws the reader into a participatory relationship with natural history – an almost-lost aspect of biology that allows lay persons to make their most intimate connection to the world around them," Marjorie L. Reaka-Kudla, a biology professor at the University of Maryland, wrote in a review of *Remarkable Shrimps*.

The biological diversity of carideans encompasses a wide range of adaptations in body form and function, coloration, breeding biology and mating behavior. Bauer covers those topics, along with the status of caridean fisheries and aquaculture.

Extensive fieldwork is showcased in life history studies on shrimps.

Brian Kensley, curator of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution, noted that Bauer's book also points out "the many areas where further research is needed."

Gearing Up

Center's growth signals resolve to win battle for Louisiana's coast

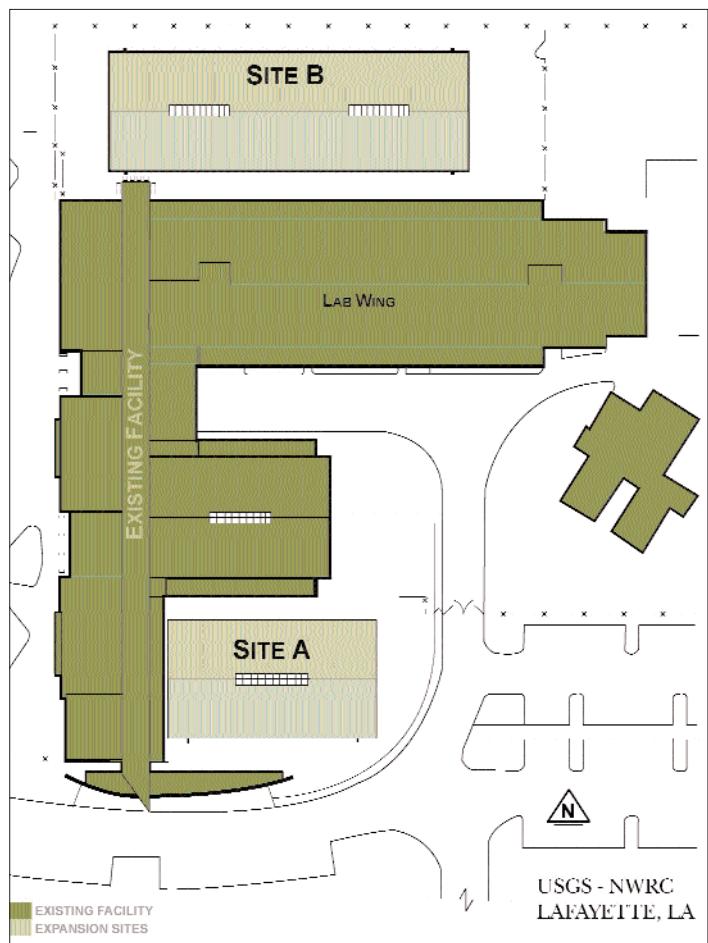
AS LOUISIANA continues to mobilize efforts to fight the encroachment of the Gulf of Mexico that's gobbling coastland, the proposed enlargement of USGS National Wetlands Research Center headquarters may be a sign of what's to come.

"It represents the type of expansion we're going to see in the entire state as we ramp up and respond to the science needs of restoring coastal Louisiana," said Dr. Robert Twilley, a UL Lafayette biology professor, a few days after officials announced plans to double the size of the NWRC headquarters and its staff.

Twilley, who studies coastal ecosystems, has been working for more than a year on a project to secure federal funds to restore and rehabilitate Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

"We're probably spending \$15 million to \$40 million a year on coastal restoration in this state. In the next couple of years, we could be spending \$100 million to \$200 million a year on restoration," he said.

He was referring to a tentative agreement reached in March between the Bush administration and Louisiana officials. That arrangement could provide up to \$2 billion in federal monies over 10 years for coastal restoration.



USGS National Wetlands Research Center headquarters in University Research Park will double its size and staff.

The magnitude and urgency of halting coastal erosion and rehabilitating coastal wetlands demands that much funding – and more, Twilley said. The recently completed Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Study seeks \$8 billion to \$14 billion in federal funds to implement a long-term restoration plan over 50 years.

An area about the size of a football

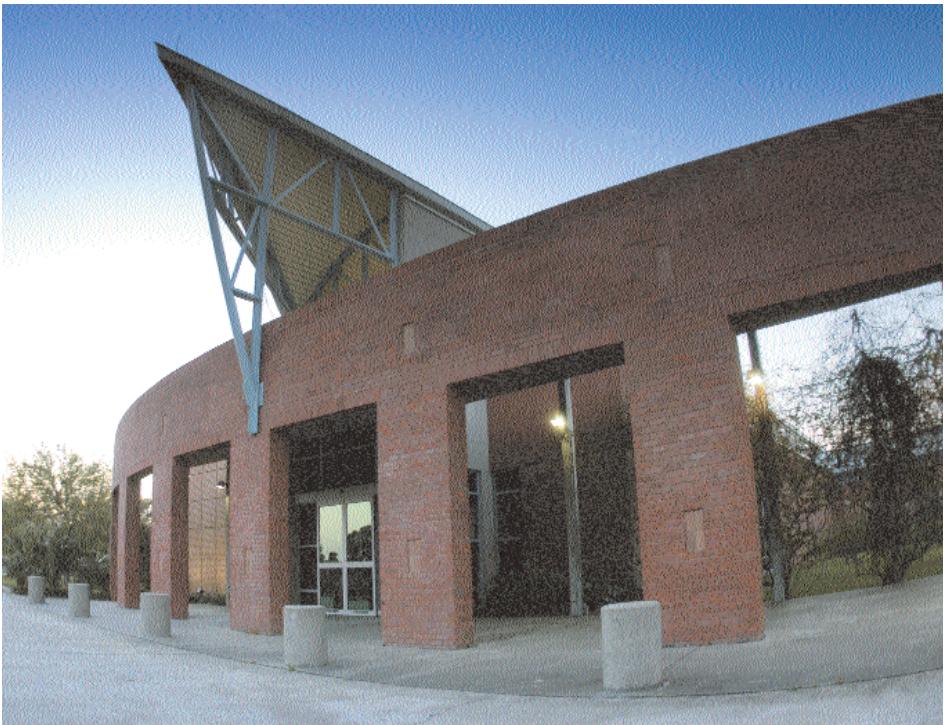
field vanishes every 30 minutes, replaced by the open saltwater of the Gulf of Mexico. The erosion is caused by a combination of naturally occurring changes and human intervention.

At stake are Louisiana's seafood, recreational hunting and fishing, and alligator industries, along with resources that are vital to the state's economy, such as natural gas, transportation and crawfish. The remaining 2.4 million acres of wetlands buffer hurricanes and replenish aquifers that provide Louisiana's drinking water.

UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement has seen for himself the devastation to Louisiana's coast that has been caused by the Gulf of Mexico's constant assault. In a press conference held to announce the National Wetlands Research Center headquarters expansion, he spoke of Boudreux Canal, a small south Louisiana coastal town where he grew up.

He recalled "12 miles of solid land where we hunted and played softball as kids. It's all gone, all 12 blocks of land . . . It just tears you apart when you see it."

Twilley said that over the next few years, scientists will conduct critical



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

Research areas at UL Lafayette and several government agencies will be combined to form a single unit at USGS National Wetlands Research Center headquarters.

research that is needed to make prudent decisions about coastal restoration. "The government sector is going to be a major leader and USGS will be one of the key science elements of the federal government. Lafayette will be the center of that activity."

The private sector will have an important role as well, he added, because "a large part of the science needs will be outsourced."

NWRC and UL Lafayette officials signed an agreement in mid-March that signaled the start of the planning and design stage of the NWRC expansion. The center

"The government sector is going to be a major leader and USGS will be one of the key science elements of the federal government. Lafayette will be the center of that activity."

DR. ROBERT TWILLEY

now has 71,000 square feet on a 20-acre tract. Between 70,000 and 80,000 square feet will be added. The additional space will be used for offices, laboratories and "common" areas.

A total of \$1.45 million of federal funds for the planning phase of the expansion was earmarked last year through the efforts of U.S. Sens. John Breaux and Mary Landrieu. Design work will begin this spring and conclude in 2005.

Construction of the additions is expected to cost about \$22 million; it has not been funded yet.

USGS officials have said the new space will enable the National Wetlands Research Centers headquarters to become an integrated science center that focuses on wetlands. Research areas of the university, various government agencies and all components of the USGS – including biology, hydrology, geography and geology – will be combined into one unit.

Initial areas of study for the integrated center include ecological restoration, invasive species, carbon cycle science, sea-level change and subsidence, nutrient transport, transformation and flux, disease ecology and harmful algal blooms, and energy resources.

The center will also focus on developing a Gulf Coast Regional Response

HOW MUCH LAND HAS LOUISIANA LOST?

Traveling at 60 mph, it would take 2 1/2 hours to circumnavigate an equivalent area.

The lost area is:

- about the size of Delaware
- 31 times the size of the District of Columbia
- the size of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego and Houston combined

On average, Louisiana has lost an area the size of

- an executive desk top every second
- a tennis court every 13 seconds
- a small cottage every minute

In the next 50 years, the rate of loss will approximate

- one coat closet every second
- one office cubicle every 10 seconds
- one large conference room every minute

In the time it has taken you to read this chart, a chunk of Louisiana 50 times the size of your easy chair has converted from land to water.

Source: USGS National Wetlands Research Center. Reprinted with permission from Watermarks magazine, www.lacoast.gov

Center, Gulf Coast integrated databases, and outreach and educational programs.

The USGS National Wetlands Research Center was University Research Park's first tenant.

"When the university was selected as the site for the headquarters of the National Wetlands Research Center more than 10 years ago, we knew this center was important to Louisiana and the United States," Authement said, during the announcement of the center's expansion.

"We knew then research at the center was vital to our state and our country and today we know that even more so.

"By signing this agreement, the commitment to conducting wetlands

Good Sports

Intramurals caters to students' athletic wishes • by James Savage

AT FIRST GLANCE, MALCOLM Mandviwalla and Travis Werner look like complete opposites. Mandviwalla is slender, wears glasses and speaks in carefully worded phrases. Werner has a rapid fire delivery, is barrel-chested and gregarious.

They have more in common than one would think. Both are self-proclaimed fanatics when it comes to sports. Mandviwalla grew up playing cricket in his native India. Werner has been power lifting competitively since he was 14.

Each was responsible for bringing his favorite sport to UL Lafayette. There was neither a cricket club nor a power lifting team when each arrived on campus.

So, they turned to Intramurals, which offers students the chance to play sports other than the university's NCAA-sanctioned teams.

"It's all student-driven," said Wayne Harper, Intramurals director. "It's comforting to know that now there is funding for what kids want. Before, it was, 'Here's a basketball, here's a football' . . . That was it."

Students pay a \$22 fee per semester that benefits intramural sports. Harper said that funding has allowed the department to offer a wider variety of activities at times that are convenient to students.

Intramurals — Greek for "within the walls" — is broken into three areas: Intramural Sport Programs, like basketball, softball and volleyball, which offer a structured schedule for tournaments and interteam play; Club Sports, such as judo, badminton, soccer and water-skiing, that allow students to form their own teams and play against other uni-

versities; and Open Recreation, which Harper describes as "drop-in" sports, with no set times or schedules.

Harper said the department has

five guys, 10 guys for a game together. You squeeze it in when you can," Harper said.

Mandviwalla, who is pursuing a doctorate in computer engineering, and the Cricket Club meet most Sundays at McNaspy Stadium. Cricket is generally associated with Great Britain and most of the team members are from countries with a British colonial influence, Mandviwalla said.

"We start playing in the streets in our housing areas, just anywhere," Mandviwalla said. "We played in our bedrooms and used a tennis ball. If you go back to our country, you will see cricket happening in every nook and corner."

"We follow the game like you follow football here," he said.

Unlike football, cricket matches can last eight hours — or five days.

Mandviwalla said the matches the UL Lafayette squad plays against other university teams are usually only five hours. But, he stressed, they pack the same intensity into those

five hours that they would in an eight-hour match.

During its recent Six-A-Side Tournament — so named because each team has six players instead of the usual 11 — the team couldn't afford to lose



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

Sumeer Groel, a member of the intramural cricket team.

seen a decline in participation in structured intramural sports and a rise in club teams and open recreation.

"People want to do things on their own time. They don't want to be locked in. With team sports, it is hard to get

power. The nail biter ended with the UL Lafayette squad defeating rival LSU by only one point, an unusual event in a sport known for high scores and complicated rules.

"That is why it is very exciting. It is so unpredictable," Mandviwalla said. "You don't know what is going to happen."

Like the Cricket Club, the Powerlifting Team has found similar success. Team members have qualified for national competition, which was scheduled for late April in Omaha, Neb.

And so team members train. And train. And train again — four days a week,



in earshot. There was a tennis match going on outside.

Harper estimates about half the student body utilizes the athletic facilities at Bourgeois and Olivier halls. Those numbers have grown since the addition of an Aquatic Center and will likely grow again after the planned expansion of the building's weight room, Harper said.

"We aren't just flag football and basketball any more. We have judo, cricket, badminton, hockey. Hockey? We are in Louisiana. But where else are these students

going to get the opportunity to play other than the club sports?" ■



GLEN CLARK

Softball is one of several spring Intramural sports.

52 weeks a year.

"We were in here on Mardi Gras, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve," said Werner, who graduated in 2002, but continues to coach the team.

As he spoke, four other team members continued their workouts, a typical Sunday afternoon in Olivier Hall's weight room.

Charles Sarver joined the squad four months ago. At first, he struggled to lift 95 pounds. Now, he handles nearly 400 with ease.

"It's just a matter of coming back," he said. "Keep training."

Sarver left the weight room, only to return with a muffin, which he handed to Werner. "We are all on a 'see food' diet," Werner joked. "There's a huge difference between bodybuilding and power lifting. You won't find two abs on the whole team. We are about strength."

Across campus at Bourgeois Hall, the four basketball courts were filled. A few doors down, someone dropped a heavy barbell on the cushioned floor, jarring those with

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Basketball
Softball
Volleyball
Racquetball
Tennis

CLUB SPORTS

Badminton
Bowling
Cricket
Hockey
Judo
Power lifting
Rugby
Sport Shooting
Soccer
Tae Kwon Do
Water-skiing

Group exercise, pilates, yoga and aerobics are also available.

Call Intramural director Wayne Harper at (337) 482-6157 or visit www.louisiana.edu/Student/Intramurals for more schedules and more information.

"There's a huge difference between bodybuilding and power lifting. You won't find two abs on the whole team. We are about strength."

TRAVIS WERNER, POWER LIFTING COACH

Under Cover

Design students transform terrace into cool hangout

UL LAFAYETTE DESIGN STUDENTS have made their own shade.

As part of Design Week activities held in March, students in the School of Architecture and Design transformed a second-floor terrace at Fletcher Hall — open to the elements

curved structure, which was designed to mimic the serpentine path of the Mississippi River.

The students worked alongside professors and out-of-state architects to construct the framework and the canopy. Both elements in the design

"We're doing this without drawings. We skipped the step of drawing, and modeled it in the computer without a scale. The fabricator mills the parts and we put it together."

"Architecture is a built phenomenon. It's not a drawing. It doesn't matter how good a perspective (drawing) is, it's still not a building," Enge said.

Students worked in teams; some mounted a scaffold to weld the sections together while others stayed on the ground to hold the pieces in place.

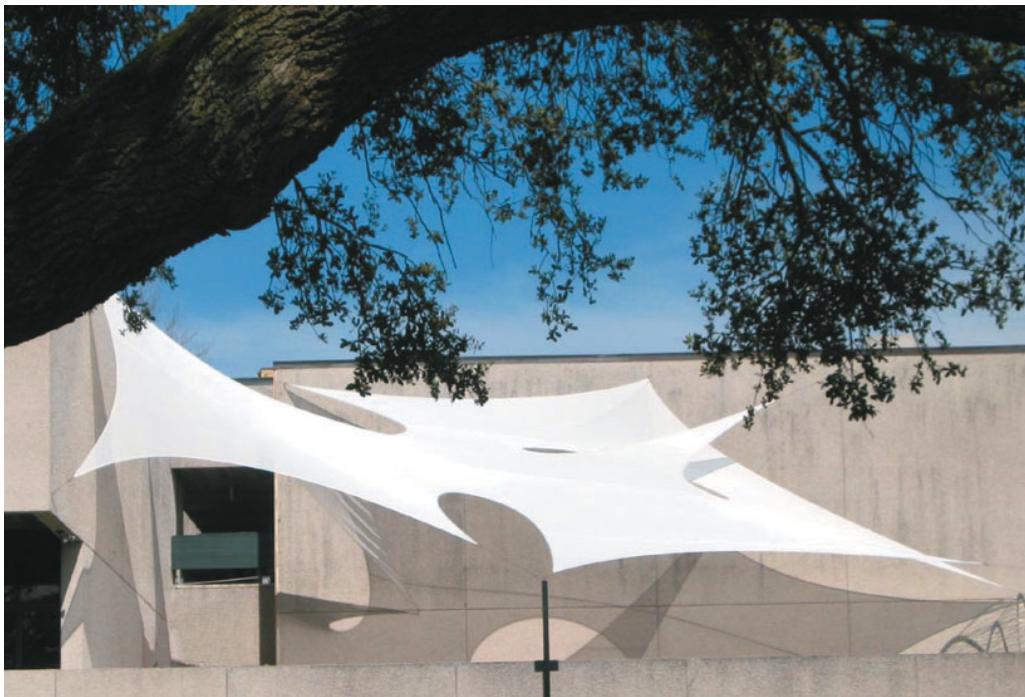
The structure's triangular shape, combined with steel rods woven with specifically placed holes in the metal pieces, keep it stable. The edifice's strength will allow students to sit on parts of it. The 3,000-square-foot canopy will block about 70 percent of the sun's rays.

"What you need for this is a fun project that's funky enough for someone to test the limits and to find an

architectural use for it and put it to use," Matt Flynn, an architect who assisted Enge in the project, told the newspaper. "(The students) can have fun with it and interact with it."

Design student Jared Leger said the structure was built to last.

"It's interesting to know that you could design a building that has a life of its own." ■



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Design students constructed a canopy for Fletcher Hall's second-floor terrace.

and the often-blistering south Louisiana sun — into a cool place to study, read or get together.

Students began discussing the freeform stainless steel structure as part of a physical systems class, which covers the interaction between materials used to build structures and the elements.

A canopy was attached to the

allowed students to approach different problems that might arise in the various stages of construction.

"In the way this process works, there's a lot of dead reckoning," Scott Enge, a metal fabricator from the Los Angeles design firm Marmol Radziner & Associates who worked with the students on the project, told *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper.

Vermilion Makes a Present of the Past

PIECES OF THE PAST ARE SHOWING up in *The Vermilion*.

UL Lafayette's student newspaper is marking its centennial by taking a stroll through the newspaper's archives and reprinting snippets of the university's past.

Vermilion senior writer Jason Brown researches these pieces of history. He said he looks for both the offbeat and the insightful, hoping to provide a "snapshot of the past."

"We can hope this sparks curiosity among students. That is all journalists can hope to do . . . to get people to connect the dots."

Topics range from a visit by eccentric ukulele virtuoso Tiny Tim in 1968 to student discussions of the Vietnam War.

Students at Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (now known as UL Lafayette) published the first issue of *The Vermilion* in 1904, making the newspaper one of the oldest organizations on campus. Annual subscriptions were offered for 50 cents.

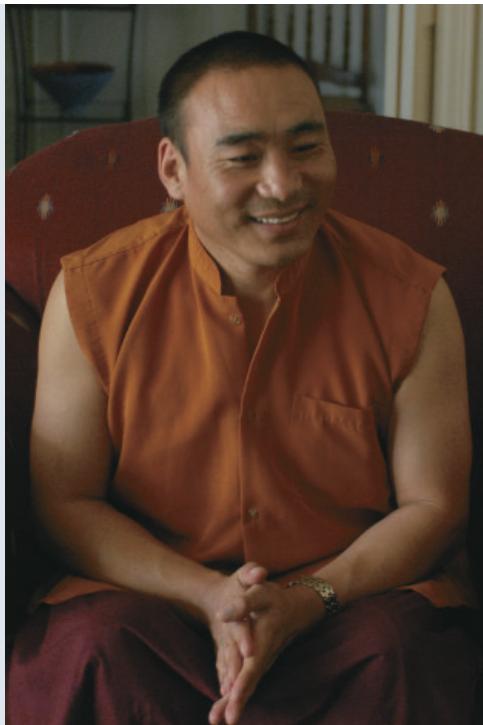


Members of *The Vermilion*, SLII's student newspaper, posed for a photo in 1909. Standing, from left, are Joe Vincent, Bienvenu Roy and an unidentified student. On the center row, from left, are an unidentified student, Lilla Mouton Simon, Hilda Rosenfield, Alex Bagany, Martha Pellerin Doran and an unidentified student. Seated in front, from left, are Hamilton Cade and an unidentified student.

In 1933, *The Vermilion* moved from publishing twice monthly to once a week. It continues to publish weekly.

"*The Vermilion* has changed from a gossipy newsletter to something that strives to inform

students about UL and the Lafayette community," said Amanda Guidry, the newspaper's current editor-in-chief. "We have that same mindset today. Tradition is important. We are almost as old as the university and have grown up along with it."



Khenpo Lodrö Thayé Rinpoche

MONK TAKES ON ENGLISH STUDIES

Khenpo Lodrö Thayé Rinpoche has spread his Buddhist teachings all over the world. But the revered Tibetan monk knows that learning English will help him deliver his message to new audiences.

This spring, he turned to UL Lafayette for help.

Rinpoche will polish his English skills through the Office of International Affairs' Intensive English program, which provides grammar, writing and reading lessons. It's intended to prepare international students for academic study at American universities through small classes and immersion in the language.

In an interview with *La Louisiane*, Rinpoche noted the courses will be unlike any others he has taken before. His previous studies, at Buddhist monasteries in Tibet and India, twice earned him the title of *khenpo*, which is equivalent to a doctorate in philosophy.

"The studies I did before were dharma (a duty in Buddhism.) This is something totally different. English is something that will be helpful all over the world. I have an enthusiasm for it," he said, speaking through an interpreter.

He directs the education and spiritual practice of 300 monks, 70 advanced-degree candidates, 60 children and a host of others who live at Mardo Tashi Choling, an institute for Buddhist philosophical studies that he founded in eastern Tibet.

He has guest lectured and taught at Yale University and the University of Oregon. Among Buddhists, he is considered a tulku, the reincarnation of an enlightened being who has chosen to return to human existence more than once as a teacher of others.

In addition to his UL Lafayette classes, Rinpoche will maintain a full schedule of speaking and teaching engagements throughout the region before returning to Tibet in May.

TERRI FENSEL



TERRI FENSEL

THROUGHOUT KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO'S 20-year political career, there have been skeptics who have hovered like a dark cloud. Granted, her success was improbable. For starters, she is a woman in a political system historically dominated by men. She is not an orator. In the early days of her public service, she was also rearing six children. But on the day of her inauguration as Louisiana's first female governor — when she became the first UL Lafayette graduate to occupy the state's highest office — there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

ACADIANA'S OWN

By JAMES SAVAGE
and KATHLEEN
THAMES



PHILIP GOULD



Members of the Pride of Acadiana Marching Band approach the State Capitol before Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco's inauguration. The governor invited the UL Lafayette and Grambling State University bands to perform at her Jan. 12 swearing-in ceremony.

TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, her friends say, you have to look at her south Louisiana roots.

"Her values are Acadiana's values," said one of them.

Blanco's devotion to family, religious faith and unfaltering determination have

been constants as she has worked her way up the ladder of elected office.

Time after time, Blanco has defied critics who have underestimated her, who have said she doesn't have what it takes to survive the rigors of public service. She has done it by turning what may have seemed like weaknesses into strengths. If

Kathleen Blanco is the first lieutenant governor to be elected governor since Jared Y. Sanders in 1908. The state's No. 2 spot has historically been a political dead end.



PHILIP GOULD

she failed to convey her political savvy to large groups, she made up for it one-on-one. If she had little money for television ads, she canvassed neighborhoods on foot. If the odds were long, she worked longer.

THE STORY OF THE GOVERNOR'S political beginnings is now well-known. To help support her family, the former school teacher

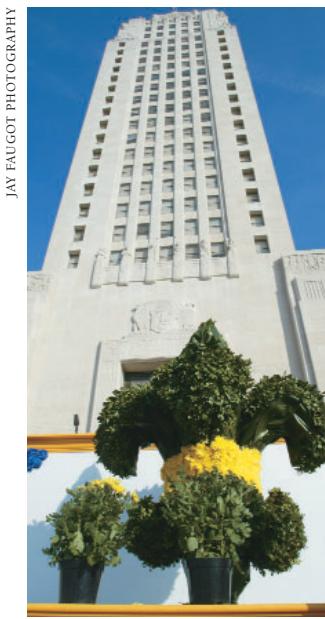
BELOW: The design of a Children's Village in the sunken gardens at the State Capitol, including several of Lafayette's Pelicans on Parade, was the work of Dr. Paulette Hebert, associate professor and director of UL Lafayette's Facility Design and Management Studio in the College of the Arts. **BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT:** Hebert also designed the topiary *fleurs-de-lis* that lined the front of the platform where the governor and other statewide officials sat.



JAY FAUGOT PHOTOGRAPHY



PHILIP GOULD



JAY FAUGOT PHOTOGRAPHY



She built a reputation for being responsive to voters. She would sometimes park a camper in shopping center parking lots to make it easy for constituents to drop by.

and sometime seamstress took a job as a district manager with the U.S. Census in 1979. The oil industry was booming; high paying jobs in the oil field were plentiful.

After her census stint was complete, she and her husband, Raymond, started a political consulting firm. By polling voters, day in and day out, Blanco got to know the

difference to our family," she said.

After graduating in 1964, she returned to campus as the wife of Raymond Blanco, a colorful, gregarious former high school coach who had been hired as assistant football coach for the Ragin' Cajuns®. They lived in Apartment 14 of Vet Village.

After their second child was born, the family moved to a house on Charles Read Avenue, less than five minutes from campus.

For the next decade, Blanco's primary job was motherhood. The Blanco household was always a busy place. In addition to their family, countless USL students showed up at their home at the invitation of her husband, who became dean of students at USL in 1968. In fact, Raymond started each semester by passing out his home phone number to incoming freshman.

"It would be nothing unusual for him to walk in at midnight with about eight or 10 students, girls and boys, and we'd have a bull session right then and there until 2 or 3 in the morning," Kathleen Blanco recalled in a 1997 interview.



PHILIP COULD

Members of the Blanco family surround then-Public Service Commissioner Kathleen Blanco as she announces her intentions to run for governor in 1991. Standing next to his mother is Ben Blanco. At right is Raymond Blanco Jr. Blanco ended her 1991 bid for governor one week before the primary and continued to serve on the Public Service Commission until 1996.

It was difficult to find enough workers to conduct the decennial count, so she turned to television, radio and newspapers to make an appeal for applicants.

The public Kathleen Blanco was emerging — and she didn't even realize it.

"I began having people come up to me and suggest I run for office," Blanco said in an interview with *La Louisiane*. "I went to Dallas for the (census) training and they told us that a great many people who work for the census would hold political office. When they said that, I just laughed to myself and said, 'Oh, yeah, sure.' That was not my ambition, my goal and nothing I could even remotely imagine."

issues that were important to them.

The stage was set for her to continue the business of politics, this time as a candidate.

BLACO GREW UP IN COTEAU, LA. By the time she enrolled at USL in 1960, the Babineaux family had moved to New Iberia.

Her mother insisted she learn a skill. So, the shy, blue-eyed girl put aside her desire to study art and instead pursued a degree in business education.

"My family could not afford to give me money and spend money on dormitories and things like that, so I commuted. The access made all the

WHEN STATE REP. LUKE LeBlanc retired in 1983, Blanco decided to run for his seat. Early polls showed her with support only in the single digits.

She canvassed the district on foot, often with one of her children in tow, knocking on doors, passing out push cards and asking people for their vote. In the primary, she finished second behind Jan Heymann. But Blanco continued meeting people all over the district, at the grocery store, at schools, in their yards.

She defeated Heymann in the runoff by nearly 20 percentage points, although Heymann had spent 10 times more during the campaign.

The role of an underdog who pollsters said shouldn't win, but did anyway, is one Blanco would repeat in many subsequent races.

BLANCO REMAINED IN THE Louisiana Legislature until 1988, the first woman to represent Lafayette Parish there. During the sessions, she commuted almost daily between Lafayette and Baton Rouge. When she couldn't make it home in time for dinner, she would dictate recipes to Raymond by telephone from the House floor.

Kathleen Blanco built a reputation for being responsive to voters. She would sometimes park a camper in shopping center parking lots to make it easy for constituents to drop by to talk with her face to face. That personal interaction also became a hallmark of her public service.

Blanco won reelection to the House in 1987, but the following year, she sought a seat on the state's five-member Public Service Commission, which sets utility rates, among a myriad of other duties.

term; and state Rep. David Duke, a former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

A week before the primary, citing a lack of cash, she bowed out. It was the closest Blanco ever came to political defeat.

In 1995, she was elected lieutenant governor. She won reelection in 1999 with nearly 80 percent of the statewide vote.

In eight years in that office, she compiled a record of building nearly \$400 million in tourism revenue and cultivating 21,000 tourism-related jobs.

KATHLEEN BLANCO IS THE FIRST lieutenant governor to be elected governor since Jared Y. Sanders in 1908. The state's No. 2 spot historically has been a political dead end.

But with her solid name recognition and nearly flawless resumé of political service, Blanco was the early front-runner

Gov. Kathleen Blanco addresses university journalists during a February press conference.



TERRI FENSEL

She was the first woman elected to serve on the PSC and its first female chairperson. Her victory was significant for another reason: it was her first race outside Acadiana.

IN 1991, BLANCO MADE ANOTHER unlikely move. She ran for governor. The field was full — the incumbent governor, "Buddy" Roemer; former Gov. Edwin Edwards, running for a fourth

in a field with 17 other candidates, all men. As the crowded field split Democratic support, however, Blanco found herself in a familiar position — in second place. This time, she was trailing Bobby Jindal, the 32-year-old former president of the University of Louisiana System, who had never held an elected office.

She squeaked into the runoff with Jindal with barely 18 percent of the statewide total. Jindal had 33 percent.

“My family could not afford to give me money and spend money on dormitories and things like that, so I commuted. The access made all the difference to our family.”

Some political observers say the outcome of the runoff turned on a single moment during a televised debate, four days before voters went to the polls. The candidates were asked to cite the defining moment of their lives. Jindal talked about his conversion from Hinduism to Christianity and the birth of his daughter.

Then, it was Blanco's turn.

"The most defining moment in my life

race. It was a ritual she had observed after most of her campaign victories — the return to her spiritual home to give thanks. The night before, she had held her victory party in Lafayette, in another nod to her Acadiana roots.

On Jan. 12, 2004, Blanco took the oath of office in English, then repeated it in French.

Her inauguration speech set the tone



JAY FAUCETT PHOTOGRAPHY

Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco hugs the Rev. Chester Arceneaux, pastor of Our Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church on the UL Lafayette campus. Arceneaux officiated at a family Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Baton Rouge the day before Blanco was sworn in as governor.

came when I lost a child," she said, her eyes brimming with tears.

Her youngest son, Ben, was a political science major at USL when he was killed in an industrial accident in January 1997. He was 19.

"I guess that's what makes me who I am today, knowing that one of the worst things that can happen to a person happened to me, and we were able to protect our family and the rest of my children have been strong as a result of it."

BLACCO ATTENDED MASS AT OUR Lady of Wisdom Catholic Church on the UL Lafayette campus the day after she won the governor's

for her administration.

"We unite here today, Louisianians from all parts of our state — women and men, black and white, Democrat and Republican, young and old. And we commit ourselves to the renewal of our spirit and the revival of our determination to create a state in which all of our people may prosper," she said.

A Capitol newspaper correspondent wrote, weeks later: "This is a governor who works by inclusion. She talks openly to soothe legislators; legislators sound soothed. She graciously says 'please' and 'thank you' often. If a broad coalition doesn't want the deal, neither does she."

By late March, the new governor had met three times with President George W. Bush, made a surprise visit to Louisiana troops in Iraq, brokered a last-minute compromise deal on state business taxes, secured the transfer of 14,000 federal acres in north Louisiana to state control, hosted a statewide summit on health care and helped get a stalled plan to fight coastal erosion back on track.

At a press conference in Baton Rouge, held for student media at the state's universities and colleges four weeks after taking office, Blanco was asked to describe a typical day. She said she starts working about 7:30 a.m. and usually ends her work day at about 8 p.m. Sometimes the days stretch longer. "In fact, I'm wearing my staff out, so I'm trying to get more disciplined," she said.

Raymond Blanco has served as vice president for Student Affairs at UL Lafayette since 1982, so questions about funding for higher education — and about her loyalty to her *alma mater* and her husband's employer — have been inevitable.

The day before her inauguration, the *Shreveport Times* ran a Q & A with the governor-elect. Predictably, one of the questions was:

"What about more money for higher education? There are those in the higher education community that know of your connection to (UL Lafayette). They fear that you tend to be prejudiced toward (UL Lafayette). Do you have a soft spot for (UL Lafayette)?"

"I have a soft spot in my heart for higher education. Period." Blanco replied. "I have been lieutenant governor for eight years and I have adopted the universities across Louisiana."

"I think every campus is important to us. I lost my sense of prejudice toward (UL Lafayette) a long time ago. I understand mission, purpose and the need for funding for our various campuses. I want to see all of our campuses be as successful as possible."

Doubts about Blanco's motives and her ability are nothing new. During the campaign, critics questioned her ability to corral the Legislature and to hold her ground under fire.

During a press conference the day after being elected governor, Blanco dismissed those who have underestimated her for the past two decades.

"I love working from that position," she said with a wide smile, "because I have always proven them wrong." ■



FROM THE DUCK BLIND TO THE DESERT

BY SARAH SPELL

DR. ARUN LAKHOTIA IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the Center for Advanced Computer Studies who specializes in computer security, developing methods for detecting computer viruses. Last August, Lakhotia was settling in for what seemed a typical fall semester. Then one of his students, Muralidhar "Murali" Chakravarthi, came by his office to discuss his research plans.

"I asked him what he would really like to work on," Lakhotia recalled months later.

"Robotics," Chakravarthi had answered.

Lakhotia showed him a web site. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research and development agency for the U.S. Department of Defense, had announced a Grand Challenge: build an autonomous ground vehicle, capable of navigating on its own, to race from Barstow, Calif., near

Los Angeles, to Primm, Nev., near the outskirts of Las Vegas. The first vehicle to reach the finish line in less than 10 hours would earn its team a \$1 million prize.

Would Chakravarthi like to be part of a team to take the Grand Challenge?

"You're kidding," Chakravarthi said. "Besides, you're not in robotics."

"I'll find someone who is," Lakhotia responded.

That someone was Dr. Charles Cavanaugh, also of CACS. Cavanaugh studies computer hardware and systems. "I asked Charles if he thought we could do this," Lakhotia said. "We decided to give it a try."

Two hundred days later, the idea was a reality, a vehicle named CajunBot, that could think for itself and move on its own, competing in an elite, million-dollar race in the West Mojave Desert.



CACS/PATRICK LANDRY

CAJUNBOT'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

TWO HUNDRED DAYS LATER, THE IDEA WAS A REALITY ITSELF AND MOVE ON ITS OWN, COMPETING IN AN ELITE

THE COMPETITION WAS STIFF — AND had a serious head start. DARPA had introduced the contest in July 2002. By Fall 2003, dozens of teams had formed. Private companies were created for the sole purpose of entering the Grand Challenge. The California Institute of Technology was working on its modified 1996 Chevy Tahoe, the University of Florida on its 1993 Izuzu Trooper. And Carnegie Mellon University was readying its military-surplus Hummer for the desert race.

On Sept. 2, Cavanovaugh visited the toy aisle of Wal-Mart to begin work on the CajunBot prototype, GPS Bot. He modified a remote-control car, adding GPS sensing

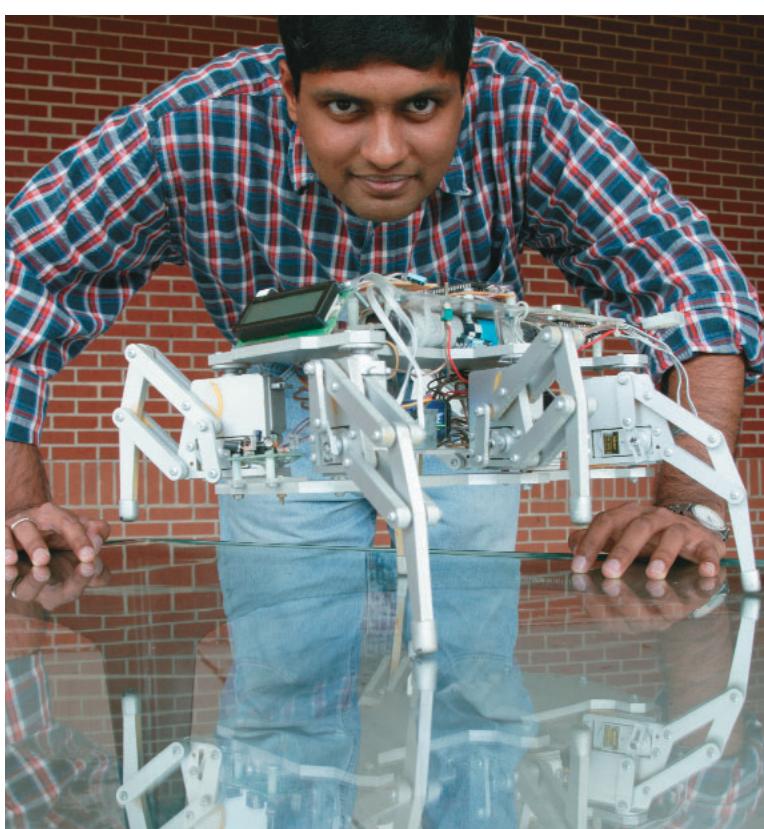
This was not exactly new territory for Cavanovaugh. In his office in the UL Lafayette Conference Center, a red plastic Ferrari and its modified remote control share a shelf with academic research materials. “I made it when I was 15,” he said. He pointed to a computer port installed on the remote. “I modified it so that I could control the car with a computer.” The Ferrari was controlled by a then-powerful

was a cheerleader, encouraging his students, his peers and community members of the team. But he also kept everything on track. “I would tell them, ‘We are aiming for success in the next step.’ That is all: ‘Success in the next step.’ Because if you

DOUG DUGAS



LEFT: Muralidhar Chakravarthi had already built his own six-legged, walking robot when his professor encouraged him to take the Grand Challenge. Chakravarthi helped develop electronics hardware for CajunBot. ABOVE: Firaz Bouz of the Center for Advanced Computer Studies conducts field testing of CajunBot.



PHILIP GOULD

and a computer algorithm — a set of instructions for the bot to carry out. It worked — almost too well. “This thing is really fast. I tried it on campus and let it loose on the sidewalk — it went so fast I couldn’t keep up with it on foot. I had to reprogram it to slow it down,” he said.

because with it, we could show people what we were working on,” said Cavanovaugh. “When they saw that this was doable, they began to get excited about the project.” Faculty and students encountered the GPS Bot, and the CajunBot team grew.

As the leader of the project, Lakhotia

Commodore 64. Cavanovaugh could not have guessed that in another 15 years, he’d become the technical leader for Team CajunBot.

“The GPS Bot was important,

look too far ahead, you will lose focus.

“The first step was to write a technical paper that would be accepted by DARPA,” he said. The paper was due on Oct. 14. On Oct. 31, the team was notified that the paper had been accepted. But there was no time to celebrate. “We just kept working,” said Cavanovaugh. “All along, we were going on faith, believing that this would really happen.”

Then the team encountered an unexpected challenge. “When the technical paper was accepted, we thought we were in. Later we learned that our acceptance into the Grand Challenge would hinge on a site visit. But that still didn’t guarantee

A VEHICLE NAMED CAJUNBOT, THAT COULD THINK FOR MILLION-DOLLAR RACE IN THE WEST MOJAVE DESERT.

that we'd get to race. If they liked what we were doing, then we could go to California for the QID — Qualification, Inspection and Demonstration. If we made it through QID, then we'd get to actually compete in the race."

DARPA officials would be on campus Dec. 11 to evaluate Team CajunBot's progress. By mid-November, the team still lacked a full-scale vehicle. "We were desperate for a vehicle," Cavanaugh said.

That's when fate took a hand. "We knew what kind of vehicle we wanted," Cavanaugh said. He took an amphibious all-terrain vehicle for a test drive, hoping the dealer would donate one. Instead, the dealer told him to call Brother Ray Majors, who donated his own Max ATV for the project.

"It was muddy. It was caked with leaves. It was a real amphibious Louisiana

vehicle. Who'd have guessed that CajunBot would have started out as an ATV owned by a preacher from Melville?" Cavanaugh said. "He'd drop by and see how things were going. He seemed glad that it was working out for us, but sort of sad that he would never get to take her duck hunting again."

Majors proved to be an important connection. His son, Mark Majors, is the owner of MedExpress, an Alexandria, La., ambulance company that became a CajunBot sponsor. His son, Danny Majors, headed up the CajunBot Chase Team, giving non-technical, yet crucial, support to the

size crawfish to ride atop the bot. "Everyone loved the crawfish — especially the media," said Lakhota, with a laugh. "They asked more questions about the crawfish than about CajunBot!"

All the sponsors' contributions were appreciated, Lakhota said, but perhaps none so keenly as that of C & C Technologies, a Lafayette-based company that specializes in underwater navigation and surveying. "We could not have done this without the expertise provided by C & C," said Lakhota. And this connection seemed fated, as well.

PHILIP GOULD



LEFT: Dr. Arun Lakhota, Team CajunBot's project leader, organized a creative, high-tech team. ABOVE: Unlike some of its competitors, CajunBot is equipped with a remote control — a modified video-game joystick.

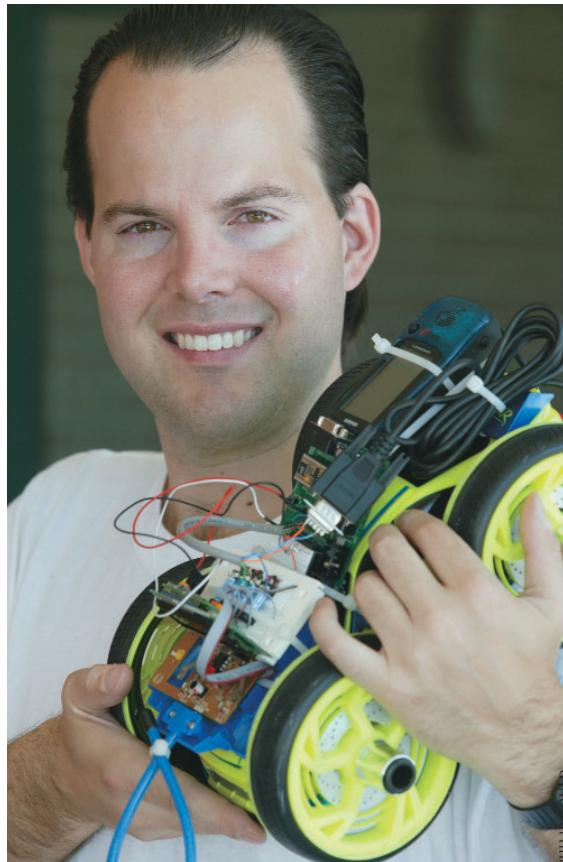


PHILIP GOULD

team. Other community connections formed. Firefly Digital created a web site for the team. Diamond Data Systems contributed financially. Pixus Printing created adhesive labels for the bot. And, Begneaud Manufacturing created a bright red, larger-than-life-

Lakhota was having lunch at Bisbanos Pizza Parlor, a restaurant near campus, when he ran into a former student, Pablo Mejia. Mejia works for C & C Technologies, writing computer software that enables autonomous robotic submarines to navigate using Global Positioning System technology. "He brought exactly the skills and expertise that we needed and he was

"YOU HAD TO DESIGN SOMETHING THE SAME DAY YOU WERE GOING TO BUILD IT."



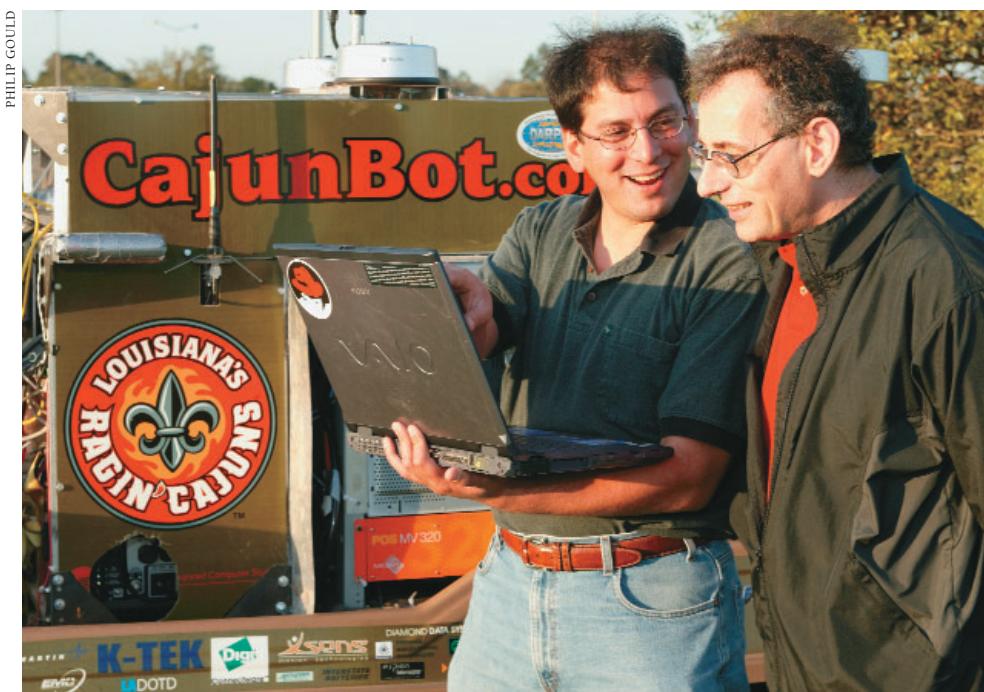
ABOVE: Dr. Charles Cavanaugh, the technical leader of the team, holds the GPS Bot, the CajunBot prototype. RIGHT: Pablo Mejia, left, and Dr. Anthony Maida developed software that allows CajunBot to navigate using GPS signals and to avoid obstacles in its path. BOTTOM: Software that simulated how CajunBot would perform in the real world helped the team succeed. Here, the virtual CajunBot finds its way around an obstacle.

also great in the field, calling the shots. Pablo turned out to be our MVP."

Lakhotia turned to UL Lafayette's Mechanical Engineering Department to modify the ATV and to build a shock-proof metal structure to house computer components and other key equipment. The task fell to four undergraduates: Patrick Harris, Christopher Meaux, Jonathan Raush and Ryan T. Rucker;

changed every day, so you couldn't plan. You had to design something the same day you were going to build it. The goal was minimum down time."

Lakhotia applied a divide-and-conquer strategy. "We had a fantastic team — people who were able to focus on their own area of expertise, without worrying about what someone else was doing. We were working hard, but we

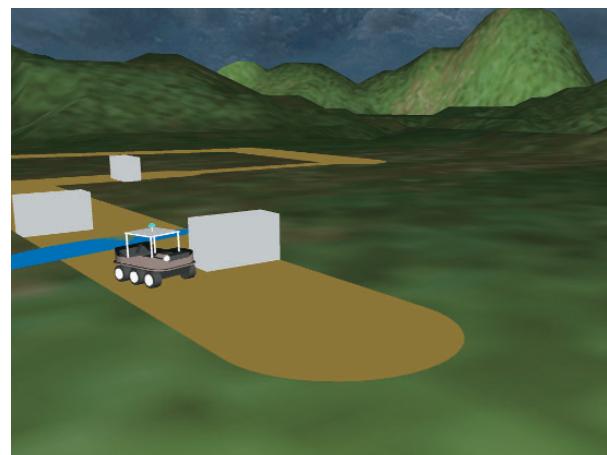
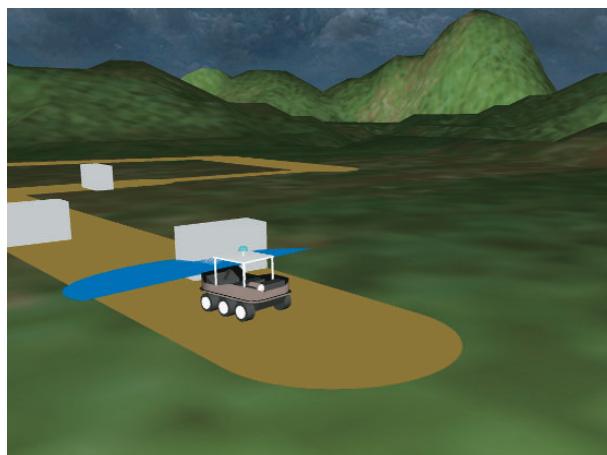


their work on the bot comprised their senior project.

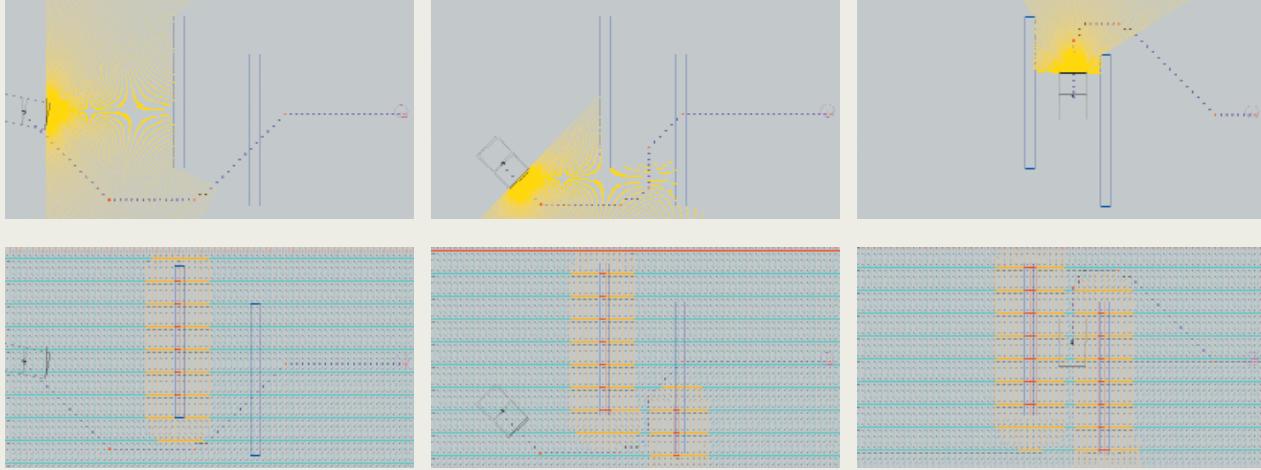
"It was a lot of work and it was frustrating at times," Harris said. "Things

were also working smart."

The project leader relied on his colleagues' expertise. "Until you have a project like this, one that truly requires a



GOING TO BUILD IT. THE GOAL WAS MINIMUM DOWN TIME."



Software developed by Dr. Anthony Maida shows how CajunBot sees the world (top row) and how the robot gets around obstacles. The yellow areas represent information collected by CajunBot's laser system, as the laser makes a horizontal sweep of 180 degrees. The second row of images tells what's on CajunBot's mind. The bot creates a two-dimensional, mental map of the outside world; the arrows show the path CajunBot wants to take in every grid square.

multidisciplinary approach, you may not know what someone right down the hall is working on.” Dr. Christoph Borst conducts a variety of research, including technology for computer games. CajunBot benefited when the team developed a simulator — much like a computer game — to test and perfect the robot’s software.

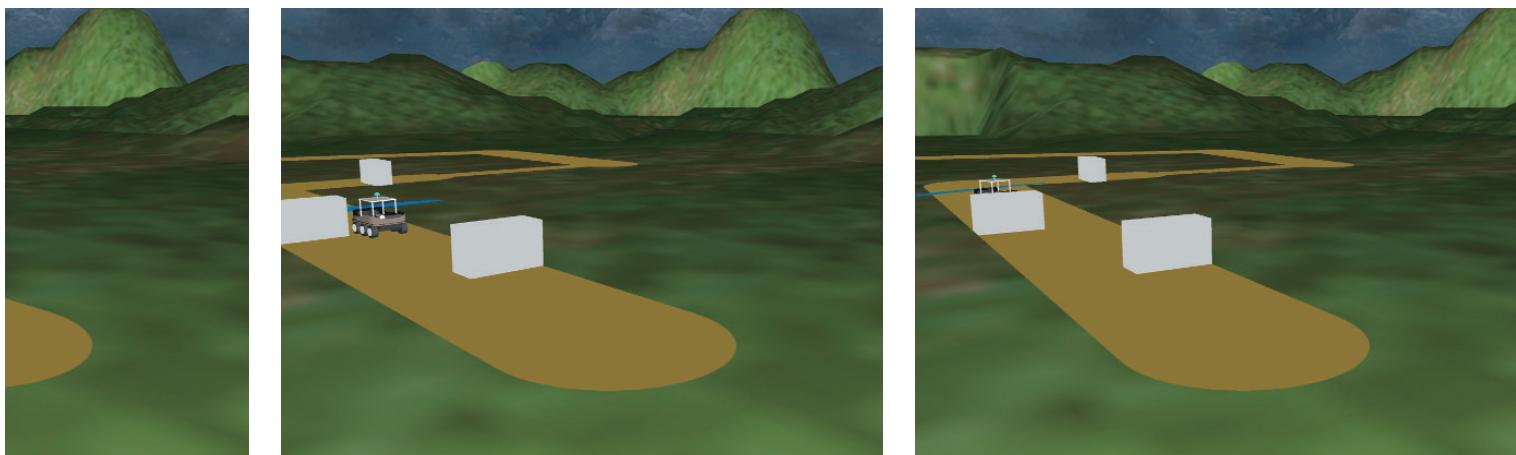
“The simulator really gave us an advantage,” Lakhotia said. “Given the time constraint, we couldn’t have done it any other way. The software was designed to be independent, so that it could be run on the simulator — or on CajunBot itself. So

instead of having to take the bot out every time we wanted to run some software, we were able to do everything on the simulator. We could make corrections to the software as we went along.”

Mejia created a software program that enabled CajunBot to interpret GPS data. The Global Positioning System is a worldwide radio navigation system made up of 24 satellites and their ground stations. The satellites are used as reference points to calculate positions on the Earth’s surface, giving every square meter of the planet a unique address.

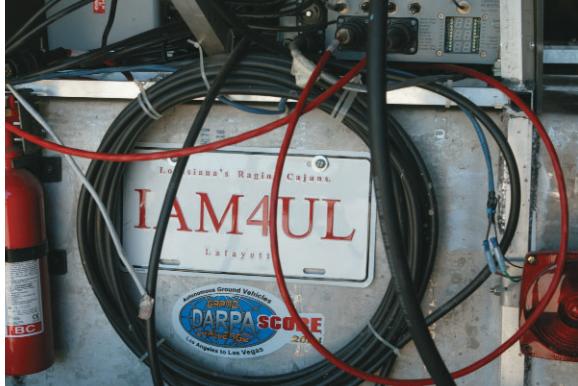
Working in tandem with Mejia was Dr. Anthony Maida of CACS and the Institute of Cognitive Science, who developed a simulator to help CajunBot plan its path and avoid obstacles. Maida explained the difference between “objective” and “subjective” coordinates. The GPS coordinates are the objective coordinates, which form a sort of general road map. A road map will tell you how to drive from New Orleans to Houston — but it won’t indicate lanes closed for construction. Those kinds of details are revealed in subjective coordinates.

CajunBot’s visual system is a laser —



BY RACE DAY, MARCH 13, THE FIELD HAD NARROWED

exactly like the one that scans items in the supermarket checkout lane. The laser



A license plate on the rear of CajunBot.

ical controls." He employed actuators — motorized devices that are similar to those that pop open a trunk or hatchback window, and move the flaps on airplane wings — to automatically control CajunBot.

CajunBot uses skid steering, via a series of levers, to change direction. And although the bot is unable to move backward, its relatively tight turning radius, combined with its computerized know-how, make it a nimble competitor. Its throttle control is similar to an automobile's cruise control system.

The look of CajunBot evolved quickly. Originally, clear plastic storage boxes housed the computers, sensors and

sweeps ahead of the bot, in an arc with a range of about 100 feet. The bot makes a mental map from information collected by the laser — this map is made up of subjective coordinates. As Maida explains, "The robot lives in the grid world in its own mind."

When CajunBot encounters an obstacle, it makes a decision. Taking into account its distance from the object and its own size and width, it maneuvers around the obstacle. CajunBot is able to do this in the real world because Maida and the Simulator Team (graduate students Suresh Golconda, Nitin Jyoti and Arun Pratap Indugula) worked it out in the virtual world. And in the real world, Mejia's software interfaces with Maida's, so that the GPS points, or way points, make sense to CajunBot.

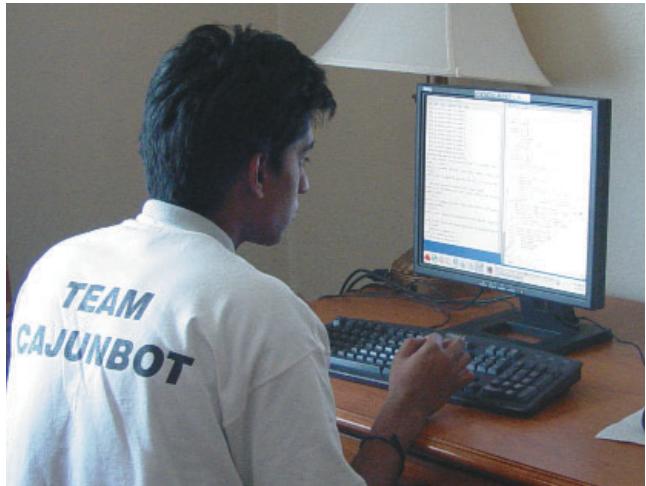
"We're able to pick up on subtle mistakes that show up in the software that you'd never be able to see in the physical world," Maida explained. "That makes CajunBot more reliable — but it's more reliable because somebody stayed up all night working on the simulation."

Meanwhile, Cavanaugh was working on "embedded systems and electromechan-



COURTESY OF TEAM CAJUNBOT/CACS

LEFT: Arun Pratap Indugula, a member of CajunBot's Sim Team, reviews the bot's simulation software. ABOVE: Joshua Bridevaux makes adjustments to CajunBot's electronic hardware while Adrian Aucoin Jr. looks on.



COURTESY OF TEAM CAJUNBOT/CACS

other electronics. Then the plastic boxes were replaced with a large wooden box. On Dec. 7, just days before DARPA's arrival, CajunBot was ready for its first test in the field. "Up until then, we'd been riding on top of the wooden box, steering the bot with a joy stick," Cavanaugh said. Now, they would see what CajunBot could do on its own.

The team brought the bot out to the site of the former McNaspy Stadium. "That vehicle took off and tried to steer," Cavanaugh said. The trial was a success. "We knew we had something." On Dec. 11, DARPA concurred, including CajunBot in a list of semi-finalists for the Grand Challenge.

Team CajunBot was playing a game of intense catch up — and succeeding. By

December, other teams had entered the testing phase. "We didn't have time for testing." They were still building CajunBot, still writing computer programs. Work continued at a steady pace through the holidays and into the new year, with team members literally working day and night. CajunBot arrived in California March 2, a couple of days ahead of the team.

"We really looked at the QID as our biggest challenge," Lakhotia said. CajunBot and her team had made it to California — without knowing whether the software would work when transferred from the simulator to the real-life robot. But it did. Despite a slightly spotty performance, CajunBot survived the QID round. By race day, March 13, the field had narrowed from 106 entrants to just 15 participating bots.

Suresh Golconda, a grad student who worked on the simulation software, said he found the competition somewhat surprising. "We had modified a joy stick, from a computer game, to use as a remote control for CajunBot," he said. But several of the other teams apparently hadn't considered that feature a priority. "They had vehicles with GPS sensors, computers, everything,

FROM 106 ENTRANTS TO JUST 15 PARTICIPATING BOTS.

but they were having to push them around in the sand."

Lakhotia said his team's high-tech strategy, using a simulator to perfect software programming, was unique as well. "I don't think anyone else took that approach."

Two hours before the race, the teams were given GPS coordinates that defined the course. CajunBot seemed ready, but

instead of moving smoothly out of the chute, as she'd done during the qualifying rounds, she veered to the right and bumped into a concrete barrier. The impact engaged the emergency stop button, and CajunBot was out of the running.

"This was a race that no one was expected to win," said Lakhotia. And indeed, none of the 15 finalists completed

the course. Two competitors withdrew before the race. Other vehicles veered off course and became stuck in uneven terrain. One vehicle flipped over while trying to make a 90-degree turn. The Carnegie Mellon vehicle hummed along for almost seven and half miles — farther than any other team's — but was disabled when it became caught on a berm and its front



Some of the members of Team CajunBot. KNEELING LEFT TO RIGHT: Nitin Jyoti, Arun Pratap Indugula, Christopher Meaux. STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: Danny Majors, Patrick Harris (behind Nitin), Suresh Golconda, Muralidhar Chakravarthi, Joshua Bridevaux, Adrian Aucoin Jr., Scott Wilson, Pablo Mejia, Prashant Pathak, Patrick Landry, Ryan T. Rucker, Dr. Arun Lakhotia, Firas Bouz.

"I WOULD TELL THEM, 'WE ARE AIMING FOR SUCCESS' ||

wheels caught fire.

Although the race ended for CajunBot in a non-climactic way, Lakhotia recognized it as a blessing. "We had a lot of



PATRICK LANDRY/CACS

expensive equipment on board — much of it loaned. The bot did what it was supposed to do. It got into a bad situation and it shut itself off."

Lakhotia remarked that DARPA's Grand Challenge is aptly named. "They are interested in really pushing the envelope, in encouraging out-of-the-box thinking about really complex problems. DARPA isn't interested in something than can be solved in a few months. They're looking down the road."

So is Team CajunBot. Because it qualified for the 2004 race, the team is pre-qualified for the next Grand Challenge, which is tentatively set for November 2005.

"The media attention has been great," Lakhotia said, "but I think the biggest advantage — what we really got out of this — has to do with our self-image. We see ourselves differently now

and that automatically raises confidence and raises expectations. We've been on CNN. We've competed against the best.

"I think it's also been a very good experience across campus. It's broken down barriers and gotten people to work together. One of the reasons this worked is that no one saw themselves as better than someone else. There were no distinctions between graduate students and undergrads, between faculty and non-faculty. It was egoless. And that's what made it work."

That sense of interdisciplinary support extended beyond the computer science and engineering departments. Dr. Phil Auter's documentary production class followed CajunBot as a class project; one of his students accompanied the team to Barstow. "We

had a high-profile, real-world client," Auter said. The class will create a DVD to be used for student recruitment and to solicit ongoing community support for the CajunBot project.

On March 22, a press conference was held in front of Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus — a welcome-home event for CajunBot and her team. University President Dr. Ray Authement summed up their accomplishments. "CajunBot has put this university in the big leagues academically."

Now Team CajunBot



COURTESY OF TEAM CAJUNBOT/CACS



PATRICK LANDRY/CACS

LEFT: Dr. Charles Cavanaugh tells an ABC News reporter about CajunBot's prospects in the race. TOP RIGHT: Team CajunBot turned a California hotel room into a real-world lab and workshop. ABOVE: Members of Team CajunBot conduct field testing in Barstow. Left to right: Ryan T. Rucker, Dr. Charles Cavanaugh, Scott Wilson, Muralidhar Chakravarthi, Joshua Bridevaux, Pablo Mejia, Adrian Aucoin Jr. OPPOSITE PAGE: Pablo Mejia (foreground) and Firaz Bouz put CajunBot through her paces the day before the Grand Challenge.



THE NEXT STEP' THAT IS ALL: 'SUCCESS IN THE NEXT

begins the task of analysis — figuring out what went wrong in the race. Cavanaugh has a hunch that it wasn't CajunBot's software. "It's pretty incredible when you think about it, but we relied a lot on hobby-grade electronics. They were available and relatively affordable, although the cost did add up." Some expensive equipment, including an inertial navigation system (which improves GPS navigation accuracy) and

the bot's laser system, were loaned to the team. In all, Cavanaugh estimates CajunBot's equipment costs at around \$200,000 — the INS alone would have cost about \$120,000. "I think CMU spent about \$3 million to go after \$1 million."

Carnegie Mellon's sponsors included Boeing, Intel and BF Goodrich, which provided a pit crew to maintain its vehicle's tires. Team CajunBot relied on local

expertise and an attitude of "irrational optimism," according to Lakhota, integrating state-of-the art GPS technology with video-game components and hobby-grade electronics to create an improbable, yet successful robotic competitor.

"If we can upgrade to industrial-strength electronics, I think that will make a difference," said Cavanaugh. "We intend to compete in the next Grand Challenge." ■



SPORTS

Dancin' with Wolves

Cajuns represent Louisiana at NCAA Tourney

FROM THE START, LOUISIANA'S Ragin' Cajuns® knew they had to be on their best behavior when they faced the North Carolina State Wolfpack.

North Carolina was, after all, the No. 3 seed in the first round of the NCAA Division 1 Tournament in Orlando. It finished in second place in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the nation's best league this season. It has one of the nation's best players, All-America forward Julius Hodge.

North Carolina State also led the nation with its free-throw percentage, making 81 percent of all of its attempts from the line.

But Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns didn't get to go to Orlando because they were lucky. They worked for the right to compete with 63 other top teams from around the country. And they were the only team from the Bayou State to make it to the tournament.

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns had a strong 20-8 regular season. They earned an automatic bid this year by defeating the University of New Orleans, 67-58, to win their fourth Sun Belt Conference Tournament title in UL Lafayette's history.

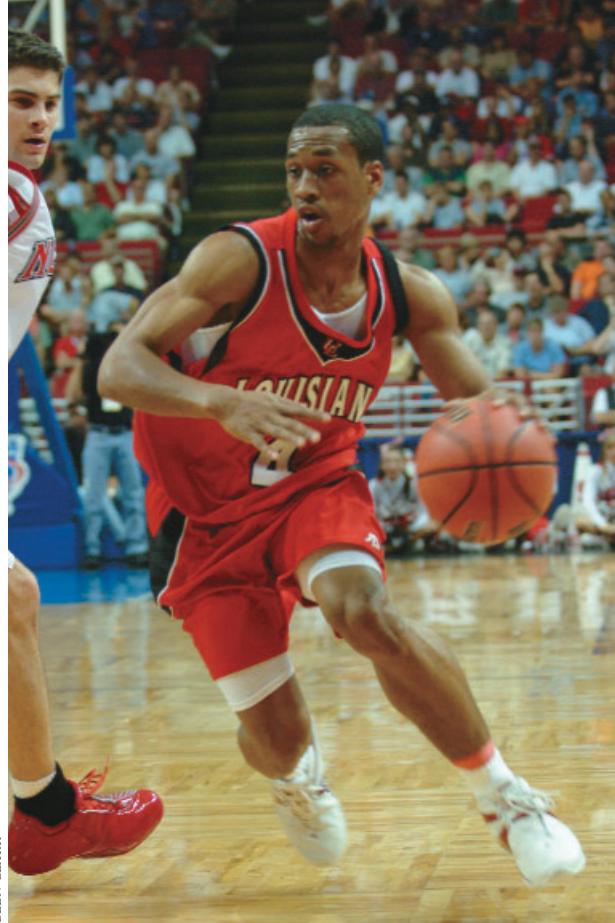
Before the NCAA Tournament, *USA Today* noted that the Cajuns were the highest scoring team in the SBC and were "ninth in the nation in three-point shooting percentage and three-pointers a game and 15th in field goal percentage."

The *Orlando Sentinel* predicted the Cajuns would have to pop plenty of 3-pointers to pull off an upset.

"The Ragin' Cajuns like to run and gun, and a lot of



ABOVE: The Ragin' Brass, UL Lafayette's pep band, supported its team with music and cheers. RIGHT: This was Jessie Evans' second trip to the NCAA Tournament with Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns.



Senior Antoine Landry drives to the basket in his last college game.



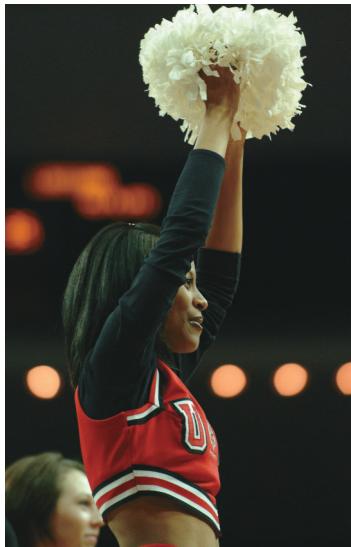
GLEN CLARK

their gunning comes from behind the 3-point line. They make 8.3 3-pointers per game," it stated. The Cajuns "will need to be proficient from the outside against NC State in the first round."

In the end, the Wolfpack prevailed, 61-52.

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns were victims of their own cold shooting, making only 32 percent of their shots from the field. The Wolfpack only shot 36.7 from the field, kept in check by the Cajun's strong defense.

Some Wolfpack players



GLEN CLARK



GLEN CLARK

Brian Hamilton takes a free throw. Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns made 65 percent of their shots from the line.

also made some jaw-dropping shots. Engin Astur, for example, was falling down when he launched the ball at the bucket, yet it found the net, just before the shot clock buzzer sounded.

"You start to wonder if maybe it was not our afternoon," said Jessie Evans, head coach of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns, after the game.

Despite the loss, UL Lafayette Athletic Director Nelson Schexnayder was proud of the Cajuns.

"We played well. We were in the hunt. We didn't make our shots and they hit some lucky shots," he said. "I was very pleased we were there and gave a good account of ourselves."



GLEN CLARK

Brian Hamilton grabbed a total of eight rebounds.

This was the second time in seven years that Evans helped the Cajuns get to the NCAA Division 1 Tournament. It was their third straight postseason appearance. They went to the NIT in 2002 and 2003.

Evans' contract is up this year, but negotiations to renew it were under way at press time. ■

Across the Board

Improvements will benefit every university sport

BY THE TIME SOCCER SEASON begins, Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® will have a field of their own.

A new \$1.4 million soccer and track complex is just one of several athletic facilities improvements in the works.

Construction projects and renovations will touch every sport the university sponsors, said Nelson Schexnayder, UL Lafayette athletic director. "A lot of good things are happening. People are beginning to support our programs in a manner that has not been seen in the history of the university.

"We are excited about the strides that are being made, not only with the improvements to the facilities, but also in the general support of athletics. It's all very encouraging."

Fans can expect changes at M.L. "Tigue" Moore Field, Lady Cajun Park, the Cajundome and Cajun Field. The Athletic Complex on Reinhardt Drive, constructed in 1971, is under renovation. Plans for an indoor practice facility are also moving ahead.

Some improvements are funded through private donations, while others will be funded through student fees.

Here's an update.

SOCcer AND TRACK

By late March, workers had already removed all of the original track, built in 1976, which had been resurfaced over the years.

"The new track will be first class. It will be a slightly different configuration to accommodate a soccer field in the middle," Schexnayder said. The soccer field will have subsurface drainage.

A track and soccer complex is a

good combination, Schexnayder said, since seating for 5,000 fans and lighting are already in place at Cajun Track.

UL Lafayette's soccer team, formed in 2000, played its first season at Moore

Park, a public recreation facility on La. 182, north of I-10. Soccer head coach Dave Poggi and head football coach Rickey Bustle were then able to work out a schedule that would enable the soccer



Damien Mullen spreads cement as the expansion of the athletic complex continues.

TRAVIS GAUTHIER

team to play on Cajun Field for the next two seasons. But since a soccer field is larger than a football field, sharing the facility was not a permanent solution.

ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Renovation of the Athletic Complex on Reinhardt Drive began in November.

"This building has not seen any significant work since it was built, although we have more players, more coaches and more sports using it," Schexnayder said. "The changes are going to dramatically alter the look of the facility and make the training room, equipment room and football locker room larger and more functional."

The training and equipment room are used by all Ragin' Cajuns sports. The

Construction projects and renovations will touch every sport the university sponsors, said Nelson Schexnayder, UL Lafayette athletic director. "A lot of good things are happening. People are beginning to support our programs in a manner that has not been seen in the history of the university."

improvements will be a plus when coaches recruit student-athletes, Schexnayder said. "They will also help us recruit student-trainers and student-managers."

In a letter to players announcing the improvements to Ragin' Cajun® football facilities, Bustle said the renovations will boost the university's leverage in recruitment.

"Two things necessary to build a winning football program are recruiting and competitive facilities. Many of our facilities have had only cosmetic renovation since their construction and, by today's standards, are fast becoming obsolete. To remain competitive in NCAA Division I-A, this is a move we have to make," he wrote.

In the future, the weight room will double in size and office space will be added at the Athletic Complex.

To help pay for the work, the Athletic Department is offering several naming opportunities for rooms, equipment and lockers.

INDOOR PRACTICE FACILITY

UL Lafayette President Ray Authement was expected to seek an architect in late March for a proposed \$3.6 million indoor practice facility that will be used by Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns football, softball, basketball, soccer and track teams. The Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System has approved it as a university-funded project.

Last year, UL Lafayette students approved an extra \$15 "auxiliary improvement" fee per fall and spring semester, and a \$7.50 fee each summer semester, to help fund the new structure.

Money generated by the new fee will supplement private donations and funds raised by a surcharge on athletic event tickets that will be implemented in Fall

2004. Fans will pay \$2 extra per football ticket and \$1 more per ticket for all other sporting events.

Students are admitted to athletic events by showing their UL Lafayette ID card, so they will not pay the new charge.

Schexnayder said the facilities improvements aren't the only noteworthy aspect of the university's athletic program.

He said he's pleased with the performance of all Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns teams. "Our student-athletes, coaches, student-trainers and student-managers are doing a wonderful job," he said.

"I'm also encouraged about the academic performance of our student athletes."

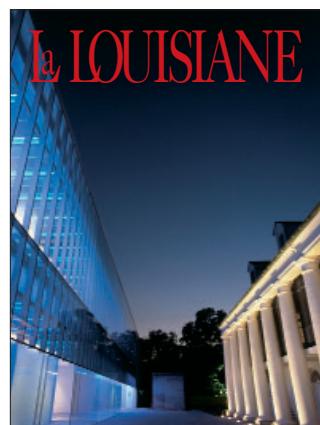
At a men's basketball game in the spring, 147 Ragin' Cajun student-athletes who had a 3.0 grade point average, or better, were recognized. "That's significant when a third of your student-athletes have a 3.0 or better," Schexnayder said.

"And, I'm encouraged by the fan support. It seems like it's all coming together for us." ■

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Still a Team Player

Super Bowl quarterback urges support of football program

CAROLINA PANTHERS quarterback Jake Delhomme has a message for Acadiana: Support Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns®.

"I think coach Rickey Bustle is doing a great job. I see things turning a corner," he said in an interview with *La Louisiane* in late March.

"Stay supportive because that means a lot when you come out of the tunnel and you see a lot of fans," he urged, referring to the players' entrance to Cajun Field.

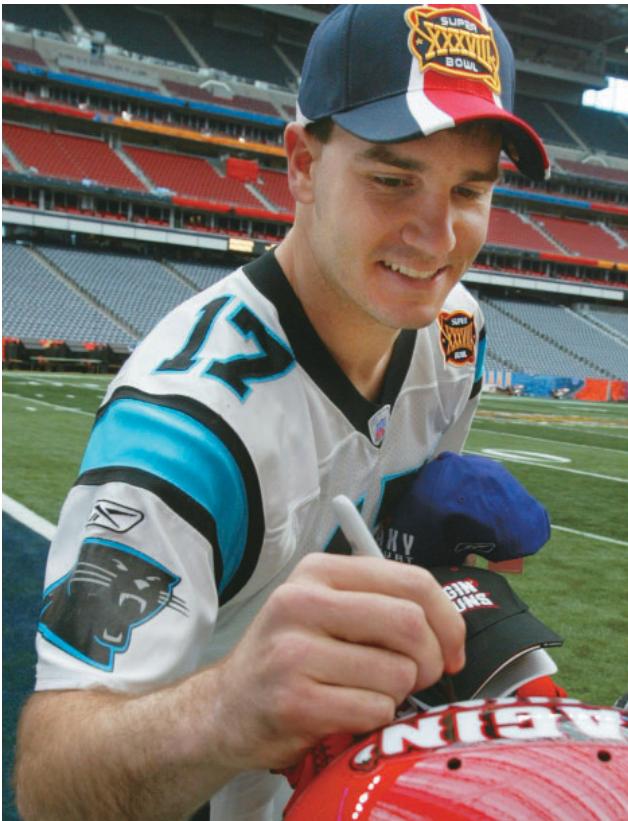
Delhomme, who led the Panthers to Super Bowl XXXVIII in January in his first year as a starting NFL quarterback, was in Lafayette to film public service announcements for United Way of Acadiana and the university. He and New England Patriots running back Kevin Faulk are co-chairs of the 2004 United Way of Acadiana fund drive.

Delhomme was the Ragin' Cajuns® quarterback from 1993 to 1996.

The stadium was packed with 38,783 fans on Sept. 14, 1996, when the Cajuns defeated the Texas A&M Aggies, 29-22, with Delhomme at the helm.

"That A&M game was one of the top games in my life and I've played a lot of games," he said. He ranks it in the top three, along with a couple of Carolina Panther playoff victories.

Delhomme rates the Super Bowl game in the top five. The Patriots won


REUTERS/SHAUN BEST

Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme signs a Ragin' Cajun football helmet as he leaves the field after Media Day at Reliant Stadium for Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston. The Breaux Bridge, La., native was the Ragin' Cajuns' quarterback from 1993-96. The helmet he signed was auctioned during a National Signing Day event to raise money for the university's football program.

that contest, 32-29, in one of the most thrilling Super Bowls in football history.

After his senior year at USL, now known as UL Lafayette, Delhomme was backup and practice quarterback for the New Orleans Saints for five years. In the summer of 2003, he decided to play for another team, hoping for a shot as a starting quarterback.

He signed on with the Panthers as backup quarterback. In the first game of the 2003 season, against Jacksonville, the Panthers were losing, 17-0, at half-time behind the arm of quarterback Rodney Peete.

When the second half started, Panthers coach John Fox gave Delhomme a chance. The Breaux Bridge, La., native was just the spark the team needed. It won, 24-23, and by the next game, he was the Panthers' starter.

Delhomme attributes his "never give up" spirit, in part, to his years as a Ragin' Cajun.

"I think it's our culture, the way we are. We just believe we can get it done, no matter what."

He said he learned a lot about leadership at UL Lafayette. "Coming here and playing as a true freshman, I had to grow up pretty quick. Coach (Nelson) Stokley didn't care that I was a freshman. I was the quarterback. I was one of the leaders," he recalled.

Delhomme looked up to other Ragin' Cajun players who went on to careers in professional football, such as Brian Mitchell, who played for the Washington Redskins and is now with the New York Giants.

"You want other guys to look up to you," he said. "I take pride in the fact that we (Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns) had two guys drafted last year, Charles Tilmann and Ike Taylor." Tilmann is a defensive back for the Chicago Bears; Taylor is a cornerback for the Pittsburgh Steelers. ■

Join the club: Women's golf on tap

A WOMEN'S GOLF PROGRAM WILL soon tee off.

UL Lafayette Athletic Director Nelson Schexnayder said details of the additional Ragin' Cajun team will be worked out later this spring.

"After this (golf) season, we'll sit down and start making final plans," he said.

Schexnayder cited a strong interest in women's golf in Acadiana.

"Also, most Sun Belt Conference schools offer women's golf. The Sun Belt Conference has a championship in women's golf. So I think that demonstrates that there is an interest in the sport."

Twelve of the 15 SBC members have women's golf teams: Arkansas State, University of Arkansas – Little Rock, Denver, Florida International, Idaho, Middle Tennessee, New Mexico State, University of New



ANNE DARRAH
can establish the program, recruit players and compete the following year. Or, it can establish the program, sign players and compete in the same year.

When the women's soccer program was established at UL Lafayette in the summer of 2000, coach Dave Poggi had four months to assemble a team, create a schedule and develop the program for the inaugural season.

That program has experienced some "growing pains," Schexnayder said. "So I'm not sure which option is best for golf."

The creation of a women's golf team is voluntary. It is not required to comply with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 legislation, which ban sex discrimination in athletics or academics at schools that receive federal financial aid.

Orleans, North Texas, South Alabama, Troy State and Western Kentucky. The University of Louisiana at Monroe and Utah State do not offer women's golf.

UL Lafayette officials have not decided when the women's golf team will compete for the first time.

Schexnayder said two options are being considered. The university



PETROKOVA SHINES IN SUN BELT

Anna Petrakova made Ragin' Cajuns® history in March by becoming the first UL Lafayette women's basketball player to be named Player of the Year by the Sun Belt Conference.

She was also named to the SBC's First Team, which was the first time a UL Lafayette player had been chosen for that honor since the university joined the conference in 1992.

The SBC also named the Cajuns' Tiffany Washington as its Newcomer of the Year.

Petrakova, a 6-foot-3 center, led the conference in points (18.7 per game), rebounds, blocks, free throw attempts and free throws made. Her 122 free throws during the regular season are six shy of tying the late Kim Perrot's school record of 128.

The UL Lafayette junior ranked third in the SBC in field goal percentage, making 50.7 percent of her shots, and fifth in free throw percentage by scoring on 81.9 percent of her free throw attempts. She blocked 64 shots – the second highest single-season total in school history – and averaged two assists and one steal per game.

The Ragin' Cajuns earned the chance to compete in the quarterfinals of the 2004 Aeropostale Sun Belt Conference Tournament. They were defeated by third seed Western Kentucky.

Athletic Director Nelson Schexnayder noted that the Ragin' Cajuns have improved significantly under the direction of head coach J. Kelly Hall, who was hired in 2002.

"We had our first win ever against Western Kentucky. (The Ragin' Cajuns defeated the Lady Toppers, 80-72, in January.) We challenged Western Kentucky on their court in the Sun Belt tournament. And, we swept (the University of) New Orleans for the first time in a long time," he said.

"I think we're going to be a very good team in the near future."

GLEN CLARK
Anna Petrakova

Britain Bows

Perrin leads successful crusade to clear Acadians' image • by James Savage

FOR 6-YEAR-OLD BRUCE PERRIN, the story of his ancestor Joseph Beausoleil Broussard had it all — gun fights, Indians and warfare on the open seas.

His father, Warren Perrin, had told the story many times before — about Broussard's bravery when the British forced him and 15,000 other Acadians from their homes in 1755, how he led men into battle and how he outfitted a small boat to harass British vessels.

At that point in the story, the boy stopped his father.

"You mean, he was a pirate?" the boy asked.

Reflecting on that comment in a recent interview, Perrin said he was troubled by his son's understanding of the Acadians' plight.

"Of course, he was correct," said Perrin, a 1969 graduate of USL and former

that flawed image of the Acadians, to demonstrate they were an oppressed people and not bloodthirsty buccaneers. A lawyer, he filed suit against the British crown in 1990, seeking an apology for the diaspora on behalf of four million Acadian descendants.

In December 2003, Perrin proved you can fight Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth II offered the British government's apologies for the displacement of the Acadians nearly 250 years ago.

"In spite of what anyone may have said about the apology — that all of those involved are long dead, that this is another example of political correctness run amok, what difference does it make . . . the foremost benefit of the apology to citizens of the world community today is to remind us that such an atrocity can happen at any time to anyone," said Perrin, who is also president of the

"Because of ethnic cleansing, the tragic episodes that occurred in the Balkans and central Africa in the 1990s, the Acadian experience, which was one of the least documented episodes in American history, has come to be in recent years one of the more thoroughly scrutinized episodes. It is now seen as one of the earliest examples of ethnic cleansing in American history," Brasseaux said.

The apology to the Acadians isn't without precedent.

"I think it is part of an international trend," for governments to offer apologies for past offenses, Brasseaux said.

Between 1992 and 1998, the British government offered apologies to the Irish for actions during the 19th century potato famine; to the people of Dresden, Germany, for bombing raids during World War II; to the people of India for the deaths of 379 civilians in 1919 in the city of Amritsar; and to the Maoris of New Zealand for taking the island from their ancestors in the mid-1800s.

In 1998, then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin apologized for the "sins of communism" during the reburial of slain

Czar Nicholas II. Earlier that same year, then-President Bill Clinton apologized to descendants of Africans who had been slaves. During his term, Clinton also offered apologies to native Hawaiians for the U.S. government's involvement in the

A Proclamation

Greeting:

Whereas the Acadian people, through the vitality of their community, have made a remarkable contribution to Canadian society for almost 400 years;

Whereas on July 28, 1755, the Crown, in the course of administering the affairs of the British colony of Nova Scotia, made the decision to deport the Acadian people;

Whereas the deportation of the Acadian people, commonly known as the Great Upheaval, continued until 1763 and had tragic consequences, including the deaths of many thousands of Acadians — from disease, in shipwrecks, in their places of refuge and in prison camps in Nova Scotia and England as well as in the British colonies in America;

Whereas we acknowledge these historical facts and the trials and suffering experienced by the Acadian people during the Great Upheaval;

president of the university's Alumni Association. "History had labeled the Acadians as rebels, as criminals. He was thinking of Jean Lafitte. It was cool to him."

Soon after the conversation with his son, Perrin decided it was time to erase

Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

World events in the past two decades have proven that point, said Dr. Carl Brasseaux, director of UL Lafayette's Center for Cultural and Eco-tourism.

overthrow of their island kingdom in 1893.

In the past, some minority groups have sought monetary reparations from world governments. Perrin's petition asked only for a monument at Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, site of the expulsion. Instead, the apology set each July 28 as a "Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval" in Canada. The first observance will be July 28, 2005, the 250-year anniversary of the signing of the proclamation that started the forced migration.

At the center of Perrin's petition was Charles Lawrence, who in the mid-1750s was lieutenant governor of Nova Scotia. After the

being of the opinion that it would be much better . . . that they were away," Lawrence wrote British authorities in 1754.

In response, the British secretary of state urged restraint: "It cannot therefore be too much recommended to you to use the greatest caution and prudence in your conduct toward these (Acadians) . . . that they may remain in the quiet possession of their settlements under proper restrictions."

But the word of caution arrived in Nova Scotia too late. On July 28, 1755, Lawrence signed the order that authorized the militia to round up the Acadians, burn

The *Grand Dérangement* had begun. Between 15,000 to 18,000 Acadians were removed from Nova Scotia. About one-third were taken to British colonies along the Eastern seaboard; some were sent to England or France. Others were jailed until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763. Then they, too, were ordered out. Historians estimate one-third died of malnutrition and disease.

The largest group of exiles, about 2,500, found its way to Louisiana, where the Spanish colonial government, eager for settlement in the colony's western regions, offered them generous land grants.

For the next 250 years, the *Grand Dérangement* was commemorated in song, folklore and American literature, the best known example being the poem "Evangeline" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Each successive generation added its own touch to the telling and retelling of the Acadians' plight, but the core story remained intact.

Two centuries later, Perrin contends the story still resounds today.

"The Acadians, by virtue of the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, were British, not French subjects. They had already pledged allegiance to the British crown with certain stipulations, such as not having to take up arms against the French. Queen

Anne (of England) had personally guaranteed their right to remain on their lands. If we are to live under the rule of law and not tyranny, these are paramount distinctions," Perrin said.

"More importantly, the *Grand Dérangement* set into motion a series of events that have repercussions to this day," he continued. "There are economists who claim that Nova Scotia's economy was devastated for generations after the expulsion of the only farmers who knew how to work the land and that the ill effects are still felt to a certain degree today." ■



CODOFIL President Warren Perrin and Queen Elizabeth II's proclamation apologizing for the Acadian diaspora.

province's ailing governor returned to England in 1754, Lawrence, who the petition describes as "a man of violent character," moved to displace the Acadians.

War between France and Great Britain for control of the Ohio River Valley was imminent. Although the Acadians had been British subjects since 1713, they spoke French and were Catholic, two distinctions that made them suspicious to colonial authorities.

"As (the Acadians) possess the best and largest tracts of land in this Province, it cannot be settled with any effect while they remain in this situation . . . I cannot help

their homes and board them on ships. On Sept. 5, 1755, the Acadians were ordered to gather in the church at Grand Pré, where Lawrence's edict was read.

The proclamation began by recounting that King George II and the British monarchy had given the Acadians, as people of French descent, the privilege of remaining on British soil for a half century. Then: ". . . your lands and tenements, cattle of all kinds and livestock of all sorts are forfeited to the Crown with all other your effects saving your money and household goods and you yourselves to be removed from this his province."

ALUMNI

1950

IRVIN A. ADAMS is a retired educator. He taught biology for 19 years before serving 13 years as a school administrator in the Lafourche Parish, La., public school system. He retired in 1980. Adams earned a bachelor's degree in industrial arts education from SLI, a master's degree in education from LSU and a master's degree plus-30 from Northwestern State University. He is married to the former **ROSE MARY PIERCE**, '51. The couple live in Larose, La., and have four children, Scott, Todd, Michael and Mary.

ANITA RIVERS HAMILTON recently published *My Life As an Air Force Wife*, a memoir of her life with her late husband, **ISAAC M. "IKE" HAMILTON**, '50. Her first book, *Quaint Quatrains: Childhood as Seen Through the Eyes of One Much Older and Now More Wise*, was published in 2002. It is a collection of poems about her childhood in Arkansas and Louisiana. Hamilton holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish education from SLI and a master's degree in education from Harding University in Searcy, Ark. She has two children, David Hamilton and Rebecca Hamilton Bean, and lives in Searcy.

1952

HARVEY FIRESTONE raises orchids and is a member of the Asbury United Methodist Church choir. He retired in May 1993 as an assistant professor of business, after teaching at USL for 30 years. A U.S. Army veteran, he had previously worked for Humble Oil and Refining Co. Firestone holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from SLI and a master's degree in business administration from LSU. He has three children, James, Carolyn and Douglas.

RAYWARD L. LANDRY retired in 1986 after 34 years as an accountant and administrative assistant with Amoco. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from SLI. Landry and his wife, the former Florine LeBlanc, live in Lafayette. The couple have two daughters, Karen and Jennice, who both attended USL.

1953

JOHN "JACK" HERRON is retired from the U.S. State Department's International Development Agency. He was stationed in Vietnam, Tanzania, Kenya, the Philippines and Washington, D.C. Herron was a 1978 inductee into the USL Athletic Hall of Fame. He played football while a student at SLI and was named 1950 All-Gulf South Conference Defensive Back and All-GSC Quarterback and Defensive Back in 1951. He holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture. Herron and his wife, the former Yvonne Brett, have three children, John, Jane and Suzanne. The couple live in Green Forest, Ark.

1957

TERRY R. ROY is a retired educator now working in real estate. He is a former band director, assistant principal and principal. Roy holds a bachelor's degree in music education and earned a master's degree plus-30 in administration and supervision in 1961. A resident of Duson, La., Roy is married to the former **GERALDINE TRAHAN**, '54. The couple have three children, **JONI HAMILTON**, '78, '83, who is married to **DAVID HAMILTON**, '80; **LISA SHEPPERT**, '88, who is married to **WILLIAM "BILL" SHEPPERT**, '76; and **SHAWN ROY**, '80, who teaches in UL Lafayette's College of Music.

1960

The Rev. **DR. RICHARD D. BROWN-LEE** is an executive at Synod of the

Covenant, one of 16 Presbyterian synods in the United States. The office oversees 804 churches with more than 202,000 members in Ohio and Michigan. Brownlee holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from USL, earned a master's degree in divinity in 1972 from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, and completed a doctorate in ministry in 1978 at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He is married to the former Barbara Duncan. The couple have three children, Michael, Elizabeth and Kathryn, and live in Toledo, Ohio.

1961

ROLAND GUIDRY has been elected president of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors Inc., which serves cities along Florida's Gulf Coast. He is a real estate broker with the Pat Guidry Agency, which is operated by his wife, the former **PATRICIA ANN BOUTTE**, '63. Roland Guidry entered real estate after retiring as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force in 1987. He had served in the military for 26 years as a pilot, engineer and air commander. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from USL, where he served as Blue Key president and in student government. Patricia Guidry was president of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors Inc. in 1992. At USL, she was the Blue Key "Sweetheart," student government secretary and the USL Alumni Association's Outstanding Female Graduate in 1963. The couple live in Destin, Fla.

1973

ROBERT "BOBBY" DONNES has been named head of the New Orleans



office for Brice Building Co., based in Birmingham, Ala. As executive vice president and division manager, Donnes will oversee the company's operations in New Orleans, including major commercial, medical and institutional projects. He has worked in construction-related fields more than 25 years. Donnes holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from USL.

1974

ENTERGY has named **ETIENNE SENAC JR.** as its vice president of power plant operations. He will oversee the energy company's 32 fossil and hydroelectric generating facilities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Senac joined Entergy in 1974 as an electrical engineer at Waterford 1 & 2, a gas-fired plant outside New Orleans, and recently served as regional director over operations at seven fossil and hydroelectric facilities in Louisiana and Texas. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from USL, a master's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University in New Orleans.

1976

GARY M. LAVERGNE is director of admissions research at the University of Texas at Austin and is an author of crime and criminal justice books. He has completed his third book, *Worse Than Death*, and was featured in a recent History Channel special, "True Crime Author." At the University of Texas, he is responsible for the research agenda for the admissions office. Lavergne holds a bachelor's degree in social studies education from USL. He

A Look Back



1940

In the 1940s, home economics majors lived in home management houses that were about two miles from the main campus. They traveled to classes in the morning and returned to the houses in a vehicle they nicknamed the "Red Devil." Shown, in the front row are, from left, two unidentified students, Marion Klundt, Mariam Boustany, an unidentified woman, Ethelyn Danneker, Virginia Chiasson, Hazel Mouton and an unidentified student. On the back row are Dorothy Jones and Bernice Rees.

and his wife, the former **LAURA CLAYTON, '79**, have four children, Charlie, Mark, Amy and Anna, and live in Austin.

DEBRA BOREL MCBRIDE is a casualty adjuster with Cunningham Lindsey U.S. Inc., in Shreveport, La. Her duties include investigating insurance claims. McBride was named the company's Adjuster of the Month in August 2003. She was presented the firm's Pinnacle of Excellence Award in 1997 and was named the Region VI Claims Professional of the Year in 1996 and 1999 by the National Association of Insurance Women. McBride holds a bachelor's degree in applied music from USL. She and her husband, Perry, live in Shreveport and have three children, Daniel, Dana and Diana.

CHARLOTTE LANGLINAIS WAGUESPACK was among five finalists for the 2004 Louisiana Secondary School Principal of the Year award. She is principal at Erath High School. Waguespack earned a bachelor's degree in mathemat-

ics education, a master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1980 and an education specialist degree in 1992. Waguespack is a UL Lafayette Alumni Council volunteer. She and her husband, Glynn, live in Erath, La. They have two children, Christopher and Nicole.

1977

MARK P. HARRIS, a certified public accountant, was elected 2003-2004 Southwest regional director of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. He holds a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from USL. Harris is a member of the Louisiana State Board of CPAs and was its treasurer from 1999 to 2001. He is also a member of NASBA's Relations with Member Boards Committee and is serving his sixth year as a member of the International Qualifications Appraisal Board. Harris is a member of the Mardi Gras Krewe of Gabriel and is a parishioner at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church. He and his wife, Beth, have three children and live in Lafayette.

VALERIE RUSH SEXTON is a speech language pathologist with the Vernon, Conn., Board of Education. She writes lessons for disability awareness and coordinates a support group for parents of children with special needs. Sexton co-authored a children's book, *Michael and Marie: Children with Prader-Willi Syndrome*. She holds a master's degree in speech pathology from USL. Sexton and her husband, Robert W. Sexton, have two children, David and Matthew, and live in Vernon.

1978

JON DONLON, co-owner of Donlon & Donlon Consultants, a tourism consulting firm, has completed the *Encyclopedia of Community* project, a four-volume publication that focuses on a variety of tourism themes. He holds bachelor's degrees in fine

arts and general studies from USL and a doctorate from the University of Chicago. He is a former UL Lafayette faculty member and taught at Eastern Mediterranean University on Cyprus. He is married to **JOCELYN HAZELWOOD DONLON, '79, '82**. They live in Baton Rouge.

1900-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

1960-1999

University of Southwest Louisiana

1999 - PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

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/lalouisiane to submit the information online.

NAME

FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	MAIDEN NAME
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ADDRESS

STREET OR BOX

CITY	STATE	ZIP
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PHONE

HOME	OFFICE
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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
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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/lalouisiane

1980

DAVID MYERS was recently named the Rev. Aloysius B. Goodspeed, S.J., BEGGARS Distinguished Professor in Communications at Loyola University in New Orleans. He has been director of graduate studies within the Department of Communications since 1987. Myers received a bachelor's degree in English from Yale University, a master's degree in English (creative writing) from USL, a master's degree in fine arts in theater (play writing) from Florida State University and a doctorate in radio-television-film from the University of Texas at Austin. He has won various awards for his short fiction and has had his plays produced by college and regional theater companies. Myers has published a number of scholarly articles on computer-mediated communications behavior.

COSSICH, '88. They live in Nacogdoches.

JAMES C. MCDANIEL III is chief of the Information Systems Division of the U.S. Air Force's Manpower Agency. He has served in the Air Force since 1986 after earning a bachelor's degree in business from USL. He received a master's degree in digital communication from East Carolina University in 2003. McDaniel also holds a Chief Information Officer Certification, Information Assurance Concentration, from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He has two children and lives in San Antonio.

1988

MARC L. COSSICH, chief of police at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, recently was recognized by the university's Board of Regents and NASA for his efforts in leading recovery efforts after the space shuttle Columbia tragedy in 2003. Cossich is former chief of University Police at UL Lafayette. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from USL and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Texas-Permian Basin. He and his wife, the former **MONIQUE GUILBEAU, '86**, live in Nacogdoches.

1984

CHARLES CHAMPAGNE is a senior recruiter for Spherion Professional Recruiting Group in Greenville, S.C. His duties include recruiting professionals for manufacturing-and service-related clients nationwide. He holds a bachelor's degree in production agriculture from USL and earned a master's degree in human resources development from Clemson University. A lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Champagne was called to active duty for seven months in 2003 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his wife, the former Jennifer Marshall, have two children, Kathleen and Lauren, and live in Greenville.

1990

Firefly Digital's **MIKE SPEARS** and **Bill Dalton** won the 2003 Small Business Administration's Small Business Person of the Year Award for the Acadiana region. They were also runners-up for the SBA's statewide award. Firefly Digital is an Internet service firm based in Lafayette. Spears holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from USL. Dalton, who attended USL, is married to **MELISSA DALTON, '96**.

1993

BLAINE CASTILLE is principal of Rayne Catholic Elementary School in Rayne, La. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and earned a master's



degree in administration and supervision in 1998. Castille was named the Lafayette Education Foundation's Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2001 and was a state finalist for the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Mathematics Teacher award in 2001. He and his wife, Julie, have three children, Danielle, Elizabeth and Michael. They live in Rayne.

1994

WILLIAM J. GOLZ earned a doctorate in civil engineering/mathematics in December 2003 from LSU in Baton Rouge. He holds a civil engineering degree from USL and a master's degree in civil engineering from LSU. Golz, who lives in Brandon, Fla., is married to **ANNETTE TATMAN GOLZ**, '93, and has a daughter, **SARAH GOLZ**, '98, and a son, William Golz II.

1996

TOBY DORÉ is director of UL Lafayette's athletic training education program, which recently was awarded national accreditation. UL Lafayette is the third Louisiana university to receive the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs' stamp of approval. Doré holds a bachelor's degree in sports medicine from USL, a master's degree in education from Northwestern State University and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi.

1998

HOLLIE PRITCHARD DOMINGUE is an instructor of English at North Central Texas College in Corinth, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in English from UL Lafayette. She is married to **SCOTT J. DOMINGUE**, '00. The couple have two children, Claire and Reece. They live in Denton, Texas.

1999

SHAD DUPLESSIS is a psychiatric social worker at Ascension Hospital in Gonzales, La. He conducts group, individual and family therapy, and is responsible for case management. Duplessis holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from USL and earned a

master's degree in social work in 2002 from LSU, where he was named the National Association of Social Workers MSW Student of the Year.

ANDY PERRIN is a project manager for Chiles Architects in Austin, Texas. He holds a bachelor's degree in architecture from USL and a master's degree in architecture from Syracuse University. He is married to the former **COREE GISCLAIR**, '01, who will earn a doctorate in microbiology this fall from Texas A&M University. She has a bachelor's degree in interior design from UL Lafayette.

2000

MICHAEL OLIVER is territory manager for Kendall LTP in Chicopee, Mass. He's responsible for sales of all medical products made and marketed by the company in the New York metro area. Oliver holds a bachelor's degree in general studies. For three years, he was on active duty with the 3rd Infantry Division as an officer. He was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Oliver returned to the United States in July 2003 and married Chesa Eve Miller in October 2003. The couple live on Long Island, in the village of Rockville Centre, N.Y.

2001

JONATHAN D. BURBANK is director of percussion at Fairmont State College in West Virginia, where he also teaches music education classes and is assistant band director. Burbank holds a bachelor's degree in music education from UL Lafayette and a master's degree in music education from West Virginia University. He and his wife, the former Mary Kathryn Welch, live in Morgantown, W.Va.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD L. "T-BONE" GLAZE, '43, died March 19, 2003. He was 80. Glaze was a teacher, coach and principal at Pine Prairie High School in Pine Prairie, La., until his retirement in 1976. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from SLI and a master's degree from LSU. He played basketball on the SLI squad and served as an officer in World War II and the Korean conflict.

LUCIEN C. BERTRAND JR., '45, a 15th Judicial District Court judge from 1966 to 1993, died Jan. 22, 2004, in Lafayette. He was 82. Bertrand, a 1938 graduate of Cathedral High School in Lafayette, received a bachelor's degree in music education from SLI and a *juris doctorate* with honors from Tulane Law School in New Orleans in 1949. A lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, he was a test pilot during World War II. Survivors include a sister, Jean Nephevoux; a daughter, Sandy Blanchard of Houston; five sons, Dan Bertrand of Albuquerque, N.M., and Don Bertrand, Russ Bertrand, Bill Bertrand and Todd Bertrand, all of Lafayette; and 14 grandchildren.

WILLIAM "BILL" PATTON, '49, died Feb. 9, 2004. He was 76. Patton, a longtime radio and television broadcaster in the Lafayette area, is credited with coining the term "Acadiana," which he pulled from a typographical error on an envelope sent from New York. His broadcasting career began at radio station KVOL, where he worked during college. He retired 36 years later as general manager of KATC-TV3. Patton earned a bachelor's degree in geology from SLI and later served as a member of the USL Advisory Council, the USL Alumni Association Board of Directors and the USL Athletic Complex Committee, which helped secure funding for Cajun Field. Survivors include his wife, Carol, and three children, David, Drew and Ellen.

CHARLES E. DUPUIS, '52, died Aug. 22, 2003, in Lafayette. He was 74. Dupuis was a retired employee of Amoco and was a risk manager with OSC Inc. A native of Lafayette, he was a U.S. Navy veteran. He received a bachelor's degree in general business from SLI. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Lelia Hebert Dupuis; a son, Carey Dupuis; five daughters, Barna Hayes, Tina Albarado, Wendie Silvestrini, Andrea Cruice and Daphnie Guidry; a sister, Jessie Fremin; four brothers, Joseph Dupuis, Lloyd Dupuis, Floyd Dupuis and John Dupuis; and 11 grandchildren.

BILAL ADNAN NACCACHE, '81, died Jan. 7, 2004, in his hometown of Beirut, Lebanon. He was 41. He

held a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from USL. Naccache worked for the engineering firm of Morphy Makofsky Inc.

RONALD A. DELHOMME, '87, died Dec. 27, 2003, in Pensacola Beach, Fla. He was 56. Delhomme was a former reporter and city editor at the *Opelousas Daily World*, executive editor of the *Eagle* in Marco Island, Fla., and bureau writer for *The Daily Advertiser* in Lafayette. He was writing for the *NW Florida Business Climate* magazine at the time of his death. A native of Lafayette, Delhomme was a graduate of Cathedral High School and held a bachelor's degree in English education from USL. Survivors include a daughter, Laura Delhomme of Duluth, Ga.; a brother, David Delhomme of Lafayette; a stepdaughter, Heather C. Moore of Santa Monica, Calif.; and his companion, Paulette Doucet Provost of Pensacola Beach, Fla.

STANLEY DAVIS died Nov. 16, 2003,

in his Lafayette home. He was 105. In 1992, Davis enrolled in a writing course at UL Lafayette and for the next decade, jotted down his life

experiences. They were compiled into a book, *100 Short Stories, 1898-2001*. Davis also completed courses in Louisiana geography, real estate, creative writing and Louisiana folklore. He marked his 100th birthday as a student at the university. Born in Bristol, W. Va., in 1898, Davis began his career in the oil industry in 1919. In the 1920s and 1930s, he helped develop the petroleum industry in several South American nations. He moved to Acadiana in 1944. He owned and operated a chain of NAPA auto parts stores in Abbeville, Crowley, Rayne and Kaplan. He sold them in the early 1950s, moved to Lafayette and reentered the oil industry. He retired in the 1980s. Survivors include two daughters, **WILMA DARTEZ**, '53, and her husband, Francis, and **EMMA LERILLE**, '91, and her husband, **RED**, '87, all of Lafayette; and a host of

grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Cause for Applause

Foundation spotlights superior scholars

FACULTY TAPPED FOR RECOGNITION this spring by the UL Lafayette Foundation have a few characteristics in common.

They're at the top of their game. They're well-rounded, excelling in teaching, research and community service. And, they make a difference in the lives of many of their students.

"Just about every college graduate can recall a professor who made a lasting impression, who stood out from the rest. The educators that we honor this year are of that caliber," said Julie Bolton Falgout, executive director of the Foundation.

Recipients of the 2004 Distinguished Professor Award are: Stephen J. Caldas, professor of educational foundations and leadership; Richard C. Cusimano, professor of history; and Joseph Neigel, professor of biology. Julia C. Frederick, an assistant professor of history, is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award.

They will be honored by the Foundation in late April.

EDUCATOR USES PILOTING SKILLS IN CLASSROOM

Dr. Stephen J. Caldas

Whether he is in the clouds or in the classroom, Dr. Stephen Caldas is always teaching.

A professor of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Caldas is also a volunteer pilot with the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force.

The skill to pilot a plane or steer a student in the right direction are similar, Caldas said. He routinely has Civil

Air Patrol cadets on board when he takes to the air.

"We introduce them to this program and it's exciting to see their reactions," said Caldas. "You could have a kid with discipline problems who just 'turns around' in those flights. I love educating the youth on flying and the program."

On the ground, Caldas is a noted expert on school desegregation in Louisiana and nationwide. His research indicates few desegregation plans have worked in the past 50 years. "They have often just exacerbated the problem," Caldas said.

He reported these results in two books; one earned the 2003 Louisiana Library Science Literary Award. He's also been selected five times by his peers to receive the Summer Research Award.



Dr. Stephen J. Caldas

In a letter nominating Caldas for the UL Lafayette Foundation's Distinguished Professor honor, the dean of the College of Education said Caldas has gained a reputation as an "excellent researcher."

"His research is regularly solicited by others from all over the world and the media, and is widely cited by other educational researchers," Dr. Gerald Carlson said.

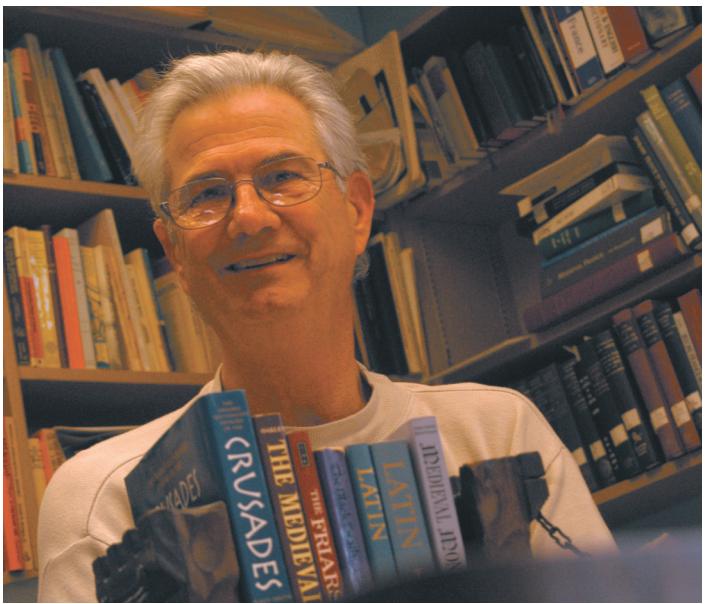
The professor shares his research with students, Carlson said, adding that Caldas' classes are often filled to capacity.

"He consistently receives very strong student evaluations of instruction and his energy and style of teaching is most effective. I am also impressed that Dr. Caldas brings his research into the classroom so students can benefit from his findings."

Dr. Roslin Growe, department head for Educational Foundations and Leadership, agreed. "Steve demonstrates in all important facets of his teaching a competence and dedication that deserves recognition."

Caldas earned a bachelor's degree in history. The training enabled him to funnel past events into a current context. His study of desegregation reflects a love of the past, he said.

"I started with a degree in history and then wondered what I was going to do with this degree. I knew I loved teaching friends and



Dr. Richard C. Cusimano

relatives about Louisiana's colorful history, so I thought, 'I can teach school.' So I earned a degree in education and that's how I started."

His teaching mission is simple: be enthusiastic as possible and never, never have a boring class. He made a promise to himself early on to follow those rules.

"I must have been dozing in a boring class at some point, when I resolved I wouldn't have a boring class and subject my students to the same misery," he said.

PROFESSOR LEARNS FROM HIS STUDENTS

Dr. Richard C. Cusimano

Soon after Dr. Richard C. Cusimano enters a classroom, laughter usually erupts.

Trained in the oration techniques of the ancient Greeks and Romans, he shows off his wit and witticisms at the beginning of each class.

"You have to start off with an attention grabbing statement, otherwise you are not going to be able to bring the students in. Humor is a very effective way to teach. My father used to say, 'If you have people laughing, they are going to be on your side.'"

Cusimano has gained a reputation over his 30-year tenure at UL Lafayette as a thought-provoking and dynamic history professor, wrote History and Geography Department head Dr. Robert Carriker in a

letter nominating him for the UL Lafayette Foundation's Distinguished Professor Award.

"All of his classes fill to capacity as students clamor to secure a seat in his courses," Carriker wrote.

Cusimano's translations of medieval Latin texts have earned him the appreciation of his peers, as well.

"Researchers and historians of the period will benefit from his work and

its lasting impact will be felt for generations as it adds to the building blocks of historical material now accessible for historians around the world," Carriker said.

Cusimano joined the USL History Department in 1970 soon after earning his doctorate in medieval and Renaissance history. The challenge – then and now – was to get students interested in the past and its relation to their current lives.

"Most young adults, in many ways, are not quite ready to really appreciate historical study. It is a challenge to bring them alive to the importance of the lessons of history. I speak about things that are of importance to them today, relating the past to today's events. A teacher should never *not* know what is of interest to his current students."

The Distinguished Professor honor comes as Cusimano closes a career at UL Lafayette that included service as head of the History and Geography Department and dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

"I am now teaching the second generation of students. I have students come up to me and tell me I also taught their parents, aunts and uncles. Out of fear I may be teaching a third generation, I have decided to retire," he said.

In retirement, the 64-year-

old will continue his translations of medieval texts and travel. But he said he will miss the daily interactions with his students.

"I ask them questions to find out what is of interest to them. It keeps me up to date. I find them delightful. Youth is contagious."

INNOVATIVE RESEARCHER TEACHES BY EXAMPLE

Dr. Joseph Neigel

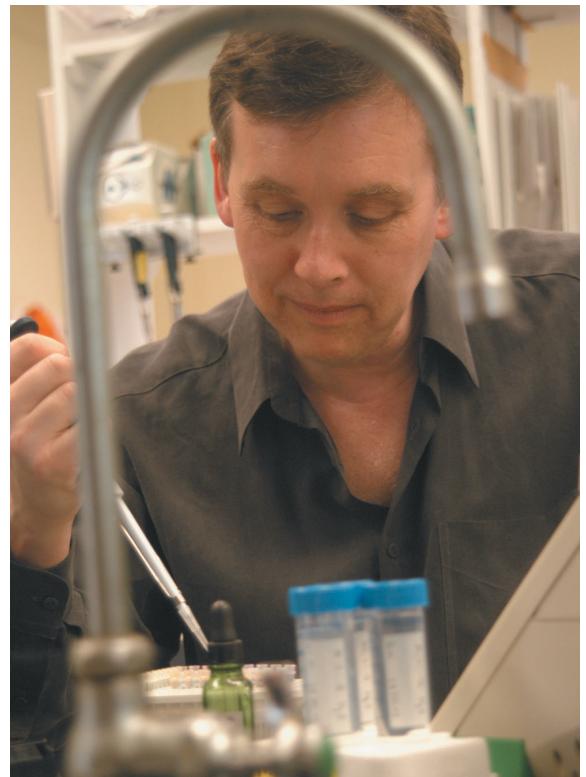
Dr. Joseph Neigel has some advice for students: "Figure out what you really like to do and don't give it up."

The biology professor speaks from experience.

As a young scientist, he was drawn to molecular biology, fascinated by what he learned in laboratories. But he also enjoyed classical biology, especially its outdoor field-work.

"I decided to try to develop a research and career path that would bring those two areas together, to satisfy all the things I was interested in," he recalled.

Neigel was in uncharted territory. But when he interviewed in 1987 for a teaching post at UL Lafayette (then known as USL) his plan to merge his interests was welcomed by Dr. Darryl Felder, head of the



Dr. Joseph Neigel

ROBIN MAY

Biology Department.

"The idea of bringing molecular biology into areas like ecology is now a very widely accepted, very widely practiced approach," Neigel said, with a smile. "I guess I called it right."

Much of his work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, which has a reputation for funding only the most innovative research proposals.

In a letter nominating him for the Distinguished Professor Award, Felder noted that Neigel has been named to serve on three groups in marine conservation ecology, "which are basically NSF think tanks assembled to synthesize knowledge, define research priorities and transfer scientific knowledge to policy makers and the public.

"He has also been funded by NSF to establish on our campus a Population Genetics Database (community database) and was named to a recent NSF panel to evaluate proposals for a National Evolutionary Synthesis Center.

"Recently, he was asked by NSF to take a leave of absence from the university to serve as program officer for this new panel, but he declined to avoid putting his UL Lafayette research program on hold. Such recognition does not come to a faculty member without exceptional credentials in research and Joe clearly is a leader in his research field."

Neigel excels at teaching, as well. He stresses fundamentals, then challenges his students to apply them in innovative ways. Students are encouraged to spend time in the laboratory to augment what they read in textbooks. They can learn to perform DNA sequencing and molecular cloning, for instance.

Neigel co-founded the "Louisiana Alliance for Science," a statewide group of scientists and educators who concentrate on improving science education. He also developed "Explorations in Genetics," a program that introduces high school students to genetics.

The most critical time to get students interested in science is when they

are young, Neigel said. He became interested in science at an early age, "because I had good teachers who, although I didn't realize it at the time, were putting up with a lot from me, to encourage me."

He now does the same for others.

HER STUDENTS LEARN RELEVANCE OF HISTORY

Dr. Julia C. Frederick

In the recent movie "Mona Lisa Smile," Julia Roberts plays an art professor who takes a position at



Dr. Julia C. Frederick

the world because they need to understand where they fit into the story of mankind," she said.

In one of her humanities courses, Frederick begins the semester by asking students to close their eyes and pretend they are waking up the next day. "You only know two things," she tells them. "You know your first name. And you know that you have something important to do. What is your problem?"

Typical responses: "I don't know who my family is." "I do not know what's right or wrong." "I do not know who the enemy is."

Frederick then explains to the class why she conducts this hypothetical exercise.

"This is you without history," she says. "This is why history is important."

Dr. Robert Carriker, head of UL Lafayette's History and Geography Department, said Frederick is popular with students.

"Her classes always fill early and all of her students consistently evaluate her as a challenging, caring, devoted, passionate and thoughtful instructor," he wrote in a letter nominating her for the Excellence in Teaching Award.

"Students are truly drawn to her and after observing her (teach), I understand why: it is because she so honestly cares about their learning, their development and them as individuals."

Dr. David Barry, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Frederick's "success is contingent on the success of her students. She mentors students as well as teaching them."

Last year, Frederick helped the Lafayette Parish School System obtain an almost \$1 million multi-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to offer professional development to 77 elementary, middle and high school teachers. She also received a Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities grant for a Summer Teachers Institute.

Frederick is director of Latin American History at UL Lafayette. She has created and taught several new courses, including "Women in Latin American History" and "Latin American Belief Systems." ■