



**I**N 2000–2001, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A&M will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its campus. Over the years the campus has received numerous accolades for its unique architecture and landscape. Forty-six buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the campus is protected by the State Capitol Historic District legislation.

The University moved to its current location in 1926. This was the fourth move for the University since its inception in 1860, when the Louisiana State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy opened in Pineville. In 1869 fire destroyed the building, and classes were moved to the State School for the Deaf and Dumb in Baton Rouge. In 1886, the institution was again moved, this time to the Pentagon Barracks, an 1819 military installation that featured four buildings arranged in the shape of a pentagon.

In 1918, largely through the efforts of President Thomas Boyd, the University purchased Gartness Plantation, located south of downtown Baton Rouge. Theodore C. Link, who had designed the St. Louis Union Station, created the campus master plan. His designs define the Italian Renaissance character of the campus, which is marked by red pantile roofs, overhanging eaves, and honey-colored stucco.

The centerpiece of Link's design was a paved balustraded plaza dominated by the campanile tower flanked by a pair of matching "trophy" halls. In front of the plaza was a large semi-elliptical lawn (the Parade Grounds), and to the rear was an axial double quad, composed of two academic quadrangles intersecting in a cruciform pattern. Northwest of the double quad was a new pentagon, composed of four three-story dormitories placed in a configuration reminiscent of the Pentagon Barracks.

The campus was dedicated on April 30, 1926. When Huey P. Long became governor in 1928, he launched a major building campaign that continued through the 1930s. Most of the buildings constructed during this period are the work of Weiss, Dreyfous, and Seiferth, who also designed the new state capitol. They continued to use elements of Link's original design, carrying over the Italian Renaissance flavor. During these years, many of LSU's live oaks (valued at \$36 million) and magnolia trees were planted by landscape artist Steele Burden; in the 1970s, the quadrangle was replanted with azaleas, crepe myrtles, ligustrum, and camellias, and sidewalks were added.

The LSU campus has continued to grow to suit the requirements of its more than 30,000 students, 1,300 faculty, and 3,000 staff members. Since the 1930s, more than 200 principal buildings have been added and many are currently under way, but the heart of the campus still maintains the integrity of its original plan, and architects of more recent campus structures have succeeded in blending contemporary design with the older style of architecture.

With the campus Jubilee, "75 Years Under Oaks and Arches: Building on the Legacy of the Past for the New Century," we commemorate the countless persons involved in the planning, execution, and maintenance of the campus buildings and landscape, and celebrate the future growth of the campus as we continue to meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

