USL's undergoing some changes these days — only the latest of which is its new Alumni House.

University officials joined with community leaders and residents yesterday to cut the ribbon on the recently refurbished, two-story Whittington Hall on Johnston Street. This is the living room of the building.

Once a home and teaching center for home economics majors, Whittington Hall has become the 1982 Lafayette Designer Showcase for the local Board of Realtors during their celebration of Private Property Week.

Local designers have each taken a room, coordinated designs and remodeled the place.

An Alumni Association membership drive is underway to raise $100,000 to pay for that work, as are several alumni parties and receptions scheduled this weekend. The house will be open to the public April 1-24 and available for public functions at nighttime.

But in USL's accomplishments, it's just one stride of many.

Small told Rotarians of the university's ongoing Endowment Fund for scholarships and school programs, of its expanding faculty, graduate programs and research projects, of new or renovated facilities and of outstanding students.

USL moved from 50th to second in the nation in terms of increased appropriations in the couple of years before 1978, she said, allowing it to offer better teacher salaries and expand research.

The university has the only master's of science program in the southeast for computer engineering and the first bachelor of science petroleum land management program endorsed by that field's state group.

In addition, it stands in the company of Cornell University, Stanford, the Universities of Pennsylvania and California at Berkeley and New York University as one of only six schools offered a One-Year-On-Campus program for students through Bell Laboratories.

Improvements have also been made recently, or are being made, for a $45 million Civic Center, married student housing, the chemistry and engineering buildings, a health and physical education facility, the agriculture, building and an arts building.

Ritchey said efforts to maintain files on 30,000 alumni are continuing. USL graduates or former students who have new addresses or want more information should contact the Alumni Association.