



**I never** dreamed that Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California and a former Mr. Universe, would help me define *La Louisiane*.

For years, I've been trying to think of the perfect metaphor for this magazine. I believe that when UL Lafayette's students, faculty and staff open an issue, they should see themselves reflected in it. At the same time, the magazine should let other readers peek inside the university, so they can learn about some of the interesting people and projects here.

I was watching one of Schwarzenegger's comedies, "True Lies," recently. His character, Harry Tasker, has a double life. His wife, Helen, believes he's a mild-mannered computer salesman who must travel a lot. But Harry is actually a secret agent.

The movie's plot unfolds when Harry suspects Helen is having an affair. There's a scene in which he interrogates her without revealing his identity, using an audio filter to disguise his voice. A huge two-way mirror separates them. He can see her through the glass; she can only see her reflection.

That's when it hit me: *La Louisiane* is like a two-way mirror.

It's an especially fitting comparison for this issue. The cover story offers 25 ways that UL Lafayette, its students and faculty serve others. That number is almost arbitrary. It could have just as easily covered 50 or 500 ways.

Frankly, the cover story is an unabashed gimmick intended to inform or remind readers that the university is a huge force and resource in Acadiana and Louisiana. But you'll see many other articles about generous students, faculty and alumni. Here are some examples.

- Nursing student Amanda Noble provides prom dresses to girls who can't afford them.
- Graduate student Scott T. Walter is part of a research project that could ultimately help repopulate Louisiana's coast with brown pelicans. An article about his work is slated to appear in *National Geographic* magazine in August.
- Joseph Sonnier earned a bachelor's degree in education while working full time as an elementary school janitor in Port Barre, La. It took him eight years. Now he's a teacher in the same school and plans to become a school principal someday.

So, whether you're a student, faculty member or alum, or someone who is interested in what's going on at this university, we hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*. You may see yourself, or someone you know, on its pages.

– Kathleen Thames