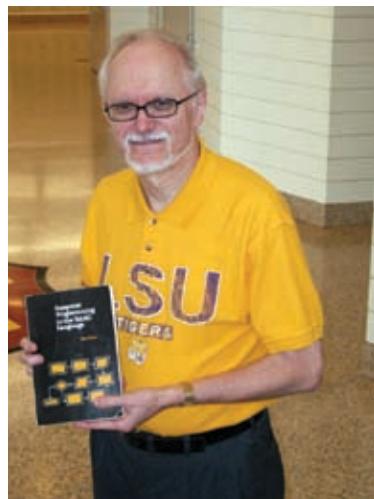# LSU

Treasures OF LSU

Encouraging the Spirit to Soar

Golden Story

By Lindsey Meaux

When Neal Golden (1966 MAST HSS) audited a not-for-credit course utilizing a mainframe computer large enough to fill the room in 1965, he had no idea the newly developed field would keep him challenged for the next several decades.

Neal Golden

After receiving his master's degree in mathematics, Golden pioneered what is thought to be the first computer science class in Louisiana before going on to teach such a class for forty years at Brother Martin High School in New Orleans – eventually breaking ground for high school students throughout the country.

"Writing what became the first high school textbook in the field was very rewarding because it gave me the opportunity to have an impact not only at my school but also at other schools across the nation," Golden explained of his groundbreaking accomplishment.

Since spearheading the computer science program, Golden has worked constantly to stay abreast of technological advances through participation in workshops and summer courses. He currently teaches a wide variety of computer-based classes, from Microsoft Office for beginners to advanced programming and Web site design classes.

"I kind of saw [computer science] as just an adjunct to the math I was studying and something where I could enjoy using my math skills to program the computers," Golden said. "I knew it was important for the future that the students were going to face. I can't say that I saw that it would transform high school education."

And, according to Golden, computers have transformed high schools across the country during his time as a teacher. Both the evolution of the personal computer and the advent of the Internet have guaranteed instant access to information for students — as well as a "literally worldwide view."

Now, Golden is proud to say he has graduates scattered across the country working in computer science, including one at Microsoft, another at an Academy Award-winning movie production company, and two more with Ph.D.s in computer science.

Lindsey Meaux is a senior in the Manship School of Mass Communication, concentrating in public relations.