

Walk of Honor

Alumni Association reaches its goal for UL Lafayette's Centennial

When Ken Ardoin, '65, of Dallas returned to campus for Homecoming a few years ago, he visited the Walk of Honor. It was a Saturday, so the Quadrangle was empty, except for a man and woman who were looking down at the sidewalk, reading the names of graduates etched on bricks there. • Ardoin noticed

that the man occasionally dabbed his eyes with a handkerchief. Now curious, he walked over and struck up a conversation.

The man with the handkerchief was eager to talk. A native of Venezuela, he had attended USL with his best friend in the 1950s. They had graduated together, he told Ardoin, recalling with fondness their days as students.

"I'm crying," he said, "because my friend will never see his brick here." His friend had died several years before.

Ardoin knew how much the Walk of Honor would mean to graduates when he proposed it in 1987 while president of the USL Alumni Association.

The goal was to pave a walkway with bricks bearing the names of every graduate, beginning with the first graduating class in 1903.

Thirteen years and more than 80,000 bricks later, the Walk of Honor is up to date.

"Our goal was to have the Walk of Honor current for the university's Centennial Celebration," said Ardoin. The walkway was dedicated during Homecoming activities in October 2000.

It was a massive task to gather and double-check the more than

80,000 names of graduates of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial

Institute, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, the University of Southwestern Louisiana and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. It was a financially daunting project, too.

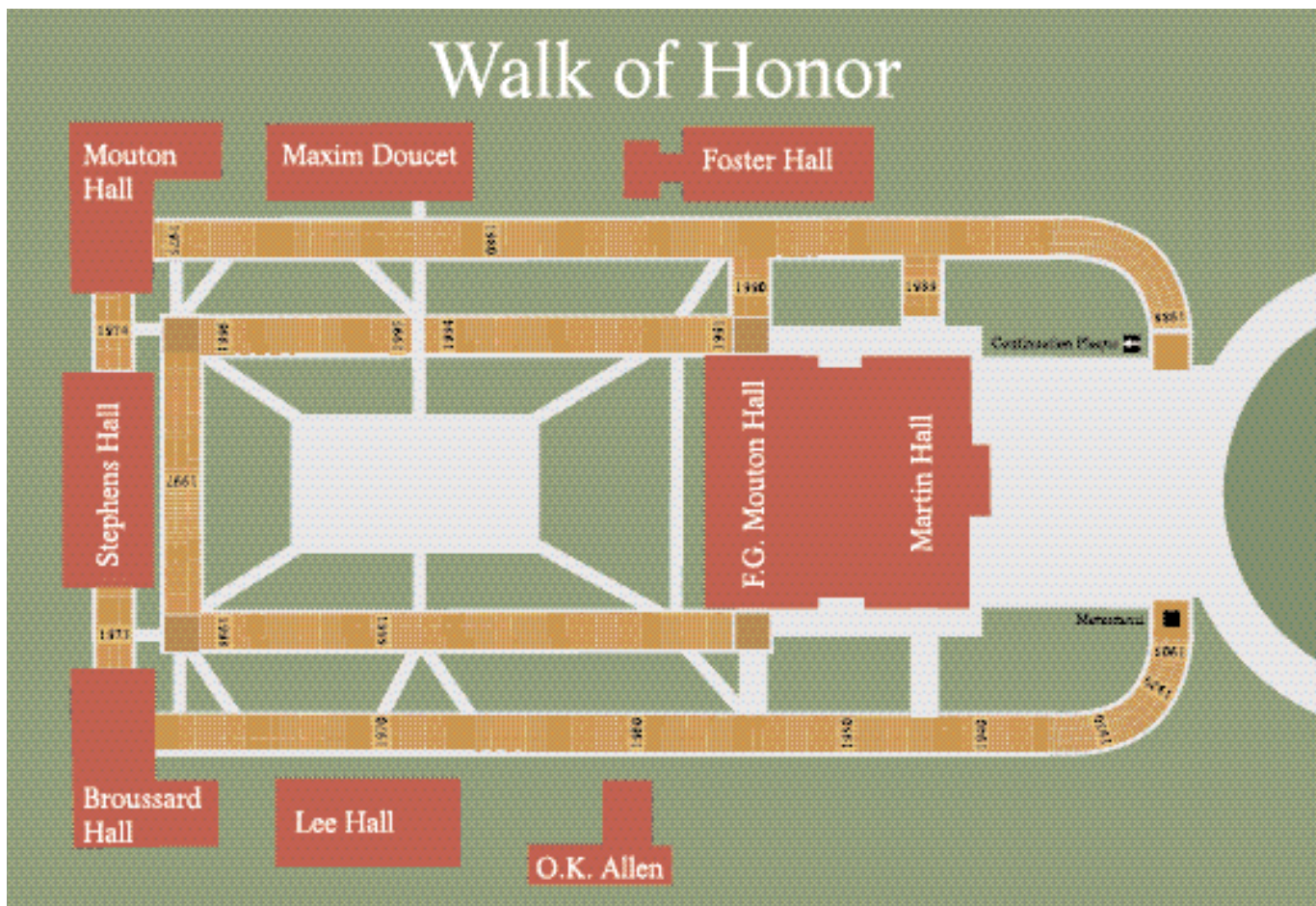
"So many people made the Walk of Honor happen, through their perseverance and gifts," Ardoin said. He cited volunteers Jim Doyle and Robert Trahan for their successful fund-raising efforts. The total cost of the project was about \$1 million.

The Alumni Association asked each graduate to donate \$50 for a



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

The names of more than 80,000 graduates are etched on bricks that pave the Walk of Honor, beginning with 18 members of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute's first graduating class in 1903.



brick bearing his or her name. Bricks could also be “purchased” in a grad’s honor by friends and family. Funds raised by those donations were intended to cover the cost of bricks for alumni who have died or who cannot be located.

“Every graduate’s name is included, whether he or she was able to buy a brick,” Ardoin said. “We decided at the start that we couldn’t have a Walk of Honor unless every graduate’s name was there.”

Ardoin noted that the men and women whose names are etched on the Walk of Honor are members of an exclusive group.

“The only way to be included in the Walk of Honor is to earn it by graduating from the university,” he said.

As the Alumni Association struggled to keep the project moving ahead over the years, it became clear that voluntary donations couldn’t sustain the project. In 1997, the Association asked students to consider a self-assessed fee

to ensure that the walk would continue. Students complied, voting in favor of a one-time \$20 fee, to be paid when they graduate, to cover the cost of new bricks and maintaining the walkway.

Thirteen years and more than 80,000 bricks later, the Walk of Honor is up to date.

Princess Willis, current president of UL Lafayette’s Student Government Association, said the permanency of the Walk of Honor makes it an especially significant project.

“During your college years, you see different yearbooks, participate in different campus organizations and ultimately graduate and leave. But the

brick with your name on it will always be there,” she said.

Willis said the Walk of Honor may motivate some students to complete their degrees. “It would probably be inspirational for future generations to see their relatives’ names inscribed in these bricks. It’s a wonderful tradition that the alumni started.”

A granite monument and dedication plaques mark the beginning of the walk, near Martin Hall. Plaques have been installed along the covered path that cite major events during each decade in the university’s history.

For more information about the Walk of Honor, contact the UL Lafayette Alumni Association at (337) 482-0900.

Any mistakes related to names of graduates or their graduation dates should be reported to the Association by calling that phone number.

The Association is continuing to accept donations for the Walk of Honor maintenance fund.

Alumni

1930s

MYRA MINNETTE (CHILDS) BYRD, '34, is living in Houma, La. She served as president of the Women's Student Body in 1933 at Southwestern Louisiana Institute and earned a bachelor of arts in sociology. She is married to Luther Byrd. They have one daughter, Barbara "Bobby" Corte of Houma.

VINCENT C. GAROFOLO, '38, is a retired teacher who is living in DeRidder, La. He taught elementary grades in DeRidder schools for 37 years before retiring in 1975. Garofolo was also the owner of The Ceramic Shop for 27 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Garofolo received a master's degree in education and an education specialist degree from McNeese State University in 1968 and 1971, respectively. He is married to Crecie (Keel) Garofolo. They have three grandchildren: KEVIN NUNZIANTE, '98, who has a bachelor's degree in mass communication; GIA NUNZIANTE, '98, who holds a bachelor's degree in general studies; and SEAN NUNZIANTE, who is a UL Lafayette student.

1940s

WIDMER A. (COATS) FELICIANO, '43, is a retired teacher. She taught English in Spanish schools in Puerto Rico and was a substitute teacher during World War II. Feliciano earned a bachelor's degree in education from SLI. Her husband, RUBEN FELICIANO, '41, died in 1986. He held a bachelor's degree from SLI and received a dental degree from Loyola University in 1951. Mrs. Feliciano has two children, Camille Helen Feliciano and Ruben A. Feliciano.

MARY FRANCES (DIMMICK) MCGRAW, '49, is living in Lake Charles, La. She is former president of the Junior League of Lake Charles, and the Texas Outlaws and the Stars of Texas, which are clubs for owners of recreational vehicles. McGraw also served as Sunday school superintendent for St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lake Charles and was secretary-treasurer of Dimmick Supply Auto Parts until retirement. She holds a bachelor's degree in business education from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. McGraw and her husband, John, have four children: Terri Clayton, Jerri Hurst, Forrest McGraw and Tim McGraw.

1950s

JOHN U. DUREL, '50, was part owner of Southern Business Machine Inc. until retirement. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. Durel holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is married to JEWEL LOIS (LAPLACE) DUREL, '50, who earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. She is a former

controller and board member for a savings and loan company. The couple live in Metairie, La. They have eight children: Jody Ann Durel, Jules Durel, Jayne Durel, Helen Durel, Yvonne Durel, Catherine Durel, Edward Durel and John Durel Jr. They also have 14 grandchildren.

BERTON J. PERRY, '55, is owner of Perry's Yamaha Center in Pascagoula, Miss. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Perry is married to Carmen (Breux) Perry, who attended SLI from 1955 to 1957 and was a member of Delta Zeta sorority. The Perrys have three sons: Berton Perry Jr. of Baton Rouge, John Perry of Pascagoula, and Steven Perry of Ocean Springs, Miss.

MARLENE (SPELL) MILLER, '57, is a retired home economics teacher. She taught for 22 years before retiring in 1982. Miller holds a bachelor's degree in home economics education. She is married to PHILIP WILSON MILLER, '57, who received a bachelor's degree in accounting. They live in Iowa, La. The Millers have three children, Gregg, Chris and Darren Miller.

1960s

CAMILLE MOUTON, '66, was recently appointed executive director of advancement at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. She continues to serve as executive director of the Lamar University Foundation Inc. Mouton joined Lamar as director of development in 1997.



She graduated *magna cum laude* from USL with a bachelor's degree in business education.

GLEN JEANSONNE, '68, is a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has also taught at the University of Michigan, Williams College and USL. Jeansonne holds a bachelor's degree in history from USL, where he graduated as salutatorian, and master's and doctoral degrees in history from Florida State University. He has written or edited nine books. One of them, *Gerald L.K. Smith—Minister of Hate*, was entered into Pulitzer Prize competition by its publisher, Yale University Press.

1970s

BILL DEITENBECK, '73, '79, '83, is director of facilities for Ameristar Casino Hotel in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He oversees day-to-day operations of the Facilities and Environmental Services Departments, including the supervision of 84 employees. Before joining Ameristar, Deitenbeck served as director of engineering



for Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Miss. He holds bachelor's degrees in industrial technology and electrical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from USL. He is a licensed professional engineer and a certified clinical engineer. Deitenbeck and his wife, Lauralee, live in the Council Bluffs area.

HERMAN D. HUGHES, '73, recently received the Distinguished Faculty Award at Michigan State University, where he is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He is an international leader in high-speed network traffic management and modeling. Hughes is director of the new High-speed Networking and Performance Research Lab at MSU. He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Stillman College, a master's degree in chemistry from Tuskegee University and a doctorate in computer science from USL.

MARY LOU (VOELKEL) SCHMIDT, '73, is a retired public school teacher who is now a substitute teacher in Jefferson Parish. She is also a travel agent for Great American Travel, a real estate agent for Remax, and owner of Voelkel's Vending Machine in Metairie, La. Schmidt, who holds a bachelor's degree in sociology/social welfare, is married to Wolfgang Robert Schmidt.

GRETCHEN (DEWAILLY) KRUEGER, '74, recently joined Duke Energy in Houston, Texas, as a senior communication specialist. She is responsible for media relations activities for Duke Energy's Public Affairs Department. Krueger, who holds a bachelor's degree in English-Journalism, is married to Jerry L. Krueger.

LINDA S. EYSTER, '75, a science teacher at Milton Academy in Milton, Maine, recently received the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. The award includes a \$7,500 grant from the National Science Foundation that is to be used at the recipient's school to promote mathematics and science education. Eyster was one of 208 elementary and secondary school teachers from across the country to receive the award. She holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management. Eyster's parents, Grace and Marshall Eyster, are former USL faculty members who taught biology and zoology, respectively. She has a sister, NANCY EYSTER, '73, and a brother, KENNETH EYSTER, '78, '84.

1980s

RONALD J. FREEMAN JR., '80, is director of alliance and supply chain management for

Sumitomo Corp. in Houston, a large Japanese trading company. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from USL and earned a master's of business administration degree from the University of Houston in May 2000. Freeman and his wife, Raynel, have two children, Molly and Jacob.

JOHN. H. PADGHAM, '81, is division president of Jones Lang LaSalle in Atlanta. He's responsible for managing more than 50 million square feet of office space for the

world's largest commercial real estate company. Padgham received a bachelor's degree in finance from USL. He and his wife, Linda, live in Roswell, Ga.

JIM ROETHELE, '84, was recently installed as the 82nd president of the New Orleans Dental Association. The 630-dentist organization is the largest component of the Louisiana Dental Association. In 1999, Roethele became only the second dentist to receive the LDA's Young Dentist Award for



his leadership role. As a member of the Academy for Sports Dentistry, he is the team dentist for the New Orleans Brass hockey team and other area athletic teams.

Roethele was captain of the USL football squad in 1983. He received a bachelor of science degree from USL and is a 1989 graduate of the LSU School of

NURSE CONFRONTS MEMORIES OF VIETNAM

"I, First Lieutenant Sharon Marie Grant, Army Nurse Corps, do hereby leave all my possessions to my mother, to do with as she sees fit. I ask that all my debts be paid and that any remaining money be divided: one quarter to St. John's Catholic Church, one quarter to the College of Nursing, University of Southwestern Louisiana, one quarter to each of my brothers."

Writing a last will and testament was one of the final tasks Sharon Grant Wildwind, '69, had to complete in Da Nang, on May 19, 1970, before traveling to her first assignment in Vietnam as an Army nurse. She was headed to the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, near the Cambodian border.

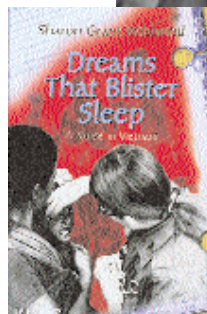
Wildwind had been drawn to the military since attending Bolton High School in Alexandria, La.

"I was desperate to get into nursing school because that was my ticket into the military. Being a soldier was a dream I didn't even tell my parents. . . Even to myself, I couldn't explain the fascination with the Army, with nursing. All I know is the two had always wound themselves tightly around each other in my mind and that they had something to do with honour, strength, courage, endurance," she writes in *Dreams That Blister Sleep*, published in 1999 by River Books.

Wildwind wrote her memoirs in 1992, relying on handwritten journals for details. A few years earlier, she had



SHARON GRANT WILDWIND



This mother and child are Montagnards, Vietnamese aborigines

received a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts that enabled her to print more than 1,000 photos that she had taken while stationed in Vietnam.

"Once I saw the photographs, I knew I was finally ready to write the story," she said from her home in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

References to USL's College of Nursing and south Louisiana are sprinkled throughout her account. For instance, she compares the 67th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon to the now-defunct Charity Hospital in Lafayette, where she was a student nurse.

Dreams That Blister Sleep offers the perspective of a neophyte nurse who, against a backdrop of war, rapidly became a seasoned professional. It

also provides a glimpse of what it was like to be a female soldier in Vietnam.

Before leaving the United States for Vietnam, Wildwind wrote that she and another female nurse "are afraid of being captured, raped, tortured. We are afraid of our plane crashing and never getting there. Most of all, we are afraid of somehow not measuring up."

Her worries about not meeting the Army's expectations were understandable, but unfounded. "I thought the instructors prepared us very well. They warned us that we would feel very green when we first went to work and also gave us some tips about how to deal with that," Wildwind said recently.

Nothing could have prepared her for the emotional impact of caring for young men who were dying in emergency rooms so far from home or the sense of futility she felt as she treated wounded soldiers who were then sent back into battle.

Wildwind is now an education specialist with the Calgary Regional Health Authority. Feelings of ambivalence about her service in Vietnam still linger, she writes in *Dreams That Blister Sleep*.

"There are days I wouldn't go to war again for anything. There are days, like when I see casualties being carried from a bombed building in Beirut, I would give anything to go again. There is no final word, no complete epilogue on Vietnam. Last year, I asked another veteran what the difference was between those of us who went and those who didn't. He said, 'Those of us who went to Vietnam never stopped fighting.'

"I don't think we ever will." ■

Alumni

ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

If you enjoy reading about where your former classmates are now and what they're doing, consider this: They'd like to read about you, too. Please fill out the form below and mail it back to UL Lafayette.

Name				
FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	MAIDEN NAME	
Address				
STREET OR BOX	CITY	STATE	ZIP	
Phone				
HOME			OFFICE	
E-mail			Fax	
Major & Date of Graduation				
OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY				
Current Job Title				
Business Name				
Business Address				
Professional Duties				
Accomplishments				
Spouse's Name				
FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	MAIDEN NAME	
Spouse's USL Graduation Date				
AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT				
Children (if any are UL Lafayette students or USL graduates, please indicate)				
Current Date				
Please mail this form to La Louisiane , Box 41009, Lafayette, LA 70504-1009				

Dentistry. Roethele is married to CELESTE (CASTILLE) ROETHELE, '92, of Arnaudville, La., who holds a bachelor's degree in general studies. She is office manager of Roethele Dental. The Roetheles live in Kenner, La.

JACKIE (DEES) DOMINGUE, '85, is an instructor of English at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas. She holds a master's degree in English from USL and received a doctorate in English from Texas A&M University in College Station in May 2000. She and her husband, Brad, live in College Station. They have two daughters, Claire and Camille.

SUZAN MARIE MEAUX, '85, is an accounting supervisor for Premier Parks in Houston, which is the second largest theme park company in the world. Meaux received a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL.

MARGARET BAUER, '87, is an associate professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. She teaches Southern literature and is editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review*. Bauer, who earned a master's degree in English from USL, is author of *The Fiction of Ellen Gilchrist*, which was published by University Press of Florida in 1999.

1990s

PAMELA BOURQUE, '90, is an attorney at the NASA-George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. She received the NASA Launch Honoree Award in December 1999 for her outstanding service to the U.S. Space Shuttle Program. Bourque earned an



honors bachelor of arts degree in English from USL and a law degree from Tulane University. She is married to MAX J. PATIN, '89, '90, who received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in computer

engineering. He is technical manager of Xontech, an aerospace company that is a contractor to the U.S. Department of Defense.

KEITH THIBODEAUX, '90, is a U.S. Air Force C-17 Aircraft Commander stationed at Charleston AFB in South Carolina. He led the C-17 crew in worldwide deployment of the C-17 in support of many contingencies, as well as day-to-day operations. Thibodeaux holds a bachelor's degree in business management. He is married to Laurie A. Baronet. They have three children, Josh, Kyle and Michelle.

JERROD BRENT RESWEBER, '94, is an account executive with BSMG Worldwide, a public relations agency in Dallas. He oversees accounts in the business/consumer products division. Resweber, who holds a bachelor's degree in public relations, is a member of the

Public Relations Society of America and has served on the board of directors for the Greater Fort Worth Chapter of PRSA.

STACY STE. MARIE, '95, is a postgraduate student in the specialty of orthodontics, after graduating from LSU School of Dentistry in May. He received several awards, including the prestigious Dean's Award. Ste. Marie holds a bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from USL. Ste. Marie is married to LESLIE STE. MARIE, '94, who received a bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from USL. She is also attending LSU School of Dentistry, where she is specializing in pediatric dentistry.

MICHELLE P. BAROUSSE, '96, is a sales representative for Osage Systems Group Inc. in Pompano Beach, Fla. She sells support contracts for Sun Microsystems hardware and software for Sun Microsystems resellers. Barousse holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL.

DOLAN D. AUCOIN, '97, was recently named a dealer relations representative for American IronHorse Motorcycle Co., one of the nation's leading manufacturers of custom designed motorcycles. He will support the company's dealer expansion program and help manage regional dealer sales activities. Aucoin holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and finance. He is a committee chairman for HAY, Horses for America's Youth, a nonprofit organization that works with at-risk inner-city youths. Aucoin lives in Fort Worth, Texas.



HELEN BALENSIEFEN, '98, is a media relations consultant for Shell Oil Co. in Houston. She holds a bachelor's degree in English. Balensiefen is married to George Albert Bow, who attended USL. They have one son, G. Greyson Bow.

IN MEMORIAM

Funeral services were held Friday, Jan. 21, 2000, for LAMAR BERTRAND PIBOIN, '38, of Bryan, Texas. Piboin, who graduated as valedictorian for the summer 1938 session with a degree in agriculture, worked for 37 years for the Soil Conservation Service. He was in charge of the Bedias Soil Conservation District from 1947 to 1975. Piboin was instrumental in the design, development and construction of Lake Madison. He is survived by his wife, Norma Adkins Piboin of Bryan; two sons, Lamar B. Piboin Jr. of Austin and Louis I. Piboin of Spring, Texas; a daughter, Pamela Beasley of Garland, Texas; two sisters, Doris Duncan and Bettye Chehotsky, both of Lake Charles; a granddaughter, Sandra Kay Aycock of Garland, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

WILLIAM E. ACKLEN, '40, of Jena, La., died March 1, 2000, 15 days before his 88th birthday. He was retired from the State of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department. Acklen held a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He is survived by his wife, Ann C. Acklen; two sons, Charles W. Acklen and David W. Acklen; and one stepson, Curtis W. Davis.

THOMAS S. "TINKER" WILLIAMS, '48, died Jan. 11, 2000, at age 76. He was a retired insurance and real estate agent. Williams held a

bachelor's degree in agriculture. He served in World War II, where he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. At the time of his death, he had been married to MAUDE M. (MIZZI) WILLIAMS, '50, for 53 and a half years. Mrs. Williams holds a bachelor's degree in history. The Williams have a son, THOMAS S. WILLIAMS JR., '70; a daughter, ELIZABETH W. BEAUCHAMP, '73; and a grandson, CHARLES F. "CHUCK" BEAUCHAMP, '00. A granddaughter, KATE BEAUCHAMP, is attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

JOSEPH PAUL MIRE JR., '51, died Oct. 1, 1999, at age 69. He was a senior counterman in the Stores Department of Shell Oil Co. when he retired in 1986. Mire held a bachelor's degree in industrial arts education. He is survived by his wife, Josie Mire of Norco, La.; three children, Paula Cambre and Joseph "Jay" Mire III, both of Destrehan, La., and David Paul Mire of Norco, La.; one sister, Joyce Senia of Kenner, La.; and one brother, Robert Mire of Norco, La.

THOMAS R. O'SHAUGHNESSY, '81, a lieutenant in the New Orleans Police Department, died Thursday, Nov. 11, 1999, of cancer. He was 40. O'Shaughnessy, who held a bachelor's degree in business administration, was a member of the Police Department for 18 years. He had served as watch commander of communications services, was an officer and sergeant in the 3rd District, and a lieutenant and assistant commander in the 2nd District. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. O'Shaughnessy of New Orleans; a daughter, Colleen "Kelly" O'Shaughnessy; a half-sister, Susan Lyn Ford of Gretna, La.; and a grandmother, Evelyn F. Revertiga, of New Orleans.

CUSTOMIZED WEBSITE ENABLES ALUMNI TO STAY CONNECTED

Alumni, students, sports fans and friends can stay connected to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette through a customized website.

The UL Lafayette Alumni Association has entered an agreement with zUniversity.com, an Internet-based company that will tailor the new site for a perfect fit—zRaginCajuns.com

"We want to make it as easy as possible to stay in touch," said Sharee Broussard, director of the Alumni Association. So, zUniversity.com will offer a personalized "Web portal," the equivalent of a door that leads to the

World Wide Web.

"Every day, there will be news from the university, updates from the Alumni Association, calendars of events, local and national news and other kinds of information that can be found on popular portals such as Yahoo! and AOL," Broussard explained. "We will also have online 'communities' where the Association's club and chapter members across the country can interact within their groups and beyond."

There will be a student component as well. It will include features that students want now in a portal, such as

"e-mail-for-life addresses" and other ways to keep in touch after graduation, Broussard said.

zUniversity.com offers access to the website at no charge to Internet users, the Alumni Association or UL Lafayette. The site is supported by advertising.

zUniversity.com also offers an optional fee-based Internet Service Provider package that is sponsored by the UL Lafayette Alumni Association.

For additional information, please contact the Association at (337) 482-0900.