

President's Legacy

Authement pledges, 'When I go, we'll be in good shape.'

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT Lafayette had about half a million dollars to invest when Dr. Ray Authement became its president in 1974.

Today, the University of Louisiana Lafayette Foundation has over \$150 million in gifted and pledged assets, which includes over \$122 million in endowments. Through endowments, the university has established perpetual sources of funding, because the principle is invested and left untouched. Only a portion of the earned interest is spent.

Such substantial financial growth was accomplished through the efforts of many people over the past three decades. But Authement, a shrewd money manager, was

the mastermind. His long-term strategy was expressed in the name of the fundraising campaign conducted in conjunction with UL Lafayette's Centennial Celebration in 2000: *Investing in Our Future*.

After serving as the university's president for 33 years, Authement will retire within the next few months. As he predicted in an article published in *The Times of Acadiana* in July 2005, "When I go, we'll be in good shape."

Authement, as university president, is a voting member of the board of trustees of the UL Lafayette Foundation, which is responsible for governance and oversight of endowment management and investment of funds donated to the Foundation on

behalf of the university. "He has been an asset to our governing board, helping us move forward. He has been a visionary with our management of endowments, and with determining what the best needs for the university are," said Julie Bolton Falgout, the Foundation's executive director.

But Authement's relationship with the Foundation is broader than tracking its portfolio. The Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum is an example of a joint project. Lead donor Paul Hilliard, the board and Authement saw a need for a university art museum and worked together to achieve it, Falgout said.

"It was through this generosity of Paul and Lulu Hilliard that we were able to even consider such an expansive project. It has been a tremendous asset to the university," she continued.

The university provided a site on campus for the Foundation's office building, which opened in 2000. "We have a long-term lease. We built the building through a generous donation by Chantal and Forrest K. Dowty," Falgout said.

Authement was also instrumental in establishing a joint operating agreement between the Foundation and UL Lafayette, which serves as the management agreement for the private 501c3 organization with its public institution counterpart. "As a nonprofit entity of the university, it behooves you to have those types of agreements in place," Falgout said. "That was done a number of years ago, before most people even realized that it was considered best practice."

UL Lafayette's Development Office was established in 1991. John T. Landry, director of development, said Authement stressed from the start that its focus would be on endowments. "A lot of universities scramble for operating funds, so basically they're focusing on keeping the doors open. His focus is long-term," Landry said, adding that the permanency of an endowment is compelling to donors.

When the *Investing in Our Future* campaign began in 1997, UL Lafayette's gifted assets totaled about \$45 million. The campaign pitch was based, in large part, on Authement's fiscal responsibility. A booklet given to prospective donors states:

"USL has succeeded because it has always strived to be more than it is, setting its goals higher and higher, fueled by a determined spirit. It has advanced steadily, using limited resources wisely for the maximum benefit. If USL can do so much with so little, what can it do with more? Through support for the *Investing in Our Future* campaign, the answer is clear: anything it puts its mind to."

The original goal was to increase the sum of gifted assets to \$75 million. But by the time the campaign concluded, the total had reached \$100 million.

"That's a testament to the generosity of our public, which includes alums and non-alums. We've had gifts come from people who did not graduate from here, but who realize the importance of the university to the region," Landry said.

There were three co-chairs of the *Investing in Our Future* campaign: Matt Stuller, chairman and chief executive of-

ficer of Stuller Inc.; Clay Allen, an attorney, Allen and Gooch; and Bill Fenstermaker, chairman and chief executive officer of C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates Inc. Honorary co-chairs were Herbert Abdalla, the late Herbert Heymann, former U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston and the late Alfred Lamson. They, in turn, worked with other community leaders to solicit contributions.

supplement faculty salaries.

UL Lafayette has one super chair and twice as many \$1 million endowed chairs – 20 – as any other school in the University of Louisiana System. Louisiana Tech in Ruston has 10, the University of Louisiana at Monroe has seven and Nicholls State University in Thibodaux has six.

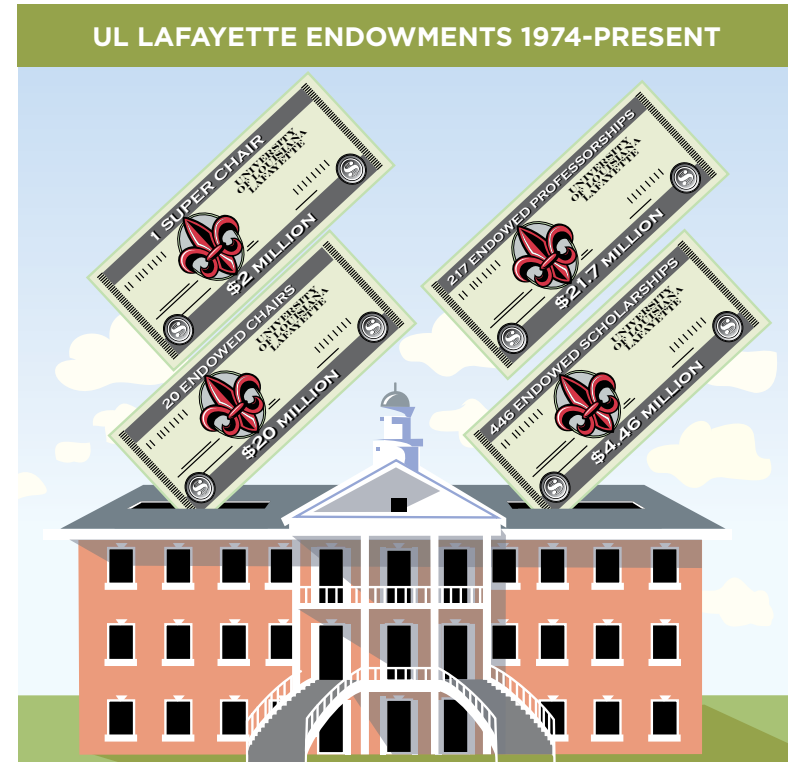
UL Lafayette has almost twice as many \$100,000 endowed professorships – 217 – as any other institution in the UL System. Louisiana Tech in Ruston ranks second, with 126. McNeese University in Lake Charles is third, with 68.

The Foundation manages 446 endowed scholarships, 47 endowed faculty development funds, 226 non-endowed scholarships and 26 non-endowed faculty development funds. Although these are not matched with state monies, they are invested with the Foundation's portfolio and have returned earnings to the accounts each year to help them grow.

Falgout said having such a large sum of endowments and program funds is advantageous because "you can diversify your portfolio quite a bit more to achieve

a greater rate of return. With our growing endowment, we've had the ability to do that. We have some very astute investment managers and board members who have a clear understanding of investment management that allows us to achieve a high rate of return. At the end of the 2007 fiscal year the Foundation's investment portfolio averaged over an 18 percent return. The portfolio is well diversified with an asset allocation blend of 69 percent equities (stocks) and 31 percent fixed income (bonds), which continues to sustain the Foundation's primary investment objective of prudent growth of capital, through conserving principal and enhancing capital appreciations."

For more information about the Foundation, send an e-mail to juliefalgout@louisiana.edu or call (337) 482-0700. To contribute to UL Lafayette, send e-mail to gift@louisiana.edu or call the Office of Development at (337) 482-0922. ■



ANNE DARRAH



Co-chairs of the *Investing in Our Future* campaign – Matt Stuller, Bill Fenstermaker and Clay Allen – created a \$1 million endowed chair in computational mathematics in honor of UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement. Authement received a kiss from his wife, Barbara, when the chair was announced in October 1997. Seated, from left, are Julie Authement Johnson and the late Kathy Authement Prouet.