



*Dr. Ray Authement looks down on Cajun Field from a stadium skybox.*

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But until 1998, Louisiana did not have a statewide community college system, so there were few postsecondary options. Once one was established, UL Lafayette implemented selective admissions, gradually raising the academic requirements.

The results are gratifying: The average ACT scores and high school GPAs of incoming freshmen have been rising steadily. And, UL Lafayette has attracted a record number of high school valedictorians.

So, UL Lafayette's graduation rate will rise, too, in coming years.

### **DOCTORAL II**

For the average person, USL becoming a Southern Regional Economic Board Doctoral II university in 1992 was hardly a reason to pop open a bottle of champagne. But for the university, it was cause for celebration.

One reason: The Louisiana Board of Regents allocates more state funding to Doctoral II universities. So, UL Lafayette received an extra \$2.023 million.

That "big step" took five years to achieve. It started when Authement committed to an expansion of the doctoral fellowship program at USL. The fellowship program steadily increased the number of doctoral candidates at the university.

### **NCAA DIVISION 1**

After the National Collegiate Athletic Association decided in 1973 to create competitive divisions, only three Louisiana universities chose to join the top tier – Division I.

They were: Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (then known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana); and Tulane University in New Orleans.

In general, larger schools compete in Division I.

NCAA Division I members voted in 1978 to create three subdivisions, 1-A, 1-AA and 1-AAA. Again, the larger universities sought the top tier, 1-A. So did Authement.

Ultimately, all major Louisiana universities joined Division I. But not all made the climb to Division 1-A. This year, there are four state, public universities in Division 1-A: LSU, UL Lafayette, UL Monroe and Louisiana Tech.

In addition to conveying prestige, the Division 1-A designation affects guarantees and scholarships. "Guarantees" refers to the amount a team will pay an opponent to entice it to play. Guarantees are much bigger in Division 1-A. Also, Division 1-A programs can offer more scholarships.

NCAA Division 1-A affects the status of other university sports by increasing a school's visibility and boosting its image.

Dan McDonald, a sports writer for *The Advertiser*, Lafay-

# Leading the Way

**DURING DR. RAY P. AUTHEMENT'S PRESIDENCY, UL LAFAYETTE HAS BUILT AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF 'FIRSTS.' SOME EXAMPLES:**

### **FIRST UNIVERSITY IN LOUISIANA TO:**

- acquire MULTICS computer system (second in the nation after MIT)
- install a fiber optic backbone on campus
- earn a Doctoral II research designation
- develop a center dedicated just to job creation
- use computerized patient simulators to train student nurses
- obtain an atom smasher
- have its students design and launch a working satellite
- establish an Americorps service learning program
- create a finance, insurance and risk management program
- compete in the prestigious DARPA Grand Challenge for robotic vehicles (CajunBot)
- establish a marine survival training center
- offer a bachelor's degree with specialization in computer graphics and animation
- establish an intensive care laboratory for nursing students

### **FIRST UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH/SOUTHEAST TO:**

- create a master's degree in computer engineering
- establish a Ph.D. in cognitive science
- offer a bachelor's degree in industrial design
- acquire equipment that could manufacture compact discs

### **FIRST UNIVERSITY IN NATION TO:**

- establish a birthing lab, with computerized patient simulators, for nursing students
- offer bachelor's degree in telecommunications
- appoint a black vice president at (a predominantly white university)
- establish a digital immersive visualization center to be shared by government, private industry and academia
- be designated as an apparel computer integrated manufacturing center
- establish a center to promote bilingualism

### **NORTH AMERICA:**

- to offer a Ph.D. in Francophone studies