Several years ago the Board of Regents brought to Louisiana a team of out-of-state professionals to review four of our state's agriculture programs. They visited USL last, and as their written report put it, "The (agriculture) program at USL came as a breath of fresh air to a review team that had reviewed three programs in three days."

They rated USL first among the four programs they visited. The review team was very satisfied with the teaching and research facilities at USL, and was thoroughly impressed with the enthusiasm of the faculty. They praised the faculty for achieving a good balance between teaching and research.

USL has made a strong commitment to agriculture. Eleven years ago USL purchased a new experimental farm near Cade, a lovely 600-acre site that includes all phases of modern agriculture, including a 30-acre crawfish pond.

USL recently renovated Hamilton Hall for the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. The $3.5 million project more than triples the college's floor space.

The building includes a computer lab, soils lab and extensive home economics facilities.

Recently USL received considerable attention for a research breakthrough by Dr. Lora Lata Goodeaux, an agriculture faculty member. She successfully transplanted a rhesus monkey embryo from its biological mother into a host mother, without surgery. The transplanted monkey was born about a month ago, the first of its kind.

Of the past five presidents of the USL Alumni Association's Board of Governors, three have agribusiness degrees: attorney Oscar Reed, insurance agent Donald Higginbotham, and myself, an automobile dealer. The excellent background we received enabled each of us to pursue diverse career opportunities.

The Board of Regents review team recommended that agriculture programs at USL be maintained and strengthened, and justifiably so. We should make a major commitment to agriculture and agribusiness education. This is the role the College of Agriculture and Home Economics at USL has been playing and should continue to play.

by John T. Landry
 President, USL Alumni Board of Governors

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