

BUILDING BEARS NAME OF COMPUTER SCIENCE LEADER

The Advanced Computer and Technology Research building has a new name: James R. Oliver Hall.

Oliver is credited with putting UL Lafayette on the national map by establishing one of the first university computer science programs.

"Thanks to his commitment and guidance, UL Lafayette became a pioneer in the field of computer science. Today, the university's computer science program and Center for Advanced Computer Studies maintain national and international reputations for quality and innovation," said UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie during a ceremony on Oct. 30. The event was part of the two-day Louisiana Computing Carnival 2009, which marked 50 years of computer science at UL Lafayette and the 25th anniversary of CACS.

Savoie noted that Oliver's appreciation of computer science "was one of the keys to Lafayette's ultimate development as a community that capitalizes on technology."

He cited the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise in University Research Park as an example. It's the only 3-D visualization facility of its kind that's accessible to private industry in North America. LITE's backbone is a network of supercomputers connected by fiber optic technology.



James R. Oliver



James R. Oliver Hall

Oliver developed UL Lafayette's bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in the 1960s. He obtained a grant from the National Science Foundation to acquire an IBM 1620, the first digital computer used on UL Lafayette's campus, in 1960.

Oliver also formed the first student chapter – in the world – of the Association of Computing Machinery. Today, there are over 500 ACM student chapters in 30 countries.

He retired in 1981, after serving as UL Lafayette's dean of Academic and Financial Planning and vice president for Administrative Affairs. He died July 19, 1998.

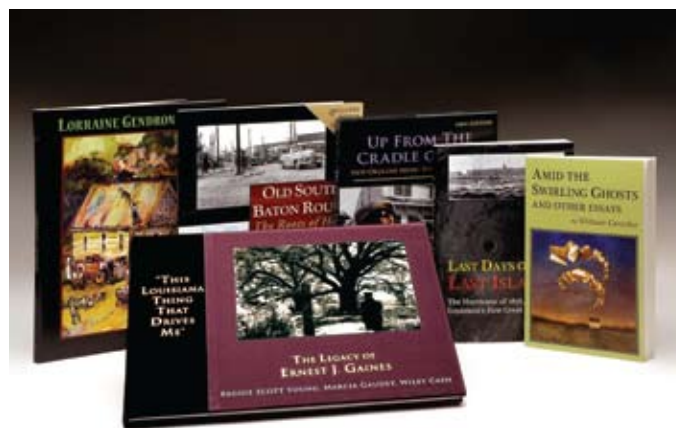
UL Lafayette Well-Represented at State Book Festival

THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA at Lafayette Press had more titles on the 2009 Louisiana Book Festival program than any other publisher.

The event drew more than 21,000 book lovers to the State Capitol grounds in Baton Rouge in October.

With the recent downturn in the nation's economy, many university presses have been significantly scaled back. But UL Lafayette Press is in the midst of one of its best years ever and continues to be the world's leading publisher of exclusively Louisiana-related books, publishing 10 to 12 new titles annually.

UL Lafayette Press began publishing books as the Center for Louisiana Studies in 1973. It had \$200 in funding and used typewriters to produce its first



books. Nearly 40 years later, the press has become a nationally competitive book publisher.

UL Lafayette Press premiered a volume about author Ernest J. Gaines, UL Lafayette's writer-in-residence emeritus, at this year's Book Festival.

This Louisiana Thing That Drives

Me: The Legacy of Ernest J. Gaines is a coffee table book that covers Gaines' life, career and legacy. It was written by Dr. Marcia Gaudet, the Dr. Doris Meriwether/BORSF Professor of English; Dr. Reggie Scott Young, an associate professor of English at UL Lafayette; and Wiley Cash, who earned his doctorate from UL Lafayette.

Proceeds from book sales will help fund the Ernest J. Gaines Center, which is under construction on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus. Gaines donated a new collection of papers and manuscripts to the center in October. UL Lafayette will have the only complete collection of Ernest J. Gaines scholarship in the world.