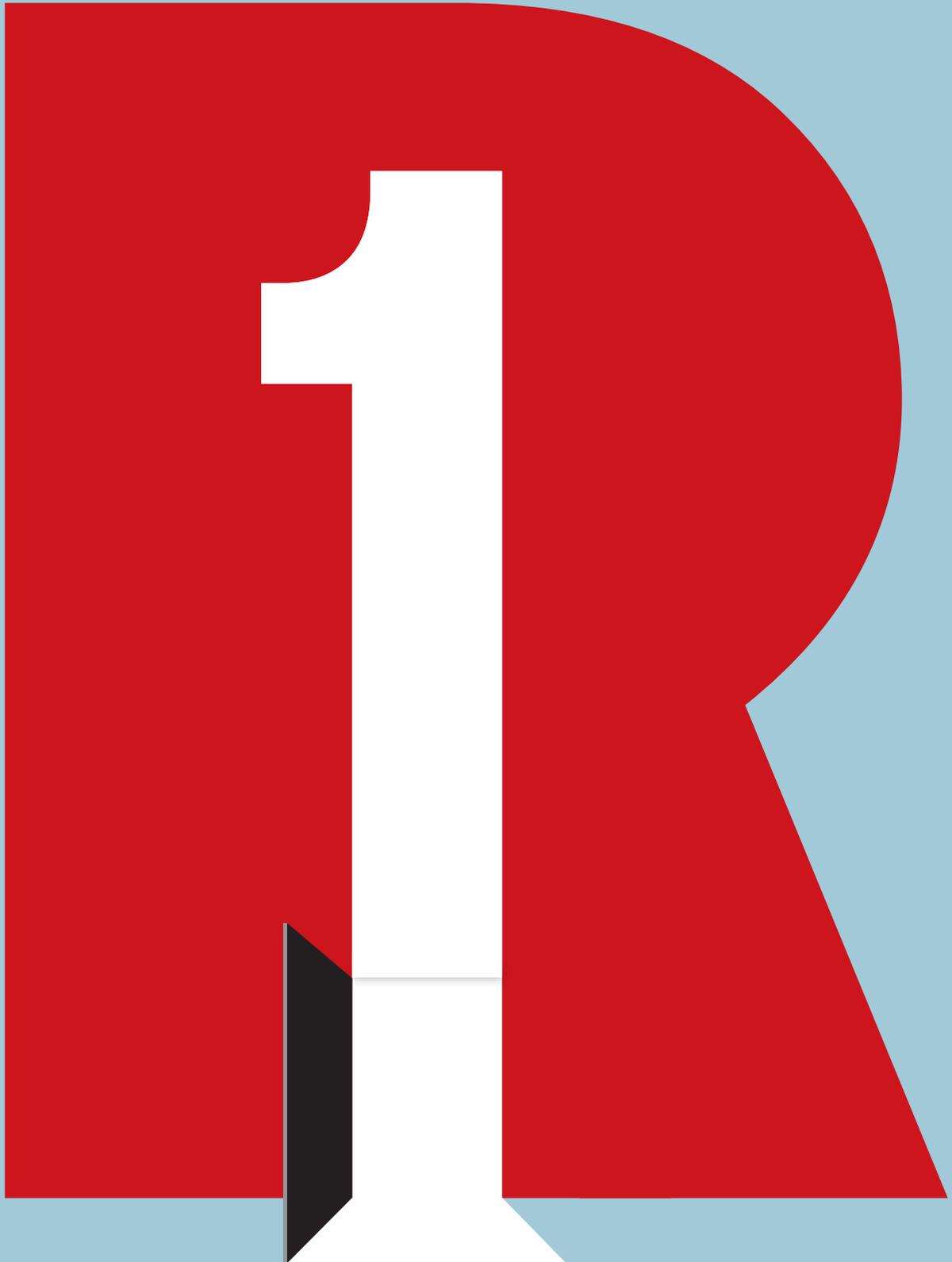


La

SPRING 2023

LOUISIANE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE





Our University turns 125 this year.

The approach of any milestone, particularly one as significant, inspires reflection. Over the past several months, the University has been planning how we'll mark this birthday and discussing what it is we want to celebrate about the past century and a quarter.

We've been on the hunt for threads – themes that are laced throughout our history and that tie the beginning of our story to the present day.

And here's where we landed: *Service. Vision. Leadership. Louisiana.*

These four words carry immense meaning for us, and they have since our founding.

Preparing students for lives of purpose and success is an act of service.

Anticipating challenges and harnessing the power of our brightest minds to answer them helps us envision a better future.

Bringing people together for a common cause is a hallmark of leadership.

These principles are at the core of the work we've done for 125 years. And we do them all for the good of Louisiana, the place we're proud to call home.

You'll see these themes throughout this issue of *La Louisiane*.

In these pages, there are stories about students who are serving the community – and learning lessons of responsible citizenship.

You'll also find examples of how our top-tier researchers are applying their expertise to bring solutions into focus to some of the greatest challenges we face as a society.

Here, you'll discover faculty members and students whose leadership in their respective disciplines is making a difference regionally, nationally and, in many instances, globally.

And you'll understand the immense value our designation as a Carnegie Research 1 University brings to Louisiana.

We were founded on July 14, 1898, and I'd wager to say that the legislators who approved the creation of an industrial institute in the state's southwestern section couldn't have dreamed of what that small training school would become. The past 125 years have been a story of exceeding all expectations.

Together, we can create a foundation that ensures the next 125 years does the same.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*.

Dr. Joseph Savoie



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ON THE COVER: Achieving R1 status “opens doors” to a host of possibilities for UL Lafayette. (Illustration by Courtney Jeffries)

La LOUISIANE

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BIOPHARMA ON BAYOU TECHE

Amid Iberia's cane fields, expansion enables a new industry

BY CHRISTINE PAYTON

An area in south Louisiana known for its sugarcane co-ops and winding Bayou Teche is set to grow the state's newest economic sector.

Two new projects in Iberia Parish will create a biopharmaceutical corridor with research and drug manufacturing that will impact lives across the globe.

In late 2022, UL Lafayette and Iberia Parish officials announced the expansion of the University's New Iberia Research Center and the construction of the Iberia BioInnovation Accelerator in the Progress Point Business Park near NIRC.



Both projects are the result of a nearly \$50 million investment of state capital outlay funds brought to Acadiana by its legislative leaders. Nearly \$25 million will lead to the creation of a Level 3 biosafety lab at NIRC – the nation's largest non-human primate center – that will enable advanced on-site research with infectious diseases. More than \$22 million will help develop the BioInnovation Accelerator drug manufacturing facility at Progress Point.

A Level 3 biosafety lab at NIRC will have global implications in combating infectious diseases. During the COVID-19 pandemic, NIRC played a critical role in the development of the Pfizer vaccine – the world's first widely available coronavirus vaccine and the first to win FDA approval.

This life-saving measure, however, was delayed three months because final testing could not be conducted at NIRC's Level 2 facility. A Level 3 facility will eliminate such delays.

The BioInnovation Accelerator will transform the research and clinical trial data into real-world pharmaceuticals through

manufacturing. The pharmaceuticals will then be brought to market and to households, said Dr. Joseph Savoie, UL Lafayette president.

“In a biopharmaceutical corridor such as the one that will be created in Iberia Parish – with the combined power of NIRC and the BioInnovation Accelerator – you can envision a future in which a drug is taken from research to testing to manufacturing to the marketplace with each step taking place within about 5 miles of each other.”

Savoie added: “A new biopharmaceutical sector in south Louisiana is not just good for the local economy. It's good for humanity in every corner of the world.”

Preliminary economic impacts include the creation of nearly 550 new jobs with \$10.6 million in annual tax revenues for Iberia Parish. The total economic output is estimated to be \$144.3 million.

“The promise of what these projects can bring to our parish is something we've never seen,” said M. Larry Richard, Iberia Parish president. “The expansion of NIRC and the creation of the BioInnovation Accelerator are game-changers for our economy and for our people.”

Both projects are expected to be completed in the next two years, but plans don't stop there.

The Acadiana Planning Commission and the University are working to leverage NIRC's capabilities once the Level 3 lab is operational.

APC secured a \$500,000 federal grant to pursue a biopharmaceutical manufacturing cluster in Iberia Parish. UL Lafayette supplied \$125,000 in match funding for the grant and is working with the planning commission to attract drug manufacturers who can utilize NIRC's future Level 3 lab for development and testing.

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru is UL Lafayette's vice president for Research, Innovation and Economic Development. He said the University and Iberia Parish leaders first introduced the idea for the biopharmaceutical corridor – with the NIRC expansion and the construction of the BioInnovation Accelerator as its nucleus – about a year ago to the Acadiana legislative delegation and area economic development agencies.

“The realization of these projects is transformational for the University, Iberia Parish, the region and Louisiana,” Kolluru said. “None could have happened without people coming together for the greater good of where we live and also for the greater good of the lives around the globe that will be impacted.”



A CRITICAL PLAYER

The New Iberia Research Center served a critical role in the development of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine – the world's first widely available coronavirus vaccine and the first to win FDA approval.



FACULTY AUTHORS

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

From Behind the Mask: Essays on South Louisiana's Mardi Gras Runs explores traditional Mardi Gras runs of south Louisiana, including strategies for masking, costuming, begging, singing and moving through the countryside. Author **Barry Jean Ancelet** is professor emeritus of Francophone studies. From UL Press.

Rethinking American Disasters, a pathbreaking collection of essays on hurricanes, earthquakes, fires and other calamities over four centuries, confronts the premise that there is no such thing as a “natural” disaster. **Liz Skilton**, an associate professor of history, is among the book’s editors. From LSU Press.

Through Mama’s Eyes: Unique Perspectives in Southern Matriarchy explores how images of Southern matriarchy are interpreted and challenged through literature, history and the sciences. Authors **Cheyron Woods** and **Kiwana T. McClung** are head of the Ernest J. Gaines Center and UL Lafayette’s chief diversity officer, respectively. From UL Press.

20 Years of Marais Press features images of 250 fine art prints produced by the College of the Arts’ Marais Press. The prints are part of the Hilliard Art Museum’s Marais Press Print Collection. From UL Press.

Critical Perspectives on Teaching in the Southern United States presents provocative insights into education in the southern United States and raises complex questions that consider how history has shaped present-day education in the region. Editors **Tori K. Flint** and **Natalie Keefer** are faculty members in the College of Education & Human Development. From Lexington Books.

Reading Confederate Monuments addresses the need for scholars, educators and the public to be able to read and interpret the literal and cultural Confederate monuments pervading life in the contemporary United States. **Maria Seger**, an assistant professor of English, is the book’s editor. From University Press of Mississippi.

The Fear of Everything, a collection of nine stories by **John McNally**, the University’s writer-in-residence, are by turns fantastical, hilarious and heartbreaking. Readers will meet a magician who shows up unexpectedly at a grade school, retirees who answer phone calls from lonely children, and a sleep study assistant with a compelling afterlife. From UL Press.

OYSTERS

PRESERVING AN INDUSTRY

UL Lafayette is steering a \$14 million, multiyear initiative to develop oyster broodstock capable of survival in low-salinity environments.

Leveraging Opportunities and Strategic Partnerships to Advance Tolerant Oysters for Restoration, or LO-SPAT, is designed to help sustain populations of the shellfish and support the seafood industry. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is funding the project.

Dr. Beth Stauffer, an associate professor of biology, is principal investigator. She and other UL Lafayette researchers are collaborating with scientists from the LSU AgCenter and the University of Maryland. Spat-Tech, a Mississippi-based oyster aquaculture company, is the private sector partner.

“The objective is to examine low-salinity tolerant populations of oysters. We’re researching how low salinity – and other environmental stressors – factor in and identifying heritable traits that make some oysters harder than others,” Stauffer said.

The LO-SPAT team is examining the entire oyster life cycle, from larvae and broodstock to juveniles that can be deployed in nurseries and, ultimately, at restored reef sites.

Louisiana is one of the nation’s major oyster-producing states, but declining production has created ecological and economic consequences.

Jack Montoucet, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary, said LO-SPAT provides “a comprehensive approach to addressing a state, regional and national problem. Developing an oyster that can tolerate low salinity for an extended period – which we don’t have now – is important to maintaining the industry as we know it.”



DOUG DUGAS

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

WATER WISDOM

President Joseph Biden appointed a UL Lafayette engineer to the Mississippi River Commission.

Dr. Robert Miller is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and assistant director of the University’s Louisiana Watershed

Center. The Mississippi River Commission advises a range of federal agencies, providing recommendations in areas such as engineering, flood control, environmental projects, navigation and policy.

The Mississippi River is one of the world’s most important waterways. In addition to providing water for drinking and crop irrigation for 31 states, shipping, fishing, tourism and other industries that depend on the river and its tributaries generate billions of dollars each year. The river is also a key route for international commerce.



RACHEL RAFAFI

MULTISTATE

HYDROGEN HUB

Louisiana, Oklahoma and Arkansas will establish a hub for the development, production and use of hydrogen as fuel and manufacturing feedstock.

The partnership will enable the three states – where large amounts of hydrogen are produced – to collectively compete for federal funding that’s available for the creation of regional clean hydrogen hubs.

Hydrogen is used in manufacturing processes and is increasingly tapped as a clean-burning fuel that helps reduce carbon emissions.

The goal is to foster research, training, workforce development and collaboration with industry and governmental entities. UL Lafayette is among several Louisiana universities that will be central to the project.

The University’s “inclusion in the hydrogen hub initiative is indicative of longstanding success in developing solutions for today’s energy needs,” said Dr. Mark Zappi, executive director of UL Lafayette’s Energy Institute of Louisiana. “That effort is built around a comprehensive approach to energy research, education and outreach led by our world-class scientists and engineers.”

THE AMAZON

BIOLOGIST OFFERS WARNING

Human activity is degrading the Amazon at a pace faster than what was previously known. That’s according to a paper coauthored by a UL Lafayette biology professor in the premier journal *Science*.

“These changes are happening too rapidly for Amazonian species, peoples and ecosystems to respond adaptively,” Dr. James Albert said.

The Amazon rainforest is the most diverse ecosystem on Earth. It’s home to about 10% of all plant and animal species and is critical to the Earth’s climate system. It contributes 16% of all terrestrial photosynthetic productivity and regulates global carbon and water cycles.

Behind the destruction and degradation of the Amazon’s habitat: deforestation, wildfires, soil erosion, damming rivers and desertification from global climate change.

“These human-caused changes affect the whole continent in the time frame of decades to centuries, as compared to millions to tens of millions of years for evolutionary, climatic and geological processes,” Albert said.

Science published the findings in January.



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

WHAT’S IN YOUR SOIL?

BENEATH THE SURFACE

UL Lafayette is dishing the dirt on soil health.

The University’s Delta Urban Soils Laboratory can help small production farmers, gardeners, homeowners, landscape designers and architects, and companies better understand what’s in their soil.

Healthy soil produces healthy plants and crops, said Dr. Anna Paltseva, assistant professor of environmental science and the lab’s director.

“It’s important to know what is in your soil so you can grow plants effectively. People will say, ‘My plants are dying. I don’t know what I am doing wrong.’ But if you study the soil, you can see what you need to do to fix it in order to meet the needs of the plant,” Paltseva said.

“The soil speaks for itself.”

The Delta Urban Soils lab examines samples submitted by the public to identify what nutrients soil contains – and which it needs – to improve plant growth. Tests also pinpoint soil composition and detect any contaminants that are hindering development.

The lab accepts samples from anywhere in the U.S. Visit geology.louisiana.edu/soils-lab for information, including pricing and how to submit samples.

UL LAFAYETTE SCIENCE MUSEUM

RENEWED MISSION

The Lafayette Science Museum is under new management: UL Lafayette. The University is now operating the science museum in partnership with Lafayette Consolidated Government. As part of the agreement, the educational facility has been renamed the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum.

Plans for the downtown museum include expanded, cross-disciplinary exhibitions, enhanced programs and resources to engage learners of all ages, a café, gift shop and public event rental options.

The University already had a presence within the museum. The School of Geosciences has operated a geology museum there since 2013.

on campus

BELLA NOSE

A K-9's best friends? Paws-on training – and her snoot

BY CHARLIE BIER

University of Louisiana at Lafayette law enforcement “officer” Bella doesn’t make arrests, lead investigations, question suspects, drive a patrol car, issue traffic citations or write police reports. The 2-year-old Belgian Malinois’ expertise is explosives detection, a skill that begins with her specially trained nose for crime.

The K-9, who joined the UL Lafayette Police Department last year, is not a commissioned officer. Bella’s ability to identify materials used to build explosives, however, makes hers a responsibility as hefty as any in law enforcement. It’s a duty she shares with Lt. Mike LaSalle, her handler and trainer.

“We conduct searches every day, both random sweeps and suspicious package calls, including for book bags that have been left behind,” he explained. Beyond campus patrols – among vehicles, in hallways or at sports events – Bella and LaSalle are at times called upon to assist other agencies or to sweep K-12 schools. The work “is a necessary function, unfortunately, of the world we live in,” he said.

The pair’s partnership doesn’t end with the close of a shift. Bella lives with LaSalle, who is responsible for her care around the clock. “It just becomes part of your lifestyle,” said LaSalle, who isn’t complaining.

“She’s a sweet girl,” he added, an affectionate pooch given to face licks. Bella’s all business on the job, though. During patrols, like most dogs, she will sniff at almost anything. Unlike most dogs, when Bella noses around, it’s with an intent not easily diverted. That ham sandwich in a book bag? A curiosity. The live possum she roused among a bank of sound equipment at Festival International? Nothing to get wound up about. “She’ll show interest, but she won’t alert,” LaSalle said.

That’s because Bella has been programmed, in effect, to dissect smells that her brain either dismisses or translates into an internal command she promptly obeys. When Bella detects an explosives material, she will sit, an action called

a final response. It alerts LaSalle that Bella’s olfactory-driven investigatory findings merit further examination. Or, when Bella doesn’t alert, enables him to immediately “eliminate the possibility of a threat or potential risk.”

Bella’s education in explosives detection began as a puppy. She was imported to the U.S. by Police Dogs Centre Holland B.V., a company in the Netherlands that trains and sells police dogs. Bella came to ULPD last year via U.S. K-9, a training and importation company in Kaplan, La. She has been exposed to thousands of smells and potential scenarios; it’s training sharpened daily by LaSalle, who receives yearly certification to handle and train her. Bella’s explosives detection proficiency, he said, rests on a common dog-training technique – tapping into her innate hunting instincts. As a Labrador retriever might be trained to find ducks, she’s been taught her only meaningful quarry is explosives materials.

DOUG DUGAS



The basic tenets of Bella’s training are odor association and positive reinforcement, built around her constant drive to find prey. Bella’s “prey” is something she considers a toy, a short length of irresistibly fetchable plastic pipe. Bella associates her “toy” with the odor of materials that would emanate from an explosive device thanks to exhaustive, nuanced and repetitive training. It’s a system that, at its core, simply conditions

Bella to believe she’s immersed in a never-ending “and lively game to find her toy,” LaSalle explained. He will allow Bella to watch him “hide” a piece of pipe with a material that contains a specific odor. Once she retrieves the pipe, it creates an odor association. Bella’s reward, along with praise, is simply finding and having her toy.

“So, she’s really just always looking for it; she’s always on. It’s like a kid riding their bicycle through a neighborhood who smells chocolate chip cookies. They know if they find which house it’s coming from, they’re going to get a cookie,” LaSalle said.



PARTNERS

ULPD Lt. Mike LaSalle and Bella, a trained explosives detection K-9, patrol campus. He is Bella's trainer and handler. The 2-year-old Belgian Malinois also lives with LaSalle.

LIBERAL ARTS CENTENNIAL
STAYING TRUE

At its founding in 1921, the College of Liberal Arts was Southwestern Louisiana Institute's largest college. It was also SLI's only college.

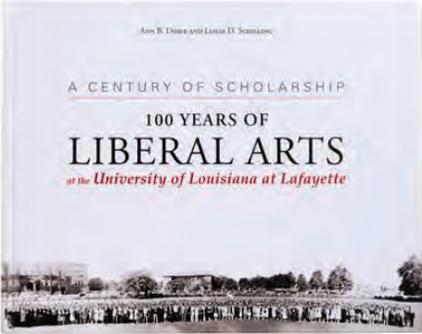
A century later, that's no longer the case. UL Lafayette has eight academic colleges. But the College of Liberal Arts has stayed true to its founding principles, wrote Dr. Jordan Kellman, the college's dean, in a foreword to *A Century of Scholarship: 100 Years of Liberal*

Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The book chronicles the college's development against the backdrop of a century of

immense social and technological change.

"Engaging in deep discussions of what is most important, creating a culture of reflection and intellectual creativity, preparing students to be outstanding professionals and thoughtful citizens, and good people – the college has never wavered in its dedication to these core values," Kellman wrote.

Ann B. Dobie and Leslie D. Schilling are the book's authors. It was published as part of the college's yearlong centennial celebration and is available from UL Press. To order, visit ulpress.org.



FIRST IN U.S.
GLOBAL NETWORK

UL Lafayette has joined the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, the first member of the global network of French-speaking universities and research institutions in the U.S.

AUF includes members in 122 countries where French is spoken. Its influence is substantial. AUF is the official higher education representative – and voice – for the Sommet de la Francophonie, the



international conference of heads of state of Francophone countries.

Dr. Jordan Kellman, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said membership in AUF reflects UL Lafayette's status "as arguably the only university in the country that has such a deep relationship between the Francophone interests at the University and the surrounding French-speaking community."

MENTAL HEALTH
MEETING A NEED

A psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner concentration in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences is addressing the rising national demand for mental care providers.

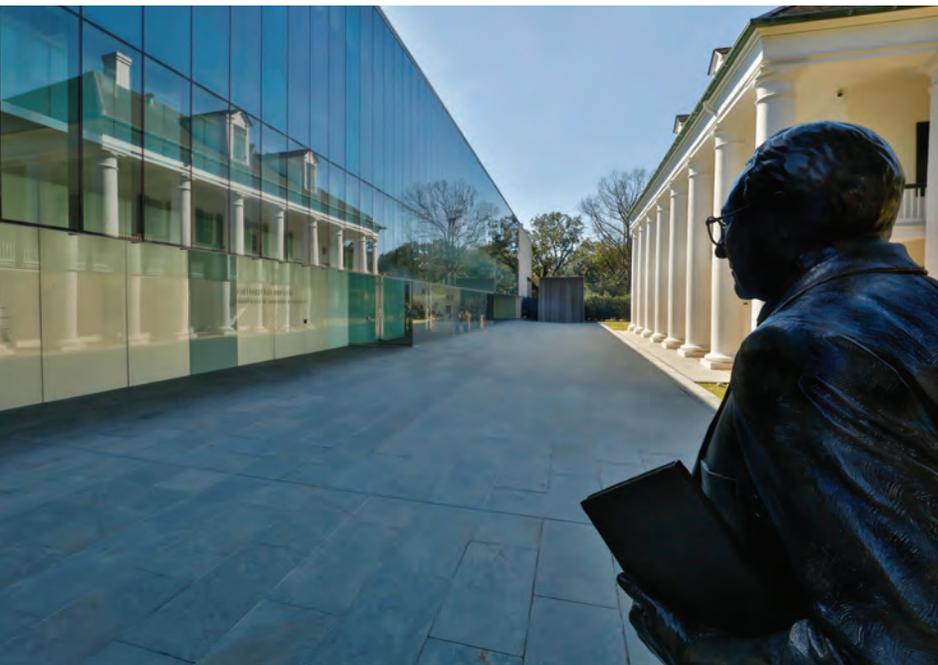
According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, over 7,000 practitioners are needed nationwide to meet communities' needs for psychiatric mental health care.

"It's so important that we educate and get trained psych mental health nurse practitioners into the field so that we can see more patients because access just isn't there the way it should be," said Dr. Abby McNeil, an assistant professor in the college's LHC Group • Myers School of Nursing.

The 48-credit-hour psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner concentration prepares licensed registered nurses to take an integrated behavioral health care approach to assess, diagnose and develop treatment plans for patients, from childhood through adulthood.

Psychiatric mental health certified nurse practitioners can provide treatment through telehealth, hospitals or their own clinics.

"When these nurses graduate, they can expect to use everything they learned in getting their education," McNeil added. "When you're approaching someone who has psychiatric illness, you have to take a holistic approach."



ACCREDITED
MUSEUM QUALITY

The Hilliard Art Museum – University of Louisiana at Lafayette has earned accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Fewer than 6% of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums have earned the nonprofit alliance's stamp of approval. The AAM is the only organization that represents the entire museum field.

Director LouAnne Greenwald said "accreditation raises the bar for The Hilliard Art Museum."

"It signals to potential lenders of artworks that we operate by best practices, that their artworks will be well cared for at our museum. It's another feather in the cap for our University and demonstrates UL Lafayette's commitment to art as a part of the academic experience," she said.

DOUG DUGAS

REMEMBERING

PLAZA DEDICATION

As a student, faculty member and assistant dean, Carolyn Dural was a mainstay in H.L. Griffin Hall, home of the College of Liberal Arts. A memorial plaza planned for green space near Griffin will ensure that the beloved figure's influence on the college isn't forgotten.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dural died in 2020. Last year, the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors approved UL Lafayette's request for the memorial plaza. Plans for the site include a

large, aluminum sculpture of interlocking red hearts at its center. Construction is expected to begin soon.

The plaza isn't the only tribute the college has made to her. It established the Carolyn Dural Memorial Fund to support students participating in the University's Study Abroad program in France and to create a faculty advising award. The college also produced a book-length tribute to Dural published by UL Press; proceeds will go to the scholarship fund.

Dural earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in French from the University. She later taught French before joining the college's administration.



SMART OILFIELD CONCENTRATION

NATION'S FIRST

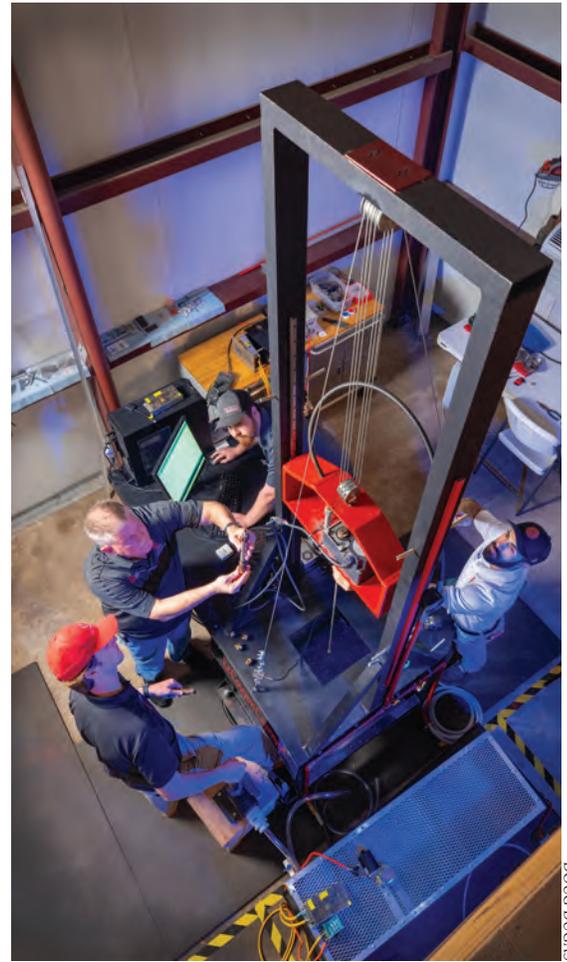
UL Lafayette is – smartly – preparing petroleum engineering majors for jobs in an evolving oil and gas industry.

The College of Engineering has launched the nation's first smart oilfield concentration for petroleum engineering majors. It integrates the current petroleum engineering degree program's sub-surface expertise with smart drilling, machine learning and data analytics.

"It's part of our comprehensive plan to address conventional and renewable energy by providing cutting-edge degree programs, minors and concentrations that augment our traditional energy base and meet industry and community needs," said Dr. Ahmed Khattab, the college's dean.

The smart oilfield concentration features a blend of courses and labs that focus on coding, statistics, machine learning, automation, predictive capabilities, carbon capture, fluid dynamics, smart drilling and the economic feasibility of exploration in specific locations.

The curriculum was developed with input from professionals who work in an industry that has "undergone a significant transformation in recent years," said Dr. Rafael Hernandez of the Department of Petroleum Engineering.



DOUG DUGAS

"It now relies on a system of sensors, networks and integrated operations that generate and communicate field and data analyses to ensure more environmentally friendly, safe and cost-efficient oil exploration, production and management," he said.

KRVS

"ITS FIRST 60 YEARS"

"You are listening to the 88.3 voice on your radio dial – KRVS, the radio voice of the University of Southwestern Louisiana."

For listeners, the station break was a familiar one. But early in KRVS' existence, there weren't that many listeners to hear it. That's because the station – which marks its 60th year in 2023 – broadcast at just 10 watts, barely strong enough to be heard beyond the campus' edge.

Times have changed, but some things haven't. Though it now broadcasts at 88.7 FM, its call letters KRVS still stand for "Radio Voice of Southwestern" – an homage to the University's name when the station launched in 1963 – and the station remains devoted to the people, culture, language and music of south Louisiana, said Cheryl Devall, its general manager.

"In its first 60 years, KRVS has grown from a low-power student station to a 100,000-watt NPR affiliate, with a broadcast signal that reaches from Lafayette to Lake Charles and a global digital presence," Devall said.

KRVS Radio Acadie is planning special programs and promotions throughout its anniversary year, so tune your dial to 88.7 FM or listen in at krvs.org to learn more.

students

A “PEOPLES” PERSON

Student artist has stories to tell – and joy to spread

BY MIA PORRETTO

When Alex Mack approaches a canvas, a conversation begins. As she draws, Alex imagines a dialogue between the characters she inscribes on the canvas. The figures – who Alex calls “my peoples” – never change, but the stories behind them do.

Alex began drawing at age 2. She filled spiral bound notebooks, nursery books, old magazines and journals with her peoples, who represent friends, family members and other individuals Alex knows. For her, art is a form of self-talk, which is often a private way for people with Down syndrome to express themselves.

But Alex isn't a private person. She shares her figures – and the stories and the love behind them – with everyone she knows.

She creates her artwork to enable others to get to know her on a deeper level, she said. “When people hear my story and see my art, I want them to know who I am,” she said. Alex added that every time she shares her artwork, she hopes that the happiness she feels while creating the pieces is obvious to her audience. “My goal is to spread love and joy,” she said.

Recognizing Alex's passion and talent, Lisha Mack, her mother, decided to provide Alex with the tools she needed to share her passion. The pair began collaborating to create abstract pieces that gained attention and support from residents in their hometown of Longview, Texas. Lisha Mack first paints acrylic,



One of Alex Mack's “My Peoples” pieces hangs in the Office of the Dean of Students. It represents the University's diverse community.

abstract works. Alex then adds her “my peoples” drawings on top to create one-of-a-kind pieces. With their artwork in high demand, the duo started a business that Alex named “My Peoples Art.”

The daughter and mother sell canvases large and small at local art fairs; others, they donate for charity auctions or to area nonprofits. The art is alluring, but the stories behind the pieces – which Alex can recall simply by looking at paintings and drawings she created even years ago – are an added appeal.

Alex was the first person with Down syndrome from her school district to graduate with a traditional high school diploma. In high school, she was a cheerleader and involved in several campus organizations.

Her extracurricular involvement has continued as a student at UL Lafayette, where she takes classes as part of the UL LIFE, or Learning is For

Everyone, Program. It assists young adults with intellectual disabilities in their pursuit of improving academic, social and career development skills.

UL LIFE participants are assigned student mentors. Madeline Reinhardt is one of Alex's. “I see students turn to our mentors for everything from class help to life advice,” Reinhardt said.

She said Alex has an ability to show unwavering kindness to everyone she meets. “Alex has a heart for others. She can strike up a conversation with anyone and everyone. She lights up every room she walks into.”

Another way Alex lights up rooms? Her artwork. Dr. Caroline Jurisich, UL LIFE director, encouraged her to create a painting that showcased the University's inclusive and diverse community. The painting now hangs in the Office of the Dean of Students. Another of Alex's paintings is in the Delta Delta Delta sorority house. Alex joined the sorority's Phi Nu chapter after enrolling at UL Lafayette. She has been elected to leadership positions each year since.

The painting – titled “Deltas Only” – features “my peoples” drawings inspired by her Tri-Delta sisters and incorporates the sorority's colors of silver, gold and blue.

“She brings joy and light into the chapter,” said Claire Savoie, a Tri-Delta sister and UL LIFE mentor. “She loves it, and her love for it is contagious for everyone else. She brings a whole new type of love and meaning to things.”



AN ARTIST'S LIFE

Alex Mack has been drawing since the age of 2. A gallery of her images is on Instagram @mypeoplesart.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

Residents of Erath, La., can now book it to their local park for health care information, thanks to students in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Second-semester juniors enrolled in a community health course installed a Little Free Library in Erath City Park. It holds books and other resources that promote physical and mental well-being, hygiene, diet and exercise, and preventive health strategies.



The project is part of Nursing 340, which takes students out of typical clinical settings and assigns them a community. In each, they perform an assessment not unlike a one-on-one evaluation a nurse might conduct during a patient visit. Through observations and interviews, students identify a community's greatest need, then engage in a service-learning activity to address it.

Kylah Trepagnier, a nursing major from New Orleans, was among students who assessed Erath and diagnosed challenges

that included diet, mental wellness and physical health.

"Helping people control their health and better themselves is the goal. We want to provide information about mental and physical health, so people can change their diets and behaviors so conditions don't worsen," Trepagnier said.

STUDENT EDITOR

PASSIONATE ABOUT WRITING

Mia Porretto is *La Louisiane's* newest student editor. She is a sophomore mass communication major with an emphasis on journalism and a minor in political science. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

A native of Houma, La., Porretto is a graduate of Terrebonne High School. She is a member of the school's Hall of Fame, which recognizes her leadership roles in Key Club, student government, on the varsity tennis team and the yearbook staff. She worked on the yearbook for four years, the final two as editor.

"I always knew I wanted to be a writer, and conducting interviews, editing stories and graphics, and working with staff members made me fall in love with storytelling," she said.

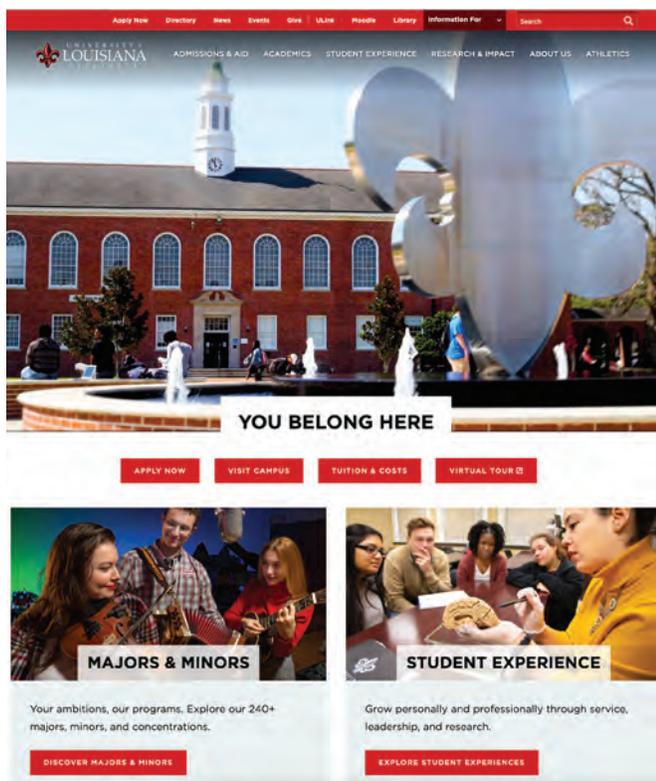
These skills – and that passion – will serve Porretto well as *La Louisiane's* student editor. In the role, she will write and edit articles, conduct interviews, proofread copy and assist photographers during photo shoots. She is the liaison between the magazine and the student body.

"Mia's influence can be found throughout the pages of this issue of *La Louisiane*," said Dr. James Savage, the magazine's editor. "She has a deep appreciation for what makes UL Lafayette a special place for students. Her insights, combined with her experiences as a writer and editor, are helping us tell the University's story more fully. We're thrilled she's joined us."



DOLUG DUGAS

SUBMITTED PHOTO



LOUISIANA.EDU

A FRESH LOOK

UL Lafayette has unveiled a redesign of its flagship website, louisiana.edu.

Along with a fresh and inviting look, the revamp has several new features to enhance the user experience for current and prospective students.

The redesigned site is a vital part of the University's strategy to attract and enroll future members of the Ragin' Cajuns community. It puts information about tuition, financial aid, housing and campus life at their fingertips. Program pages for each of the majors and minors UL Lafayette offers feature testimonials from current students and alumni.

The redesigned louisiana.edu launched in November 2022 as the first step in a larger overhaul of the roughly 150 sites that make up UL Lafayette's website, said Aimee Abshire, senior director of web and digital strategy who oversaw the redesign.

"Louisiana.edu isn't just a website," Abshire said. "It embodies the University, and this redesign engages prospective students in a conversation about who we are, where we're going, and the opportunities and experiences that we offer."

SUBMITTED PHOTO



CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD
DYNA-SKI!

The Ragin' Cajuns Water Ski Team has claimed its third consecutive Division I national title, bringing its overall total to nine championships – the most in school history.

The team, which competes as a club sport rather than an NCAA-sanctioned sport, earned Division I national championships in 1995, 1997, 2003, 2005, 2010, 2015, 2019 and 2021. Championships were not held in 2020.

Skiers cinched their latest crown at the Syndicate Waterskis 2022 Collegiate Nationals in October in San Marcos, Texas. It capped an undefeated season for the team, an unbeaten streak that stretches back to 2019.

HOUSE OF CARDS
RETREAT STANDS STRONG

There's little danger of the School of Architecture and Design's "House of Cards" toppling. The primary material used to build the 256-square-foot artist's retreat? Concrete that was mixed and poured on site by 29 University undergraduate and graduate students who helped to plan, design and build the "House of Cards." The structure – a cozy, visually appealing blend of form and function – is buttressed by 10-inch thick walls that "lean" against each other in an aesthetic modeled on a house of playing cards. It sits near Arnaudville, La., next to a small pond in a tree-lined pasture backed by Bayou Bourbeaux. If that all sounds like the inspiration for a painting, it very well could be. Visiting artists will soon be able to apply for short stays "to conduct workshops or work on their own projects," said Geoff Gjertson, a professor of architecture who directs the University's Building Institute.

UL LAFAYETTE BUILDING INSTITUTE



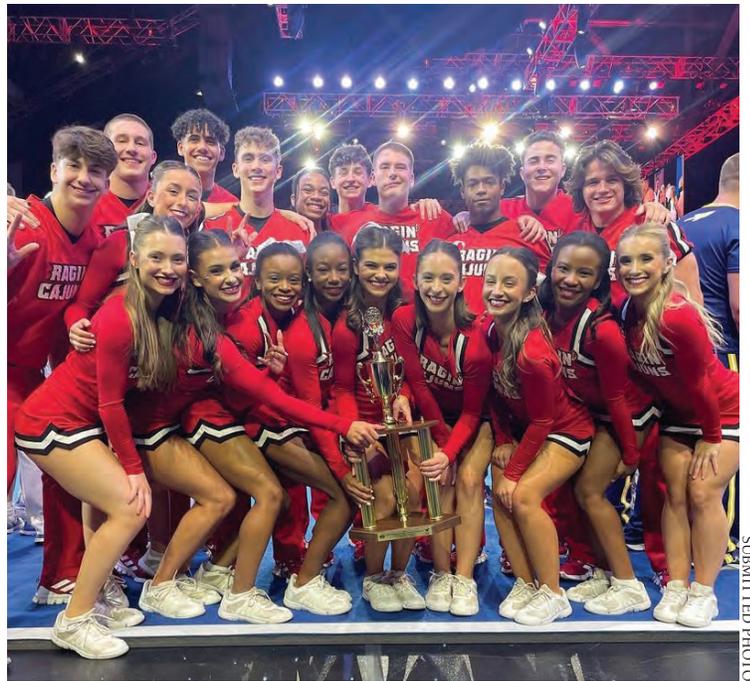
DOUG DUGAS

SERVICE
RAGIN' CAJUNS LEAD

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns are in the top 10 – for service.

Student-athletes led the Sun Belt Conference in community service hours during the Fall 2022 semester. Among all Division I schools, the men's golf program ranked highest; the women's tennis team was the second-ranked women's program.

The baseball program knocked it out of the park, too, by ranking first against like programs. Overall, Louisiana logged the sixth-most service hours in Division I.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

CHEERLEADING
NO. 9 IN THE NATION

Here's something to cheer about: Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Cheerleading is No. 9 in the nation. The team finished in the top 10 in the Division 1A coed competition at the Universal Cheerleaders Association National Championship in January. It's the second national championship for the squad since 2019, when it ranked 8th.

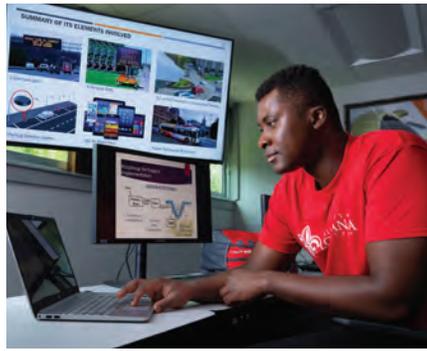


Impact & Influence:
WHY R1 MATTERS

BY CHARLIE BIER
ILLUSTRATION BY COURTNEY JEFFRIES



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education’s R1 designation cements a university’s position as a top-tier research institution, punctuating academic excellence, scholarship, research, service, innovation and global impact. It’s a designation just 146, or 3%, of the country’s public and private universities have earned, a lofty perch the University of Louisiana at Lafayette grasped at the close of 2021. The University’s R1 status brought notice in Washington D.C., applause from Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and state lawmakers in Baton Rouge, and merited a campus research showcase. R1, indeed, is a very good place to be. Topping a long list of reasons why? Its capacity to empower.

The R1 designation, which Carnegie evaluates every three years, provides a springboard for a university to expand the cutting-edge research and scholarship that propelled it to R1; strengthens its ability to attract exemplary students and faculty members; and fans its role as an engine for economic and workforce development.

Dr. Joseph Savoie, UL Lafayette president, said the designation places a resounding stamp on the University’s longstanding reputation as an international hub for teaching, learning and research. It also offers a gateway to opportunity. “R1 is a testament to our faculty, staff and students who, together, have proven dedicated, capable stewards in the University’s decades-long mission to create an environment that fosters student success and where life-changing research happens,” he said. “That’s cause for immense pride and confidence, especially as we move forward. As with those who came before us, it is our obligation to make certain that those who come after us can reach even greater heights.”

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, vice president for Research, Innovation and Economic Development, said the University is well-positioned to leverage R1 status. His reasoning is straightforward: “R1 opens doors.” The designation provides access to external funding a university otherwise wouldn’t be eligible to pursue; paves the way for new academic degrees and programs; gives additional heft to graduates’ degrees; spurs partnerships with industry seeking established sources of intellectual capital; influences policymakers and lawmakers; and inspires philanthropy. “Research isn’t done on an island, and we’re engaging with collaborators who might not have sought us out before. I’m seeing it from industry. From federal funding agencies. In interest from the community,” Kolluru said.

“R1 opens doors.”

DR. RAMESH KOLLURU



RACHEL RAEMATI

R1: 3 Things to Know

What is R1?

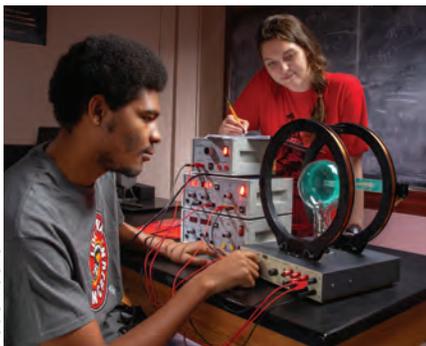
It is the highest designation bestowed by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the leading framework for describing colleges and universities in the U.S. Only 146 of them, 3%, have attained R1 status, or those with “very high research activity” – the top tier of public and private research institutions.

Why is R1 important?

It is synonymous with academic excellence, scholarship, research, service, innovation and global impact, empowering a university’s capacity for spurring economic development and attracting high-quality students, faculty and staff. It provides a framework for administrators, policymakers and researchers and impacts federal and state funding decisions.

How do you become R1?

Carnegie bases a university’s status on several factors, including its annual research expenditures, the size of its research staff with terminal degrees, and the number of doctoral degrees it awards each year. Carnegie evaluates the designation every three years.



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

It all amounts to self-generated opportunity. The University’s research and development expenditures, a key metric in attaining R1 status, increased by \$119 million between 2013 and 2021. UL Lafayette also secured \$65 million in federal R&D funding, the most in history. And, for a second consecutive time, it is the nation’s seventh-best university for research funded through collaboration with business and industry. “We intend to sustain that momentum,” Kolluru said, “and keep moving forward.”

Graduate School growth, another factor in the attainment of R1 status, has also been substantial. From Fall 2010 to Fall 2021, overall graduate enrollment rose 73%. The increase among doctoral students was 47%. That has translated into a record number of graduate degrees awarded since 2010; master’s degrees climbed by 81% and doctoral degrees by 120%. Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, dean of the Graduate School, attributes the growth to “our faculty members, who perform at a very high level, and our graduate programs, which offer tremendous opportunities for our students to succeed in the classroom and seek high-demand jobs once they graduate.”

Farmer-Kaiser envisions continued progress as a result of the R1 designation, which is influencing a push to develop additional graduate programs, degrees and initiatives, particularly at the doctoral level. That will happen as a function of the same sort of intentionality that has helped guide Graduate School successes and earned R1 status for the University, she explained. “Neither has been accidental, nor happened overnight, but are the result of comprehensive strategic planning and step-by-step gains.”

Following the R1 designation, the University created a \$400,000 dissertation fellowship fund through a partnership with the UL Lafayette Foundation. The fund will support doctoral

students in their final year of study, enabling them to focus solely on researching and writing their dissertations. That’s significant for students and, as with R&D expenditures, is important to R1 status.

Carnegie considers three weighted values in according the designation: R&D expenditures reported through the National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development Survey; the number and caliber of research staff; and the number of doctoral degrees awarded. Expenditures are measured in STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – and areas such as business, education, humanities, public policy, social science and social work, Kolluru said. “R1 is proof positive that we perform at a high level, across campus, and that’s exciting, because it will enable us to strengthen our research infrastructure, and strategically create new academic programs and full-time faculty positions across all colleges.”

For Kolluru, the University-wide advantages of being an R1 university – the validation it offers, the opportunities it affords, the potential it engenders – rest heavily on one word: investment. “Our R1 success has resonated so widely, and is so essential, because it affirms what we and others have long known – we are a good investment,” he said. “The community knows we’re a good investment. Industry knows we’re a good investment. Our supporters, whose generosity helps to propel student and faculty success, know we’re a good investment. Employers know our graduates are a good investment.”

“So now, as much as at any time in history, we are poised to become an exponentially stronger investment. And that will happen as it always has, by redoubling our commitment to our core foundational values, our dedication to academic excellence and our pursuit of research that has global impact,” Kolluru said.

RESEARCH *by the numbers*

\$119 *million*

increase in research and development expenditures from 2013-2021

\$65 *million*

federal R&D funding, the most in history

#7 *in the nation*

research funded with industry partnerships

Source: National Science Foundation

IN OTHER WORDS

Destiny Broussard, Student Government Association president

“An R1 university provides an academic environment that is of value to students because it offers opportunities for them to take part in a range of research programs and initiatives that put them directly on the cutting edge of their field of study. Students also benefit in the classroom, too, where professors share knowledge and research findings.”

Kiwana McClung, UL Lafayette chief diversity officer

“The implementation of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives is not only advantageous but also critical for Carnegie Research 1 institutions. The impact that R1 universities like ours have on communities is significant. By providing equal opportunities for all students, faculty and staff, regardless of their background or identity, R1 universities foster vibrant societies that are relevant, impactful and beneficial for all its citizens.”

Mandi Mitchell, Lafayette Economic Development Authority president and CEO

“UL Lafayette’s Carnegie R1 designation is important, not only for the University, but it is also tremendously valuable for the entire region. Achieving R1 status has ignited our region’s innovative ecosystem and will help fuel our community’s ability to attract talent and grow its creative class. As LEDA’s mission is to strengthen and diversify our community’s economy, serving as home to a leading research institution gives us a major competitive edge as we seek to attract new companies and help existing employers grow.”

Daryl Joseph Moore, College of the Arts dean

“The University’s Carnegie R1 status is a timely opportunity for the College of the Arts’ faculty and staff to develop and expound on research across our outstanding professional programs’ many disciplines. From architecture and design to music and the visual and performing arts, the ground is fertile for discovery and knowledge creation with a research culture and a creative process that embraces the exchange of ideas.”

Dr. Dianne Olivier, associate vice president for Academic Affairs

“UL Lafayette’s R1 designation shines a spotlight on faculty and student excellence. It signifies alignment across all colleges and divisions and the integration of research within teaching and learning. Our efforts to sustain R1 reflect a commitment to maintaining the highest quality and standards while valuing collaborative efforts within the University and community that result in the continued evolution of the University.”

Dr. Geoff Stewart, B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration professor and director of its Louisiana Entrepreneurship & Economic Development Center

“Our University’s research production has always been grounded and informed by public-private collaboration, whether it’s in energy, life sciences or business. We do research for a reason. It’s not just something we say. Our research progression stems from and will continue to be driven by great societal challenges and the needs of industry and public partners. This, in turn, positions us to lead and contribute through scholarship and workforce and economic development.”



In recognition of the University’s R1 designation, the Louisiana State Capitol was lighted red and white on April 12, 2022.

Photo: Doug Dugas



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS

Ernest Gaines, Forever

BY WILEY CASH



MALLORY CASH

Editor's Note: Wiley Cash enrolled at UL Lafayette to study under Ernest J. Gaines, the internationally acclaimed author and the University's writer-in-

residence emeritus. Gaines, who died in 2019 at age 86, taught creative writing at the University from 1981 until his retirement in 2010. Cash proved an apt pupil. On his way to earning a doctoral degree in English in 2008, Cash began *A Land More Kind than Home*, the book that would launch his career. It was published in 2012. Gaines, for one, was impressed. "Wiley Cash is a talented and disciplined young writer. I think this could be the beginning of a long, fruitful career," he wrote in praise of Cash's debut novel. Gaines was right. Cash is the bestselling author of five novels, owns a pile of literary awards, and is writer-in-residence at UNC Asheville in his native North Carolina. Earlier this year, Cash returned to his alma mater, where he spoke during the U.S. Postal Service's official commemoration of its postage stamp honoring Gaines. Here is Cash's tribute to his mentor and friend.

I met Ernest Gaines in person on my first day as a graduate student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. When I entered the English department office in Griffin Hall he was standing near the mailboxes, speaking to another professor. I was instantly aware of him being nearby; both the brightness of his personality and the gravity of his presence were akin to the effect that the sun has on the planets in our solar system. At least that was his effect on me. See, I'd first met him through his fiction as an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina Asheville, and I'd decided to attend graduate school at UL purely because he was the University's writer-in-residence.

The book I had read was *Bloodline* and, in those stories, Gaines had not only written about his own life, his own people, and his own place, but he had also written about mine. How was this possible? How was it possible that a Black man from south Louisiana who was born on a plantation between the wars had written in a way that so clearly spoke to the experiences, hopes, dreams and fears of a middle-class White kid from western North Carolina who was born in the early years of the Carter administration? Gaines had done what all great writers do: he had removed the barriers that would keep someone like me from perceiving the realities of life for someone like him and, in doing so, he had shown me the realities of racism, geographic isolation, cultural pride, class division and historical injustice in ways that I otherwise would have never known.

More than a decade after meeting Ernest Gaines, after becoming his student, his mentee, and eventually his friend, I was named writer-in-residence at the university in North Carolina where I had first fallen under the influence of his writing. It would be easy to say that my connection with him had come full circle at that point, but that full circle implies some kind of closing, and his influence on me and my love for him and his wife Dianne has no end, so there is no circle, just a continuing unbroken line from him to me and from me to the students of my own with whom I have shared his work and his influence on me. So, for him to receive the honor of a postage stamp with the word forever on it seems incredibly fitting, at least for me, because I will forever feel the gravity of his presence as it bends me toward him, I will forever see the light of his work as it leads us forward, I will forever hear the sound of his laugh and the clarity of his voice both on the page and off.

BLACK HERITAGE

2023

~~FOREVER~~ | USA



ERNEST J. GAINES



“Thank You For Taking Care of My Words”

BY CHEYLON WOODS



DOUG DUGAS

Editor’s Note: Cheylon Woods, left, director and archivist of the Ernest J. Gaines Center at UL Lafayette, is seen with Dianne Gaines, the author’s widow. The international center for scholarship on Gaines and his fiction is housed in Edith Garland Dupré Library. La Louisiane asked Woods to share her thoughts about Gaines’ legacy as an author and teacher.

*Top left: The oak tree from The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
Top right: A few cabins from Cherie Quarters Facing page:
Top left: Ernest Gaines under an image of his Aunt Augusteen who raised him
Top right: Gaines’ childhood church that he eventually purchased and restored
Center: Memorabilia from Gaines’ childhood
Bottom: A canefield in Pointe Coupée Parish*

Photos courtesy of the Ernest J. Gaines Center

Ernest J. Gaines drew inspiration from a deep sense of love and commitment to the rural landscapes and culture of his childhood. Growing up on Riverlake Plantation – the same plantation where his family had been enslaved – Dr. Gaines learned many transformative lessons of resilience and steadfastness in the face of systemic oppression.

The elders around him were pillars of their community and worked hard to encourage pride, self-determination and self-respect in the children and young adults around them. Despite abusive and racist laws specifically created to discourage the education of Black children, the adults of Cherie Quarters did what they could to encourage and support the education of Ernest Gaines and the other children of the plantation. It was this love and dedication to education and endurance that encouraged him to write and to train those who wanted to learn.

Dr. Gaines joined the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts in 1981 as the University’s first writer-in-residence. During his tenure, Gaines helped many students find their narrative voices and put their passions to paper. His ability to encourage and nurture someone’s passion, I believe, was one of his strongest traits.

While he was receiving accolades the world over, he never lost sight of the beauty and complexity of south Louisiana. Through his students, colleagues and readers, he penned intricate portraits of a time gone by, but that remained very near and ever-present throughout the South. He shared his love, his muse, with the world and, in turn, the world learned to find ways to share their muses with others. He crafted narratives around characters who were so amazingly human – not good or bad, just beautifully human in complicated and sometimes heart-wrenching circumstances, and he still built within them hope and dignity. Through his work we all learned to recognize and respect the universal struggles we all endure, and we learned to live truthfully to our causes.

My fondest memory of Dr. Gaines is the first time I met him in person. I was so nervous. I made my husband turn around multiple times because I kept forgetting things, and I wanted to make a good impression. Not only was he a kind and generous man, but he and Mrs. Gaines became my biggest supporters throughout my time at the University.

An inscription he wrote to me in a copy of *The Tragedy of Brady Sims* reads: “Thank you for taking care of my words.” As an archivist, that short sentence is so edifying. His support is what inspires and fuels my career, and every day I hope I am making him proud.



About Ernest J. Gaines

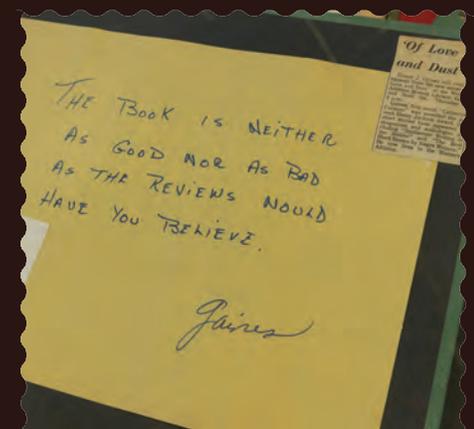
Born: Jan. 15, 1933, in Oscar, La.

Books: *Catherine Carmier* (1964); *Of Love and Dust* (1967); *Bloodline* (1968); *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* (1971); *A Long Day in November* (1971); *In My Father's House* (1978); *A Gathering of Old Men* (1983); *A Lesson Before Dying* (1993); *Mozart and Leadbelly: Stories and Essays* (2005); *The Tragedy of Brady Sims* (2017)

Filmography: "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" (1974); "The Sky Is Gray" (1980); "A Gathering of Old Men" (1987); "A Lesson Before Dying" (1999)

Awards & Honors: Wallace Stegner Fellow (1957); National Endowment for the Arts grant (1967); Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation Fellow (1971); National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction (1993); nominated for Pulitzer Prize (1993); John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellow (1993); Dos Passos Prize (1993); Chevalier of the Order of Art and Letters (France, 2000); American Academy of Arts and Letters Department of Literature (2000); National Humanities Medal (2000); the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Achievement in American Literature (2001); Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature (2012); National Medal of Arts (2012)

Died: Nov. 5, 2019, in Oscar, La., at age 86



RENOVATED GEM

Earl K. Long upgrades give Ragin' Cajuns Volleyball an edge

Renovations to Earl K. Long Gym have served up a home court advantage for Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Volleyball. Interior upgrades have transformed the historic structure into one of the nation's premier volleyball-specific venues.

It's a facility that matches the team's growing national prominence. Kristi Gray, in her second year as head coach, led the team to a 15-13 record in the 2022 season and to an appearance in national postseason play for the first time in program history. The team also advanced to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament quarterfinals.

Excitement around the team's high-energy style of play drew a single-season attendance record – 6,446 fans – to the refurbished gymnasium as well.

Built in 1939, Earl K. Long Gym now features a state-of-the-art court and videoboard, a new locker room and team lounge, a film room and meeting spaces for student-athletes and coaching staff. New paint freshened walls and grandstands. Sound panels and public restrooms received upgrades, too.

Dr. Bryan Maggard, vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics, said the renovations “greatly enhance the experience for our student-athletes, coaches and fans. As a volleyball-specific facility, E.K. Long Gymnasium now serves as one of the most elite venues in the country.”

The facility's crown jewel? A new Taraflex court that offers the highest impact protection index of any playing surface. It significantly reduces the risk of injury for student-athletes while jumping, diving or sliding.

The renovated court carries the name of donor Georges Antoun, who was among investors who contributed to the renovation project as part of the Together campaign, the largest comprehensive fundraising initiative in UL Lafayette history. The project cost just under \$1 million to complete.

“We are very proud and forever grateful to those that helped make this happen,” Gray said. “To get a brand-new, state-of-the-art Taraflex court and videoboard, a new locker room, team lounge, team film room and conference room in a few short months is impressive.”



BEN MASSEY



BEN MASSEY



DOUG DUGAS



DOUG DUGAS



MEET AMY ARMSTRONG

New CEO a partner for UL Lafayette alums

BY KIM CRIPPS

Amy Armstrong is honored to be here. In November, she became associate vice president for Alumni Engagement and CEO of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association.

In this role, Armstrong creates strategies for alumni engagement through programming and services for the University's more than 100,000 living alumni. She is also the liaison between the University administration and Alumni Association.

"I'm truly honored to assume this role, and I look forward to partnering with all of you to support the mission of the Alumni Association and the University," Armstrong wrote in an introductory letter to the University community.

Armstrong comes to UL Lafayette from Texas, where she was born and raised. She received a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and an MBA from the University of North Texas, and has built a career rooted in alumni relations and advancement.



DOUG DUGAS

"We are excited to have Amy aboard," said Chris Richard, UL Lafayette Alumni Association president. "I don't think we could have found anyone else whose skill set and experiences meshed so perfectly with our needs."

Armstrong's professional achievements show her enthusiasm for supporting universities by developing strong relationships with alumni and supporters.

Before joining UL Lafayette, she most recently served as the associate vice president for Baylor University Alumni. She was also the executive director of philanthropic operations for the Baylor College of Medicine, the assistant vice president for alumni relations and development at Trinity University, and the senior director of operations and senior director of strategic planning and performance enhancement in the Division of Advancement at the University of North Texas in Denton.

FIND YOUR BRICK - AT HOME

Beginning near Martin Hall, threading through the Quad, across Hebrard Boulevard, and along Boucher and McKinley streets, you'll find the Walk of Honor. It features bricks bearing the names of alumni who graduated between 1903 and 2019.

Alumni have long enjoyed "finding their brick" when returning to campus, and visitors often hunt for relatives' bricks, too. Now, the Alumni Association has made it possible for alumni to purchase replica bricks.

"Alumni maintain their ties to the University throughout their lifetimes and beyond, and the Walk of Honor symbolizes that," said Amy Armstrong, associate vice president for Alumni Engagement and CEO of the Alumni Association. "The replica bricks are a reminder of that enduring connection."

Commemorative brick pavers, which feature the alum's



DOUG DUGAS

name and graduation year, begin at \$75. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Alumni Association.

To learn more about the Walk of Honor and to order a replica brick, visit alumni.louisiana.edu/news-pride/walk-honor.

alumni

1950s

RUSSELL T. DORR, '52, is a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel. Dorr served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He holds a bachelor's degree in art from SLI.

JOHN TUBB, '59, is retired after 55 years as a geologist in the petroleum industry. He received a Lifetime Membership Award from the Houston Geological Society, an organization that Tubb previously served as president. He received a bachelor's degree in geology from SLI and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois.

1960s

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame's 2023 inductee class includes **WALTER IMAHARA, '60**, one of the most decorated athletes in University history. Imahara was a member of SLI's storied weightlifting team. He went on to be a six-time U.S. champion and gold medalist at the Pan American Games. Imahara has published memoirs about his experiences in weightlifting and his childhood internment in relocation camps during World War II.

COL. ROLAND D. GUIDRY, '61, is a retired U.S. Air Force pilot and engineer with extensive experience in special operations and counterterrorism. The Breaux Bridge, La., native flew 111 top secret combat missions and logged 800 combat flying hours during the Vietnam War. He was a founding member of the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He earned

a bachelor's degree in engineering from USL, a master's degree in aeronautics from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of West Florida.

HERMAN LEE CONRAD, '62, is retired after a nearly 40-year career in microbiology that included employment at Brown & Root, Eli Lilly & Co. and NASA. From 1968 to 1971, Conrad served as a senior scientist with NASA's Lunar Receiving Laboratory, researching the biomedical effects of space flight on astronauts during the Apollo missions. Conrad earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology from USL and a master's degree in microbiology from LSU.

ANNIS SHIELDS, '65, is retired and lives in Huntington Beach, California. She earned a bachelor's degree in speech therapy from the University. She and her husband, Thomas B. Shields, have four children, including **THOMAS SHIELDS II, '95**, and **LEIGH M. GREENE, '96**.

1970s

DONALD T. "BOYSIE" BOLLINGER, '71, is a recipient of the 2023 Horatio Alger Award. The award honors the achievements of leaders who have succeeded in spite of adversity. Bollinger, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL, is chairman and CEO of Bollinger Enterprises and retired chairman and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards. He was among the recipients of the 2018 Outstanding Alumni Award presented by the UL Lafayette Alumni Association. It is the highest honor given to a former student.

GERALD GUILBEAUX, '72, was the 2021 recipient of the American Prize in Conducting. He is founding conductor of the Acadian Wind Symphony and has conducted the Lafayette Concert Band since 1993. Guilbeaux is the past recipient of the Diploma of the Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University.

1980s

DR. CLARK W. JOSEPH, '83, '87, is minister of music and worship arts at St. John Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in piano performance from USL and a doctor of worship studies degree from Liberty University in 2020. Joseph's original music composition, "We Come to Praise the Lord," was featured in season one of the Fox television show "Filthy Rich." He is the recipient of the Ronald Materre Award for Excellence in Gospel Music and serves on the national faculty of the Gospel Music Workshop of America and the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses.

DR. H. MICHAEL TARVER, '83, '90, has completed his second term as chair of the Arkansas History Commission. He has been a professor of history at Arkansas Tech University since 2002. He was dean of ATU's College of Arts and Humanities from 2010-2013. Tarver holds a bachelor's degree in general studies and a master's degree in history from USL and a doctoral degree in history from Bowling Green State University.

AUGUST WASHINGTON, '87, is senior associate vice chancellor and chief of police at Vanderbilt University. He previously served as chief of police at the University of Tennessee. Washington holds a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from USL. He earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Grambling State University.

SHANTANU GUPTA, '88, is CEO of Cascade Systems Technology. He previously worked at Intel Corporation in several leadership positions and holds nine patents. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and a master's degree in computer engineering from USL.

1990s

DIANA CASH LENNON, '93, published *Why Do Airplanes Have Tails?*, which teaches middle-school students about flight, planes and engineering principles. She holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication.

KIRK THOLEN, '95, was named senior vice president of Alliance Royalty, a natural resources company with eight mining complexes across the United States. He began his career with Unocal's Louisiana inland waters engineering team. Tholen received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from USL and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Houston.

2000s

DANNY FOSTER, '00, is publisher of *Oil & Gas Journal* and *Offshore Magazine*. Previously, he was

executive director for digital media for Hart Energy and served as a director of business development for *E&P Magazine*. He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University.

KENNETH PUCHEU, '00, is chief financial officer of NexTier Oilfield Solutions. He has over 20 years' experience in corporate and operational finance in the energy industry and previously served in various senior-level positions at Schlumberger and North America Offshore. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting.

DR. ELLIOT MYERS, '05, '13, '20, received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners' 2023 Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence. He is one of two recipients from Louisiana. A nurse practitioner in Washington, La., Myers holds bachelor's and master's degrees and a doctor of nursing practice degree, all from UL Lafayette.

DR. MICHAEL HOWARTH, '07, is the author of four books, two novels and two critical texts. His latest novel, *A Still and Awful Red*, was published in 2021. He is a professor of English and director of the Honors Program at Missouri Southern State University. Howarth holds a doctoral degree in English from UL Lafayette.

CORRIE CAMPBELL, '08, received a \$25,000 the Milken Educator Award from Milken Family Foundation. Forty educators in the nation received the award in 2023. She is an English language arts and social studies teacher at Green T. Lindon Elementary School in Youngsville. Campbell holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University.

IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA WILD GERMAN, '41, died Sept. 20, 2020, at age 100.

She earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from SLI and a master's degree from Columbia University. Her husband, **HARRY L. GERMAN, '42**, preceded her in death.

DR. RAY P. AUTHEMENT, '50, who led the University as its president for 34 years, died April 5, 2020. He was 91. Authement was president from 1974 to 2008. When he retired, he was the nation's longest-serving public university president. During his tenure, the University earned national and global recognition in the fields of computer science, environmental and biological research, engineering and Francophone studies. The University established 17 research centers during Authement's presidency and opened University Research Park. More than 30 buildings were constructed and over 25 facilities were renovated or expanded. Under Authement's leadership, the University changed its name from USL to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; implemented academic admission standards; became the first Doctoral II institution in Louisiana; competed in NCAA Division I, the highest level of collegiate athletics competition; and increased gifted assets to more than \$150 million. Authement enrolled at SLI in 1947, the first member of his family to attend college. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics in 1950. He then completed master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from LSU. He returned to SLI as associate professor of mathematics in 1957. Two years later, he was named professor. He continued to teach until 1966, when he was promoted to academic vice president. By then, SLI had become USL. In 1970, Authement was named vice president. He became acting president in 1973 and president the following year. After his retirement in 2008, Authement returned to the University and once again

taught mathematics. The Ray P. Authement College of Sciences is named in his honor. Each year, the UL Lafayette Foundation presents outstanding educators the Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award, one of the highest honors the University bestows on faculty. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Barbara Braud Authement, and a daughter, **JULIE JOHNSON, '88**. He was preceded in death by a daughter, **KATHY ELIZABETH PROUET, '75**.

WILBURN C. "PETE" LAVERGNE, '55, a civil law notary and U.S. Army veteran, died Oct. 19, 2019. He was 86. Lavergne graduated from Sunset High School in 1951 and received a bachelor's degree in business education from SLI. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, **MARY ANN RODEMACHER LAVERGNE, '56**.

DR. ALLEN E. BEGNAUD, '59, retired professor of history, died Nov. 6, 2021, at age 87. After serving as a paratrooper with the 187th Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, Begnaud attended SLI on the GI Bill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. He later earned master's and doctoral degrees from Tulane University. He coauthored *Our Louisiana Legacy*, the standard Louisiana history textbook for eighth-grade students. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, **OLIVE BACON BEGNAUD, '65**.

Veteran broadcaster **LUTHER "JACK" FROST, '59**, died April 17, 2021. He held a bachelor's degree in television-radio from SLI, where he was a member of the ROTC. Frost's long broadcasting career in Louisiana included radio jobs in Abbeville, New Iberia and Baton Rouge. His television news career included stints in Lafayette, Lake Charles, New Orleans and Alexandria.

SISTER JEANNE MARIE BERNHARDT, '60, died June 22, 2020, at age 90. Born in Algiers,

Algeria, she was raised in France and joined the Sisters of the Dominican Rural Missionaries there in 1952. She came to Louisiana and later earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from SLI. A registered nurse, she offered patients health care services at no charge.

THOMAS JAMES JOHNSON, '60, '00, a prominent figure in Louisiana archaeology, died July 12, 2019. He was 81. Johnson founded and served as president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. His career included advising UL Lafayette's Department of Anthropology and helping to establish Poverty Point as one of the largest and oldest Native American settlements in the nation. Johnson held bachelor's degrees in petroleum engineering and anthropology. He is survived by his wife and four children, including **THOMAS JOHNSON II, '83, '84**, and **BRITT JOHNSON, '90**.

DR. JOHN R. MERIWETHER, '60, professor emeritus of physics, died Dec. 8, 2021. During his 46-year career at the University, Meriwether taught in the departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics, and the Honors Program. As an assistant mathematics professor, he helped develop the University's computer science program. He also was one of the founders of the Louisiana Accelerator Center and received the Distinguished Professor and Outstanding Teacher awards from the UL Lafayette Foundation. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, **DOROTHY MERIWETHER, '80**, and four children, **CHRIS MERIWETHER, '84, JUDITH MERIWETHER, '78, JOSI ORTE, '84, '87**, and **JACKI MERIWETHER, '85**.

LARRY G. FOWLER SR., '62, died June 26, 2019. He was 80. During Fowler's 50-year career, he designed sugarcane harvesting and loading equipment and earned nine U.S. patents. In 1977,

he was elected president of the Florida division of the American Society of Sugar Cane Technology. He held a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

GENE BACQUE, '62, a Ragin' Cajuns Baseball Hall of Famer, died Sept. 14, 2019. He was 82. Bacque pitched for the SLI Bulldogs in 1956-1957 season. He then played with the Hanshin Tigers of the Japanese Central League and became the only American pitcher to win 100 games in Japan. He earned the Sawamura Award, the Japanese equivalent of the Cy Young Award. Bacque later taught industrial arts at Scott Middle School. He received a bachelor's degree in education from USL. He is survived by his wife and five children, including **RITA BACQUE, '85, JOHN BACQUE, '87, MICHELLE BAQUE, '89, and SUZANNE BACQUE, '96.**

FRANCIS GREEN JR., '74, '76, '83, an adjunct instructor in the Department of Criminal Justice, died Feb. 27, 2021, at age 72. A U.S. Navy veteran, he served in the Vietnam War and remained in the U.S. Naval Reserves until 1980. He held an associate degree in law enforcement, a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in political science, all from the University. In 1973, he graduated from the LSU Law Enforcement Training Academy, the first African American to do so. He joined the Lafayette Police Department that year and rose to the rank of captain by the time he retired in 1991. He later became the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office's training director and earned the rank of major. Green regularly taught criminal justice courses at the University from 1984 to 2014.

MICHAEL L. MCKAY, '75, died May 1, 2021. He was 74. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, McKay earned a bachelor's degree in architecture. He managed architectural projects throughout the southern United States and in Saudi Arabia. McKay was a U.S. Army veteran.

DAVID WALKER, '76, died Dec. 31, 2019, at age 69. He served in various administrative positions at the University beginning in 1978. After serving two years as interim athletics director, Walker was appointed to the position in 2007. He retired in 2011. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from USL. He is survived by his wife, **PATRICIA SUTTON WALKER, '73, '82**, and a daughter, Ginny Walker.

University First Lady **GAIL HEINBACH SAVOIE, '77**, passed away June 12, 2022. She was 67. A native of Sulphur, La., she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from USL. She was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and was a cheerleader. She later taught at St. Ignatius School in Grand Coteau, and at St. Antoine and Woodvale elementary schools in Lafayette. As first lady, she served as an ambassador for her alma mater. She was a fixture at University activities and athletic events; regularly judged the annual Paint the Town Red contest during Homecoming; and hosted multiple events every year at the President's House, including her favorite, Sneaux Day. Her love for animals led to the creation of Campus Cats, a rescue organization for stray animals. A gifted painter, she specialized in Louisiana primitives using acrylic paints in vivid colors. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, **DR. JOSEPH SAVOIE, '76, '81**, UL Lafayette president; children Blaire Savoie and **ADAM SAVOIE, '15, '18**; and a granddaughter, Addison.

CONNOR LAMBERT, '21, died March 22, 2021. He was 25. Lambert was a native of St. Bernard Parish and graduate of Chalmette High School, where he was a National Merit Scholar and student-athlete. After earning a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University, he worked in aerospace and dynamics at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center.

RAYMOND S. "COACH" BLANCO died Nov. 19, 2022. He was 87. Blanco joined the football coaching staff in 1963. From 1969 to 1974, he was dean of men, dean of student personnel and dean of students. He then became vice president for Student Affairs, a position he held until his 2009 retirement. Blanco was a staunch advocate for social justice and student success. Survivors include five children, **KARMEN BLANCO-HARTFIELD, '88, MONIQUE BOULET, '90, NICOLE BLANCO, '95, RAY BLANCO, '07, and PILAR EBLE, '97, '22.** He was preceded in death by a son, Ben, and his wife, former Louisiana **GOV. KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, '64.** During her tenure as governor, Raymond Blanco served as the state's first gentleman. A noted political strategist, he was a 2019 inductee into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame.

DR. SHERRI LEE CONDON died Jan. 19, 2020. She was 66. Condon was a professor and researcher in the Department of English and the cognitive science program at the University from 1988 to 2001. She also was affiliated with the Center for Advanced Computer Studies. After leaving UL Lafayette, she worked as an artificial intelligence software engineer. Condon earned a doctoral degree in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin.

DR. WAYNE DENTON, retired vice president for research, died March 11, 2020. He was 76. A native of Mississippi, he earned a doctoral degree in biochemistry from Oklahoma State University. Denton's career at the University began in 1970 as a professor and researcher. He was instrumental in increasing the University's externally funded research and worked with the Louisiana congressional delegation to bring the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries and the National Wetlands research centers to

University Research Park. He retired in 2010.

DR. MAURICE W. duQUESNAY, an associate professor in the Department of English since 1968, died June 24, 2021, at age 85. At the time of his death, duQuesnay was the longest-serving faculty member at the University. In addition to teaching thousands of students during his long tenure, he was responsible for the creation of the Flora Levy Humanities Series and the Rodrigue Lecture, both of which bring writers and thinkers to the campus. duQuesnay specialized in Louisiana literature that focused on 19th century Creole culture.

DR. ASADOLLAH HAYATDAVOUDI, professor emeritus of petroleum engineering, died Dec. 3, 2022, at age 84. He joined the College of Engineering faculty in 1980. A noted teacher, mentor, inventor and researcher, he made significant contributions to the global petroleum engineering industry. He retired in 2021 and gained emeritus status last year.

ALLAN JONES, retired professor of visual arts and an artist whose work was exhibited across the nation, died Oct. 18, 2019, at age 78. Jones began his teaching career at USL in 1965. After moving to teach at Antioch College, he returned to USL in 1986. He was a recipient of the Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award.

WILLIAM TOM SECREST II, who taught art at the University for 30 years, died April 10, 2022. He was 79. A Columbus, Ohio, native, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts from Ohio University in Athens in 1966 and 1968, respectively. His work was featured in state and national exhibitions. Collections at the New York Public Library, the New Orleans Museum of Art and the College of William and Mary hold his pieces.

giving



Together, WE SHAPE THE FUTURE.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

Financial support for UL Lafayette doesn't benefit UL Lafayette alone. "We're a vehicle," explained Dr. Joseph Savoie, University president. "When a donor establishes a student scholarship, for example, or supports a faculty researcher's innovative work, or gives to a community service initiative, their generosity does not stop at the campus' edge. It flows through us. We're stewards of it, but that donor has set in motion something far greater than us. They're creating progress that benefits our region and, in many instances, the world.

"That's what the Together campaign is all about – the University, working alongside its supporters, to shape a future that's stronger for us all."

UL Lafayette publicly launched the Together campaign in late 2021. It is the largest comprehensive fundraising initiative in University history. As of early this year, the campaign had reached nearly 71% of its \$500 million goal. It concludes in 2025.

"This campaign already has provided more opportunities for student success, world-class facilities for our student-athletes and researchers, a deeper connection to this community and its culture, and a stronger, better prepared and more agile workforce," said Dr. Jaimie Hebert, UL Lafayette's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"And there's more to come as we continue to work together," added John Blohm, vice president for University Advancement and CEO of the UL Lafayette Foundation. "Our donors are dreaming big and infusing UL Lafayette's academic, research and service missions with an intense energy. This momentum will benefit the community we're proud to serve and the students who come here to pursue their dreams."

TOGETHER.LOUISIANA.EDU



Student Success and Teaching focuses on increasing scholarship access for undergraduate and graduate students, enhancing teaching and learning environments, and optimizing facilities for student-athletes.

Service to the Community helps the University expand its impact on K-12 education, enhance performance spaces and strengthen its role in creating a strong regional workforce.

The Campaign's Pillars

Together: The Campaign for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette highlights three primary pillars, or areas of support. Each has roots within specific colleges and departments, so gifts will affect many areas around campus and within the local community.



Research and Discovery provides opportunities to attract and retain world-class faculty members, expand existing research programs and partnerships, and modernize research facilities to remain competitive.



By the numbers

THE CAMPAIGN HAS REACHED NEARLY **71%** OF ITS \$500M GOAL

\$20 MILLION

from LHC Group to the College of Nursing & Health Sciences

THE LARGEST GIFTS IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

\$15 MILLION

from Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center for the renovation of Cajun Field

\$246 MILLION

has benefited academics and research

OF CAMPAIGN SUPPORT RECEIVED

\$108 MILLION

has benefited the athletics program

The campaign has resulted in the creation of

4

Endowed Chairs

Endowed Professorships

32

122 Endowed Scholarship Funds

Estate and planned gifts make up

\$32.2 MILLION in pledged support

NEARLY **26K** individuals and organizations have made campaign gifts

60% employees & alumni

friends, parents & students

32%

8%

corporations, foundations & organizations



“The semester before I received the scholarship, I was in danger of dropping out because I didn’t have enough funds to finish college. This feels like a second chance in life.”

Vanel Porter, '22
 Inaugural recipient
 Dr. Ray and Jackie Boudreaux
 Scholarship in Bioengineering

THE IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL GIVING

Contributions to the Together campaign come in all shapes and sizes, and annual giving is a great way to help the campaign reach its goals. Annual giving enables the University to meet immediate needs for students and faculty through scholarships, classroom and laboratory resources, and retention initiatives.

When you give a gift of any amount, you join thousands of others who have chosen to support the University’s students, programs, faculty and staff through the power of annual giving and the Together campaign. And, since most UL Lafayette alumni join the local workforce after graduation, you are casting a vote of confidence for the future of the region.

“One donation can completely transform a student’s life.”

Abigail Fontenot
 Scholarship recipient
 Professional Energy and
 Resource Management

THE POWER OF A GREAT CHAIR

In higher education, an endowed chair is synonymous with the highest honor and accolades a university can bestow upon its faculty. UL Lafayette has more than two dozen endowed chairs, made possible primarily by private donors with support from the state.

When a donor collaborates with the University to endow a chair, it demonstrates a strong, collective commitment to a particular academic program. The prestige associated with the chair strengthens efforts to recruit and retain world-class faculty who then pass their expertise on to the students they teach and mentor.

“Through my donations, the University has an opportunity to fund new research, to recruit new faculty, and to develop and build new facilities.”

Dr. Cindy Cobb, '79
 Alumna, College of Nursing &
 Health Sciences





Cajun Field: Completed in 1971, the home of Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Football has never had a major renovation. It's time to change that. Construction and renovation plans for the facility include premium suites for fans, a dining facility for student-athletes, a new videoboard, lights, sound system, renovated west side seating, new east side façade, and operational and office spaces for Department of Athletics staff.



A new home for the College of Engineering: Housed in a building that is nearly six decades old, the College of Engineering is ready to expand its physical space to better support excellence in education and research. With expansion, students will have access to a modern, cutting-edge facility that will support enhanced experiential learning opportunities, increased enrollment and retention, and the development of new programs.



The Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center: Construction on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library is creating a permanent home for the center. Named for former Gov. Blanco, an alumna and the only woman to hold Louisiana's highest public office, it is an archive and independent, interdisciplinary center that conducts applied policy-related research to assist decision-makers in their work.

Partners in Progress



The Together campaign is about more than funding brick and mortar projects – though support for capital improvements is an important part of the fundraising initiative, as well.

The campaign has resulted in new research facilities, renovations to facilities for student-athletes to compete

and fans to enjoy, and labs and learning spaces that are enhancing the University's role in creating tomorrow's workforce.

To date, nearly 26,000 individuals and corporations have committed to shaping the future of UL Lafayette through the Together campaign. You can, too.



Louisiana Solar Energy Lab: The largest solar research facility in the state and one of the largest outdoor testing labs in the southeastern United States, it's already preparing UL Lafayette students for careers in renewable energy by offering space for teaching, conducting advanced research, and workforce development through hands-on courses.



The Learning Lab: As part of the College of Education & Human Development, the lab will provide a place for high-quality teaching and learning. Learning Lab students will dive into creativity and curiosity through innovation labs, outdoor classrooms and adventure playgrounds. Meanwhile, future teachers will be immersed in a living model of best practices and gain valuable skills.



Nursing Simulation Program: The College of Nursing & Health Sciences is home to one of only 130 nursing simulation programs in the world accredited by the Society for Simulation in Health Care. The high-tech simulators can be programmed to exhibit patient symptoms and reactions a nurse might encounter. This provides valuable, practical experiences that translate into improved patient care.



DOUG DUGAS

We're generating buzz when it comes to providing habitat for pollinators. UL Lafayette was designated a Bee Campus USA by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. The program recognizes colleges and universities for providing and improving habitat for pollinators and offering service-learning opportunities for students. Pollinators, as their name implies, carry the pollen necessary to fertilize plants and produce fruits, seeds and young plants. They include bees, moths, butterflies and birds.



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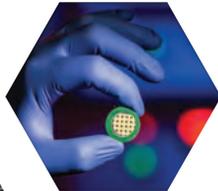
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Together, **WE SHAPE THE FUTURE.**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

We see tomorrow as an opportunity for greatness, a blank canvas on which we can leave our mark by empowering student success, advancing faculty research and deepening our service to the community.



IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE TOGETHER CAMPAIGN.

- Cash
- Estate and Planned Gift Bequest
- IRA Charitable Rollover
- Stocks, Bonds and Securities
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Corporate Matching Gifts
- Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation

JOIN THOUSANDS OF DONORS WHO ARE HELPING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF UL LAFAYETTE BY VISITING

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