University of Louisiana: the fight's not over

By HOLLY ABINGTON

Welcome

Fellow Students

Welcome to the University of Louisiana. We are experiencing a dynamic period in the history of our university which will ultimately affect us all. How has the change come about?

Several years ago, students in SGA realized the benefits of a name change and began pursuing the idea. To the best of my knowledge, it was Bob Brorsen, then president, who initiated the idea of UL. His predecessor, Steven Spring, pointed the idea by ordering students a check of names. Others who fought for the change were Eugene Dau,

Lisa Monteverde, Tommy Opres, Marty Calie, Robert Duggs, Leslie Durio, Mark Callender and many others. It was through the efforts of students like these that eventually got the administration faculty, alumni and community support. As a result, the very important goal has been obtained.

How will this benefit us? Without going into great detail, the most obvious advantage will be one of recognition. This will help us to recruit more faculty which will help students in a positive manner. It will get us into the media spotlight without the name confusion that has haunted us in the past. It will mean that, as graduates, we have been educated at a major university. Thus, we will be more attractive to prospective employers.

All along, we have argued that we deserve the name. Now that we have it, what are we going to do with it? As students of UL, our first priority should continue to be academics. Personally, I am tired of hearing about the low quality of education in Louisiana.

I urge the students of this university to pursue the academic excellence that national studies suggest we are capable of. Of course, once our classwork is complete and there is free time available, let's continue to enjoy our selves in the old USL tradition.

Let's retain the flavor of USL while advancing as UL. Congratulations to all of you who worked for the change. It stands as a job well done. Good luck to everyone on finals. May you all have a nice and prosperous summer and last, but not least, congratulations to the first graduating class of the University of Louisiana.

Sincerely,
Glen David
President, SGA

Recognition

Dear Editor

In recognition of the newly approved University of Louisiana, there are several individuals who should be recognized for their efforts. It is our duty to continue efforts that this change was enacted.

First, there are the student leaders whose dedication finally paid off in the Board of Trustees final decision Friday. Bob Brorsen and Steven Spring are just two notable examples of the many leaders who espoused their ideas.

Second, the courage and determination displayed by University of Louisiana President Dr. Ray Authement as he persuaded the Board of Trustees to approve the name change.

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A day UL will remember

To The Students:

I am pleased, too, that the Faculty Senate and the Alumni Board gave unanimous support for the name change.

A support of the name change came from many areas and for many reasons. A resolution of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce endorsing the name change included these reasons and the areas of support. This university, since its establishment in 1988, has been an important factor in the economic impact and in the growth of the City of Lafayette. The latest study reveals that this university has an annual economic impact of $396 million in Lafayette. The Chamber's resolution was also a big factor in our efforts to effect the change.

As you know, this institution was established as the Southwestern Industrial Institute. Its growth and development called for a change of name to Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Its continued growth and development resulted in its change of name to the University of Southwestern Louisiana. The time had come again to recognize that this university had earned the right and privilege to be named the University of Louisiana.

The decision to seek the name change was not taken lightly. It was under consideration for a number of years, because this university felt that it deserved the recognition and prestige the name change brings as well as the added external research funding it will bring.

It will also facilitate in recruiting faculty of high caliber and in attracting high tech industry to Lafayette and Acadiana.

And so, in the words of Tennyson, the old order changeth yielding place to the new. With our new name, the University of Louisiana, it is you students and the future students of University of Louisiana who will benefit most from the new order. The potential of this university for developing the state's most valuable resource - its youth - is seen in the support of this university by business and industry as evidenced by the success of our $10 million fund drive and the development of our computer assisted design and computer assisted manufacturing laboratories.

Because of your support and that of others, we can now pursue our goals with renewed enthusiasm.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ray Authement
President, University of Louisiana