

## Campus 'Health Club'

Weight room, playing fields will enhance recreation options

**W**ith the addition of a \$2.5 million weight room and several recreational fields, Bourgeois Hall could become the most popular student hangout on campus, predicts Wayne Harper, director of intramurals and recreational sports at UL Lafayette.

Built in 1987, Bourgeois Hall is the equivalent of a health club for students and faculty. In addition to classrooms and faculty offices, it has an indoor track, a small weight room, indoor

courts for basketball and volleyball, large rooms for judo instruction and aerobics classes, and outdoor tennis courts. Students have access to exercise equipment on the second floor, such as recumbent bikes and stair climbers.

In March 2002, a \$2 million student aquatic center opened behind Bourgeois Hall. UL Lafayette is one of only five universities in the nation that has a sophisticated swimming pool complex.

In November, students voted by a 63 percent majority to increase a self-assessed recreational services fee from \$2 to \$22 to fund a new weight room and additional recreational fields. Students who take at least six credit hours will pay \$22 each fall and spring semester. Those taking at least six credit hours in the summer semester will pay \$10.

Harper said UL Lafayette's recreational services fee is still one of the lowest in the state, second only to Southern University in Baton Rouge. Southern's fee recently increased from \$7.50 to \$15 per fall and spring semester. Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., and Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La.,

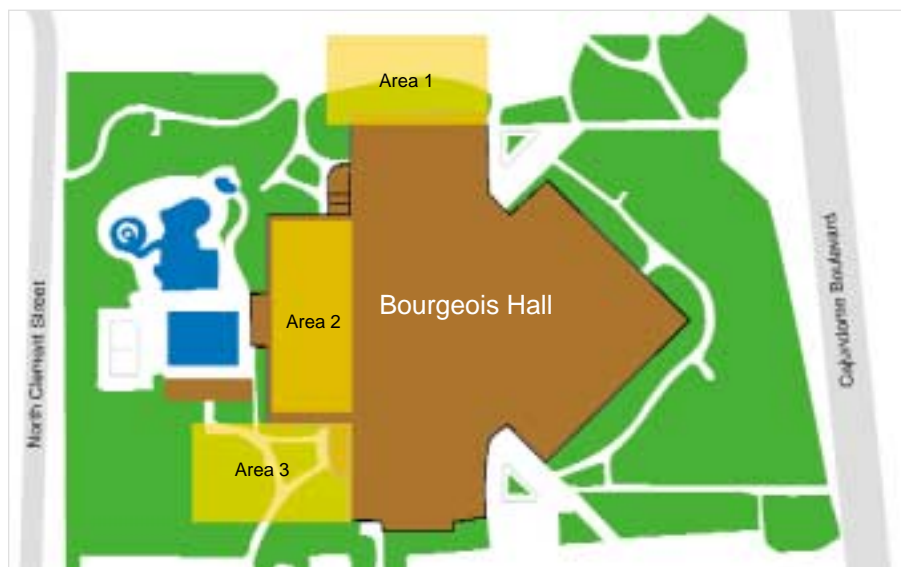
have the highest recreational services fee in the state, at \$75 per fall and spring semester, followed by the University of New Orleans, \$50; Louisiana Tech in Ruston, \$49; Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, \$45; and Grambling State

University in Grambling, La., \$33.

Dennis Dent, 19, a sophomore in industrial technology who works out at Bourgeois Hall several times each week, said he voted for the referendum because he thought it was a bargain for students. "If you were going to a health club you would pay more than that a month," he said.

Jessica Clarke, president of the UL Lafayette Student Government Association, said many students had complained about the small size of the weight room in Bourgeois Hall. Harper suggested that students consider increasing the recreational services fee to cover the cost of building a bigger, better-equipped facility.

Clarke and two other SGA officers, Robyn Deranger, vice president, and Jami Williams, treasurer, helped Harper research student recreational facilities at other universities.



Officials are considering three sites for the addition of a weight room at Bourgeois Hall: between the building and tennis courts; above first-floor locker rooms; and behind the building. Students voted to pay an additional fee each semester to pay for the new room and five new intramural fields in University Common.

"We traveled across the state to see what was offered," Clarke said. Then they informally polled UL Lafayette students to try to determine if they would support a higher recreational fee that would fund a new weight room. "We saw that it was something that they would support."

Harper said that within the next four years, Bourgeois Hall will be transformed into a "first class, full-service (recreational) center that will either meet or exceed most universities' recreational facilities. Students will have everything a health club has to offer."

A 20,000-square-foot weight room will be added. There are three possible locations, according to Harper. It could be built between the Student Aquatic Center and tennis courts or on top of first floor locker rooms. Or, it could be built directly behind Bourgeois Hall, on the ground floor.

Regardless of the location, it will feature state-of-the-art cardiovascular and strength equipment.

In the meantime, new equipment will be added at Bourgeois Hall each year. For instance, the university has ordered eight more elliptical trainers.

Although the addition of a weight room may have received more publicity, Harper said the proposal for additional recreational fields dedicated to intramural play was a factor in the referendum's success.

With more than 35 flag football teams, 25 softball teams, a rugby team, a soccer club, and a cricket club using one recreational field, additional intramural fields are badly needed.

There is a field for intramural play on Cajundome Boulevard across the street from Bourgeois Hall. Intramural teams have also competed on a grassy field near Cajun Field, but Harper said it will be used for parking during football season.

The new recreational fields will be located behind Sorority Row in an area recently named University Common. (See related story, page 2.) Harper said they will be designed to accommodate multiple sports.

About 40 percent of the university's students and faculty work out at Bourgeois Hall. But Harper said that

number will increase if the entire facility and new weight room are advertised.

UL Lafayette students' interest in recreational facilities tracks a national trend.

Harper said research through the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association showed that students are becoming more health conscious.

"Recreation facilities are one of the most important considerations when students are choosing a college or university to attend," he said. So, the recreational complex at Bourgeois should help UL Lafayette's student recruitment efforts.

"We're going to wow them!" Harper said. ■

## Campus Improvements Include Parking Garage

By Danielle Harrison

UL Lafayette students will pay for construction of a parking garage on campus, as well as several other major parking and transit system improvements.

A 70 percent majority approved a referendum that assesses full-time students a new \$25 fee per fall and spring semester. In addition to funding the parking garage, money generated by the fee will be used to:

- restructure UL Lafayette's parking/transportation system;
- resurface worn out parking lots;
- create an off-campus parking lot;
- create an on-campus tow yard; and
- upgrade software to enable students to register vehicles and pay parking tickets online.

The extra assessment was approved in November. UL Lafayette students began paying it this spring.

William "Joey" Dudley, director of Parking and Transit at UL Lafayette, predicts that a parking garage could be built by Fall 2004. A site has yet to be determined and no total cost is available. However, Dudley said parking spaces in a garage typically average about \$10,000 each to build.

Although students are footing the bill, construction of a parking garage must be approved by three state agencies. The University of Louisiana System and the state Board of Regents have already OK'd the project. But the Louisiana Legislature must approve it, also.

Dudley doesn't expect lawmakers

to reject the parking garage proposal, because it will be paid by student fees specifically dedicated for that purpose.

Some parking and transit improvements have already been made.

Thanks to the new revenue source, for example, student parking is free at Cajun Field and in Zone 40, which is on the south side of Bourgeois Hall. Previously, students were required to buy a \$25-\$30 parking permit to park there.

Also, the Parking and Transit Office has already purchased two additional shuttle vehicles and has begun to restructure its Monday through Friday, on-campus and off-campus transportation system. The revised on-campus system, which operates from 5 p.m. to midnight, resembles a taxi service.

"In the past, if you were not at a designated site, you wouldn't be picked up, but that's no longer applicable," Dudley said. Now, a student can phone the lobby supervisor in Bonin Hall to request that a "taxi" pick him up at one site and drop him off at another.

A 15-passenger shuttle will travel from dorms to Bourgeois Hall from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

A shuttle vehicle will also travel from Cajun Field to Bourgeois Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dudley said the shuttle from Bourgeois to Cajun Field was necessary to make the transit system operate more efficiently. "It's a little more cost effective and it's something that students asked for." ■

## Here's The Word On The Street About UL Lafayette

TO ANYONE DRIVING in Lafayette, the presence of a major university is obvious.

Nearly 200 red banners, which promote UL Lafayette and Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns, hang from utility poles throughout campus and along main thoroughfares. They bear university logos and describe UL Lafayette as a place "where tradition and innovation converge."

"The banners sum up the personality of today's UL Lafayette," said Julie Simon-Dronet, director of the Office of Public Relations and News

Services. "This institution values its heritage but it embraces change and is constantly exploring new initiatives that keep the academic environment supercharged."

Purchase of the banners was made possible, in large part, by student leaders. The Student Government Association and the Union Program Council agreed to add to resources generated through the university's public relations efforts. Lafayette Utilities Systems installed the banners and will help to maintain them at no cost.



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

"I believe the enthusiastic support that students showed for this project reflects their desire to publicly express pride in UL Lafayette," Simon-Dronet said.

"Over the past two decades, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has experienced one success after another in academics, research, athletics, economic development, and community and fan support. These banners are a reminder of the strength of our institution."

She noted that Fortune 500 companies rou-

## On-The-Job Training Will Come in Handy



TRAVIS GAUTHIER

magazine production, from planning content to checking printing quality as pages flow from huge presses.

"Danielle has an obvious aptitude for writing," said Kathleen Thames, editor of *LaLouisiane*. "Her experience with the university's magazine should give her a bit of an edge when she competes with other young writers for jobs in the publishing field."

The magazine Harrison envisions would enable her to combine her desire to write with her interest in other countries. A senior majoring in journalism, she served on UL Lafayette's International Student Council for four years. It helps new international students adjust to their new surroundings and encourages them to participate in campus activities.

Harrison is completing a second year in AmeriCorps, a community service organization. "I like helping people," she said. "I've been helped in my life in many ways."

One of her responsibilities as an AmeriCorps member is after-school tutoring at the Simcoe Housing

Development. This semester, she showed third through 10th graders how to produce a newsletter.

"I wanted to focus on the kids' interests. Many of our students like to read, write and take photographs, so I thought a newsletter would be a wonderful way to have them use their talents. I also used the newsletter as an opportunity to teach them about journalism."

Harrison chose to major in journalism because it's a demanding field. "I like challenges and I think writers are adventurous people."

"Another reason why I chose to be a journalist is because journalists are not confined to one genre. Journalism requires that you be able to 'change gears' as quickly as possible because you can never be sure what type of article you will write next."

After graduating in May, Harrison hopes to travel abroad.

"I want to see how others view my country and its culture. And I would like to see, firsthand, the effect our culture and government have on other countries." ■

tinely recruit UL Lafayette graduates. Also, UL Lafayette grads have earned the respect of several leading companies because of their work ethic and knowledge.

"The timing for banners that display the Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns logo is particularly good, since support for ULLafayette athletics is at a record high," Simon-Dronet added.

## UL Lafayette's Sitting On Top Of The World

UL LAFAYETTE'S STUDENT chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers was recently ranked second best in the world.

That ranking was bestowed by the Society for Petroleum Engineers, which evaluated student chapters on the basis of accreditation, merit scores based on the Accrediting Board for Engineering Technology, overall industry involvement and student leadership in the workforce.

More than 100 universities were considered for ranking by the Society.

UL Lafayette's chapter has about 80 members. Most are petroleum engineering majors. Students majoring in other engineering disciplines, as well as geology and physics, are eligible to join.

Chapter members are exposed to developing technology through conference participation, chapter meetings and contact with practicing professionals.

"I think the students and the department have proven they can compete with just about anybody in the world, not just this country but worldwide," said Dr. Ali Ghalambor, head of UL Lafayette's Petroleum Engineering Department. "These students are really the best. They have done an outstanding job and they deserve all the recognition that comes their way."

SPE is an international technical/professional organization that furthers the use of technology employed in petroleum recovery and related operations.

It is one of the largest organizations in the world. It has a vast online library of technical presentations and papers on petroleum related topics.

New technology and technical information is exchanged among members and industry professionals to advance the operations of petroleum recovery procedures.

## Students Operate On Ambulance Design Flaws

A GROUP OF UL Lafayette industrial design students tackled the challenge of redesigning an ambulance last fall.

Professor Jerome Malinowski, in collaboration with William Vidacovich, vice president of Fleet Maintenance for Acadian Ambulance, issued the assignment to fourth-year industrial design students to give them industry experience.

"A project like this is the difference between hypothetical classroom projects and real-world experiences," Malinowski said. "This is something we may have never dealt with in academia."

Students offered suggestions in response to concerns expressed by paramedics about ambulance design, ranging from lighting to ventilation. For instance, student Jason Blanchard suggested placing a dome top on ambulances to allow for more headroom. Matthew Harrell proposed installing a shelving system that is clear, safe and practically crack resistant.

Vidacovich said many of the students' designs have potential. "It's very possible that these initial concepts could be further developed and eventually find their way into the ambulance industry," he said. "At the very least, they may serve as a springboard for other ideas."

That result was what Malinowski had in mind.

"There is a need to make the business and manufacturing community aware of the industrial design profession and the service potential we have to offer here in Industrial Design," he said.

Students were divided into teams. Each student was required to produce a three-dimensional scale model that represented his or her personal design views, while also incorporating the team's suggestions. ■

# Reach the Right People.

Successful businesses reach the right people at the right time. Let the award-winning university magazine, *La Louisiane*, do the reaching for you. Advertise your business and connect with over 70,000 readers, including 60,000 college graduates.

For more information,  
contact Odie Terry at  
(337) 265-2309.

