Leger says she's optimistic. The concept has worked elsewhere. So why not in Lafayette?

—CHUCK SPRINGSTON

USL honors top professors

At ceremonies this week at the City Club, USL presented three faculty members with the USL Foundation Distinguished Professor Award.

The three faculty members are Dr. T.R.N. Rao, professor of computer science and electrical engineering; Dr. Thomas Boullion, professor of mathematics and statistics; and Mathé Allain, assistant professor of French.

Rao, a faculty member since 1980, has received several honors for his work over the past several years, including being named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and being selected as a distinguished speaker representing the IEEE Computer Society and the Association of Computing Machinery.

Rao also has been involved in some 13 research projects funded by grants totaling $624,000 from groups like the National Science Foundation, the Sloan Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

He has served as a consultant or visiting scientist for several universities and corporations and has been a member of the editorial board or publications committee of professional journals.

Before coming to USL, Rao served on the faculty at the University of Maryland and earlier was on the technical staff of Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel, N.J.

Boullion has been on the USL faculty since 1981. He has been widely recognized for his work on statistical theory and the applications of statistics. Boullion was selected by the American Statistical Society to be one of its two co-editors for a special issue of Communications in Statistics.

He also has served as a consultant to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—working on mathematical and statistical problems involved in trying to interpret agricultural data from sensing devices in satellites—and to the National Park Service—participating in a resource in-

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A consolidating market

With the DJIA pressing the 1174 area, the average fell back this week to close at 1153. This reversal had been expected but was helped along by the fact that the Fed Funds rate rose to 8 3/4 percent from 8 3/8 percent. The market continues to consolidate in the 1134 to 1180 area with no real issues making headway except for the oil sector, where takeover fever has been ongoing. With the market continuing to consolidate in this area, we can expect resistance to falling below the support level of 1139 to be extremely strong.

Stocks of local interest include Mobil Corp., which has recently sold $2.5 billion in debentures to subsidize its takeover of Superior Oil Co. Investors expect to receive some cash and additional compensation in debentures.

Mena Petroleum Co. extended its offer to purchase Gulf Oil Corp. shares to April 4. It appears to be fully confident that Gulf and Standard Oil Co. of California will complete their merger.

Standard Oil Co. (Indiana) has improved its net from $6.25 to $6.39 this year. It continues to predict improved earnings.

Schlumberger Ltd. and Halliburton Co., have been two of the leading gainers in the oil service stocks. Halliburton has moved from a low of $4.40 in recent weeks to 41 1/4. Schlumberger has moved to $53 from $45. It appears that many analysts are beginning to think that the oil industry may be the place to put their money.

A review of the just-concluded third quarter shows that interest rates stayed constant, rising slightly in the past few weeks, and the economy continued to surge ahead. The government chooses to ignore the deficit, and the market has become sluggish, consolidating in the 1140 to 1180 range. Who would have thought that the economy moving ahead would force us back into a recession? Which is exactly where it might go if rates move too far ahead. But the second quarter already shows hope with a slow economy.

-RICK FRAYARD
Rick Frayard is a broker with Shearson/ American Express.

Mock exam set for secretaries

The Azaelea Chapter of the Professional Secretaries International will hold a certified professional secretary mock examination from 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m. April 7 at the Marathon Center for Research and a faculty evaluator for professional journals and has co-authored or co-edited five books on statistics.

In addition to her work at USL, Boullion has been a research scientist for a service company, Inc., a consulting mathematician at the Texas Center for Research and a faculty member at Texas Tech University.

Allain joined the USL faculty in 1963 and has had her contributions to the teaching of French in Louisiana recognized by the French government, which awarded her "Les Palmes Academiques."

She serves on the editorial board of the American Association of Teachers of French Publications, has had her articles published in books and prestigious journals and co-authored—with USL folklorist Barry Ancelet—an anthology of Louisiana French literature.

Allain also has been involved in special projects, such as the French Film Festival, the annual Symposium of French Studies and several exhibits.

She was conference coordinator of the First Louisiana Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, held at USL in 1980.

Allain currently is a doctoral candidate at USL.

Support the Spring Family Fair by cruising on

The Spring Family Fair, benefiting the American Cancer Society, will be held all day Sunday, April 8 in Girard Park. Come out to the Vermilion Queen booth and buy tickets for cruises:

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