



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
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# LOUISIANA HERITAGE

A GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Planning Forward in Times of Uncertainty

A Hub for Our Culture: Roy House Restoration

Our Role in COVID-19 Vaccine Development

Ted Ralph creates Endowed Chair in Mathematics

# PLANNING FORWARD

## IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Ideas for Giving and Moving Forward in 2021

UL Lafayette alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends recognize the importance of expanding possibilities and ensuring the future success of the University. As we look forward to the future, the UL Lafayette Foundation continues to move forward in support of this important work.

Recently, Congress extended some of the COVID relief tax changes to 2021. Here are a few resources to help you with your tax planning and ideas to consider if you are thinking about supporting the mission of UL Lafayette through the Foundation this year.

### 2021 GIVING INCENTIVES

The CARES Act passed in 2020 included several charitable tax provisions to encourage giving. Congress has extended these provisions for 2021, including:

- A deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a cash gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to \$300 (\$600 for joint filers), to reduce your tax liability.
- An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor's annual income for cash gifts (previously, the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income). If you make a cash gift, you will be able to deduct more this year.

#### Donor Advised Funds

If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) and wish to help UL Lafayette via the Foundation this year, you can recommend a grant from your fund without affecting your personal financial security.

#### Charitable Bequests

Many friends of UL Lafayette are updating their estate plans. If you would like to support the university with a gift in your will, or by naming us as a beneficiary on a retirement account or insurance policy, we can help.

Please visit the Learn About Wills section of [louisiana.giftlegacy.com](https://louisiana.giftlegacy.com) to download our free estate planning guide or sample bequest language to share with your attorney.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these ideas, please contact [gift@louisiana.edu](mailto:gift@louisiana.edu) or 337-482-0922. You may also visit [louisiana.giftlegacy.com](https://louisiana.giftlegacy.com) for additional resources. Please let us know how we can help you during this time.

*This information is not intended as tax, legal, or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation. Copyright © 2021 Crescendo Interactive, Inc. Used by permission.*

## UL Lafayette reveals role in historic COVID-19 vaccine's development

The road to the first globally available COVID-19 vaccine ran through the UL Lafayette. Trials involving nonhuman primates at the New Iberia Research Center helped determine the effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the world's first fully tested COVID-19 immunization approved for emergency use.

The United Kingdom was the first nation to issue an emergency authorization for the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in December. The United States, the European Union and other countries soon followed suit. Studies have shown that the vaccine is 95 percent effective at preventing COVID-19 after two doses.

Because of confidentiality agreements with Pfizer, UL Lafayette couldn't discuss its role in the vaccine's development until now.



Credit: iStock

The rapidity of the vaccine's development depended on pre-existing relationships the biopharmaceutical giant had with research facilities such as NIRC, said Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, UL Lafayette's vice president for Research, Innovation and Economic Development.

Dr. Joseph Savoie, UL Lafayette president, said the University and its researchers "were prepared to meet this moment. Few areas of life have escaped the pandemic's effects, so to contribute to something that brings hope to the world is truly extraordinary."

He continued: "This is what modern research universities do. 'Research for a reason' is a driving force for our University and there is no better motivation to do the work that we do than to help overcome a challenge like COVID-19 that has impacted all of humanity."

# 'A hub for our culture:' Roy House restoration to begin in 2021

It's time to Restore the Roy.

Renovations to the J. Arthur Roy House – the oldest building on our campus – as the new home of the Center for Louisiana Studies will begin in 2021.

The center's Restore the Roy initiative recently reached its \$1 million fundraising goal for initial restoration stages. "Despite the turmoil of 2020, we've received an outpouring of support, both from people who love the Roy House and value its architectural and historical significance, as well as from people who support the mission of the Center for Louisiana Studies," said Dr. Joshua Caffery, the center's director.

The project attracted assistance from individual donors, nonprofit groups, and cultural organizations, both in the region and around the state and nation. Caffery said support came from "an amazing group of philanthropic people from different walks of life who saw the possibilities of bringing this lovely building back to life as a fitting home for the study and preservation of Louisiana culture and history."

The Center for Louisiana Studies is UL Lafayette's oldest research center. Established in 1973, it promotes scholarly investigation of Louisiana's people and history. Its research division houses the Archive of Cajun and Creole Folklore, the largest collection of audiovisual materials related to the traditional cultures of southwestern Louisiana. The center also oversees the UL Lafayette Press. It is currently located on the third floor of Edith Garland Dupré Library.

Find more about the Center for Louisiana Studies, the Roy House and the Restore the Roy initiative by visiting [restoretheroy.org](http://restoretheroy.org).



The J. Arthur Roy House is the oldest building on UL Lafayette's campus and the only one listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Photo credit: Doug Dugas / UL Lafayette)

## Alum Ted Ralph's gift creates Endowed Chair in Mathematics



Alumnus Ted Ralph '76, '87 was honored for establishing the T.H. Ralph/BoRSF Endowed Chair in Mathematics. Credit: Doug Dugas / UL Lafayette

UL Lafayette alumnus Ted Ralph worked in nearly every facet of the oil and gas industry in his decades-long career, "literally from top to bottom."

However, it was gratitude for his job in the Department of Mathematics during graduate studies that helped guide his decision to make a planned gift of \$600,000 to the department, which will be matched by \$400,000 when the gift is realized from his estate to create a \$1 million endowed chair.

"I learned early, a big part of success is you simply have to outwork everybody," he said.

Ralph put that philosophy into practice when he returned to the University. To make ends meet, he worked as a roustabout on offshore oil rigs during summers. He also taught remedial math at the University during the fall and spring semesters.

Ralph, who earned a bachelor's degree in education from UL Lafayette in 1976, taught high school math for two years before

entering oilfield sales. "That experience enabled me to get a job in the math department, and without it I would have had trouble finishing up in petroleum engineering. I'm still grateful," he explained.

Dr. Azmy Ackleh, dean of the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences, said the gift will "impact the Department of Mathematics for years to come" and "compel students to explore their passion for math and research."

For Ralph, the endowment is his "way of helping some other kid like myself have an opportunity to be successful."

For more on Ralph's story and other donor stories, and to access resources for your gift planning, visit [louisiana.giftlegacy.com](http://louisiana.giftlegacy.com).

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# Louisiana Heritage Society™

The Louisiana Heritage Society recognizes those who have financially supported UL Lafayette in their will or through another planned gift, such as beneficiary on a retirement plan or a gift of an insurance policy.

Legacy giving is an intentional act that leaves a lasting gift in your name and sustains the powerful work of our University. Thank you to our alumni and friends who are members of the Society. If you would like to join them, please visit [louisiana.giftlegacy.com](http://louisiana.giftlegacy.com) for more information or to contact us.

