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**Special thanks
to outgoing
Board Member
Ronald Adams
for his service
to the LEF!**

Kings and Queens for a Day

The Lafourche Education Foundation treats Lafourche Parish

“Teacher of the Year” recipients to a museum tour in New Orleans.



“Teacher of the Year” winners at the D-Day Museum



WWL-TV personality
Frank Davis was
the keynote speaker
of the 2006 Teacher of
the Year brunch.

For the second year in a row, the Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF) rewarded the Teacher of the Year winners with a day in New Orleans exploring the arts and the history of the area. Each of the 27 teachers and their guest were invited to attend the event on Saturday, February 3, 2007.

The teachers traveled by motor coach to the World War II D-Day Museum where they viewed the special Anne Frank exhibit, and were educated by several WWII veterans on the history of the Higgins boat and the Normandy Invasion. Following a delightful lunch at La Cote Brasserie Restaurant, the group traveled to the Odgen Museum of Art to view a quilting exhibit along with many fine southern paintings and sculptures. It was a wonderful day for all!

The 27 Teachers of the Year and three parish-wide winners were recognized at the 2006 Teacher of the Year Jazz Brunch on August 27, 2006 at the Nicholls

State University Ballroom. WWL-TV personality Frank Davis and wife Mary Clare entertained the audience with “Naturally N’Awlins” humor and wit. Davis presented each winner with an autographed copy of his latest cookbook, crediting his success today to his early education. LEF also presented the teachers with a plaque and gifts of appreciation.

**Special congratulations to the parish-wide
Teacher of the Year winners:**

- **TONIA GUIDRY** of Golden Meadow Middle School, who teaches math and computer literacy.
- **MARK ARCENEUX**, an agriscience teacher at Thibodaux High School
- **GESELE ADAMS**, third-grade teacher at Larose Upper Elementary School.

*Thanks to 2006 Teacher of the Year
Brunch Sponsor Whitney Bank!*



2006 Parish Teachers of the Year are
Tonia Guidry, Mark Arceneaux and Gesele Adams.



27 local teachers were honored at the 2006
“Teacher of the Year” award ceremony.



From the President...
Charlotte Bollinger

Motivation Makes It Work

Motivation comes from the root word “to move.”

It can be defined as the emotions, wants, needs and beliefs that drive a person’s behavior. We are MOTIVATED! This community is moving to help our public schools be the best in the state. Can you imagine how the teachers and principals of our 28 schools feel when they know how sincerely we are working to help them?

As we mature in defining our mission—that is, to improve public education—we must let the excitement of “standing up” this foundation settle down. We are here and we have much work to do to implement all our goals and objectives.

The Lafourche Education Foundation had another stellar “Teacher of the Year” event on August 27. With a sold-out turnout, we must thank The Whitney Bank. Those fine folks underwrote the entire event and have stepped up to say that they intend to do this every year. How about that for putting your money where your mouth is? What monies we do collect can go directly to teacher and school grants.

Our Teacher’s Day in the New Orleans Arts District was phenomenal. There was a special exhibit on Anne Frank at the D-Day Museum. This year, the teachers did not have to rush or make a choice about which museum to visit. We extended our visits to the museums by two hours, and had some poignant and impressive comments from the teachers concerning this lovely day of enrichment and fun.

We had terrific applications for our teacher grant program. Headed up by Dr. Judy Theriot, the committee awarded 18 grants. We are very excited to have excellent applications for our school grants and look forward to telling you about these at our Gala.

Our Saturday Principal’s Academy was a big hit. We send out evaluation forms after all of our events, and have learned a lot from the attendees. One of our goals is to find out how we can help administrators understand their role as manager of their schools and give them help with their biggest challenges. We suggested topics and they added some ideas and challenges they would like to see covered. All in all, the academy was a winner.

Sean O’Keefe will serve as our Keynote Speaker at our Gala this year. He is a former Vice-Chairman of the Office of Management and Budget, a former Secretary of the Navy, recently served as the Director of NASA and is currently the Chancellor of Louisiana State University. I can’t remember ever hearing a better speaker. You will not want to miss this fun and exciting evening. Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 10 at the Nicholls State University Ballroom.

These are exciting times for public education! Please join us in offering your help. And if you can step up your financial contribution, we humbly ask that you consider doing so. For all that you do, thanks for making all the difference!



Principals gathered for Saturday Academy facilitated by SSA Consultants’Christel Slaughter (below).

“Saturday Academy” Coaching Principals in the Principles of School Management

In an effort to empower principals, assistant principals, and supervisors of the Lafourche Parish School System with management and leadership skills, the Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF) has offered two “Saturday Academies” for administrative employees.

“Public schools are like businesses, with students and parents as the customers, and principals as CEO’s,” says LEF President Charlotte Bollinger. “Therefore, the leaders need to hone business skills and have the tools to help them run that business.”

The LEF partnered with SSA Consultants of Baton Rouge to provide two workshops at Central Lafourche High School on November 4, 2006, and March 3, 2007. Christel Slaughter of SSA consultants facilitated the sessions, focusing on management models, building staff commitment, leadership roles, and dealing with difficult people.



The LEF is thrilled to have partnered with SSA to provide a learning opportunity for Lafourche Parish Public Schools professionals, a program made possible by donations from our supporters and patrons.

“Saturday Academy” participants included Gaye Cheramie, Golden Meadow Middle; Jimmy Ledet, Central Lafourche High; Blaine Degruise, Supervisor; Deborah Griffin, Cut Off Elementary; Ann Hodson-Foret & Nancy Curole, Lockport Upper Elementary; Robby Lee & Becky Plaisance, Chackbay Elementary; Linda Dangerfield, Central Office; Parish Schools Superintendent Jo Ann Matthews; Diane Smith & Diane Kramarz, South Thibodaux Elementary; Tammy Shaw & Hennessey Melancon, Larose Upper Elementary; Sandy Holloway, St. Charles Elementary; Brenda R. Gautreaux, Thibodaux Elementary; Jim Barr & Leslie Jones, NSU; Greg Terrebonne, South Lafourche High; Lonnie Rousse, Golden Meadow Middle; Robert Rome & Kevin Gaubert, Lockport Middle; Myra Ougel, Lockport Lower Elementary; and Cindy Eliser, Raceland Lower Elementary.

2006 GRANTS REWARD INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF) Awarded nearly \$12,000 in grants to Lafourche Parish Educators in 2006. Grant winners included: Cheryl Soley of Golden Meadow Lower Elementary, Louise Kupfer of W.S. Lafargue, Bonnie Martiny of St. Charles Elementary, Michelle Cortez of South Thibodaux Elementary, Stacey Faulk and Rhonda Gautreaux of Cut Off Elementary, Rebecca Comeaux and Danielle Rodrigue of Larose Upper Elementary, Mechel Taylor of Lockport Lower Elementary, Rachel Allemand and Jessica Breaux of Lockport Upper Elementary, Anna Guillot of West Thibodaux Middle School, Patricia Ber and Phylis Roberts of Sixth Ward Middle School, Jennifer Richardel and Anne Granier of Thibodaux High School, and Anna Cole and Steffanny Chaisson of Central Lafourche High School.

LEF is committed to awarding approximately \$35,000 in grants in 2007, including a minimum of \$10,000 in student impact mini-grants and school impact grants in the amount of \$5,000 each. In order to ensure that funds are dispersed fairly throughout the parish, no more than two student impact mini-grants will be awarded to any one school in a calendar year.

The centerpiece of LEF's efforts to strengthen public education is the Student Impact Mini-Grant Program, designed to recognize and support Lafourche Parish Public School educators who implement innovative and creative projects that increase student academic achievement.

For the 2007 LEF Grant Application, rules and submission deadline, visit: www.seeds4success.org/grants.html

LEF Gala Set for April 10

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Lafourche Education Foundation Gala

Tuesday, April 10, 2007 in the

Nicholls State University Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Sean O'Keefe, LSU Chancellor & former NASA Administrator

For information on tickets or sponsorships, contact LEF Executive Director Christine D'Arcangelo by e-mail: info@seeds4success.org, or by phone: 985-537-7335.

James and Joyce Leonard Trust Will Benefit Teachers

A trust has been established by James and Joyce Leonard to benefit the annual Teacher of the Year Awards presented by the Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF). The James and Joyce Leonard Trust will be managed by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and proceeds will be awarded to recipients selected through the Teacher of the Year process.

The Leonards were both educated in the Lafourche Parish public school system and received their higher education at Louisiana public universities. Joyce earned a degree in elementary education and taught both in the Lafourche and New Orleans Public school systems. In addition, while James served in the military, Joyce taught in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She currently serves on the LEF Board of Directors.

According to the Leonards, the trust is their way of showing appreciation and giving back to the parish and state public education system.

Meet the Board

LORENE WATKINS

A member of the Lafourche Education Foundation (LEF) Board of Directors since the organization's inception in 1997, Lorene Watkins is a veteran educator who places great value in public education. She is a native of Ruston, Louisiana, a mother of two and a grandmother of two. Watkins earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Southern University and a M.S. in Mathematics from New York University, and was employed by the Lafourche Parish school system for 42 years.

During that time, she taught mathematics at C.M. Washington High School, Central Lafourche High School, and Thibodaux High School, and then served as Director of the Title I Program and Supervisor of Secondary Education. In addition to her service to LEF, Watkins also volunteers at Thibodaux Regional Medical Center, and is a member of the Thibodaux Civil Service Board and the BISCO Board of Directors.

"I was motivated to become a member of the LEF Board because of the passion I have for public education and its importance to the community," Watkins says. "LEF has successfully formed partnerships with many foundations and local businesses to secure funds and support for the Lafourche Parish Public Schools. Funds have been used for teacher and school grants, in-service training for principals, curriculum and enrichment programs, and for outstanding teacher awards."



JUDY THERIOT

Judy Theriot has been a member of the LEF Board of Directors since 2005 and serves as chair of the Grants Program, having had developed the format for the Student Impact Mini-Grants and the School-Wide Grants. She has earned a variety of degrees in education over the years, including a B.S., M.Ed., Ed.S., and Ed.D., and has taught at the elementary, junior high, high school and university levels. Theriot is a Professor Emeritus of Nicholls State University where she retired in 2000 as head of the Department of Family and Consumer Services. During her career at NSU, she was named a Distinguished Service Professor.

Theriot served as a member of the Lafourche Parish School Board for eight years, and was the first woman elected Board President. She currently serves on the Board of the Bayou Region Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Parish Council, and is President of the St. Charles Elementary School Parent Teacher Club. She and husband Larry have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

"Service on the LEF Board is a natural fit for me since all of my professional career was in the classroom at one level or another," explains Theriot. "I've walked in the shoes of a teacher and administrator, and I understand the importance of recognizing teachers who do an outstanding job in the classroom, having monies available to implement supplemental classroom activities and for schools to have monies available to implement school-wide projects."

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The success of the Lafourche Education Foundation 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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