

## Need some help?

New equipment offers directions, information

**A**s libraries across Louisiana explore the use of interactive information kiosks, UL Lafayette is leading the way. • Its Edith Garland Dupré Library already has one in operation; another assists visitors in Guillory Hall, next to Cypress Lake. The kiosks provide directions, answer frequently asked questions and announce library and campus events. • Computer software can determine what information is most popular by tracking the number of times a certain feature is accessed.

“Many of the maps are getting used, as well as announcements for the library and campus,” said Sherry Curry, head of Internet Access Services at Dupré Library. “The faculty/staff directory is being utilized a lot, too.”

In the summer of 2000, she and Ashley Bonnette, Bibliographic Instruction librarian at Dupré Library, proposed installing information kiosks in the building.

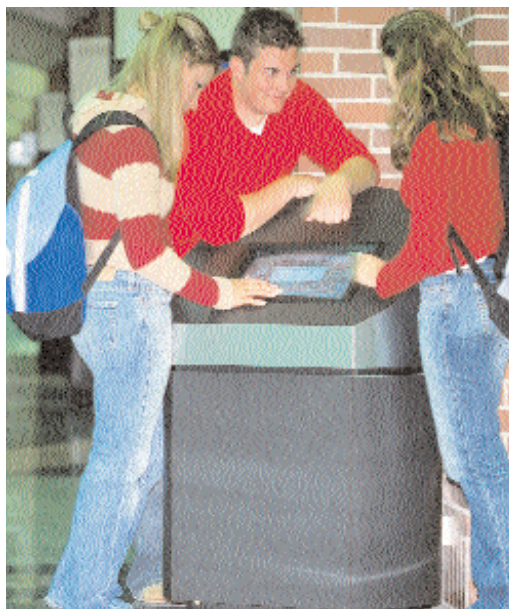
Curry remembers when the idea came to her. She was reading the *Vermilion*, UL Lafayette’s campus newspaper, when she saw an article about an approaching deadline to seek student-funded technology-related grants. The article mentioned the need for information kiosks.

“I thought, ‘That’s something Ashley and I can do, because that’s related to our field.’” Curry said in a recent interview.

They submitted a \$37,000 grant proposal for three interactive information kiosks, one for each floor of the library. At the time, finishing touches were being placed on a \$14 million

renovation project that essentially gutted the original library building and started over. Since the renovated facility would be state of the art, it seemed logical to tap into technology to help library patrons find their way.

“The addition of the interactive



This touch screen kiosk is on the bottom floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library, near the Reference Desk.



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kiosks will not only enhance the ease and accessibility of retrieving certain types of information, but will also promote a high-tech yet user-friendly image,” their grant proposal stated.

The committee that determines how Student Technology Enhancement Program funds will be allocated liked the idea, but had a counter proposal. Would Curry and Bonnette develop two kiosks instead, one in Dupré Library and one at another location on campus?

They agreed, beginning a two-year project that has resulted in two presentations to the Louisiana Library Association.

“We were the first library in the state to have this. So, we had a lot of questions and inquiries after the first session at the LLA convention in 2001,” Curry said. At the Association’s convention this spring, they provided an update. They will probably offer a third installment in 2003.

One of their biggest tasks was editing voluminous amounts of material about the library and university into a pre-determined outline. Since two, instead of three kiosks, were obtained, remaining grant money was used to hire a graduate assistant to help maintain and update that information.

Both kiosks were installed in late

November 2001. But they were soon unplugged so some glitches could be worked out. The equipment was functional again the following spring.

Bonnette said some students didn't realize, initially, that the library kiosk contains maps of the facility and

other valuable information. "At first, some people thought they were waste cans," she said with a laugh.

But, Bonnette recalled a day when she and Curry were standing by the library's kiosk, soon after it had been installed. "A student walked up to it

and asked, 'What's that?' I said, 'Well, it's sort of a directional, way finding resource.' 'That's just what I need!' he said."

That's what Curry and Bonnette had in mind all along. ■

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## Now Students Can Alternate Work, Classes

**A** NEW PROGRAM gives UL Lafayette students the chance to gain paid work experience in their field of study prior to graduation.

The Cooperative Education Program, administered by UL Lafayette's Career Services, was established in June.

"The mission of this campus-wide program is to provide students with academically enhancing employment opportunities in industry, business and government," said Evalyn Rodgers, director of Career Services.

Students participating in the program integrate periods of academic study with alternate periods of full-time, paid work experience. To qualify for the program, students must have completed 30 hours of credit applicable toward their degree and have maintained a minimum 2.5 overall grade point average. During the work period, students must be enrolled in the Cooperative Education Program, which allows them to maintain full-time student status with the university.

The Career Services staff is in the process of identifying companies which have a cooperative education program and would be interested in working with the university.

Libby Bonin, program coordinator, said the staff especially encourages UL Lafayette alumni to become involved with the program. "It's a great way for companies to preview – and even train – potential staff members. Also, participation in this type of program often results in employment for a student after graduation."

For more information about recruiting students for employment or

enrolling in the program, please call Career Services at (337) 262-5300.

## Senior Serves on UL System Governing Panel



**J**ESSICA CLARKE, president of UL Lafayette's Student Government Association, is serving on the board of supervisors of the University of Louisiana System.

She was chosen by fellow SGA presidents at universities in the UL System to represent them on the board.

Clarke, a senior, is majoring in marketing. While at UL Lafayette, she has played softball for the Lady Cajuns and served on the Executive Council for Kappa Delta Sorority, as well as the Student Government Association. She is president of three UL Lafayette organizations: Order of Omega, a Greek honor society; Mu Kappa Tau, a marketing honor fraternity; and Ragin' Peppers, who are football hostesses.

A 1999 graduate of Lafayette High School, she is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy Clarke of Lafayette.

## University Can Waive Some Out-of-State Fees

**U**L LAFAYETTE is offering a deal to entice more out-of-state students to enroll.

Under certain circumstances, it won't tack on traditional out-of-state fees.

"With the new waivers, many out-of-state students will now be able to attend UL Lafayette for the same cost, or even less, than an institution in their home state. And, in some cases, the waivers may be available with other financial aid," said Dan Rosenfield, dean of Enrollment Management.

Students enrolling at UL Lafayette as first time freshmen will receive an out-of-state tuition waiver if they have an ACT composite score of at least 23 (or an equivalent SAT total score), a cumulative high school GPA of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), and require no developmental coursework.

Out-of-state incoming transfer students (12 or more completed semester hours) will qualify for the waiver if they have a college cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 and require no developmental coursework.

Out-of-state tuition waivers are available to students with high achievement in dance, debate, visual arts, music or theater, cheerleading, flag corps, and other sponsored spirit groups. To qualify for these awards, students must have at least a 2.5 high school GPA on a 4.0 scale or a cumulative college GPA of at least 2.5 and at least 24 semester hours of college coursework, and commit to participation in their area of achievement at UL Lafayette.

For more information, contact UL Lafayette's Office of Scholarships at [scholar@louisiana.edu](mailto:scholar@louisiana.edu) ■