

## Cajun Nation

Clubs, chapters help alumni keep in touch

**U**NIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE alumni are all over the map. And Alumni Association Executive Director Dan Hare and his staff regularly connect with graduates all across the country.

Hare recalled some of the places he's visited.

"I've been to a crawfish boil on a beach in California, and to a crawfish boil

just down the road from Mt. Vernon, in the Washington, D.C., area. I've been to crawfish boils in Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Houston."

Hare said crawfish boils, "hosted by loyal volunteers" have become a signature spring event for Ragin' Cajun alumni.

Part of his job is to identify and recruit future volunteer leaders who will carry on Ragin' Cajun traditions and lend support to their alma mater. To do that, he and his staff keep tabs on where alumni reside.

The Association maintains a database of alumni addresses, which is updated daily. It now contains 73,588 records.

That total does not reflect the exact number of living alumni, Hare explained, only those for whom the Association currently has records on file. Nonetheless, the database is an interesting reflection of where students go after they graduate.

Most stay in Louisiana. More than 52,000 addresses, or 70 percent, are within the Bayou State. The second-largest group of Ragin' Cajuns, 10 percent, hang their hats in Texas. The rest live throughout the United States and abroad, with pockets of UL Lafayette alumni in major metropolitan

areas such as Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles and Denver.

A Lafayette company is helping the Alumni Association picture those demographics. C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates Inc. specializes in engineering, environmental consulting, surveying and mapping.

It took the database and created a map showing where alumni turn up across the 50 states. Hare uses the visual aid in presentations and finds it especially useful when he is talking with future graduates. "They're getting ready to embark on the next chapter of their lives. It's exciting, but there's also a great deal of uncertainty. It helps them to know – and to see, in a tangible way – that there's a network of support out there for them.


"That's part of what we do within the Alumni Association. Networking, helping new graduates make connections – and keeping strong connections between the alumni and the university."

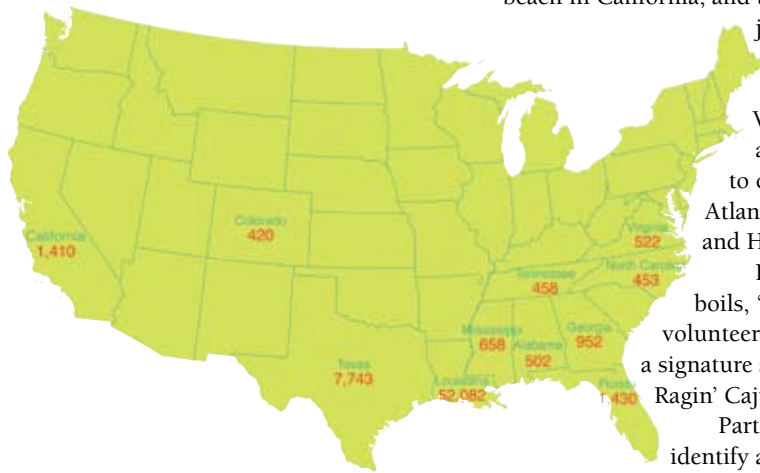
UL Lafayette alumni may join two types of constituent groups: Ragin' Cajun Clubs, which are geographically based, and Alumni Chapters, which reflect a specific college, major or interest group.

Both clubs and chapters hold social functions. Some include an aspect of service, along with fellowship. Several groups have funded scholarships. The Alumni Band is an active chapter whose members perform at UL Lafayette basketball games, often filling in for the student band between semesters.

The association stays in touch with its members, but just because an alum isn't part of an organized group, that doesn't mean he or she is excluded, said Hare.

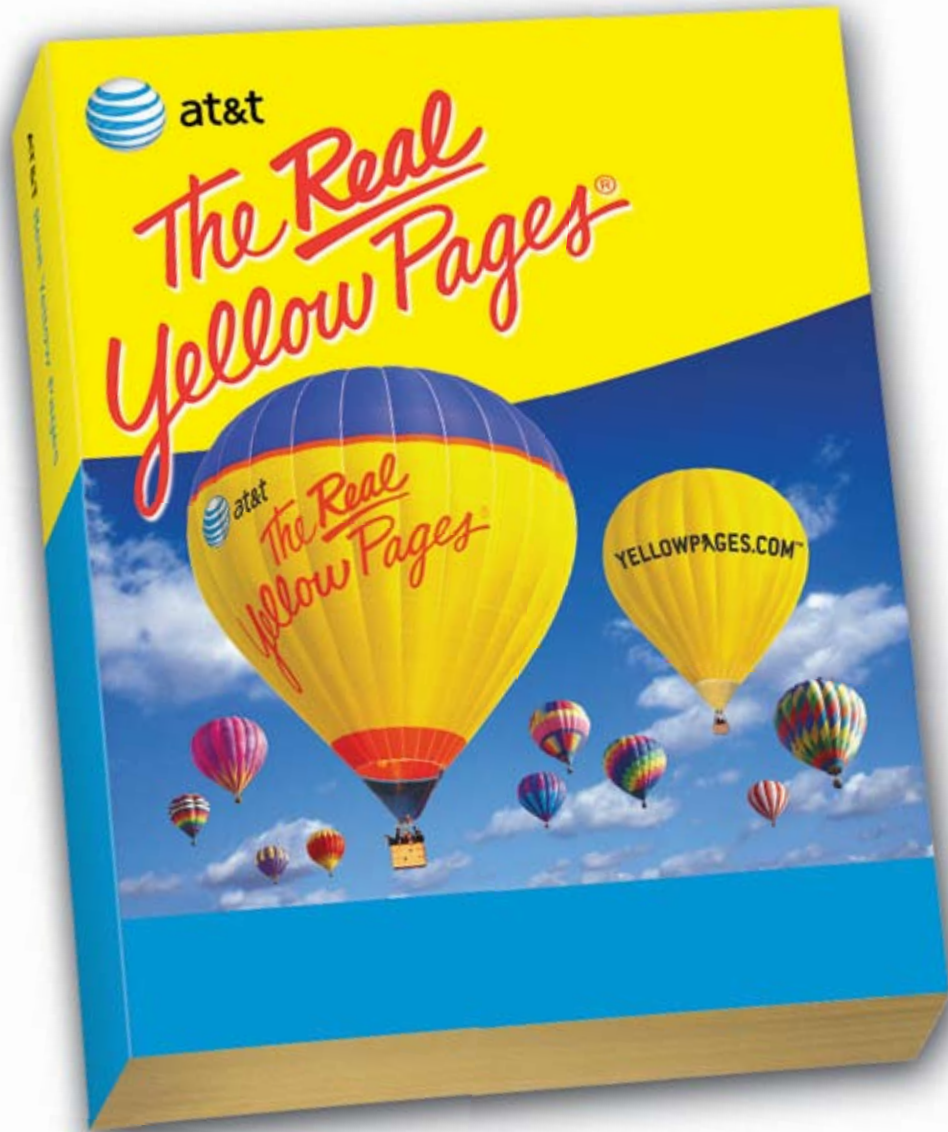
"Even if we don't have an established club or chapter in a particular area, we will often create an opportunity for alumni to get together." ■

 [www.louisianaalumni.org](http://www.louisianaalumni.org)



UL Lafayette grads gravitate to the southeast. Shown here are the numbers of alumni in Louisiana, plus the top 10 states outside of Louisiana.

If it's not this book,  
it's not the real book.



# ALUMNI

## 1951

**LILYB MOSKAL** was recently inducted into the Louisiana Center for Women and Government's Hall of Fame. She is a certified motivational speaker who



has conducted many leadership workshops to encourage more women to get involved with public service and to seek elected office. Over the past 25 years, she has spoken at national and state conventions and conferences held by professional and political organizations. Moskal served on local, state and national boards of the Federation of Republican Women and has campaigned for several candidates for public office, including a son, Quentin Dastugue, who was elected as the youngest member of the Louisiana Legislature in 1981. She also organized networking groups for women in Louisiana and Florida. A former licensed real estate broker, Moskal earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication and broadcasting from SLI. She and her husband, Tom Moskal, live in Lafayette. They have two daughters, Danon Dastugue and Cheré Dastugue Coen, and two sons, Quentin Dastugue and Paul F. Dastugue.

## 1952

**JOHN LYONS O'DONNELL JR.** is retired after two careers. He served as a U.S. Air Force pilot for 33 years before retiring in 1980. O'Donnell retired in 1994 as director of facilities at the University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. He earned a bachelor's degree in education

from SLI. He and his wife, Arlene O'Donnell, live in Champaign, Ill. The couple have six children.

## 1955

**DR. DONN BOWERS** was elected chief of staff at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Miss., in October 2008. He is medical director of the Wound Management and



Hyperbaric Medicine Department and has held many staff leadership positions. Bowers received a bachelor's degree from SLI and a medical degree from LSU Medical School at New Orleans.

## 1957

**KENNETH MELVIN BONNET** retired in 1985 from the Internal Revenue Service, where he was a computer analyst. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from SLI. Bonnet and his wife, Joycelyn Evans Bonnet, live in Metairie, La. The couple have four children.

## 1970

**CHARLES BACKUS** was recently named the first recipient of a newly endowed \$2 million chair at Texas A&M University Press. The Edward R. Campbell '39 Press Director's chair was established by John Tom Campbell in his late brother's honor. It is believed to be the first such chair for a press director in the country. Backus has served as director of Texas A&M University Press since 2000. He was previously director of the presses at Syracuse University and Vanderbilt University. Backus earned a bachelor's degree in history from USL, where he was

the first person to be named Outstanding Liberal Arts Graduate. He holds a doctorate in Chinese history from Princeton. Backus and his wife, Anne, live in Taylor Lake Village, Texas.

## 1974

After 25 years as a businessman, **JOEL C. RICHERT** has returned to teaching. He taught high school for three years in the 1970s before taking over a family-owned bulk oil and fuel distributorship, Richert Oil Inc. He served as president of the Louisiana Oil Marketers Association. In December 2008, Richert received a master's degree in chemistry and environmental sciences from McNeese State University. He teaches science at Notre Dame High School in Crowley, La., where he also serves as department chair. He works part time in the McNeese Chemistry Department, mentoring graduate students. Richert holds a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation from USL. He is married to **DONNA DAUTERIVE RICHERT, '74**, who recently retired after 25 years of teaching. She is an active community volunteer. The couple, who live in Jennings, La., have two children and four grandchildren.

## 1978

**JON DONLON** is a professor at Tokai University in Japan, where his research focuses on the integration of festivals and social capital. Donlon earned two bachelor's degrees at USL, one in photography and painting in 1978 and another in humanities in 1983. He holds a doctoral degree in leisure behavior from the University of Illinois. He and his wife, **JOCELYN H. DONLON, '79, '82**, own Donlon and Donlon Con-

sulting, which has offices in the United States and Asia. They specialize in cultural and folklore-related issues and have consulted with clients in many countries, including Egypt, China, Japan and Vietnam.

## 1979

**CHERYL RINGUETTE CIAMARRA** is a speech pathologist in private practice in Birmingham, Ala. A communications consultant, she serves on the National Right



to Life Board as director for Alabama Citizens for Life. She also hosts the "Focus on Life Radio" program on WXJC in Birmingham and hosted "Inside Pro-life," an Eternal Word Television Network worldwide radio special. Ciamarra is a lay missionary of the Gospel of Life, a program developed by Priests for Life, a pro-life, not-for-profit organization. She holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from USL. She also earned a master's degree in communications disorders from Louisiana State University Medical Center. She has five children.

## 1981

Attorney **RANDALL FORET** has joined the law firm of Curran Tomko Tarski LLP in Dallas in its oil and gas section. Before attending law school, he was a drilling fluids engineer, working on offshore drilling rigs along the California coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Foret earned a bachelor's degree in education from USL and a juris doctorate from Temple University's Beasley

School of Law. His practice focuses on business, securities and energy-related litigation.

**JODY THIBODEAUX** is director of Acadiana District Senior Olympic Games, which includes eight south Louisiana parishes. She also is president of the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games board of directors. The Senior Olympic Games is a non-profit organization that helps promote physical fitness and improved quality of life for those who are 50 and older. Thibodeaux holds a bachelor's degree in education.

## 1982

**VERNON TANNER** is executive vice president of North Georgia Bank. As a member of the Georgia Bankers Association, he was vice chairman of Georgia's largest banking



conference. Tanner is an active community service volunteer. He recently served as chairman for a public facilities authority, helping to create an \$11 million bond to build new school facilities. An ordained deacon in the Presbyterian Church of America, Tanner also participates in triathlon sprints throughout the southeastern United States. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. Tanner and his wife, **KAREN ESCOYNE TANNER '82**, have been married for 25 years and live in Athens, Ga. They have three sons, Jon Tanner, Daniel Tanner and **DAVID TANNER**, a UL Lafayette student who is majoring in business and is a member of the Ragin' Cajun basketball team.

## 1990

**SHAREE BROUSSARD**, a communication arts instructor at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala., was named Alabama's Educator of the Year 2008 by the



Public Relations Council of Alabama. Also in 2008, she received the Dawson Service Award, which recognizes outstanding

# A Look Back



1928

A physical education class performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Cypress Grove on May 26, 1928. The grove, once a pig sty, was used for performances and commencement ceremonies before it was intentionally flooded during World War II.

teaching research and service by Spring Hill College faculty. Broussard is a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from USL and a master's degree in public relations from USM.

**SAM SEAMANS** serves his community of Mountain Home, Ark., as both priest and police officer. A suffragan bishop in the United Episcopal Church of North America,



he is rector of St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Mountain Home. He holds the rank of sergeant in the Mountain Home Police Department, where he is a community resource officer. He is a certified hospice chaplain and chaplain for the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as his own department. Seamans, who holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from USL, is a certified training officer

and law enforcement instructor in Arkansas. Seamans and his wife, Olga Seamans, have two children.

**ALLEN ULRICH** is president and part owner of Halo Inspection Services, which inspects rigging and lifting services for the offshore oil industry. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from USL. He and his wife, **DEBORAH REEDER ULRICH '93**, live in River Ridge, La. They have three children, Matthew, Allison and Reagan.

## 1991

**SHARON CHARLES-BRACKENS** is president and owner of Nutrition and Health Services Inc., in Mobile, Ala., which provides health education lectures to clients and consultation services to health care providers. She holds a bachelor's degree in dietetics from USL and a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University. Charles-Brackens earned a doctorate in health science from Nova South-

eastern University in 2008. She is married to Darren W. Brackens Sr. and has two children, Ashlie Charles and Darren Brackens Jr.

## 1996

**DR. ROBIN CRISLER-ROBERTS** is a laboratory animal veterinarian at Indiana University School of Medicine. In July 2008, she earned certification as a specialist in her field, becoming

### 1900-1921

Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute

### 1921-1960

Southwestern Louisiana Institute

### 1960-1999

University of Southwestern Louisiana

### 1999-PRESENT

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

## ALUMNI INFORMATION FORM

If you enjoy reading about where your former classmates are now and what they're doing, consider this: They'd like to read about you, too. Please fill out the form below and mail it back to UL Lafayette or go to [www.louisiana.edu/louisiane](http://www.louisiana.edu/louisiane) to submit the information online.

### NAME

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

### ADDRESS

STREET OR BOX

CITY STATE ZIP

### PHONE

HOME OFFICE

### E-MAIL

### FAX

### MAJOR & DATE OF GRADUATION

OR THE SEMESTER YOU LAST ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY

### CURRENT JOB TITLE

### BUSINESS NAME

### BUSINESS ADDRESS

### PROFESSIONAL DUTIES

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### SPOUSE'S NAME

FIRST MIDDLE LAST MAIDEN NAME

### SPOUSE'S USL OR UL LAFAYETTE GRADUATION DATE

AND MAJOR, IF A FORMER USL STUDENT

### CHILDREN

(IF ANY ARE UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS OR USL GRADUATES, PLEASE INDICATE)

### CURRENT DATE

Please mail this form to *La Louisiane*, Box 41009, Lafayette, LA 70504-1009 or send it online at [www.louisiana.edu/louisiane](http://www.louisiana.edu/louisiane)

a Diplomate in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. She earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from USL, and a master's degree and doctorate of veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Dr. Christopher Roberts, also a veterinarian, live in Danville, Ind.

**MICHELLE M. CARR** is a partner and clinic director at Acadiana



Doctors of Chiropractic in Lafayette. After earning a bachelor's degree in general studies at USL, she continued her studies at Texas

Chiropractic College, completing a bachelor's degree in human biology and earning a doctorate of chiropractic degree. During her internship, she participated in the hospital rotation program at Houston Medical Center, which included family medicine and neurology. Carr is licensed to practice acupuncture in Texas. She also serves on the Texas Chiropractic College Alumni Association Board. She has one son, André Carr.

## 1997

**ELIZABETH ROBICHAUX BROWN** is coordinating producer of Fox News in New York City, where she provides news content to nearly 200 Fox News affiliates around the world. Brown has covered major news stories, such as the 2008 political conventions, the recent Hudson River plane

crash and Pope Benedict's visit to New York City. A former news producer in Lafayette and Baton Rouge, she is married to **WILL S. BROWN, '01**.

A research grant allowed **MICHAEL EBLE**, an assistant professor of art at the University of Minnesota Morris, to create an art exhibit focusing on coastal erosion and wetland loss in Louisiana. The works in "Endangered Landscape," are based on aerial photographs of Louisiana's southeastern coastline. A New Orleans native, Eble earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from USL and a master's degree in painting and drawing from the University of Mississippi. He is married to **PILAR BLANCO EBLE, '97**. The couple have four children, Ben Michael, Eli, Miles and Oliver.

**LEE A. WHITE** was recently named a partner in the Jackson Walker LLC law firm in Dallas. He is a partner in the real estate practice group. White earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from USL and holds a juris doctorate from Louisiana State University.

## 1998

**MICHELLE DOUCET** is the owner of Doucet Legal Nurse Consulting LLC. As a certified legal nurse consultant, she works with attorneys on medical-related cases. She also attends independent medical examinations. Doucet, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from USL, is a member of the National Alliance of Certified Legal Nurse Consultants.

## UL Lafayette Alumni Association

Become a Member Because It Matters



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Website:  
[www.LOUISIANAalumni.org](http://www.LOUISIANAalumni.org)

## 2001

In February, **LAUREN MATHEWS** was promoted to associate professor of biology and biotechnology at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass. She was also granted tenure. Mathews joined WPI as an assistant professor in 2003 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University. An ecologist, she conducts research on genetics in conservation biology and molecular ecology, specifically in the areas of phylogeography, evolutionary processes and the evolution of social behavior. She earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Connecticut College and a doctorate in environmental and evolutionary biology from UL Lafayette.

**THOMAS L. STAGG** works in New Orleans as a clinical social worker with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in general studies from UL Lafayette.

**CHRISSEY THREAT** earned a doctorate in history in December 2008 from the University of Iowa. She lives in Boston, where she is an assistant professor of history at Northeastern University. Threat holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a master's degree in history from UL Lafayette.

## IN MEMORIAM

**MARION FLEMING WEBER, '44**, died Jan. 1, 2009, at the age of 87. Valedictorian of her graduating class, she held a bachelor's degree in home economics and chemistry from SLI and was an instructor of chemistry at her alma mater from 1944 to 1945. After earning a master's degree in textile chemistry and clothing from Pennsylvania State University in 1946, Weber was an assistant professor of textile and clothing at Louisiana State University for two years. In 1963, she joined the Penn State faculty as a part-time instructor, later becoming assistant to the dean in the College of Human Development, the position she held until her retirement in 1983. She is survived by a son, Robert Fleming Weber; two daughters, Meredith Anne Weber and Ruth Eaton Weber; and three grandchildren. She was preceded in

death by her husband, Robert L. Weber, and their daughter, Karen Louise Weber.

**MAITLAND A. "BUTCH" STEELE, '50**, died Nov. 10, 2008, in McComb, Miss., at age 81. He held a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from SLI and was a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Steele worked as a civil engineer for Freeport Minerals, retiring after 29 years. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in the U.S. Naval Reserve. At the time of his death, Steele was a deacon at First Baptist Church in McComb; he taught Sunday school for more than 60 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, **DONNA COCHRAN STEELE, '50**; two daughters, Barbara Brown and Beverly Gaia; a son, Allen James Steele; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**HARDY F. EDMISTON JR., '52**, died Dec. 5, 2008, in Lafayette. He held a bachelor's degree in business administration from SLI. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-54.



A devoted and enthusiastic supporter of the university, he was engaged in volunteer and philanthropic efforts for more than 50 years. Edmiston was an active member of the UL Lafayette Foundation for many years and ultimately served as a board trustee emeritus. His contributions to the university included extensive Athletic Department projects and programs, such as serving as chairman of a UL Lafayette football season ticket drive. He was a member of an advisory task force for UL Lafayette's Investing in Our Future fund drive. Edmiston was a recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. An independent landman and oil and gas operator, he was founder and president of Cree Oil Co. and co-owner of Workover Equipment Rentals/WE Services Co. He was past president of the Lafayette Association of Petroleum Landmen and U.S. Congressional ombudsman for the petroleum industry. Edmiston helped raise funds for many community service organizations, local youth sports events and the Episcopal

Church of the Ascension. He was a past recipient of the Heymann Foundation Civic Participation Award. Survivors include his wife, Mary Flannagan Edmiston; two sons, **DAVID EDMISTON, '82** and **STEVEN EDMISTON '84**; two daughters, Susan Guidry and Nancy E. Schuler; a stepson, Scott Hymel; a sister, June Lacy; nine grandchildren; one nephew; one niece; and one cousin.

**LYNN J. DESSELLE, '61**, died April 1, 2009, in Lafayette. He was 70. Desselles was dean of UL Lafayette's College of Applied Life Sciences from 1981-98. He had



previously served as an assistant professor and department head. Desselles held a bachelor's degree in agronomy from USL and a master's degree and doctorate from Iowa State University. He was district governor of Rotary International from 1999 to 2000. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, **BARBARA AVANT DESSELLE, '63**; one son, Lynn Joseph Desselles Jr.; one daughter, Valerie Desselles Landry; three sisters, Janelle Michel, Doris Cloutre and Nancy Cosper; five brothers, Ronald Desselles, Jules Desselles, Phillip Desselles, Ernest Desselles and **JOHN DESSELLE, '86**; and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a sister, Eugenia Desselles.

**JOSEPH GIAMMALVA JR., '69**, died Dec. 31, 2007. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from USL and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Loyola University New Orleans. Survivors include his wife, **BEVERLY A. DISALVO GIAMMALVA, '69**; a daughter, Gina G. Bellott; and a grandson, William Joseph Bellott.

**VINCE MARINO, '71, '78**, died Feb. 15, 2009, in Lafayette after an extended illness. He was 91. Marino was editor emeritus of *The Advertiser*, Lafayette's daily newspaper, where he worked for more than 50 years before retiring in 2001. Marino also taught at UL Lafayette for 20 years. He served in the U.S. Army's Signal Corps in the European Theater during World War II. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from LSU and master's and doctoral degrees

from USL. Marino was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine LeBlanc Marino of Lafayette; four sons, Michael Marino of Manhattan, N.Y., Vince Al Marino of Brooklyn, N.Y., Jonathan Marino of Lafayette and Donald "Seppi" Marino of San Francisco; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sons, Brooks Marino and **JOHN MARINO, '90**.

Family and friends held a memorial service in July for **PAUL ABDON CALLAIS, '90**. He is believed to have fallen off the deck of a family-owned boat on June 25, 2008; the U.S. Coast Guard called off its search in the Caribbean Sea two days later. Callais was president and chief executive officer of United Community Bank in Gonzales, La. He held a bachelor's degree in business administration from USL. He was also a graduate of the Louisiana School of Banking, a program of the Louisiana Bankers Association, and the LSU Graduate School of Banking. Survivors include his wife, Danielle LeBlanc Callais, and their three children, Christopher, Claire and Caitlyn. He is also survived by his mother, Gloria Bienvenu Callais, and two brothers, Charles Michael Callais and Corey Callais. His brother, Peter Callais, died in November 2008. He was preceded in death by his father, **HAROLD JOSEPH CALLAIS, '59**.

**CLIFFORD J. "FROSTY" COUVILLION** died Sept. 19, 2008, in Baton Rouge, La. He was 84. Couvillion attended SLI. A staff sergeant with the U.S. Air Force, he served in the Pacific Theater and was awarded the Purple Heart. Following his military service, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service and retired as postmaster in Cottonport, La. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, **LUCILLE DUFOUR COUVILLION, '44**; a son, **CORNEL COUVILLION, '73**; two sisters, Patricia C. Tassin and Louisa C. Bordelon; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

