

Giving More

Members show support for university through Annual Fund



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ANNUAL FUND RECEIVE:

- Alumni Association membership
- Recognition in publications
- *La Louisiane* magazine
- *Alumni Accents* newsletter
- Association voting privileges
- Travel program offerings
- Homecoming, reunion, and special events invitations
- Edith Garland Dupré Library privileges
- National discounts
- Discounts at UL Lafayette and Follett's bookstores
- Discounts from Lafayette area businesses
- Discounts to Performing Arts Department events
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities
- Membership card
- Recognition gifts
- Discounted membership to the Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum
- Complimentary entrance to Alumni Association's hospitality tent at all home Ragin' Cajun football games

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE year, the UL Lafayette Alumni Association's Annual Fund has raised a record-breaking amount.

"Prior to last year, the largest dollar amount was in 1996, right after the Ragin' Cajuns defeated A&M," said Dan Hare, executive director of the Alumni Association. "The Annual Fund peaked again in 2006. This past year, it surpassed that amount. So we are pleased that the past two years have been record breakers."

The 2007 Annual Fund brought in about \$343,000, according to Association records.

Through the Annual Fund, donors can contribute to any area of the university, such as an academic college.

There's a built-in incentive to donate: membership in the UL Alumni Association. A couple can join with a \$60 donation to the Annual Fund; an individual can join with a \$40 contribution. Recent UL Lafayette graduates only need to contribute \$20 to become an Association member.

"Membership matters," Hare said. "The Association exists to support the university, while strengthening the ties between alumni and their alma mater."

In addition to the satisfaction of helping the university, Association members enjoy some specific benefits, such as discounts from area businesses and national companies, discounts on tickets to UL Lafayette's Performing Arts Department events and complimentary entry to the Association's hospitality tent at all Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns® home football games.

Association members are eli-

gible for discounts from Dell Computers, for example. "We've had people tell us that the discount on the Dell computer they purchased was more than what they paid to be a member of the Alumni Association," Hare said.

In the past few years, the Association has taken some steps to increase its membership, such as making it more convenient for some graduates to join. It set up payroll deduction for UL Lafayette employees and extended the reduced membership cost for new graduates to five years, for example.


The Association works continually to improve its programs and services, such as scholarships. Its scholarships are funded, in part, by the Annual Fund. Scholarships are also supported by the sale of prestige license plates.

"We recently doubled our 10 scholarship endowments. In the past, we had \$10,000 endowments that would each generate a \$500 scholarship annually. They are now \$20,000 endowments that each generate \$1,000 a year," Hare said.

At its annual Spring Gala in April, the Association announced the establishment of an endowed scholarship in honor of the university's president and his wife: the Dr. and Mrs. Ray Authement Endowed Scholarship for a First Generation Student.

"While Annual Fund contributions for the past two years have surpassed previous years' successes, the Alumni Association's membership represents only 9 percent of our alumni base," Hare said. "We are thankful for the supporters that we have and encourage others to join them in their support to enable us to maintain and continue to improve our programs and services."

For more information about Alumni Association membership, call (337) 482-0900.

 www.louisianaalumni.org