

## A Cut Above

These faculty do more than make the grade

**W**hich faculty members at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are extraordinary educators? • Just ask their peers. • Colleagues are some of the best evaluators because they know firsthand what it takes to meet the rigorous demands of teaching and research – and then to give even more to their students, university and community. • The UL Lafayette Foundation relies, in large part, on faculty and university administrators' recommendations when it selects four

individuals each year to receive its Distinguished Professor Awards and Outstanding Teacher Award.

"These awards are reflections of the respect these men and women have earned through their scholarship and instruction," said Julie Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation. "They are making lasting impressions on their students as superb teachers and, often, as mentors."

Recipients of the UL Lafayette Foundation's 2002 Distinguished Professor Award are Dr. Paula Carson, professor of management; Edward Cazayoux, professor of architecture; and Dr. Claire Foret, professor of kinesiology. Dr. Nancy Coghill, an associate professor of human resources, earned the Foundation's 2002 Outstanding Teacher Award.

PUTTING PRINCIPLES  
INTO PRACTICE

Dr. Paula Carson

**W**hen Paula Carson went to apply for admission into a doctoral

program in finance, she was turned away.

"We don't take girls in this program," she was told by the male department head at that university.

Carson countered that surely he must be referring to females who didn't have the proper academic qualifications. No, he responded. Qualifications didn't matter.

Stunned, Carson left his office, wondering what to do next. She was about to leave the building when she spotted the Department of Management. "I thought, well, you know, I need to find out how and why this sort of thing happens. So I went into management and they accepted me."

Graduate and undergraduate students who have taken her management classes should be grateful for their good fortune. Dr. Michael Fronmueller, dean of UL Lafayette's College of Business Administration, describes Carson as "one of the best teachers, if not the best, in the college."

She consistently receives the highest student evaluations in the Department of Management and was the first to earn the college's outstanding research *and* outstanding teaching awards.

Carson puts what she has learned about management into practice in the classroom.

"I try to teach my classes as though I'm managing my classes. If performance is the function of ability and motivation, I test their ability but I also test their motivation. . . . A good manager provides structure, but at the same time, consideration. I try to do the same thing. I



BLANE DAVID FAUL

Dr. Paula Carson

have high expectations but I try to recognize and deal with contingencies when they come up.”

One of Carson’s core values is fairness. “From a managerial perspective, there is no justification for treating people differently, unless it is performance based,” she said.

In her career, which spans only about a decade, she has co-authored with Dr. Kerry Carson, her husband and colleague, the first textbook in health care management. She has produced other books and numerous articles for professional journals.

Carson also manages to make time to serve as a mentor.

She is motivated by the desire to help students “master good judgment and to understand not just *what* is, but *why* things are and *how* they are. . .

“I want them to remember not so much that I gave them the answers, but that I asked the right questions, made them introspect, made them root around and figure out *why* things are the way they are.”

#### A NATURAL BUILDER AND CONSERVATIONIST

### Edward Cazayoux

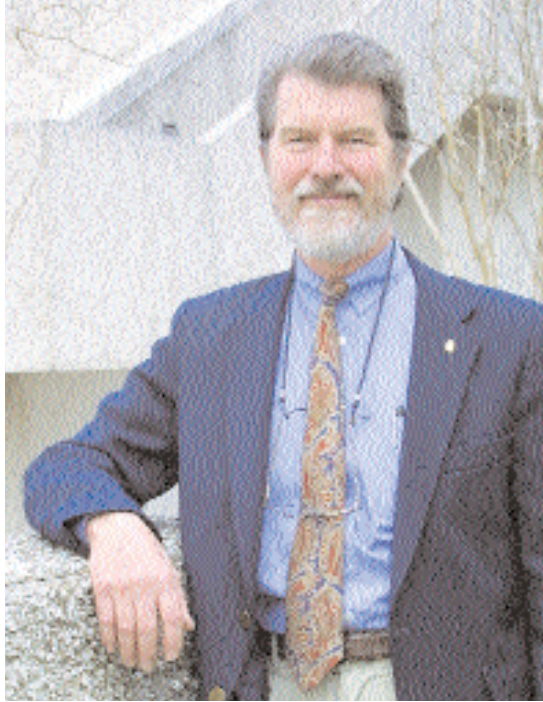
Edward Cazayoux teaches more than how to design and build structures.

The architecture professor goes beyond, into the aesthetic of designing and building in cooperation with the natural environment – what is known as “green architecture” or sustainability.

“Sustainability is a bigger picture about living within your means. We should design, build and live within our means today, so we don’t prevent someone in the future from being able to do that when they’re alive,” he said.

Cazayoux has had a strong influence on UL Lafayette’s School of Architecture. For 13 years, he served as its director, in addition to teaching.

“During that time, the school was granted full five-year accreditation for the first time in its history and has maintained that status ever since,” noted Gordon Brooks, dean of UL



Edward Cazayoux

Lafayette’s College of the Arts, in a letter nominating Cazayoux for the Distinguished Professor Award. “The Board of Regents has recently approved a curriculum revision of the five-year bachelor of architecture degree to a four-year bachelor of science in architectural studies and a one-plus year master of architecture degree in recognition of the rigor and excellence of the program. This is a testament to Mr. Cazayoux’s contributions while he was director of the school.”

The dean noted that Cazayoux is “*defacto* the expert on energy efficient and sustainable building design in Louisiana. He has written about it, spoken about it, but most importantly, he has lived it. He has built more energy conserving residences than anybody else has in the state, including the recent completion of his own home.”

Under his guidance as director of the School of Architecture, there was a shift toward giving students “hands-on” experience to complement the theories they studied.

He’s one of the key players in the school’s new Building Institute, which is intended to give budding architects a chance to bridge the gap between theory and practice by providing man-

ual labor for a construction project.

This summer, for instance, about half a dozen students will help restore a two-room house that was probably occupied by a Lafayette Parish farmer and his family in the mid-1800s.

Cazayoux is enthusiastic about the project because it will also enable students to learn something about the history of Acadiana and how natural materials were used for building. Students may construct a *bousillage* chimney for the farm house, for example. *Bousillage* is a mixture of mud and Spanish moss that was often used as insulation.

“I think it’s important to design with the natural environment in mind; and the emphasis is on the preposition *with*,” he said.

Cazayoux stepped down as director of the School of Architecture in 1998 to teach and research full time.

#### ‘I HOPE I AM A STEPPING STONE.’

### Dr. Claire Foret

“Keep moving and get involved” could be the motto for Dr. Claire Foret. She’s done both all her life and doesn’t plan to stop anytime soon. In fact, she has made it her life’s work to keep others moving and involved, too.

A professor of kinesiology, Foret teaches several kinesiology courses, which range from motor development to therapeutic recreation. But, she tries to instill in her students – both undergraduate and graduate – a lot more than a textbook can cover.

“I try to teach my students to apply the theories I’m teaching them,” she said. “I want them to grasp this information, then go with it. I love seeing the transition from the lower level classes to the upper division classes.”

Foret has taught at UL Lafayette

## UL Lafayette Foundation



Dr. Claire Foret and Krystal Thibodeaux

since 1988. She has held the Vesta Bourgeois Endowed Professorship since 1992.

Foret is an expert in gerontology, or aging. She serves on the Lieutenant Governor's Task Force on the Elderly and volunteers with Senior Olympics.

"During her tenure, Dr. Foret has distinguished herself as the premiere researcher in the department, as well as in the College of Education," said Jerry Carlson, interim dean of that college. "She is a highly regarded researcher in gerontology. She is often called upon as an expert in this area. . ."

Foret is collaborating with UL Lafayette's College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions to research

how to prevent the elderly from falling. Through her study, Foret is trying to develop a functional physical assessment plan for older adults.

"This would be a tool for para-professionals to use to assess our elderly," she explained. "It will help the elderly maintain what they have and tell them what skills to improve to prevent falling."

In addition, Foret's research includes an intergenerational program, which mixes the elderly with children for strengthening exercises.

"Kids are catalysts for adults and vice versa," she said. "We can combine the two and let them help each other with physical activity, cultural tradi-

tions and history." She envisions taking grandparents to school for physical education with their grandchildren, for example.

Several years ago, Foret received an Inspiration Award from a professional organization.

"On the award, there is a saying about either being a help to a child down a life path or a stumbling block," she said. "I hope I am a stepping stone that helps children and students reach the heights they aspire to reach."

### STUDENTS OF ALL AGES LEARN IN NURSERY SCHOOL

## Dr. Nancy Coghill

**W**ant to know everything there is to know about kids?

Dr. Nancy Coghill will tell you to ask a professor of renewable resources about the lovable barnyard animals at UL Lafayette's Cade Experimental Farm.

But if you want to learn just about everything there is to know about *children*, this associate professor in the College of Applied Life Sciences is the one to ask.

"I feel really strongly about calling children '*children*,'" Coghill explained. "The words we use to title people say a lot about what we think. Children shouldn't be called anything but *children*. It's just a sign of respect."

Coghill treats every project she undertakes - from teaching preschoolers to college graduates - with the same level of respect.

She is director and head teacher

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for nine 4-year-olds at UL Lafayette's School of Human Resources Nursery School.

The Nursery School serves as a laboratory for university students studying child development. On some days, they just observe. On others, they guide the children in various activities.

"There's only so much you can do by looking at a book," Coghill said. "That's why I think a lab is so important. It's a place where children learn, certainly, but it serves a far more direct purpose for the Child and Family Studies Curriculum.

"The school is a human relationships laboratory. In Child and Family Studies careers, you need to understand people, including yourself, if you are to be successful.

The quality of relationships with people in your personal life will also depend on what you know about peo-



BLANE DAVID FAUL

Dr. Nancy Coghill

ple as individuals and as interacting members of a family or community."

Coghill aims to instill the impor-

tance of relationships in the UL Lafayette students – undergraduate and graduate – she teaches each semester.

She is the first author of infant and toddler curriculum materials and teacher guides, which were written by invitation of the Methodist Publishing House. Her research publications about how historical children's literature relates to cultural issues has been reported in international journals.

"She is recognized as an authority in child and family studies," summarized Dr. Linda Vincent, dean of UL Lafayette's College of Applied Life Sciences.

Coghill said the best part about her job is "that I can't hide out in an office. I have to be out in the community and I have to be active in professional associations. Otherwise, I would be stale and wouldn't be able to bring anything new the classroom." ■

## How You Can Invest

### Make Your Will Work for You

Writing a will is much more than planning for the future; it gives you peace of mind knowing that your wishes will be carried out. It ensures that your property is distributed as you wish and prevents you from making an unintended gift to the state or federal government.

If you already have a will, you should review it regularly to make sure it still serves your needs and meets your wishes.

In most cases, changing a will can be accomplished with a simple amendment called a codicil.

You may wish to consider earmarking a portion of your estate to fund a special interest of yours at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. For instance, you can establish your own legacy through a permanent, named endowment fund. This can be easily achieved through a bequest in your will.



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