



PHILIP GOULD

Former SGA President Sarah Berthelot, Dr. Ray Authement and Former SGA President Shawn Wilson.

add, subtract and multiply. I thought Paul was someone who would enjoy that,” Authement said in a 2004 interview.

Cloutier connected the kits and figured out how to use the computers to make the phone ring, creating a primitive computerized phone system. He had offers to attend MIT, Cal-Tech and Princeton after graduating from high school, but he chose to enroll at SLI instead.

Cloutier went on to become principal investigator of 13 NASA ionospheric sounding rocket probes. He was lead investigator on the Pioneer Venus Bus and Orbiter Ion Mass Spectrometer experiments.

Shawn Wilson is another student who was influenced by Authement. He’s a confidential assistant in the Office of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. He served as USL’s Student Government Association president in 1994 and was elected president of the UL Lafayette Alumni Association in 2004.

Wilson said Authement treated him and other student leaders with respect. “He allowed us to disagree, he allowed us to object and he also allowed us to make mistakes. . . He never strong-armed me or other students and I’ve been pretty close to other past SGA presidents and past Alumni Association presidents.”

Wilson noted that Authement was always thinking ahead. “Many days, I’d go into his office – about to ask for something – and he would already know what I was going to

ask. He would already be committed to say ‘No, and this is why,’ or ‘Yes, and here’s how I’m going to help you.’ I’ve never known him to absolutely say flat out ‘No,’ without an alternative or a better option made available. He will always find a way to achieve your goal, maybe not with your strategy.”

As a USL student, Wilson worked with Authement to secure financing for construction of the Student Aquatic Center on campus. Students approved a self-assessed fee that ultimately funded it. The center opened in 2002.

Wilson said Authement showed him how to “stay focused on a long term vision and not let it change the lenses that I use to see the present environment.”

When Authement was dealing with a controversial matter, Wilson assumed it would dominate the president’s attention. “But there were other issues of advancement for this institution that he was very much focused on. That, in and of itself, is a tremendous skill and gift and talent. It’s so easy to be distracted by what’s right in front of you that you forget about where you’re trying to end up at the end of the day.”

Berthelot said she treasures a letter Authement sent to her as she neared the end of her term as SGA president. “He expressed his gratitude for my service and well wishes for the future. I have placed it next to my diploma because the education I received while solving student problems – through collaborations such as Doc’s – was also an education in itself.” ■

On the Lighter Side

How much do you know about UL Lafayette President Dr. Ray Authement? Test your knowledge by taking this quiz. Here’s a clue: The correct answers may surprise you.

1. Dr. Clyde Rougeou, UL Lafayette’s fourth president, gave Authement this nickname:

- a. T-Ray
- b. Stud
- c. Buddy

2. The president does not have one of these in his office in Martin Hall:

- a. bookcase
- b. potted plant
- c. computer

3. Authement collects:

- a. chess sets
- b. dimes
- c. calculators

4. He has never traveled to:

- a. Europe
- b. Washington, D.C.
- c. California

5. The president likes to tell:

- a. knock-knock jokes
- b. Boudreaux/Thibodeaux jokes
- c. ghost stories

6. He once planned to become:

- a. a priest
- b. a chef
- c. an engineer

7. What does he speak fluently?

- a. Pig Latin
- b. French
- c. Spanish

8. Which of these sports did Authement play in high school?

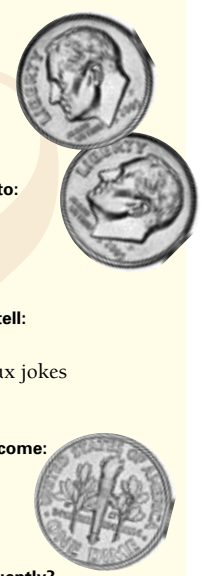
- a. football
- b. soccer
- c. squash

9. To unwind after a stressful workday, he likes to:

- a. work a crossword puzzle
- b. try to solve mathematical puzzles
- c. cook

10. He hates to:

- a. have his photo taken
- b. attend Ragin’ Cajun basketball games
- c. go fishing



Answers: 1. b 2. c 3. b 4. a 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. a 9. b 10. a