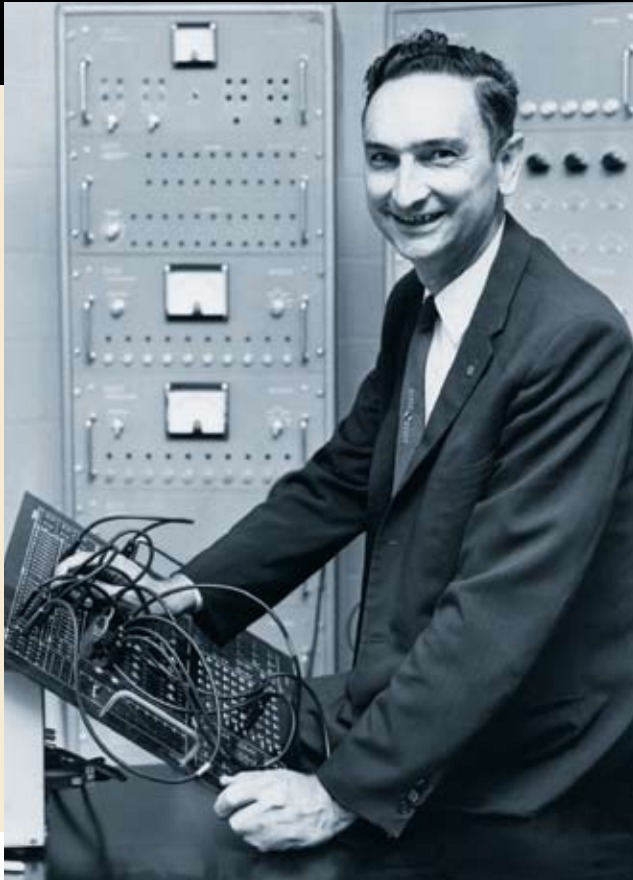


LOFLIN RECOGNIZED POTENTIAL OF 'ELECTRONIC BRAIN'



Dr. Z. L. "Zeke" Loflin was interested in computers long before computers were cool.

He helped Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now UL Lafayette) obtain a rare analog "electronic brain machine" in 1954. Zeke, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's first supercomputer, is named in Loflin's honor.

In 1954, *The Vermilion* student newspaper described the analog computer as an "amazing machine" that "can solve in seconds complex problems too involved for quick solutions by old methods..."

"When the switches are thrown, the machine goes to work instantly, lights flash and the answer to the problem is written on an electronically operated pen. Qualified operators can interpret the graph."

Loflin joined the SLI faculty in 1940. He was head of the Mathematics Department from 1946 until his retirement in 1969. He later taught at Louisiana College in Pineville, La.

During his career, Loflin also conducted research on oil reservoirs, chromatography, mud logging, petroleum mass spectrometry analysis, and measure theory in mathematical analysis. He died in 1982. ■

At UL Lafayette's Center for Advanced Computer Studies, faculty members and students will be able to conduct research in several areas with LONI's help. Those areas include:

- the design and testing of grid computing software;
- multimedia applications;
- information technology solutions;
- robotics and autonomous vehicles, and;
- computers and microelectronics systems.

The high-speed network will allow CACS researchers to exchange data sets from around the world. The computing power, especially when enhanced by the grid computing through the network, will let faculty members and students tackle problems of much larger scales.

Their research will result in:

- better reliability and scalability of grid computing systems;
- delivery of valuable biomedical information and knowledge services to physicians, biomedical researchers, and healthcare practitioners;

- new computing systems, microelectronics circuits and sensor networks;
- intelligent traffic systems; and
- an improved ability to predict weather, sediment transport and flooding.

"On this historic day for technological advancement, we would be remiss not to acknowledge President Authement's visionary leadership. Zeke is the culmination of over three decades of research and economic development prioritization at this university," said Dr. Sally Clausen, University of Louisiana System president. "Harnessing faculty brainpower through LONI will enable Louisiana to compete in the global economy."

LONI and the Lambda Rail have far-reaching implications for Louisiana's ability to compete in research and its long-term economic development potential. Many Louisiana universities are already engaged in potentially valuable research that will be exponentially enhanced by LONI and the Lambda Rail.

Dr. Joseph Savoie, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education, said connecting Zeke to LONI signaled "the

final stretch of LONI implementation in Louisiana." He noted that LONI is already benefitting Louisiana's research institutions.

This year, he added, "LONI will begin to show its true potential for our state, not only for our universities, but also for our economic future."

Blanco said that as LONI moves Louisiana to the forefront of national research capability, "it also enhances the environment for the kind of technology-based economic development from which our state can most benefit. A diversified economy will keep our state on the grow and LONI paves the high-tech highway to get us there."

Zeke is across the street from LITE, one of the world's leading 3-D visualization and supercomputing resource centers. Its leading-edge research complex features a comprehensive set of advanced visualization systems, including a sophisticated interactive 3-D theater and one of the first six-sided, digital 3-D total immersive spaces. ■

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