J.D. Carwell, left, and Greg Faust with Acadiana Production cook some hamburgers to get ready for this weekend’s USL football game against Memphis State.

CODOFIL: 25 years old and still going strong

By Gina Howard
Staff Writer

CODOFIL will celebrate 25 years of preserving the Louisiana French heritage at a dinner gala tonight.

On hand for the event will be Jean-Pierre Saintonge, president of the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF). Saintonge is in Lafayette for the 10th annual assembly of the American Region of the AIPLF.

This year’s meeting coincides with the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Louisiana section of the AIPLF and the 25th anniversary of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

Founding father of CODOFIL was the late James Domengeaux, local attorney and former U.S. congressman.

LeBlanc said Saintonge, representatives from several French-speaking countries and French journalists will be introduced at the dinner. There will also be several short speeches, entertainment by Les Freres Michot and dancing.

Prior to the dinner, a French Mass will be held at 5:30 p.m. at St. John’s Cathedral in Lafayette.

In addition to being a celebration of CODOFIL’s accomplishments, LeBlanc said the gala is also a fund-raising event. Proceeds will go to CODOFIL’s educational programs.

Saintonge was elected president of the AIPLF in July. Founded in 1967 in Luxembourg, it is the only interparliamentary organization representing the French-speaking world.

The American Region is composed of parliamentarians from Canada, Haiti, Louisiana, Maine, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. Its objectives include extending the influence of the French language and defending and promoting the French culture in totally or partially French-speaking areas in America.

Tickets for the gala are $50 per person. For more information, call LeBlanc at 262-5810.