

Better Than Ever

Foundation enhances Hall of Honor

SOME GENEROUS DONORS WILL soon get what they deserve – prominent recognition in a renovated Hall of Honor.

For about the past 20 years, plaques bearing the names of supporters who have given \$50,000 or more to establish endowments have been displayed on the second-floor foyer in Martin Hall, the university's main administration building.

"It was time for an upgrade," said Julie Falgout, executive director of the UL Lafayette Foundation. "Also, we were running out of space to display the plaques, which is a very good problem to have."

So the plaques were temporarily removed to allow the Foundation to update the Hall of Honor from floor to ceiling.

Falgout said the first step of the facelift was the reallocation of available space.

The plaques will be displayed on two floors instead of one. The names of donors who established endowed chairs, endowed professorships, faculty development funds and athletic endowments will be featured on the second floor, while donors who created endowed scholarships will be recognized on the third floor.

A directory will be installed to enable donors to easily locate their plaques.

The focal point of the project is a centerpiece cabinet on the second floor, which was designed by John Wales, UL Lafayette's manager of facility planning and safety.

"We wanted to create a central space so that in addition to honoring donors, we could have a lighted, enclosed case for recognition items and other items that the university's president may want to display," Falgout said. "John did a wonderful job."

Wales' design is being custom built by Larry Guidry, one of the university's expert carpenters.

"It's beautifully designed and constructed," Falgout said.

Seventeen matching wood panels will surround the centerpiece.

While the presentation cabinet and panels were being constructed, the first floor entrance and second- and third-floor foyers were repainted with coordinating shades of taupe, deep red and white.

The redecorating was handled by Falgout and Carla Gossen, the Foundation's special projects coordinator. Falgout also consulted with Michelle Derise, an interior designer who works

with Wayne LaBiche Engineering in New Iberia, La.

After the display case is in place, donor plaques will be reinstalled. Falgout said 25 new ones will be added.

Then, Falgout and Gossen will concentrate on improving lighting in the foyers. Long-term plans include the installation of a welcome sign at the first-floor entrance of Martin Hall.

Jim Prince, president of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, said the Wall of Honor renovation is intended to convey the organization's gratitude.

"We want to recognize our donors to our fullest capabilities," he said.

Similar projects are planned for the Athletic Complex on Reinhardt Drive and the new University Art Museum.

For information about contributing to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, contact the Foundation at (337) 482-0700 or the Office of Development at (337) 262-GIFT. ■

