

Something Extra

Volunteers take on additional duties

The extent of C. R. “Rusty” Cloutier’s commitment to helping the University of Louisiana at Lafayette becomes evident when he mentions some of his current responsibilities. • He’s secretary-treasurer of the UL Lafayette Foundation’s board of directors and co-chair of its Athletic Advisory Committee and its University Art Museum Building Project Committee. That’s in addition to serving as a member of the Federal Reserve Board, chairman of the National Advisory Council for Fannie Mae and chairman-elect of

the largest banking organization in America.

“Plus, I’ve got a day job,” he quipped, referring to Mid-South Bank, where he is president and chief executive officer. “I don’t get bored.”

Cloutier is one of several Foundation board members who have volunteered to take on extra assignments to make sure some major projects stay on track.

His co-chair for the Athletic Advisory Committee is Bill Fenstermaker, president of C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, who was co-chairman of the university’s successful Investing in Our Future Campaign.

Cloutier shares chairmanship of the UAM Building Project Committee with Gerald Dubroc, founder of Dubroc Engineering.

“We’re very grateful for the volunteers, who are so generous with their time and expertise,” said Julie Falgout, executive director of the Foundation. “They’re an additional source for guidance and support.”

SPORTS FANS

The Athletic Advisory Committee was created to work directly with UL Lafayette’s Office of Development and its Athletic Department to ensure that donations are used for donors’ intended purposes and that donors receive appropriate recognition for their gifts.

“When the Foundation was managing investments totaling \$10 million, everybody could handle everything. But now that the Foundation’s endowment total is approaching \$100 million, it helps to have people with certain kinds



Members of the UL Lafayette Foundation’s Athletic Advisory Committee include, from left: John Bordelon, C.R. “Rusty” Cloutier, Ross Brupbacher, Curtis Hollinger, Janet Morein Wood, Gerald Hebert, Julie Bolton Falgout, Nelson Schexnayder and John T. Landry. Not shown: Bill Fenstermaker, Connie Elmore, Robert Trahan, Tiffany Harris, Steve Oats, Dr. Ray Authement and Eric Maron.

DOUG DUGAS

of expertise and responsibilities lend a hand," Cloutier said.

The Athletic Advisory Committee also keeps tabs on donations ranging from Operation Kickoff, which is raising funds for athletic scholarships, to specific sports.

Overall, donations to UL Lafayette's athletic programs are on the upswing, according to Cloutier. "But we don't try to say we've had a good two months or a good three months. We're trying to have a good 20 years. That's what UL Lafayette President Ray Authement always encourages us to do. We're building a university for the long term. We're building a great Division 1-A program. And that takes time. We will continue to work just as hard next year as this year," he said.

The Athletic Advisory Committee is a mix of Foundation board members, university representatives and community volunteers: Connie Elmore, Ross Brupbacher, John Bordelon, Robert Trahan, Tiffany Harris, Curtis Hollinger, Steve Oats, Dr. Ray Authement, Janet Morein Wood, Julie Bolton Falgout, Nelson Schexnayder, John T. Landry, Eric Maron and Gerald Hebert.

ART LOVERS

Gerald Dubroc, co-chairman of the UAM Building Project Committee, is putting in some long volunteer hours. That group meets for about four hours every other week. Between those sessions, its members communicate with each other and with professionals involved in construction of a \$15.7 million art museum complex. Eskew+Dumez+Ripple is the architectural firm; the Lemoine Company is the contractor.

"We review the construction plans and specifications on a biweekly basis with the contractor and architect. We try to keep things going. The museum is being built on a very tight schedule so that it will be complete by November of next year for the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial observance and the



Serving on the UL Lafayette Foundation's University Art Museum Building Project Committee are, from left, front row: Herman Mhire and Julie Bolton Falgout; and back row: C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier, Dwight Andrus Jr., Janet Morein Wood, Steve Landry, P. J. "Pete" deGravelles and Gerald Dubroc. Not shown: Dr. Ray Authement.

'Painting in France 1803-2003' exhibit," Dubroc said.

So far, the project is on schedule.

The complex will be built in three phases. The first is construction of a 30,000-square-foot museum that meets international museum standards. Then the A. Hays Town building, which formerly housed the Foundation's offices and the university's permanent art collection, will be renovated. The final phase will be creation of a sculpture garden on the museum grounds.

Dubroc said the committee is exploring ways to fund a special feature – a "water wall" that will offer an acoustic and visually creative setting for a corridor plaza that will connect the A. Hays Town building with the new museum.

The "water wall" concept will be designed by Jim Garland, a 1982 USL graduate who is head of his own firm, Fluidity Design Consultants, in California. He had previously worked for 15 years for a company that specializes in "water designs," such as a \$400 million fountain at the Bellagio resort in Las Vegas. The founder of that firm

designed the famous Leapfrog Fountain at EPCOT Center in Orlando, Fla.

Before tackling the art museum project, Dubroc served as chairman of the Building Committee for the two-year old Foundation office at 705 E. St. Mary Blvd.

In addition to his work with the Foundation, he serves on an advisory board for the university's Civil Engineering Department and is a past member of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association board of directors.

The UAM Building Project Committee is composed of Foundation members and university representatives: Dwight Andrus Jr., Dr. Ray Authement; P.J. "Pete" deGravelles, Janet Morein Wood, Julie Bolton Falgout, Dr. Steve Landry and Herman Mhire.

For more information about investing in UL Lafayette athletics or its art museum, please contact John T. Landry, director of the Office of Development at UL Lafayette, (337) 482-GIFT or gift@louisiana.edu or Julie Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation, at (337) 482-0700. ■