



Aging Gracefully

LSU Celebrates Seventy-Five Years Under Oaks and Arches

by Jamie Segar

The vision of a great state university where Louisiana's poor could receive the same educational advantages as those more fortunate was the vision and dream of Governor John M. Parker. It was through his efforts during his "Greater University" movement that the new Louisiana State University and A & M College became a reality. At relatively no cost to the taxpayers, the new \$5,000,000 campus opened its doors on September 23, 1925 to 1,712 students and was officially dedicated on April 30, 1926.

Seventy-five years to the day, LSU commemorates the anniversary of the "new" campus. "75 Years Under Oaks and Arches": Building on the Legacy of the Past for the New Century will give the opportunity for the LSU family to commemorate its past, celebrate its present, and envision its future in the next century.

The Diamond Jubilee campus-wide celebration sponsored by the LSU Alumni Association will culminate on April 30, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. in front of the War Memorial on the parade grounds as LSU welcomes former President

of the American Red Cross Elizabeth Dole as the ceremony's keynote speaker. The afternoon's presentation will also include other distinguished guests, music, major artistic events, and the introduction of the Comprehensive Campus Master Plan for the continued vision for an even "greater university." All of LSU's alumni, faculty, staff and friends are encouraged to be a part of the festivities celebrating the accomplishments of this great university.



1920's

In 1918 under the Leadership of President Thomas D. Boyd, Gartness Plantation was purchased as the site for the new campus in response to over-crowding at the downtown campus of Louisiana State University. That same year Governor John M. Parker requested a number of prominent members from the Greater Agricultural College Association to tour and inspect the leading agricultural colleges including: Clemson College, South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Minnesota, as well as a Guelph Agricultural College in Ontario, Canada. Upon their return, it was recommended that the state of Louisiana have an agricultural college second-to-none and that it not be separated from the university. With the support of Governor Parker and the approval of a severance tax during the constitutional convention of 1921, the construction of the new campus, known today as Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, began.

From 1922 to 1925 the construction of the new campus moved forward. Preliminary architectural planning began with the Olmstead Brothers from Brookline, Massachusetts. The Olmsteads had long experiences in the landscape layout of many great universities such as Stanford, Harvard, Yale and Cornell. The architectural negotiations between the building committee and the Olmsteads eventually failed.

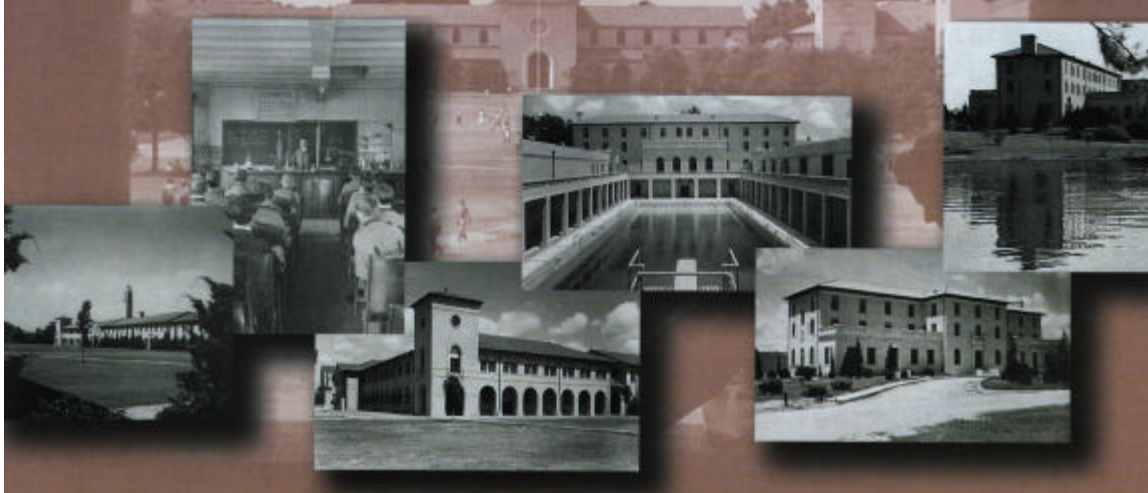


LSU President Thomas D. Boyd (above top) played an integral part in fulfilling Governor John M. Parker's (above bottom) vision of a "Greater University" for the people of Louisiana.

The Olmsteads had invested in extensive research and planning into the project that later proved to be useful in the planning and construction of the campus. Architectural planning for the new campus now rested on the shoulders of Theodore C. Link, the renowned architect of the Union Terminal in St. Louis. Link's architectural designs defined the graceful Italian Renaissance style and character of the campus, which is marked by its red pantile roofs, overhanging eaves, and honey-colored stucco. The buildings were also designated with small intaglios and adornments depicting the buildings' intended uses. His work carried on without him after his death in 1923. His son, C.V. Link had continued, while the firm of Wogan and Bernard of New Orleans completed Link's in-progress work.

Link designed two quadrangles in the shape of a cross. The west side of the Quad housed the agricultural buildings. The East side of the Quad housed the Chemistry Laboratory. The north side of the Quad was the location for the University Dining Hall, and the south side of the quadrangle hosted the engineering buildings. The men were domiciled on the western side of campus, while the women were on the north. Classes first began on the new campus in September 1925 with the completion of the Academic Quadrangle.

Other buildings ready before the official dedication were the Gym-Armory, Tiger Stadium, and the Stock Judging Pavilion and Pentagon



Barracks. The Gym-Armory was built west of the academic quadrangle for the purpose of housing the LSU basketball team and other indoor sporting events. It also housed rifles used by the ROTC drill team. Tiger Stadium was completed in 1924 for the purpose of hosting football and track events for the LSU varsity teams. As a 12,000-seat stadium with east and west stands, Tiger Stadium would receive additional expansions throughout its history. In 1928, upward expansion added 10,000 seats.

The Stock Judging Pavilion, better known today as the Swine Palace Theatre, was one of the first buildings of the "greater agricultural college" at LSU. Pentagon Barracks were built in 1925 to serve as men's dorms. Four three-story dorms with 240 rooms were constructed for the cadets of the "ole war school."

In 1929, Smith Hall now better known as Pleasant Hall was built on the north side of campus as the first women's dormitory. It featured two auditoriums, each capable of seating 450 people. The Greek Theatre and the Sunken Garden were also constructed in 1929. It served as a venue for religious, military, and educational convocations, as well as for entertainment.

Highlight of the Decade:

April 30, 1926 - Formal Dedication of the new campus

The formal dedication of the new campus took place on Friday, April 30, 1926. The date was chosen because on April 30, 1803 the United States Congress signed the Louisiana Purchase documents. The dedication festivities commenced in front of the Campanile known today as Memorial Tower. The program lasted throughout the weekend and included events from athletic exhibitions and concerts to tours and luncheons. Delegates from American universities and colleges across the country were on hand to witness this landmark event in education. LSU President, Thomas D. Boyd origi-

nally hoped to dedicate the campus in January 1926, the date that the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy was formed in 1860, however construction was still underway at that time.

1930's

When Huey P. Long became Governor in 1928, he launched a major building program that continued through the 1930's. Enrollment at LSU had begun to rapidly soar in the 1930's. During this time many of LSU's live oaks and magnolias were planted by landscape artist, Steele Burden, for what has become a symbolic part of the great legacy at LSU.

The academic quadrangle continued to take shape with the additions of added classroom buildings. Oscar K. Allen Hall housed the Department of Arts & Sciences, Junior Division, additional classrooms, and auditoriums. Students walking into Allen Hall would pass murals representing Louisiana's agriculture and industry as well as arts and sciences. Undergraduate and graduate art students under the instruction of university art professor, Conrad Alberto, painted the frescoes. James W. Nicholson Hall housed the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The Ag Administration Building housed Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness. Robert L. Himes Hall housed the History department.

The Huey P. Long Fieldhouse was constructed in 1932 and served as the campus' first student union. The building housed a post-office, bookstore, barbershop, snack bar, and soda fountain. The Long Field House also contained administrative offices and an outdoor pool that was the world's largest at the time. The Fieldhouse was instrumental in providing access to information and necessities for students.

In 1932, the Music & Dramatic Arts building was built to house the Department of Bands & Theatre. LSU Alumni now had a place to call home as Alumni Hall was completed in 1934.

In 1937, two new athletic venues were completed as another received an expansion. The John M. Parker Coliseum opened and served as a multipurpose arena mostly for livestock shows and rodeos. It was also used for commencements and convocations and served as home of the LSU basketball team. The University baseball stadium, later named Alex Box Stadium in 1943 after Simeon Alexander Box, an LSU athlete and graduate killed during WWII. It opened as the new home for the LSU Baseball team across from Tiger Stadium. Alex Box Stadium also served as football practice fields. Tiger Stadium received its second expansion, adding a north endzone and bringing the capacity to 46,000. That same year, the Old Law Building-Leche Hall and the Student Health Center were dedicated.

Throughout the 1930's the campus had witnessed a sufficient growth in women's dormitories. Annie Boyd Hall, Louise Garing Hall, and Highland Hall were first built to what is now known as Evangeline Circle. With the help of the Public Works Administration (PWA), two additional new dormitories were constructed in Evangeline Circle and named Evangeline Hall and Grace King Hall.

By the end of the 1930's the Howe-Russell Geology Building and Geoscience Complex was built for the Department of Geology and named in honor of Boyd professor Richard J. Russell and Henry V. Howe.

Highlight of the Decade:

1934 - Colonel Castro Carazo hired by Huey P. Long as Director of Bands.

Band Director, Castro Carazo was hired by Senator Huey P. Long in December 1934. In a joint meeting between Governor Oscar K. Allen, LSU President James Monroe South, and Commandant of Cadets Troy H. Middleton, Huey P. Long stated that the new band director would be provided anything needed to develop and promote the Univer-



sity Band to be the best in the nation. Huey P. Long and Castro Carazo teamed up to co-author notable songs "Touchdown for LSU" and "Darling of LSU." During his tenure at LSU, Carazo compiled one of the most complete university band libraries in America.

1940's

As cadets from the Ole War Skule went off to defend our country in World War II, the growth of the campus continued at a slower pace than usual. In 1949, men's dormitories and married student housing was constructed. Three men's dormitories were built on Field House Drive just east of Tiger Stadium. Hatcher Hall was constructed along with Hodges Hall and Johnston Hall; each housing 375 men.

Until 1969, the ROTC program at Louisiana State University was mandatory for all entering male students. The program is rich in tradition. The military heritage began under General William T. Sherman and hence developed the name "Ole War Skule." Not many people know about LSU's rich military tradition. In WWII, only Texas A&M and the Military Academies of Annapolis and West Point were equal to the Ole War Skule in providing officers to the armed forces.

Highlight of the Decade:

1945 - End of World War II

With the return of GI's from the war, Hutments were built to provide low-budget housing for married students in the westside of campus. Ninety-eight two-apartment complexes rented for \$40 a month. One-room apartment complexes were also built in the same location. Army barracks dormitories were built to house the growing number of cadets.

1950's

Throughout the 1950's, air conditioning slowly began to be phased into administration and classroom buildings throughout the campus. The campus continued expanding in or-

der to meet the needs of additional classroom and dormitory space. Due to overcrowding of education students in Peabody Hall in 1951, the University Laboratory School was created as an experimental school for K-12 allowing students in the school for teacher education to have an on-the-job-training approach by granting on-hand observation. The agricultural college also began receiving additional assistance with the addition of three new classroom buildings.

The Forestry Building was constructed in 1956, for the purpose of instituting classrooms, laboratories, and a library to study wood utilization for instruction and research. A dairy facility was built to house the Department of Dairy Science in 1957. That same year, Seaman A. Knapp Hall was completed to serve as the new home for the Louisiana Agricultural Extension Service. The two-story structure provided 125 new offices, a conference room, and an auditorium. Throughout the 1950's the university prepared for another increase in enrollment with additional construction of campus housing. Broussard Hall dormitory was built in 1950 to house 36 men. It would receive an additional expansion in later years. East and West Laville Hall dormitories were completed in 1955 and would house a majority of 324 women.

In 1956, the LSU Board of Supervisors gave the President the authority to provide land for the development of sorority houses. Until this point, each sorority had an office-workroom in the Panhellenic House. In 1959, the Board designated the land on the extreme edge of campus south of Dalrymple Drive as the site for sorority development. Seventy-one-acre lots were apportioned. Guidelines were set for the houses to cost more than \$100,000, but less than \$250,000. The lots were leased for 99-year terms at \$10 per year. The board had allowed the same financing and construction to fraternities just three years earlier.

Tiger Stadium was expanded in 1957 with

the south endzone providing the final piece of the puzzle to completely enclose the stadium. The enclosure provided not only additional seating but also men's dormitories. Capacity now reached 67,710.

Highlight of the Decade:

1958 - Completion of LSU Library & LSU Football National Champions

Referred to as his crowning achievement as president of LSU, General Troy H. Middleton oversaw the completion of the new LSU Library in 1958. Dedicated in October 1959, the new library, which currently bears his name, was built as a two-story building with a basement. The building was able to accommodate 2500 people. Later expansion would include two additional floors, adding 126,000 square feet. The library intersected the two original Quadrangles, south of Foster Hall and west of the Memorial Tower.

The LSU Tiger Football team won the 1958 National Championship, defeating Clemson University 7-0 in the Sugar Bowl and finishing with a 12-0 season.

1960's

As growing concerns mounted with the Cold War and the "Space Race" in the 1960's, Americans were challenged as the Soviets threatened to surpass the U.S. in the math and science programs. Therefore, efforts were made to develop LSU into a comprehensive university, and a major focus was directed on the growth of math and science departments during this era. In 1968, Samuel Lockett Hall served as the new Mathematics classroom and administrative building. One year later, the six-story, \$7.3 million Life Sciences building was completed. The structure houses 14 laboratories, 4 large classrooms, and administrative offices for the Botany, Zoology & Physiology, Plant Pathology & Physiology, Microbiology, and Entomology.

Other departmental buildings constructed



during this era were the Coastal Studies Institute, Electrical Engineering, Human Ecology, Food Services, Poultry Science, and Human Ecology.

Additional dormitories were built for both men and women throughout the 1960's. Six new dorms were constructed as women's dorms and included Acadian Hall, Blake Hall, Herget Hall, McVoy Hall, Miller Hall, and Power Hall. Kirby-Smith Hall built in 1967. The 13-story men's dormitory housed 734 students at a cost of \$3.5 million. Edward Gay Apartments were added as the need for married-student housing increased.

In 1964, a \$5.5 million student union was built for 200,000 square feet of entertainment. The three-story facility accommodated a 1315 seat theatre, 333-seat movie cinema, bowling alley, game room and pool hall, post office, cafeteria, and craft shop, as well as ballrooms and conference rooms for hosting seminars and special events.

In 1965, the Student Health Center was renovated to house 100 patients, if necessary. It was equipped with offices, examination rooms, and lounges for LSU students and faculty.

Pentagon Dining Hall, built in 1966, was relatively located adjacent to the Pentagon Barracks and other men's dormitories. The one-story cafeteria housed 4 dining rooms with one centrally located kitchen.

Highlight of the Decade:

1969 - ROTC program becomes voluntary
By the end of the decade, rising tensions due to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War were mounting. The LSU ROTC program became a target for protestors as dissatisfaction with the war increased. The pressure increased for LSU to either cancel its program or make it voluntary. In October 1968, the LSU Faculty Council voted to make the ROTC program voluntary, and on May 26, 1969 the LSU Board of Supervisors made it official.

1970's

LSU began to take on a modern-day look during the 1970's as new classroom buildings moved away from the traditional architectural style of the original Italian Renaissance structures of the 1920's. Choppin Hall was built to continue the expansion of the Science Movement from the 1960's, providing for the growing need of scientific laboratories for Chemistry. Choppin Hall currently houses the Department of Basic Sciences and freshman laboratories.

In 1977, a \$19 million Veterinary Medicine Building for the school of veterinary medicine was constructed. The center for veterinary medicine education and the animal teaching hospital comes equipped with 324,124 square feet of lecture demonstration rooms, surgery wards, and animal holding facilities. It is considered one of the finest in the country.

After twelve years of planning, the Center for Engineering and Business Administration-CEBA was completed in 1979. The 310,000 square foot, \$16 million facility provides 310 offices, 39 classrooms, lecture halls, 90 laboratories, and 2 computer centers for the use of engineering and business administration students.

A new Law Center was built at LSU in 1970 to provide students with the necessary resources to effectively study law. The four-story structure houses the Louisiana Law Institute and Institute of Civil Law Studies. It is now officially known as the Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

Highlight of the Decade:

1971 - Athletic Facilities expanded

With the growing popularity of collegiate athletics, two new athletic facilities were built and another was being expanded. In 1971, LSU basketball not only welcomed new coach Dale Brown, but it also introduced a state-of-the-art 15,000-seat multipurpose arena. The Assembly Center would eventually be known as the Pete Maravich Assembly Center and nicknamed "The P-MAC" after the death of LSU basketball and NBA legend "Pistol" Pete Maravich in the late 1980's. In 1974 Athletic Director, Carl Maddox expanded the growing LSU athletic compound with the addition of a multipurpose sports and recreational complex that now bears his name, the Carl Maddox Field House. Tiger Stadium again expanded in 1978 by adding 8,000-seats in a new West Upper Deck to lead the Tiger football program into the next decade with a capacity of nearly 80,000-seats.

1978 - LSU Named a Sea-Grant College
In 1978, LSU was named a sea-grant college, becoming one of only 25 universities in the country recognized as both a land and sea-grant institution.

1980's

Assuming his new position as Chancellor in 1981, James Wharton had two goals in order to improve education at LSU. One was to improve retention rates of incoming freshman. The second was to limit the size of the swelling enrollment to 25,000 students. Foreseen budgetary problems in the late 80's and early 90's would halt new construction of badly needed classroom space. In 1981, J. Norman Efferson Hall was built as the new home of the Agricultural Center at the south gates of LSU. The School of Music received a new two-story 26,000 square foot building that featured a 250-seat recital hall. In 1984 the College of Design received a new \$6.5 million building to house its programs and administration. Just west of the new Ag Center, a new Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries Building was completed in 1985 for research in forestry, wildlife, and fisheries. In 1985, the Natatorium was built for the LSU Swimming & Diving program as the United States Sports Festival came to Baton Rouge.



Highlight of the Decade:

1987 - Admission Standards Implemented

James Wharton introduced a new admissions policy that would increase university admission standards. The standards would require high school students to complete a list of core requirements throughout their high school careers. In 1987, the board of supervisors approved the proposed admission standards.

LSU Honored as a Research University I

In 1987, LSU was designated as a Research University I, putting it in the top 2% of the nation's colleges and universities. Only 70 universities, 45 public and 25 private, have this designation.

1988 - Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Thanks in part to a \$125 million donation from C.B. "Doc" Pennington and his wife Irene in 1980, the Pennington Biomedical Research Center was founded. Located off campus on Perkins Road, the main research building allows for 223,000 square feet of research space. Later in 1993, a 96,000 square foot conference center was constructed on-site in order to host major conventions and seminars. The mission of the center is to promote healthier lives through nutritional research and preventive medicine.

1990's

As Americans became more health conscious in the 1990's, LSU realized the importance of providing necessary facilities to engage in physical fitness. In 1992, The Student Recreational Sports Complex opened to rave reviews by LSU students and faculty. Planned for 25,000 students when construction began in 1985, the 110,000 square foot complex found overcrowding to be a problem, due to small weight rooms and a lack of equipment necessary to serve the droves of students coming to this popular new facility.

In 1994, Athletic Director, Joe Dean moved coaches and administration into the new Ath-

letic Administration Building. The six-story, 72,000 square foot building would house all varsity athletic programs at LSU, as well as the Athletic Ticket Office, LSU Hall of Fame, Sports Information, and administrative business offices.

The Athletic Department launched a significant expansion with the help of the Tiger Athletic Foundation in 1995. Plans for the North Stadium Building Project included new facilities such as a new state-of-the-art training room, weight room, football locker room, and state-of-the-art squad room. The facilities were completed in 1998.

With enrollment skyrocketing to new heights at LSU, increased traffic led to the campus' increasing parking problem. In 1995, the Public Safety Building was completed to house LSU Police, parking & traffic, and transportation offices. A portion of the building was paid for with student parking fees.

Not only are the 1990's considered the health & fitness era, they are also considered the computer age as well. In December 1995, the Fred C. Frey Computing Services building was completed to serve as the university's network hub for the campus.

Highlight of the Decade:

1994 - The Dedication of the Lod Cook Alumni Center

On May 20, 1994, the LSU Alumni Association dedicated its new home. Special honorees attending were Lod Cook, President Gerald Ford, President Jimmy Carter, President George Bush, White House Chief of Staff Mac McLardy, and Governor Edwin Edwards. The entire project was completed with the use of private funds for the purpose of housing offices for the Alumni Association and the LSU Foundation. Conference rooms, a boardroom, meeting rooms, library, gift shop, and large dining room were also included in the building. Located on Sorority Row, the Lod Cook Alumni

Center serves as home to all LSU Alumni and friends.

LSU BASEBALL - "The Program Of The Decade"

Head Coach Skip Bertman built the LSU baseball program into one of the most dominating programs in the country. With National Championships coming in 1991, 93, 96, and 97, the Tigers would continue their dynasty into the next century by winning its fifth title in 2000. By the late 1990's the LSU Tiger baseball team became known as the "Program of the Decade" by all of college baseball.

LSU Track & Field - "UNPRECEDENTED"

Speaking of dynasties, LSU Head Track & Field Coach Pat Henry has managed to reach major milestones throughout his 14 years at LSU. In the last 13 years, the Lady Tiger track teams have won an unprecedented 11 National Titles, with seven in the 1990's. The Lady Tigers would go on to win their twelfth title in 2000.

In 13 years under Henry's direction, the Tiger program attained unparalleled success: 20 NCAA titles and 19 SEC crowns. As a university, LSU has accounted for 34 NCAA titles. Henry has served as head coach for better than half of LSU's national crowns.

Today with the leadership in place and more than 30,000 students enrolled, the increasing standards of our great university will allow our sons and daughters an outstanding college education that ranks among the top land grant public universities in the country. Our campus has aged gracefully, for the future of LSU looks bright and promises greater accomplishments. LSU has come a long way throughout its short 75-year span. The constant growth that has continued through our past will be continued into our future long after we are gone. The LSU spirit will live on and remain strong for many generations to come. April 30, 2001 will undoubtedly be a special day for Louisiana's flagship university.

