

Campus Changes

Hard hat areas will soon spring up

By Christine Payton

Major construction projects will pepper UL Lafayette's campus over the next few years. • On the drawing board: a world class art museum; an expanded facility for the College of Business Administration; a coed student housing complex; and a new high-tech building for the Computer Science Department. • But that's not all. • Burke-Hawthorne Hall, which houses the Performing Arts and Communication departments, will be renovated and enlarged.

Also, a section of the New Iberia Research Center will be reconfigured to add more housing space for non-human primates.

That's in addition to an impressive aquatic center for students that opened mid-March and a new Convention Center, adjacent to the Cajundome, which is set to open April 30.

Here's the lowdown on what's coming up.

FOR ART LOVERS

On April 3, officials broke ground at 101 Girard Park Drive for a \$15.7 million art museum complex.

"This facility will be among the most prestigious in the country and we are proud to have it here at UL Lafayette," said Dr. Ray Authement, the university's president.

First, a 30,000-square-foot building will be constructed behind what was previously a combination Art Museum/UL Lafayette Foundation office

building. (The Foundation built new offices across the street.)

It will feature the latest security and climate control systems, which have been designed to meet international museum standards. So, UL Lafayette will be able to host national

and international traveling exhibits.

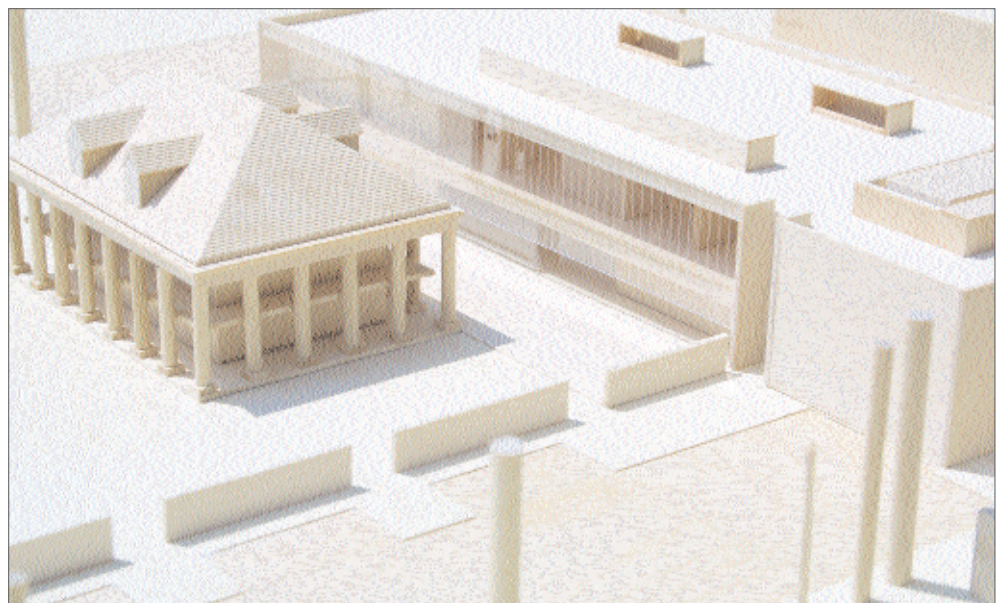
The new structure will have changing exhibition galleries, a loading dock, collection storage areas and staff offices.

In the next phase, the former Art Museum/Foundation office building, designed in the 1960s by renowned Louisiana architect A. Hays Town, will be renovated. A sculpture garden will then be created on the property.

"Destined to become the only full-service art museum on the Gulf Coast between New Orleans and Houston, the University Art Museum will contribute to the economic development of Louisiana through cultural tourism . . ." said Herman Mhire, director of University Art Museum.

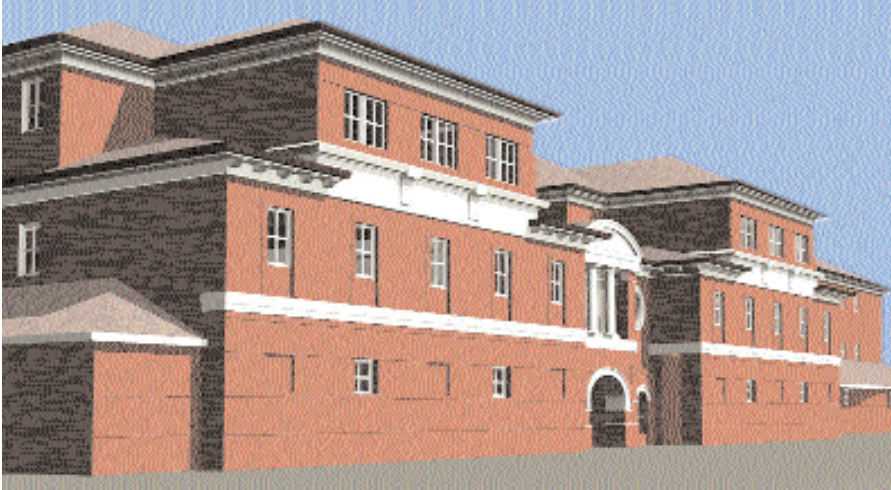
When complete, the entire complex will have about 55,000 square feet.

The New Orleans-based firm Eskew+ has designed the facility. It



BLANE DAVID FAUL

When the new University Art Museum hosts its first exhibit in December 2003, "Painting in France 1803-2003," visitors will be able to view works by Cézanne, Monet, Matisse, Gauguin, Renoir and Degas.



COURTESY OF ANGELLE ARCHITECTS

A three-story facility for the College of Business Administration will complement the architectural style of buildings that form the Quadrangle.

designed the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans and the John M. Shaw Federal Courthouse in Lafayette.

The museum will be funded by bond issues that will be repaid with private funds, including a lead gift from Lulu and Paul Hilliard of Lafayette.

The opening exhibit will be "Painting in France 1803-2003," a 200-year survey of French art. It will feature paintings on loan from major French museums, including the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Musée Carnavalet and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, as well as major museums around the United States. Museum visitors will be able to view works by Cezanne, Monet, Matisse, Gauguin, Renoir and Degas.

The opening date for the inaugural exhibition is Dec. 20, 2003.

SOON OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Construction of a \$9 million, three-story structure for the College of Business Administration could begin as early as this summer.

Technically, it will be an extension of F.G. Mouton Hall. Once it's built, the original F.G. Mouton Hall will be renovated from ceiling to floor. The buildings will connect via two walkways.

Classrooms and facilities used by students will be centralized on the ground floor, along with a 220-seat auditorium, which can be divided into two 110-seat auditoriums.

Eight 50-seat seminar rooms will accommodate the latest technology. Students will be able to plug in laptops at their desks, for instance, and will be able to take advantage of wireless networks in the future.

The additional space will enable the college to offer more courses at times that are convenient for students.

The second and third floors will be dedicated to faculty and administrative offices and conference rooms. College of Business Administration faculty offices are currently housed in four buildings on campus. The second floor will also have public lounge space.

Architect Glenn Angelle said the exterior of the new structure will have the same architectural style as other

buildings in the Quadrangle. It will incorporate brick arches, for instance.

Angelle paid particular attention to preserving the existing arcade, which features the Walk of Honor. That walk is paved with more than 83,000 bricks bearing the names of every graduate of the university.

An open-air walkway will connect the second floors of the buildings, leaving the arcade untouched. There will be a covered walkway on the bottom floor.

NEW DIGS FOR STUDENTS

Comfort and privacy are two factors driving the design of a coed student housing complex.

The 468-bed facility is expected to be completed by the start of the Fall 2003 semester.

The complex of eight buildings will provide students with apartment-style housing and amenities such as Internet and cable modem connections in each room. It will be constructed at the corner of Lewis Street and Girard Park Drive. McCullough and Voorhies halls and E.A. Martin Dining Hall will be torn down to make room for it.

The complex will feature suites with individual bedrooms joined by shared living and kitchen areas. Each unit will include washers and dryers and each bedroom will have a private bathroom. There will be 468 parking spaces.

Males and females will not be allowed to share apartments.



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY GROUP

Apartment-style student housing will be built on the corner of Lewis Street and Girard Park Drive after existing buildings there are torn down.

"There is nothing like this in Louisiana," said Robert Trahan, president of board of directors of Ragin' Cajun Facilities Inc.

UL Lafayette is leasing the property to Ragin' Cajun Facilities Inc., a private non-profit organization, which will then lease the property back to the university. This arrangement allows UL Lafayette to construct the facility quicker than if it must compete for state capital outlay funds.

The sale of revenue bonds will raise enough to cover construction costs of about \$15.2 million. Rental fees are expected to be between \$350 and \$500 per person, per semester, depending on which unit a student rents.

BIGGER AND BETTER

Architects are working on plans to renovate and almost double the size of Burke-Hawthorne Hall, which was built in 1940.

Bill Crist, director of UL Lafayette's Physical Plant, said 30,000 square feet will be added, which should ease crowded conditions for the departments that occupy it - Performing Arts, Communicative Disorders, Communication and KRVS radio station.

"This addition will give each department most of the space they need," he said. The \$6.8 million state-funded project will provide more classrooms, labs and offices.

Corne and Lemaire, a Lafayette architectural firm, is refining its initial designs.

Plans call for a two-story wing to be built between Burke-Hawthorne and Judice halls. A one-story wing will be added to the backstage area of the theater. Some of the additional space there will be used to store costumes and equipment.

Construction of the new wings should take about 18 months, while renovations could take an additional 10 months.

EXPECT HI-TECH HERE

UL Lafayette will soon construct a new building for its Computer Science Department and the Center for Advanced Computer Studies, which are now in the Conference Center.

Preliminary plans call for a three-story building with 15,000 square feet per floor. The university will pay for the \$7 million facility with self-generated funds.

The building will be located on property that was cleared after McNapsy Stadium was torn down in 1999.

MAKING MORE ROOM

One of the largest non-human primate colonies in the world is about to get bigger.

UL Lafayette's New Iberia Research Center recently received funds from the National Center for Research Resources to add about 8,500 square feet of climate-controlled indoor space for adult chimpanzees and 14,000 to 18,000 square feet of outdoor exercise space. So, NIRC will be able to house an additional 80 to 100 adult chimpanzees. The cost: \$1.9 million.

"The long-term objective of the proposal is to maintain chimpanzees at facilities where access for research can be accomplished more efficiently and cost effectively," said NIRC Director Jeff Rowell.

The Center currently houses more than 5,000 non-human primates representing 10 species. It provides resources for basic and applied research aimed at solving human health problems, such as the hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus and human immunodeficiency virus.

The second project, which will cost \$535,879, will renovate about 10,000 square feet to provide large indoor/outdoor living areas for maturing animals. Rowell noted that a large population of chimpanzees between the ages of 1 and 12 are housed in family and peer groups. As they approach maturity, they will need additional room. The average adult chimp weighs 130-150 pounds and has a lifespan of 45-55 years.

"It will be imperative that additional space is provided to maintain a healthy and available population of chimpanzees for access by the biomedical and behavioral research communities," Rowell said.

NIRC is one of only two facilities worldwide capable of providing for research that complies with Good Laboratory Standards using great apes as animal models for human diseases.



DOUG DUGAS

Gateways built last year are a visual cue that let visitors know they're entering campus. The brick archways are at the intersections of St. Mary Boulevard and Taft; Johnston Street and St. Mary Boulevard; and Hebrard Boulevard and University Avenue.



A \$16.7 million Convention Center adjacent to the Cajundome will accommodate events ranging from trade shows to RV and boat shows.

CENTER COMPLEMENTS CAJUNDOME

At presstime, final touches were being placed on a new Convention Center next to the Cajundome.

The center will offer more than 37,000 square feet of exhibition space, nearly 20,000 feet of meeting and banquet rooms, and a 13,000-square-foot arena for events such as concerts.

For smaller events, the convention floor will be able to be divided into two sections, with one about 20 percent larger than the other.

Space for meetings and smaller banquets is available upstairs.

The first event at the convention center is expected to be the Super Consumer Show, an arts and crafts, and gun and knife show, May 11-12. The first convention is set for June for the Tri-State Funeral Directors from Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

Students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette have a cool place to beat the heat.

A Student Aquatic Center at UL Lafayette's Bourgeois Hall opened March 13.

"The Center offers a variety of activities for people who want to use the water to exercise, as well as for those who just want to cool off during the hot summer," said Dave Suter, aquatics director.

It features an eight-lane, 25-yard lap pool; a leisure pool with water effects, such as waves; a 20-person whirlpool; and a sand volleyball court.

"The leisure pool is equipped with a zero-depth or beach-style entry. It

also offers water volleyball, water basketball and a shaded 'bubble bench area,' Suter said.

The pool can be used by students, faculty and staff with a valid ID, and any faculty or staff member's spouse who has a valid spouse pass. Lifeguards are always on duty while the center is open.

The aquatic center got its start through the leadership of Shawn Wilson, president of the Student Government Association from 1993-94.

"We felt there was a need for a swimming pool that was social in nature," he said. "We had the pool at the Conference Center but we felt we wanted something more social."

Students voted to reallocate a \$9 per semester fee to generate the funds needed to build the center. The total cost of the project was \$2.2 million.

"It's really neat to see this project finally completed," Wilson said. "I've followed it from the first stages through construction and now at completion. I see this Aquatic Center as an increase in value of what students are getting at UL Lafayette."

Current SGA President Steve Johnson said he hopes students "take full advantage of the nicest pool facilities in Lafayette." ■



BLANE DAVID FAUL

A lifeguard is stationed at the eight-lane lap pool in the new Student Aquatic Center.

Settling In

New dean to continue efforts to restore enrollment numbers

By Christine Payton

Dan Rosenfield's work could be compared to that of an archaeologist. Granted, he's not excavating large mounds of dirt, looking to unearth artifacts. • Instead, he's discovering layers of excellence at UL Lafayette as the new dean of Enrollment

Management. • "Every day during the nearly two months I've been on campus, I've learned about a 'point of excellence,' a particular UL Lafayette strength, an outstanding professor, a project in which UL Lafayette is involved or some great

research going on," he said. "The layers are almost infinite."

Rosenfield replaces Pamela Stroup, who retired earlier this year after serving as dean of enrollment management since 1997.

"Dan brings a wealth of knowledge to UL Lafayette that will be utilized to the fullest extent," said Dr. Steve Landry, vice president for Academic Affairs. "His experience in the admissions field well suits the university's goals of attracting and retaining students and making the admissions process as convenient as possible for students."

A Connecticut native, Rosenfield comes to UL Lafayette from the Georgia School of Professional Psychology in Atlanta, where he served as director of Enrollment Services for four years. The school offers doctoral degrees in clinical psychology and master's degrees in counseling and clinical psychology.

Previously, he was director of Admissions at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, Russell Sage College in New York and Keystone College in Pennsylvania. He also spent a

year as a high school counselor in Maine. What attracted him to UL Lafayette?



Dan Rosenfield

"The University offers so many strong academic and co-curricular programs," Rosenfield said. "Also, the people who work here are so very student-centered and service-oriented."

"The commitment and dedication of so many people – faculty, staff, student government – and the pride and loyalty they feel is most impressive. Their high energy level is evident here every day."

Rosenfield hopes to tap into that energy to continue to boost enrollment, which dropped a bit after the university implemented selective admissions in 1999 but seems to be on the ascent again.

"One of my primary goals is to communicate UL Lafayette's many strengths to prospective students, parents, school counselors and the public at large, both in Louisiana and out of state," he said. "I also want to enhance our ability to attract students with the ability, preparation, and motivation to benefit from our academic programs, and continue UL Lafayette's commitment to serving students well in the areas of admissions, registration, financial aid and scholarships."

"My college years were among the best in my life, and I often think about how important my education has been to me," Rosenfield added. "It is the goal of everyone in the Enrollment Management area to be a resource for these students." ■

BLANE DAVID FAUL

Alumni Earn Accolades for Campus Buildings



ARCHITECTS in two Lafayette firms who designed buildings for their *alma mater* have earned awards for their work.

Guidry Beazley Architects, which helped design the Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center, received the 2002 Institute Honor Award for Architecture from the American Institute of Architects. It had previously won five other awards for center, including the Honor Award of Excellence from the Louisiana AIA chapter.

Guidry Beazley Architects shares the AIA's Institute Honor Award with partner Eskey+ of New Orleans. Lynn Guidry and Charles Beazley, principals in the firm, both graduated from USL in 1971.

Another firm, Architects Southwest of Lafayette was recently presented the Louisiana Contractors Association's Best Architectural Design Award for its expansion and renovation of Edith Garland Dupré Library.

Judges based their decision on the quality of construction or design, innovation, a project's contribution to the industry, a project's ability to overcome unique construction or design challenges, and overall excellence.

The firm had previously received the AIA Louisiana Honor Award and the *Times of Acadiana* Silver Rivet Award in 2001 for its work on the library.

The Architects Southwest design

team for the campus project includes Steven J. Oubre, '76; Wayne P. Domingue, '78; Norbert L. Langlinais, '75; Greg Louvierre, '86; John Cox III, '74; and Dione Bourgeois, '82.

About 80,000 square feet were added to the library and the interior was reconfigured for the convenience of students.

Cajun Musician to Become 'Doctor Doucet'



BEFORE ENTERING graduate school, Michael Doucet took a trip across the Atlantic Ocean that changed his life.

While in France, he rediscovered Cajun music, abandoned his pursuit of a master's degree in English and chose instead to become the student of legendary Louisiana musicians such as Dewey Balfa, Canray Fontenot, Dennis McGee and Amédé Ardoin.

In May, Doucet will receive a graduate degree after all. UL Lafayette President Ray P. Authement will present him with an honorary doctor of fine arts degree during Commencement in May.

"Michael Doucet has been described as an ambassador of Cajun music and culture," Authement said. "By sharing that music, he has helped keep it alive for future generations. He embodies one of UL Lafayette's missions - to preserve and promote Cajun and Creole cultures."

Doucet is founder and lead vocalist, fiddler and songwriter for Beau-

Soleil. The band has garnered nine Grammy Award nominations. It won the top music award for "L'amour ou la Folie," which was named the Best Traditional Folk Album in 1997.

Readers Study Gaines Book to Gain Insight

THIS SPRING, Lafayette residents were urged to read and discuss *A Lesson Before Dying*, a novel written by Ernest Gaines, UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence.

Why that book?

"Primarily because it resonates with so many themes that are a part of our lives: responsibility, dignity, human relationships, justice, guilt, literacy, racism and more. This list makes it sound as if the book is a sermon instead of a novel, but that certainly is not the case," replied Ann Dobie, a professor of English at UL Lafayette. She's also the director of "Lafayette Reads Ernest Gaines," which was coordinated by the Acadiana Writing Project, co-sponsored by the Lafayette Parish Library and endorsed by the Lafayette Parish School Board.

A Lesson Before Dying is about a young black man unjustly sentenced to die in Louisiana's electric chair in the late 1940s. Grant Wiggins, a teacher, helps Jefferson meet his fate with dignity.

"The purpose (of the Acadiana Writing Project) is to make ourselves more aware of who we are, what we have been, and what we want our society to be," Dobie said.

"Lafayette Reads Ernest Gaines," began Feb. 18 and continued through March 30. It included symposiums on race relations, the criminal justice system and the changing role of teachers.

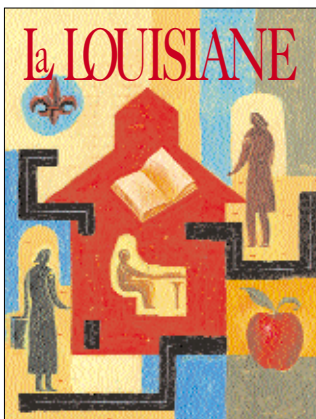
UL Lafayette Packs a Punch In Area Economy

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would rank fifth among the Top 100 private businesses in Acadiana.

That's one of the findings reported in "An Analysis of the Economic Effects of UL Lafayette on the Lafayette Economy, 2001-2002." It was prepared by Dr. Robert F. Hebert, a visiting professor in the Department of Economics and Finance.

"The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is a small economy unto itself. On the one hand, it sells goods and services to the students and to the community at large. On the other, it comprises a collective body of consumers armed with purchasing power of its own," he noted.

According to the report, the university:

- has a total economic impact of \$650 million to \$700 million;
- employs about 1,575 people;
- through spending, sustains more than 12,800 jobs in the Lafayette area; and
- pays more than \$65 million in salaries and wages.

Public Relations Graduate Program's Premier, Too

FIRST, THE UNDERGRADUATE public relations program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette was named one of the best in the country.

Now, UL Lafayette's graduate program in public relations has the same designation. It's one of only 16 universities to earn "premier program" status in a Marquette University directory of the country's leading schools offering advanced degrees in public relations.

"Being listed as one of the best graduate programs in the nation reflects very well on our alumni," said Dr. Kathleen Kelly, professor and coordinator of the Public Relations program at UL Lafayette. "Our program produces well-educated students who are eager and ready to enter the working world. Being recognized for this work is a great honor not only for this program but also for the university."

Other top universities in the direc-

tory include Purdue University, Syracuse University, Boston University and Colorado State University.

Lake Charles To Catch KRVS Signal Again

LISTENERS in the Lake Charles area will be able to tune in to KRVS, UL Lafayette's public radio station, again this fall.

They lost their link to arts, cultural and news programming in April last year, when the KRVS transmitter was overpowered by another station.

Thanks to a federal grant and funds raised by fans of public radio, KRVS will purchase a new transmitter, antenna and other equipment needed to reestablish service in the western portion of the state. It will also lease a 1,350-foot tower, north of Crowley, that will expand coverage in Louisiana as far north as Alexandria, south to the Gulf of Mexico and east to Baton Rouge.

The station received a \$185,573 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Public Telecommunications Facility Program. An additional \$123,000 was raised through the efforts of groups such as the Lake Charles Public Radio Association, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and City of Lake Charles.

David Spizale, general manager of KRVS, said Lake Charles community leaders value access to National Public Radio. "They view it as an economic development issue, a quality of life issue," he said.

About 95 percent of the United States is covered by public radio.

"If you expect people to move into your community, they're looking for that option as well. It's just part of the standard offering in so many places. If a person is really hooked on 'NPR News,' 'Morning Edition,' 'All Things Considered,' or other programs, he or she expects to have it," Spizale said.

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, (D-New Orleans), helped the station obtain grant approval from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Her office also



BLANE DAVID FAUL

Best-selling author James Lee Burke dropped by the KRVS studio on campus this spring for an interview with Judith Meriwether.

helped get project approval from the Federal Communication Commission in record time, according to Spizale.

Legendary Coach Of Track & Field Dies at Age 67

UL LAFAYETTE mourns the death of Charles Lancon, veteran head coach of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajun track and field program.



Charles Lancon

He died Saturday, April 13, 2002, of a heart attack. He was 67.

"Coach Lancon's death is a huge loss to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

He served the university for over a decade, establishing one of the best track and field programs in the South," said UL Lafayette President Ray Authement.

Lancon began coaching at UL Lafayette in 1989, after about 30 years of coaching at the high school level.

Under his leadership, Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns earned 17 conference titles.

He was named the Sun Belt Conference's "Coach of the Year" 14 times in the past nine years. That includes a quadruple sweep in 1993, when he was cited as the top coach for men's and women's outdoor and indoor teams.

The Louisiana Sports Writers Association cited Lancon as "Coach of the Year" seven times in the past decade.

UL Lafayette Athletic Director Nelson Schexnayder said Lancon was "a great representative of the university and athletics as a player and a coach, but especially as a person. Coach Lancon led Ragin' Cajuns track to tremendous accomplishments as a team, individually and in the personal development of his players."

Lancon graduated from UL Lafayette (then known as Southwestern Louisiana Institute) in 1959, where he had lettered in football for two years.

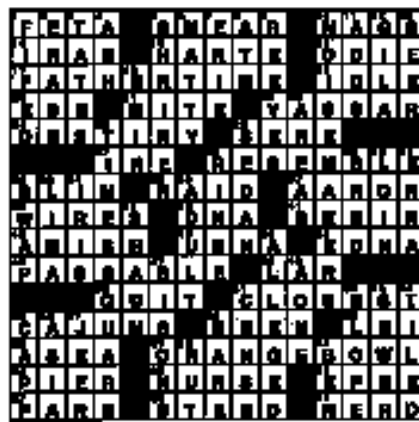
His first coaching position was at Acadiana High School. He later coached at Lafayette High School.

Lancon is a member of the Lafayette Sports Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife, the former Beryl Richard of Breaux Bridge; one son, Kevin Lancon of Prairieville; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in care of the Coach Charles R. Lancon Memorial Track Scholarship Fund, c/o UL Lafayette Athletic Department, 201 Reinhardt Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506. ■

Answers to crossword puzzle found on page 48.



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