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Executive Director

**Special thanks
to retiring Executive
Director Chris
D’Arcangelo for her
extraordinary
service to LEF.**

**Congratulations to
Judy Theriot, our new
Executive Director.**

The Best of the Best

**The Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. recognizes
2007 Lafourche Parish “Teacher of the Year” recipients.**



Teaching is often a thankless job. That is why the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. (LEF) devotes one special night a year to honor and thank a group of educators who stand out in their field: the Lafourche Parish Teachers of the Year.

On August 19, LEF recognized 28 parish teachers for their exemplary work in educating and inspiring students of all ages at the organization’s Teacher of the Year Brunch in the Bollinger Memorial Student Union

Ballroom at Nicholls State University. The teachers represented each school in Lafourche Parish, elementary through high school. A complete list of honorees can be found on the LEF website at www.seeds4success.org/news.html.

During the Caribbean-themed brunch, the three parish-wide “Teachers of the Year” were announced.

Special congratulations to these winners:

- **JENNIFER RUSSELL**, St. Charles Elementary
- **LISA CHERAMIE**, Lockport Middle School
- **MONIQUE AUCOIN**, South Lafourche High School

LEF will treat each of the 28 teachers and their guest to tours of the D Day Museum and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, followed by lunch at LaCote Brasserie, in New Orleans on February 16.

**Thanks to 2007
Teacher of the Year Brunch
Sponsor Whitney Bank!**

James and Joyce Leonard Fund to Provide Annual Teacher Awards

Lafourche Parish natives Dr. James and Joyce Leonard have established a donor designated fund through the Greater New Orleans Foundation that will provide money each year to the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. (LEF) for teacher awards.

With over 30 years of experience as an educator and currently an LEF Board Member, Joyce wanted to parlay her love of teaching into a sustaining legacy that would help the teachers of Lafourche Parish. The fund she and her husband have created will support teachers awards at the elementary, middle and senior high school levels.

LEF Gala Set for May 8th

Mark your calendars for the
5th Annual Lafourche
Education Foundation, Inc. Gala
**Thursday, May 8, 2008 in the
Nicholls State University Ballroom**
**Keynote Speaker: State Schools
Superintendent Paul Pastorek**

For information on tickets or
sponsorships, contact LEF Executive
Director Judy Theriot by e-mail:
info@seeds4success.org,
or by phone: 985-446-8043.



From the President...
Charlotte Bollinger

Motivation Makes It Work

Watching LSU games this year has really been good for my heart. No—it is true! I sat next to a cardiologist at a Saints game and he said he would recommend being a Tiger fan to everyone over forty. Nothing makes your blood pump more than watching games like the ones LSU played this year, and now they're playing in the National Championship game. We'll take it!

Like our state university football team, LEF is also in a very good place right now. Thanks to a concerted effort to keep the focus on improving public education and, most of all, tremendous community support, we are making a difference.

The 2007 Teacher of the Year brunch was a resounding success. We had a sell-out attendance with a more festive Caribbean-themed meal. The food, the music, and the attitude was, "Don't worry: Be Happy!" And happy we were to honor such deserving, outstanding teachers.

Last year, we held two "Saturday Academies" to help principals and assistant principals focus on their managerial skills and give them tools to succeed as CEO of their schools. We got tremendous feedback from the principals. The academies were facilitated by Christel Slaughter, who has done similar sessions for Baton Rouge schools and others. We are pleased to announce that LEF will co-sponsor with the Lafourche Parish Schools, Larry Bell, Educational Consultant, Motivational Speaker and Author, from Virginia, who will address all principals and teachers in the parish on January 4, 2008.

When we began this foundation in March 2004, Christine D'Arcangelo was a charter member of the first board. She was passionate and excited about the work of the foundation. When we focused on hiring a part-time executive director, Christine offered to take the job. She has done a wonderful job while managing a full-time job of her own. As our programs and projects have grown, so have the demands of her own job. Christine regretfully resigned effective October 31st. We will be forever grateful for her hard work and dedication that was instrumental in building this foundation. A thousand thanks, Christine, and welcome back to the board!

Our first choice to replace Christine was Judy Theriot. Judy has been a very active board member with great credentials. She helped develop the grant requirements for both teachers and schools, and oversees the grant applications and review process. We are very pleased to announce that Judy Theriot has agreed to serve as our new Executive Director. We will miss you on the board, but welcome you to this most important job for the LEF.

We encourage you, our members, to get involved in public education. Things change when people focus on the change. LEF is focused and committed. Remember: The strength of the community is dependent upon the strength of the public school system.

A Round of Applause for Perfect Attendance!

Students do their best in school when their teachers are present in the classroom on a daily basis, providing a consistent learning environment.

The Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. says "Thank You!" to the 35 Lafourche Parish teachers who achieved perfect attendance during the 2006-07 school year. Your choice to be at work every day demonstrates your commitment to each and every student in your care.

Ms. Julien Barrilleaux, *West Thibodaux Middle School*

Ms. Kim Bernard-Suggs, *Lockport Lower Elementary*

Ms. Donna Bourgeois, *Thibodaux High School*

Ms. Holly Bouzigard, *Larose Upper Elementary*

Ms. Dawn Breaux, *East Thibodaux Middle School*

Mr. Mark P. Breaux, *South Lafourche High School*

Ms. Robin Callais, *South Lafourche High School*

Mr. Richard Chiasson, *Central Lafourche High School*

Ms. Rebecca Comeaux, *Larose Upper Elementary*

Ms. Kaffie Cunningham, *Bayou Blue Elementary*

Ms. Mary Beth David, *Thibodaux High School*

Mr. Michael Dornan, *Thibodaux High School*

Ms. Margaret M. Doucet, *Galliano Elementary*

Mr. Timothy Dubois, *Central Lafourche High School*

Mr. Patrick Ferguson, *Bayou Blue Middle School*

Ms. Karen K. Foret, *Central Lafourche High School*

Ms. Jennifer Friedlander, *Golden Meadow Lower Elem.*

Ms. Charlotte Gaubert, *Bayou Boeuf Elementary*

Ms. Maria Gisclair, *Central Lafourche High School*

Ms. Patty Guidroz, *Raceland Lower Elementary*

Ms. Renee Horn, *Lockport Upper Elementary*

Ms. Ramona Hymel, *Thibodaux High School*

Mr. Troy Jackson, *Thibodaux High School*

Ms. Alayne B. Joffrion, *Thibodaux Elementary School*

Ms. Cheryl Jones, *West Thibodaux Middle School*

Ms. Hailey Kiger, *Larose Upper Elementary*

Ms. Debra Knight, *Central Lafourche High School*

Mr. Yale L. Landry, *Central Lafourche High School*

Mr. Michael Lefort, *South Lafourche High School*

Ms. Nicole Orgeron, *Raceland Lower Elementary*

Ms. Rochelle Orgeron, *Galliano Elementary School*

Ms. Judy Roberson, *Media Center*

Ms. Karen Tabor, *Chackbay Elementary School*

Mr. Stephen Toups, *Sixth Ward Middle School*

Mr. Carl Triggs, *Thibodaux High School*

Meet the Board



JOYCE LEONARD

A Lafourche Parish native and member of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. (LEF) Board of Directors since 2005, Joyce Leonard has been a lifelong advocate for educational excellence in our community and beyond.

A graduate of Golden Meadow High School, Joyce earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette. She worked as a teacher at Montessori in New Orleans, as well as in New Mexico and back home in Lafourche Parish.

She is married to Dr. James Leonard, a urologist, and the couple has three children—Toby, Brian and Claudia—and eight grandchildren.

Joyce has served as President of the Thibodaux Women's Club, E.D. White's Mother's Club, Amigas and Hermanas. In addition to her service on the LEF Board of Directors, she also holds a seat on the Civil Service Board.



RHEA DILL

Rhea Dill is one of the senior board members of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. She and other committee members were instrumental in developing the process and criteria for selecting "Teacher of the Year" honorees.

Rhea was employed by the Lafourche Parish Public School System for 25 years as a classroom teacher, educational coordinator, and parish supervisor of special education. After retiring from the public school system in 1983, she served as principal of Holy Savior Elementary School in Lockport, LA for 14 years.

A graduate of Golden Meadow High School, Rhea earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Nicholls State University, her Masters in Education degree from Tulane University and completed extensive post-graduate work at Loyola in New Orleans, South Louisiana Institute-Lafayette (ULL), and Loyola University in Houston.

She was married to Robert E. Dill III, now deceased, for 44 years. Her four children are Debbie Fauchoux, Donna Dill, Bud Dill (Robert IV), and Allyson Vedros. Nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren help make her retirement a lively one.

Rhea belongs to numerous civic, service and social organizations. Her interest in and dedication to education is as keen today as it was when she first began her career many years ago.

2008-09 GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 15

For the 2008-09 school year, LEF has dedicated \$10,000 for Paul Ruth Teacher Grants, with each grant application eligible for up to \$700. Applications are now being accepted through February 15, 2008 from any Lafourche Parish public school teacher involved in the instruction of children at any level, Pre-K - 12, who is employed full-time by the Lafourche Parish School System. A maximum of two Paul Ruth Teacher Grant applications may be submitted from each school within the parish.

School-wide grants valued at up to \$5,000 each will also be awarded for the 2008-09 school year. A maximum of one application per Lafourche Parish School will be accepted, and the deadline for submission is February 15, 2008.

For official rules and requirements, refer to the 2008-09 grant application. All applicants must submit a completed grant application to LEF by the deadline; no other forms will be accepted.

The keystone of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. is its Grant Program, designed to recognize and support Lafourche Parish Public Schools and educators who implement innovative and creative projects that increase student academic achievement. Grants are awarded through a competitive proposal process, represent a variety of subject areas, and are standards-based.

To download the 2008 LEF Grant Application, rules & requirements, visit:
www.seeds4success.org/grants.html



Foundation Footnotes

By: *Christine D'Arcangelo*

Together We Can Build a Successful School System

When I received a phone call from Floyd Benoit in early 2003, I had no knowledge of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. or the impact it would have on my life and on the community. Wow, look where we are four years later! What a contribution LEF has made to public education and to Lafourche Parish.

For the past four years, I have enjoyed serving the community in the capacity of board member and Executive Director. It has

been an honor and a privilege to work with President Charlotte Bollinger, the Board of Directors, the Lafourche Parish Schools, and especially Mr. Floyd Benoit. While I am stepping down as Executive Director, I hope to continue to serve and support the LEF. I am committed to making public education successful in this parish, as it is the cornerstone of our community. Thank you for allowing me to work with all of you to make education better and stronger.

Dr. Judy Theriot will be succeeding me as Executive Director. Please give her the opportunity, support, and encouragement that you gave me. You can be assured that the LEF will continue to promote and support education as it moves forward into 2008 and beyond. Together, we can build a successful and enduring public education system for everyone!

Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 529
Thibodaux, LA 70302

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The success of the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc. is rooted in the commitment of our Board of Directors and the support of our generous donors. Join our effort to enrich public education in Lafourche Parish and strengthen our community for decades to come.

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Thank you for your interest in the Lafourche Education Foundation, Inc.!

To become a supporter:

- Visit our website at www.seeds4success.org
- E-mail us at info@seeds4success.org
- Call Executive Director **Judy Theriot** at **(985) 446-8043**
- Mail contributions and contributor information to:

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