

LSU Alumnus Pledges \$4.7 Million to the LSU Foundation

BY SCOTT MADERE

LSU has announced the naming of its Geology Field Camp Program after one of LSU's most distinguished alumni supporters. Charles Barney, a 1949 LSU engineering graduate, recently pledged \$4.7 million to the LSU Foundation to permanently fund the camp, which is the oldest continuously operating field camp in U.S. history. In recognition of his extraordinary generosity and many decades of leadership in the petroleum industry, LSU has re-named the program the "Charles L. Barney Geology Field Camp Program."

The LSU Geology Field Camp opened in 1928 and serves a vital role within the College of Basic Sciences and the College of Engineering. The field camp gives geology and geophysics students, as well as petroleum engineering students, the opportunity to take their learning experience beyond the classroom and to explore the complex natural structures and mechanisms that form the blueprint for planet Earth. In addition to its priceless quality as a teaching environment, the field camp also serves as a critical recruiting tool for LSU's science and engineering programs.

Thanks to Barney's gift, the field camp will have a perpetual source of funding for the future. All \$4.7 million of the gift will be managed by the LSU Foundation through endowed accounts. This return will be used each year by the Charles Barney Geology Field Camp Program to pay for operating expenses, facility improvement and staff salaries.

"The gift is really unprecedented," said Laurie Anderson, chair of LSU's geology & geophysics department. "It's the

largest gift in the Department of Geology & Geophysics or the College of Basic Sciences. The endowments that are going to be created are going to not only ensure the future of the camp, long after we're all gone, but also help us advance the programs and the facility here. It's really an amazing opportunity."

Barney's \$4.7 million pledge is his second major gift for the benefit of LSU students. In 2005, Barney made headlines with a \$1.3 million gift to LSU's STRIPES program; an expanded orientation program for incoming freshman students.

"It has been a unique pleasure to work closely with Mr. Barney on both gifts, which total nearly \$6 million in permanent endowment," said Jeff Hale, senior director of corporate and foundation relations with the LSU Foundation.

Barney says one of the benefits he

receives from giving is seeing the direct effect his actions are having on LSU's students, particularly at the field camp.

"I've had a wonderful, lucky life," Barney said. "And it's not hard to see the merit of contributions to this camp. It's just a beautiful place and what you learn there you retain your entire life, and it will be with you forever. And I think that those who attend this camp in the future will feel that way. It's just a wonderful feeling."

Barney is a former LSU football player and also a U. S. Navy veteran of World War II. Following the war, he made a mark in the petroleum industry, serving as a key figure in the Mobil and Superior Oil corporations. Barney now runs his own business based in Houston, Mark I Enterprises, which invests in oil and gas as well as real estate.



Through a \$4.7 million pledge, LSU alum Charles Barney has assured the LSU Geology Field Camp will enjoy a permanent source of funding. Pictured at Camp Barney are, from left, LSU geology teaching assistant Craig McClarren, LSU student Brandon Hartmann, Barney and LSU students Jonathan Webb, Will Pritchard and Ahmed Altammar.