

TRUE COLORS

25

WAYS UL LAFAYETTE
ENRICHES THE COMMUNITY

AS THE LATEST DEAN OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, DR. DAVID YARBROUGH HAS BEEN GIVEN the task of completing a detailed database that lists all the ways UL Lafayette's faculty, staff and students serve others. It is an unenviable task. There are times when the associate professor must feel like Sisyphus of Greek mythology, condemned for eternity to push a large rock up a hill, only to have it roll down before it reaches the summit. The sheer volume of information is almost overwhelming. A recent survey showed that faculty, staff and students volunteered about 508,000 hours last year. • Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, about 100 first-time freshmen will be required to perform community service. That mandate will be extended to all incoming freshmen over the next three years because of a belief, shared by administrators and faculty, that there are valuable lessons to be learned through assisting others. On the following pages are examples of how UL Lafayette already makes a tangible difference.

1

Marine Survival Training Center

ANYONE WHO TRAVELS over water needs to know how to survive during an offshore emergency. UL Lafayette's Marine Survival Training Center has passed on potentially life-saving skills to more than 75,000 people, such as what

to do when a helicopter hits the water; how to launch a lifeboat; how to swim through fire or debris; and how to survive without equipment. Trainees also learn how to properly use enclosed lifeboats. The center, located near the Lafayette Regional Airport, was the first of its kind in the United States.

"We're preparing people for worst-case scenarios," said Jim Gunter, the center's director. "We want them to have options for survival."

Companies from around the world

are requiring employees to meet the same safety standards, such as those established by the International Maritime Organization and the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organization, which are in place in 22 countries.

"Whether you are working in the Gulf of Mexico or the North Sea, the safety procedures are the same. So, a language barrier doesn't become a safety barrier," Gunter said.

The center brought the first state-

SURVIVAL SUCCESS STORY by Harry Sowle

Editor's note: In 1969, Harry Sowle was 20 years old, brash and brazen. Drafted into the U.S. Army, he was trained as a helicopter pilot. Flying in tandem with armed Cobra helicopters, he dipped the more nimble craft into the jungle canopies of Vietnam, scouting for the enemy. In 1971, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for maneuvering his chopper during the rescue of a GI in an area without a landing pad.

In the 1980s, Sowle became a commercial helicopter pilot in the oil and gas industry, ferrying passengers in the Gulf of Mexico.

All his years of training were needed to prepare him for a sunny November day in 2003, when he would have to rely on what he had learned almost 20 years before in an offshore water survival class on UL Lafayette's campus.

IN MAY OF 1984, I WAS HIRED AS a helicopter pilot. As a new employee, I was required to take a water survival course.

At the time, I thought the idea of being taught how to survive in water was ridiculous. I considered it a waste of my time and the company's money. There was just no way I was ever going to have to escape from a sinking aircraft, much less jump 50 feet into the water from a burning rig. I was too good a pilot and way too smart to ever get into that kind of trouble.



Retired faculty member Margaret McMillan helped establish emergency response training for offshore workers. Pilot Harry Sowle put that training to use when his helicopter went down in the Gulf of Mexico in 2003.

I was a Vietnam vet, and sure didn't need anyone who didn't know anything about aviation telling me anything about survival. Or, so I thought.

Fast forward almost 20 years.

My daughter was a freshman at UL. My wife and I had just celebrated our 21st wedding anniversary and retirement was on my mind more and more.

In my 20 years as a commercial pilot, I had logged almost 10,000 flight hours without any accident or incident. I had performed hundreds of thousands of takeoffs and landings. I had safely carried tens of thousands of passengers. I was the best pilot who had ever lived and still smarter than a sack of hammers.

Nothing was going to happen to me. In a few years, I would cash in my retirement account and dote on my grandchildren.

But on the morning of Nov. 23, 2003, something went wrong.

At 10:27 a.m., I lifted off a platform in the Gulf of Mexico with two passengers for a 30-minute flight to another rig. From a five-foot hover, I tilted the nose of the helicopter down slightly and added power to accelerate away from the helipad.

As the helicopter started to move forward, a turbine

TRAVIS GAUTHIER



In 1984, Harry Sowle began his career as a commercial pilot, working in the Gulf of Mexico in the oil and gas industry.

To my own surprise, for about 10 or 15 seconds, I actually panicked. I knew it was impossible to break the window and escape, but I tried anyway. In struggling, I only succeeded in cracking the window and cutting my hand.

That bit of desperate stupidity got me thinking of sharks. Then, panic gave way to a strange and dangerous complacency.

The Gulf water was warm. The sound of escaping air bubbles seemed pleasant, almost comforting. I was thinking of my wife and daughter when another thought entered my head.

Never stop looking for a way out.

I turned and looked to my left. My passengers were gone and the door was open.

Open.

I tried to move toward the door, but I was still strapped in my seat. I had been underwater for a least a minute. It was getting darker and very hard to think. I released my seatbelt and reached for the open door.

I kept my focus on the door frame, although I didn't know why. Then I remembered a training course from what seemed about a thousand years ago. *The door frame. Get one hand on the door frame and pull yourself out. Never mind anything else. As you clear the door, use your other hand to inflate the life jacket. It will take you where you need to go.*

I did. I didn't know which way was up or down. I just did what I'd been taught. A few seconds later, I splashed to the surface and saw my passengers just a few feet away, floating safely in their life jackets. I drew the sweetest breath of my life.

My next thought was, "Wow. The instructors were right. The training worked."

wheel spinning at about 18,000 rpm failed. When it came apart, it took the rest of the engine with it in a horrendous, grinding howl. Shrapnel from what used to be a beautiful 600 horsepower engine exploded outward like a bomb, peppering the sides of the helicopter, tearing jagged holes in the metal and severing the tail rotor drive shaft.

The heliport itself was in the center of the production platform, which is uncommon in the Gulf, so we were still over the platform railing when the engine let go. I had no power and almost no airspeed. At about 150 feet in the air and still over an obstacle, I was in the worst possible position to recover and land safely.

My only thought was that I had to land the helicopter upright to give my passengers a chance to escape without injury. Relying on experience and instinct, I somehow managed to clear the platform.

I had more than 30 years of experience and training to fall back on, but I had not even begun to think about what I would do once we hit the water.

I was too intent on controlling the helicopter to inflate the floats. When we hit the water, the helicopter immediately turned over and began to sink.

Maybe five or six seconds had elapsed since the engine failed. That's when my real problems started.

Hanging upside down from my seatbelt underwater, I reached for the door handle, but it was no longer where it was supposed to be. I could not, absolutely could not, find it.

of-the-art "dunker" available for industry training to the United States. The modular egress training simulator, with its metal frame and removable side panels, resembles a helicopter. Its exits and seating can be arranged to mimic many types of aircraft. Occupants are actually dunked in the water, so they can practice getting out safely.

UL Lafayette began teaching offshore safety courses in the 1970s when the petroleum industry was seeking an in-water survival program for its workers. Margaret McMillan, who was then teaching health and physical education at the university, was asked to organize the program.

"There was life-saving equipment on the rigs, but no one knew how to use it," recalled McMillan. She collaborated with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop training protocols. The classes were a combination of lectures and in-the-water exercises, carried out at the university's indoor pool.

In 1976, McMillan retired from teaching and formed McMillan Offshore Survival Technology. The company continued to offer courses at UL Lafayette, through a contract with the university's Petroleum Training Service. In 1988, McMillan was instrumental in the creation of the Marine



COURTESY OF MSTC

At the MSTC, trainees learn what to do in case an aircraft lands in the water.

Survival Training Center.

McMillan, 89, is known internationally for her life's work. In 2005, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Offshore Energy Hall of Fame for her pioneering efforts in offshore safety and the development of the MSTC.

2

AmeriCorps

EARLIER THIS YEAR, President Barack Obama signed legislation that will triple the size of the AmeriCorps national

service program over the next eight years.

A former community organizer, he used the occasion to ask Americans to volunteer. "All that's required on your part is a willingness to make a difference," he said.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette needed no encouragement.

It has the only campus-based AmeriCorps program in Louisiana and a solid history of service learning.

UL Lafayette's AmeriCorps began in 1995 at the urging of Dr. Joseph Savoie, then UL Lafayette's vice president for University Advancement. AmeriCorps' goal, he told *La Louisiane* a year

later, is to enhance the learning culture at the university so students gain "a sensitivity for their responsibility for service to their community."

Fourteen years after AmeriCorps was established on campus, Savoie is president of the university and over 400 AmeriCorps



DOUG DUGAS

From left, Paige Broussard, Christian Fontenot, Katie Fasnacht and Allison Leger.

students have spent more than 250,000 hours making a difference. They have tutored at-risk children in housing projects. Helped Habitat for Humanity build houses for low-income families. Engaged elementary school students in visual and language arts activities through the Writing in the Galleries program at University Art Museum. The list goes on.

There are monetary rewards. AmeriCorps members who complete the program earn education awards of \$1,250 to \$2,362; some also receive a small monthly living allowance or work-study payment.

But Dr. David Yarbrough, UL Lafayette's dean of Community Service, points out that an education award doesn't even pay for a semester's tuition.

AmeriCorps members choose between two levels of commitment in a service year: 450 hours or 900 hours. That works out to about 10 hours per week and 20 hours per week, respectively.

Why have so many students volunteered to devote so much of their time to AmeriCorps?

"They're a good group of students. They epitomize being engaged at an age and a responsibility that's beyond most college students," Yarbrough replied.

3

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Every dollar of state funding invested in UL Lafayette generates an \$8.62 return.

5

To Protect and Serve

MORE THAN 3,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT professionals have graduated from the Acadiana Law Enforcement Training Academy on UL Lafayette's campus and become certified police officers.

About 85 percent of them have worked in Acadiana during their careers, estimates Keith Kellar, ALETA's training coordinator.



Latest grads: ALETA's 129th class graduated in March 2009.

The university was a founding partner when the academy was created 32 years ago. Today, it provides facilities for the academy, while the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office supplies its staff.

The academy offers tracks for law enforcement officers and corrections officers. Although it primarily serves eight Acadiana parishes, other agencies rely on ALETA. The state Attorney General's Office sends its investigators to the academy, for example. And, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety uses ALETA's curriculum as a model for training crash investigators.

Lafayette Parish Sheriff Mike Neustrom was a professor of criminal justice at UL Lafayette and director of ALETA from 1977 until his election as sheriff in 2000. He served as director of University Police from 1970 to 1974.

4

Treasure Trove

THE LOUISIANA FOLKLORE Digital Archive houses the collections of the Center for Louisiana Studies, including the archives of Cajun and Creole Folklore.

The archives hold priceless recordings of music, stories and conversation. Modern-day musicians pluck history from the files; researchers can eavesdrop on local culture in Edith Garland Dupré



TRAVIS GAUTHIER



Library, where four listening carrels are equipped with computers and headphones.

The musical mélange also has a presence on MySpace, where worldwide users can sample recordings.

Material from the archives is featured in the Louisiana Folk Masters series, which has produced two music CDs.

6 On Track for the Future



JOEY BENOIT

This artist's rendering shows the proposed, student-designed monorail.

IS A MONORAIL – especially one designed by college students – an outlandish option for mass transportation in Lafayette? Not necessarily. What if the elevated railway could be constructed within existing, public rights of way? What if its operating costs were less than what taxpayers pay now for a city bus system? What if it's modeled after a monorail that has been in operation since 1903 with only one accident? UL Lafayette's Transit Design Studio has taken a practical approach to moving people. Jerome Malinowski, a professor of industrial design, is in charge of the Studio. (He helped design an American icon, the Ford Mustang.) Malinowski believes the monorail design, which UL Lafayette students have been working on for the past five years, is ready to be tested. The next step: secure about \$5 million to build a prototype.

7 'All Things Crawfish'

A MAMA CRAWFISH AND A BABY crawfish are walking down the bayou. The baby spies something looming up ahead and nervously asks, "Momma, what's that?"

"Don't worry about that, cher. That's just a cow. Cows don't eat crawfish."

The toddler sees another scary outline and his mother reassures him, "That's just a dog. Dogs don't eat crawfish."

Then the baby sees something coming toward them. "What's that, Momma?"

"You better run, cher! That's a Cajun! They'll eat anything!"

UL Lafayette's Cinematic Arts Workshop is looking for this kind of humor – and anything else to do with

the crustacean that Breaux Bridge, La., has become known for. It will create an online archive with the material.

Leaders of the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival Association called on the Workshop to create the archive in time for the festival's 50th anniversary next year. The project will give the world access to a unique repository of Louisiana culture, said Charles Richard, the Workshop's director.

The Workshop is collecting information, including the history of the crawfishing industry, to create the "all things crawfish" archive. "We are asking people in the community to share their memories and their memorabilia. We're looking for everything from photographs and home movies to personal stories," Richard said.

And yes, even jokes.



ALLISON BOHIL

With her crawfish crown, Diane Domingues Townsend was the 1959 Queen of Breaux Bridge's Centennial Celebration, which preceded the Crawfish Festival.

8 Gifted Goals

FOR 30 YEARS, THE UNIVERSITY'S Center for Gifted Education has offered summer enrichment programs for gifted and creative students from kindergarten to eighth grade. During the rest of the year, it shows educators how to teach the smartest kids in their classes and consults with parents of gifted students.

It's the only center of its scope in Louisiana. There are only about 20 comprehensive centers in the nation.

9 ECONOMIC IMPACT SPENDING

\$287 million	Student spending
\$150 million	Faculty and staff spending
\$125 million	Visitor spending
\$72 million	Operating expenditures
\$47 million	Capital outlay and construction average annual expenditures
\$32 million	Health insurance payments
\$23 million	Retiree spending
\$19 million	Affiliated organizations

\$755 million

Annually in Louisiana with \$726 million of that total spending impact felt in Acadiana

10 Child Advocate

DR. VAL MACGYVERS IS AN advocate for children, in and out of the classroom. Since 1996, she has taught courses about child abuse and neglect, helping future teachers, counselors and law enforcement officers recognize signs of abuse. She has educated hundreds of parents in community workshops. MacGyvers is the advisor for Service Force for the Prevention of Child Abuse, a UL Lafayette student group devoted to teaching young people about abuse.

11

Compassion in Action

READY 4 THE RETURN

SHELL SHOCK. BATTLE FATIGUE. POST-TRAUMATIC stress disorder.

In any era, by any name, they are the unseen wounds of war.

Recurring nightmares. Flashbacks. A sense of impending dread. A state of hyper-vigilance: anticipating danger and bracing for the worst.

Jill Laroussini, a UL Lafayette nursing instructor, has a special place in her heart for soldiers who bear those invisible scars. For 14 years, she and her students have served the homeless; many of those patients are military veterans.

Part of the standard treatment for stressed vets has been talk therapy, Laroussini explained. But research is revealing that for many, talking about their experiences can reinforce trauma, instead of diminishing it. That's something Laroussini already suspected.

"The vets on the street have taught me that talking about it is not a good thing for them. Although, after 9/11, a lot of them had a lot to say. After the Gulf War, a lot of them had a lot to say. It traumatized them, retriggered a lot of feelings for them."

In 2005, Laroussini and one of her former students, Jody Mittiga, a registered nurse and UL Lafayette alumna, created Ready 4 the Return. It's a volunteer initiative that brings simple, effective stress-reduction techniques to National Guard soldiers.

"We come as healers. They come as warriors," she said.

Among the eight-member volunteer team are Nancy Ortego, a UL nursing instructor, and Betty Landreneau, a retired

UL Lafayette nursing faculty member.

The foundation of their work is evidence-based research using mind/body approaches for healing after trauma. "This is a PTSD prevention model," said Laroussini.

Volunteers follow Guard members to their weekend drill sites, offering 30-minute, deep relaxation sessions using guided imagery on audio compact discs and other techniques, such as light touch and aromatherapy. The therapy sessions are usually



Nurse Jill Laroussini touches Austin Minor in a healing session.

DOUG DUGAS

set up in a spare room at an armory. Laroussini and her team bring in comfortable, padded tables and adjust the room's lighting to help create a relaxing atmosphere.

Guided imagery, also called directed meditation, employs soothing music and spoken words to help listeners "develop the perception of safety" to "re-regulate their autonomic nervous systems," Laroussini explained.

Ready 4 the Return also offers training to military family members, or anyone interested in learning healing techniques.

Laroussini said today's combat troops

are especially vulnerable to lasting trauma because their battlefield is often an urban one, similar in some respects to their homes. "There really is no front line in the war on terrorism. The risk of suicide bombers is with every parked car, every individual you hire to do laundry. There are some protective measures taken, but the point is, their bodies, as systems, are on alert 24/7."

Descriptive terms such as "energy work" and "alternative therapy" can raise eyebrows, she said, although such methods have been used successfully and reliably in Eastern medicine for centuries. "In Western medicine, we really haven't developed medical language to fully explain this complementary, holistic approach," she said.

12

Cultural Links

TRAVELERS ON Southwest Airlines reached

into their seat pockets this spring and got a taste of Acadiana. *Spirit*, the company's in-flight magazine, featured Cajun Country as a destination in its April issue. It cited Dr. Bob Carriker, an associate professor and head of UL's History and Geography Departments, as a boudin expert.

That, he is.

Carriker and a friend, Nolan Theriot, cooked up the site, www.boudinlink.com, then stuffed it with tasty tips. This year, that cultural hunger led to the first-ever Boudin Cook-Off, held in downtown Lafayette. The flavorful festival fired up some good-natured competition among boudin makers and helped raise money to preserve historic properties.

NuNu's of Youngsville, La., took first place in the People's Choice division.

13

Lifetime Learning

ALMOST 11,000 PEOPLE took continuing education classes at UL Lafayette in 2008. Some

received necessary training through safety and business courses. Others were there to have fun, taking courses such as Belly Dancing or Basics of Photography.

The Continuing Education Department offers four terms each year. Online registration makes it easy to sign up.

14 Rebuilding Community

THE TOWN OF DELCAMBRE IS fighting to survive. UL Lafayette is a champion in that battle, creating redevelopment and marketing plans for the coastal com-

2008, as Hurricane Ike grazed the coast on its way to Texas.

Since then, residents have been swept up in a tide of bureaucracy. Delays in receiving state and federal funding to rebuild – and the costly requirements to elevate homes and make them more wind resistant – have

Community Design Workshop, to create a redevelopment plan.

Since its inception in 1995, the CDW has worked on some 75 projects in several Louisiana cities and towns, including Breaux Bridge, Carencro, Opelousas, Lafayette and Jonesboro. It incorporates urban planning and landscape design, along with architecture, housing and preservation. Faculty members provide expert consultation and planning services, while fifth-year architecture students gain valuable experience by transforming planning concepts into drawings and models.

In October 2007, the CDW unveiled a waterfront development plan for Delcambre. The mixed-use plan calls for elevated homes and businesses and a boardwalk along the canal. A new marina and improved facilities for the town's annual Shrimp Festival are designed to boost industry and tourism.

Once the plan was complete, Sammons called Dr. Geoff Stewart, a UL Lafayette marketing professor, to help move the redevelopment forward.

This semester, graduate-level marketing students began developing plans in four areas: industrial development, real estate development, retail development and tourism. The project will extend over the next three years, so several marketing classes may have a hand in shaping Delcambre's future.



COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

A redevelopment plan calls for a boardwalk along Delcambre Canal and a new marina.

munity following two devastating hurricanes within three years.

In September 2005, Hurricane Rita roared ashore, causing Delcambre Canal to flood the town. Floodwaters came again in

forced some of them to move elsewhere.

Remaining residents haven't given up on rebuilding. In March 2007, some of them asked Tom Sammons, an architecture professor and director of UL Lafayette's

15 Generous Greeks

IN 2008, UL Lafayette Greeks raised \$86,530 and provided 14,945 volunteer hours for charitable causes.

There are nine sororities on campus: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Delta, Phi Mu, Sigma Gamma Rho, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta. There are 11 fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma, Phi Kappa Theta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Theta Xi.

16 Better Teachers, Better Readers

THERE IS STRONG DEMAND FOR THE KIND of help UL Lafayette's Reading Center provides through its Reading Clinic.

Children in grades 2 through 6 receive individualized assessments and tutoring plans. They attend one-on-one tutoring sessions once a week during the fall, spring and summer semesters, in which UL students help them improve their reading skills and their self-confidence.

The center receives as many as 800 calls a year from par-

ents asking to enroll their children in the low-cost sessions. But enrollment is limited to 60-85 children each semester.

"The thrust of the program is to provide experience for our undergraduate and graduate students so that when they go out in the field, they will have had some experience with struggling readers, with assessment, and they can apply that in their own classrooms," said Dr. Elizabeth Webre, an associate professor of curriculum and instruction, who is the center's volunteer coordinator.

Graduate students are typically teachers who are working toward certification as reading specialists.



JAMIE ORILLION

From left, Tanajia Greggoire works with UL student Rebecca Napier.

17

ECONOMIC
IMPACT

JOBS

7,783

Non-university jobs created by
university spending

18

Student-Athletes Go The Distance

LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® MAKE TIME for community service.

That's no small feat.

In addition to competing in games, matches or meets, they must go to class; study; complete class assignments, such as term papers; attend team meetings and practices; work out regularly in the weight room; and travel to out-of-town games.

Baseball players have especially hectic schedules. There were 54 regular season baseball games this year, including 15 in other cities.

Despite the demands on their time, UL Lafayette's 400 or so student-athletes managed to:

- visit hospitalized children;
- collect nonperishable goods for FoodNet, a nonprofit food bank;
- help sponsor Cajun Fingerprints, a community awareness project for children, with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Department;
- conduct free sports clinics;
- mow lawns for people in need of assistance;
- visit Juvenile Detention Center residents;
- assist with Senior Olympics;
- participate in substance abuse prevention programs at area schools;
- talk with kids living at a local shelter for women and children;
- conduct a food drive and deliver Thanksgiving meals to 20 needy families;
- distribute water bottles and talk with kids at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center; and
- collect donated toys and deliver them to underprivileged kids.

Source: UL Lafayette Athletic Department

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Determination Speaks Volumes

RANDY YOUNG IS 47 YEARS old. With the help of the UL Lafayette Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic, he is learning to communicate again.

Because of a 2003 stroke, subsequent surgeries and a life-threatening infection, some of the motor pathways in Young's brain are damaged. He understands conversations going on around him and knows what he wants to say. But most times, he simply can't get the words out.

Sometimes, Young can make simple replies, such as "yes" or "no." He often mentions the name of his 6-year-old son, Ashton. He helps out at the motorcycle and lawn mower repair shop where he used to work. He uses scripted phrases written on index cards, such as "May I help you?" to better communicate with customers.

At the clinic on UL Lafayette's campus, Young is learning to use a programmable device that may make it easier for him to express himself. The DynaVox is a compact, electronic box with a series of buttons on its face. It can be customized to speak for Young, programmed with phrases he relies on frequently at home and at work.

"His determination is amazing," said Denise Laborde, a supervisor in the clinic. "He works at it every day. Frankly, most people would have given up." Staff and students have been working with Young since the fall of 2004. Like many patients who utilize the clinic, Young turned to the university for services when his insurance ran out.

The clinic offers evaluation and therapy services for a wide range of communicative impairments at reduced fees and on a sliding scale that varies with clients' incomes.

Holly Damico is director of the clinic. "As a teaching institution, the university supports our clinic, so we're not trying to pay for our own clinical staff out of our clinical fees," she said.

And because the clinic's clients do not have to meet the same therapy bench-

marks as those whose care is being paid for by insurance providers, the clinic is able to serve clients over an extended period of time. As long as clients and students are benefiting by working in clinic settings, the therapy continues.

Some clients, such as Young, may experience communication problems after some event. Others may have developmental disorders. On average, some 70 clients attend therapy sessions twice a week during the fall and spring semesters. The clinic conducts about 30 diagnostic assessments per semester.

Damico said the clinic provides state-of-the-art services for clients, while providing students the training they need to become independently practicing speech



Graduate student Emily Ensminger helps Randy Young learn to use a programmable communication device.

therapists. Student clinicians work with clients, both children and adults, under staff supervision, as part of their requirements for graduating in communicative disorders. Students also work in the community, at hospitals, schools and nursing homes.

Recently, a graduate student and client created a support group for those with impaired speech. The group meets once a month on campus.

"We are known, not just right here in Lafayette, but throughout the region as a center for therapy services, for support group services and for information," said Damico.

JAMIE ORILLION

20

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTERS



- Enterprise Center of Louisiana
- Center for Business and Information Technologies
- Small Business Development Center
- National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute

2008 ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR CENTERS' CLIENTS

\$1.2 billion in increased revenues
 \$1.8 billion in retained revenues
 \$101 million in savings
 \$56 million in increased investments
 About \$28 million in cost avoidance

21

Toxicology Testing

WHEN SOME UL LAFAYETTE students look for heavy metal, they don't check their iPods. Instead, they examine sediment extracted from Bayou Vermilion. They're interested in the possible presence of heavy metals, such as copper and lead. They also conduct some bacterial testing and check fish tissue from time to time.

The students are taking Dr. Paul Klerks' environmental toxicology course. He's an associate professor of biology who studies the long-term effects of environmental contaminants on aquatic ecosystems. About 45 students have examined the bayou's sediment each fall and spring for the past eight years. Their findings are sent to the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District. So far, Klerks reported, there haven't been any alarming results.

This testing is not required by any agency. But it gives students a chance to learn how to collect and analyze samples and gives the Bayou Vermilion District valuable data, Klerks said.

22

Entertainment

MANY MAJOR ENTERTAINMENT venues and events have strong connections to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette or are part of the university. Below are some examples.

PAUL AND LULU HILLIARD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM – This top-flight museum on campus offers compelling traveling exhibitions and an impressive permanent art collection.

CAJUNDOME – The 12,800-seat facility on campus is used for events ranging from concerts by big-name entertainers to UL Lafayette basketball games.



In 2008, students presented the musical "Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know."



UL's State of La Danse

H. GORDON BROOKS

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL – Herman Mhire, a former art professor at UL Lafayette, was the catalyst for this festival, which began in 1986. It is the largest outdoor, free Francophone event in the United States.

FESTIVALS ACADIENS ET CRÉOLES – Dr. Barry Ancelet, a professor of French at UL Lafayette, has been a driving force for this festival, which began as the Tribute to Cajun Music Festival in 1974 on campus.

KRVS 88.7 FM – KRVS is a listener-supported, 100,000 watt public radio station on campus. It provides indigenous Louisiana programming, as well as National Public Radio programs, to about 650,000 listeners in a 12-parish area of south Louisiana. It has a worldwide audience via the Internet.

BAYOU BIJOU – This on-campus theater presents films from around the world that are not usually shown in local commercial theaters.

ANGELLE HALL – Thirteen university musical ensembles and three vocal ensembles perform here. It's sometimes booked by high schools and private groups such as dance schools. The Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, composed of community members and UL Lafayette students, gives concerts here.

BURKE-HAWTHORNE HALL AUDITORIUM – Student actors, dancers, directors, choreographers and designers learn their crafts through public performances at this campus facility.

23

EarthShare Gardens

UL LAFAYETTE STUDENTS are caring for the earth and helping to feed the hungry at the same time.

Alumnae Danica Adams and Elizabeth Brooks established EarthShare Gardens, an organic community garden project, in 2005, while they were still students. Four years later, UL students are still involved, working in the garden as members and volunteers.

The gardens are located in north Lafayette, on the grounds of the former Holy Rosary Institute.

Two plots of land serve different functions. One is the Community Supported Agriculture Garden. Members plant, water and tend the rows; the produce is sold through subscription at the beginning of the season, and distributed on scheduled harvest days.

The Donation Garden supplies fresh, healthy food to St. Joseph's Diner and The Salvation Army.



24

Acadiana Outreach

IN 2003, HECTOR LaSala, a UL

Lafayette architecture professor, learned that Acadiana Outreach Center needed his help.

The non-profit, faith-based organization assists the poor in a nine-parish area. It had received donations of food, clothing and other items. But it lacked shelves, so it couldn't efficiently organize and store them.

oped a master plan for improvements. "We wanted to make sure that the plan didn't just sit on a shelf. We wanted to prove that we were going to create change," he said.

University faculty members and alumni had already been making valuable behind-the-scenes contributions as volunteers.

But over the next six years, more than 200 students under LaSala's and Gjertson's supervision helped transform the center through about 25 service learning projects involving art, architecture, industrial



Architecture Professor Hector LaSala in the Recovery Action Center; his design students created the center's inspirational artwork.

LaSala had never visited the center, which is in downtown Lafayette. "When I went there, I realized that the exterior spaces did not match up with the center's mission. They wanted to give people hope, but the place needed as much help as the clients," he recalled in a recent interview.

LaSala and colleague Geoff Gjertson decided to do more than just provide shelves. They and their students devel-



UL industrial design majors created compact furniture with built-in storage for the Acadiana Outreach Center.

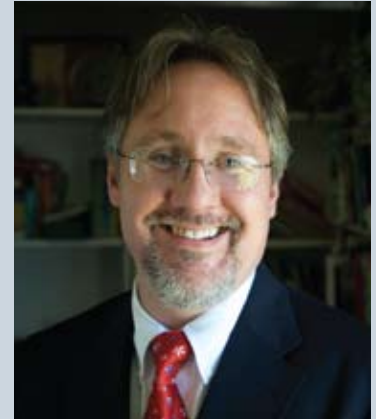
design and renewable resources. They designed and constructed covered seating areas, renovated some buildings and began a community garden. Their work continues.

As the Center's look has evolved, so has its mission. It is moving away from providing its clients with temporary assistance. Now, it is focused on offering permanent solutions to help its clients achieve self-sufficiency.

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Service Tradition Builds

BEGINNING WITH THE FALL 2009 SEMESTER, UL Lafayette will make community service mandatory for first-time freshmen.



Dr. David Yarbrough

Dr. David Yarbrough, dean of Community Service and an associate professor of Child and Family Studies, said the university will start small, with about 100 students. Over the next three years, the requirement will be extended to all first-semester students. There are usually about 2,700 first-time freshmen each fall.

"We have about 20 years of literature to show that students who are engaged in community service during college end up being more engaged in those types of activities after college," he said.

Yarbrough has been charged with completing the collection of information from faculty about their own and their students' public service.

A recent economic impact study showed that faculty, staff and students volunteered about 508,000 hours last year. Of that total, students volunteered 393,203 hours, while faculty and staff served 115,000 hours.

University personnel and students have used informal associations to determine how they can help others. "They're already engaged in the community," he said.

Faculty members are "expected but not required" to perform community service, Yarbrough continued.

He views the level of involvement by faculty – by engaging classes in community-oriented projects or on an individual basis – "as more of a tribute to who faculty are as opposed to what they're expected to do." ■