Gov.-elect Buddy Roemer is expected to be the guest speaker at the first annual Fondation CODOFIL banquet to be held Friday, Jan. 29. The banquet will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cajundome.

Organizers say the event is an effort by proponents of the French movement to offset the effects of the budget crunch that has considerably slowed the successful French Renaissance which started 20 years ago. The foundation was recently created to raise sufficient funds to establish an endowment that will provide monies for the preservation and development of the Louisiana French culture.

"Despite herculean efforts by many people, particularly James Domengeaux, founder and chairman of CODOFIL, the organization has not been adequately funded by the State of Louisiana. "The goal of the foundation is to gather sufficient funds so CODOFIL can carry out its mission in a spirit of self-sufficiency," said William Arceneaux, foundation president.

It will sponsor student exchanges, scholarships, and cultural activities and enable Louisiana to remain in close and constant contact with the other French-speakers in the world. Tickets for the banquet are on sale for $100 per couple and contributions are tax deductible. For this area, they can be purchased at a variety of locations. In Lafayette, tickets can be obtained from Fondation CODOFIL, 217 West Main St., 233-1020 or Gerald Domingue, 705 W. University Ave., Lafayette, LA 70501, 261-8203.

For more information, call (318)233-1020 or write 217 West Main St., Lafayette, LA 70501.