



It's likely that anyone who flips through this issue of *La Louisiane* will run across something that elicits a "Wow!"

Odds are, it will be a photograph, because this issue is packed with some extraordinary shots.

Photographer Doug Dugas shows us around the brand new Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, or LITE, in University Research Park. He takes us into a room there called the Total Immersive Space, where virtual reality technology transforms data into three-dimensional graphical images.

Some of his most impressive photos are views of LITE that are visible to anyone who drives by it. When Doug looks at something, he often sees it in a way that most of us cannot. Better yet, he can capture his unique perspective with a camera.

Photographer George Larrieu takes us back in time to see the university's campus as he saw it when he was a young man. He was a Marine recruit when he arrived at Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now known as UL Lafayette, in the 1940s.

The photos he took then, and a few years later when he returned to SLI to finish his degree, are stunning. I saw them first in *L'Acadien* yearbooks and issues of *The Vermilion*, the student newspaper, that I pored through almost 10 years ago while researching the university's history. I phoned Mr. Larrieu then and learned that he had kept most of his negatives.

We met in person when he later attended reunions at the Alumni Center. Over the years, we talked from time to time about making prints from his negatives and slides, but a variety of circumstances kept that from happening.

A couple of weeks ago, I got a phone call from Mr. Larrieu. I was thrilled when he said he was in Lafayette and had brought some of his negatives. Megan Barra, *La Louisiane's* art director, and I went through many of the images with him as he talked about his student days at SLI and his career as a military photographer and photo editor.

We asked Doug to photograph Mr. Larrieu for this issue. Although they are from different generations, they have a lot in common. Both honed their photography skills as students working on campus, for instance. Doug had a part-time job in News Services in Martin Hall in the 1980s.

And, many times, I have heard both men say how much they love their university. Of course, I knew that long before either spoke the words.

It shows in their work.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*.

– Kathleen Thames