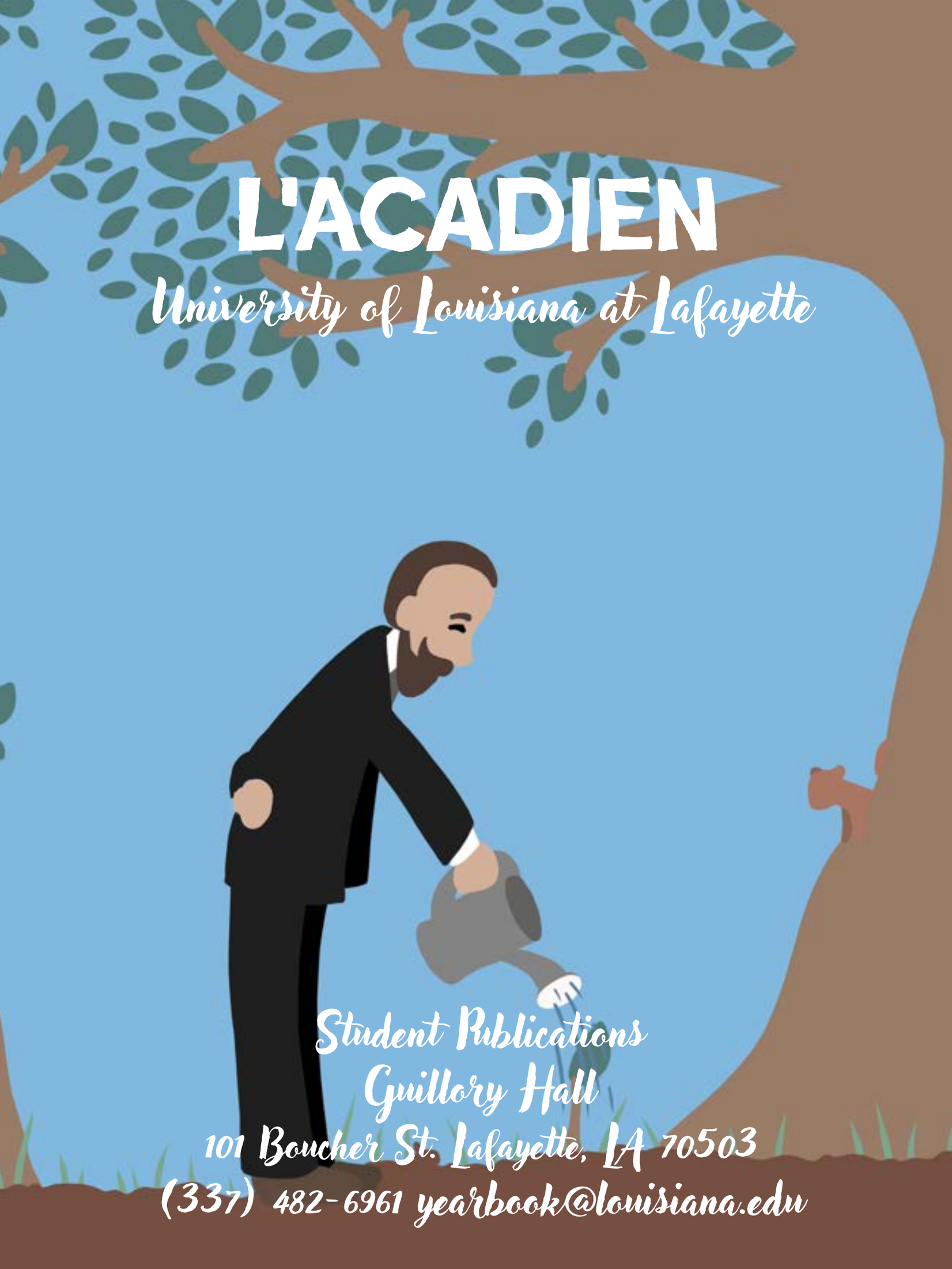
L'ACADIEN

University of Louisiana at Lafayette



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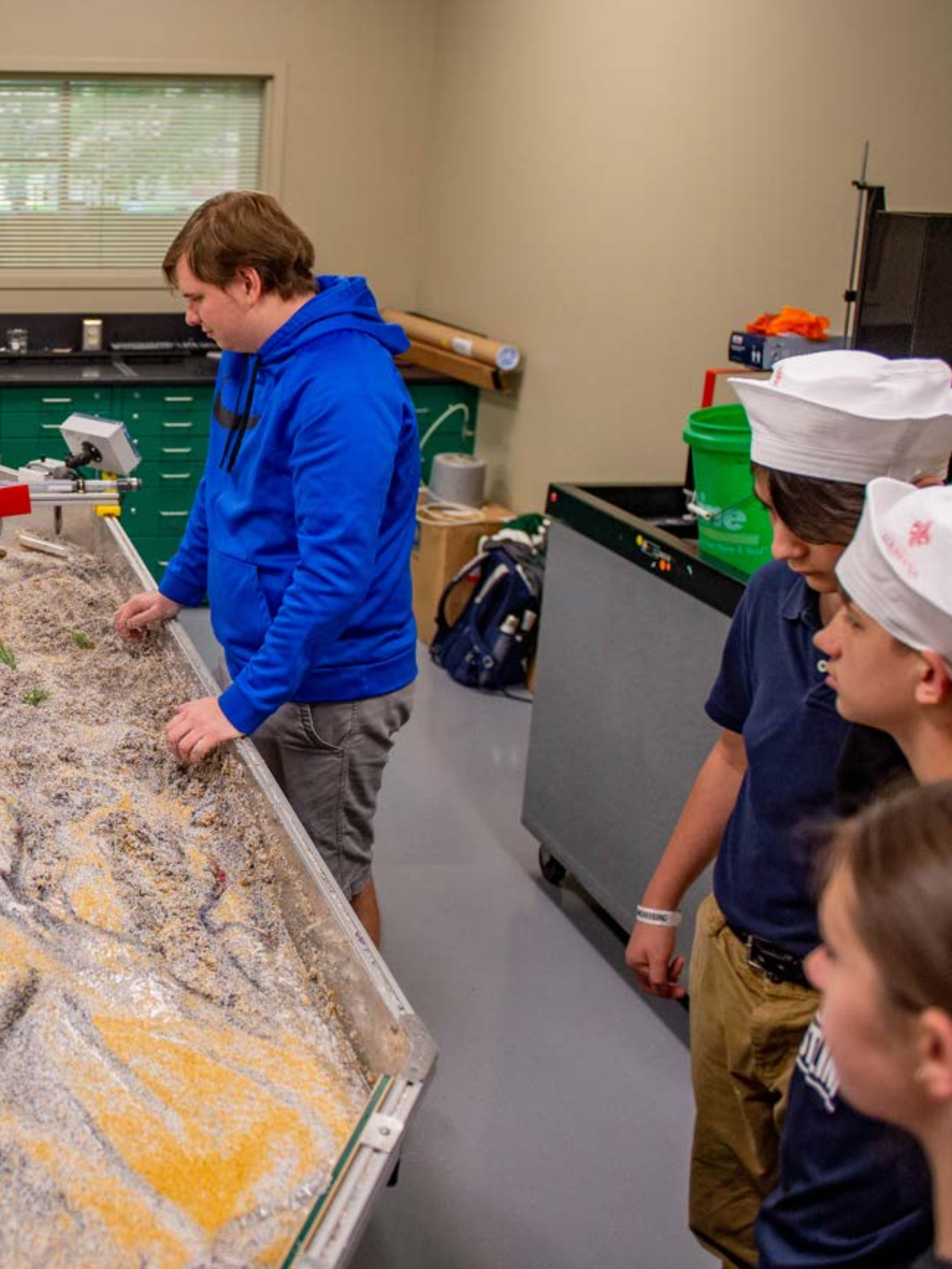
MORE THAN $164 MILLION IN RESEARCH SPENDING



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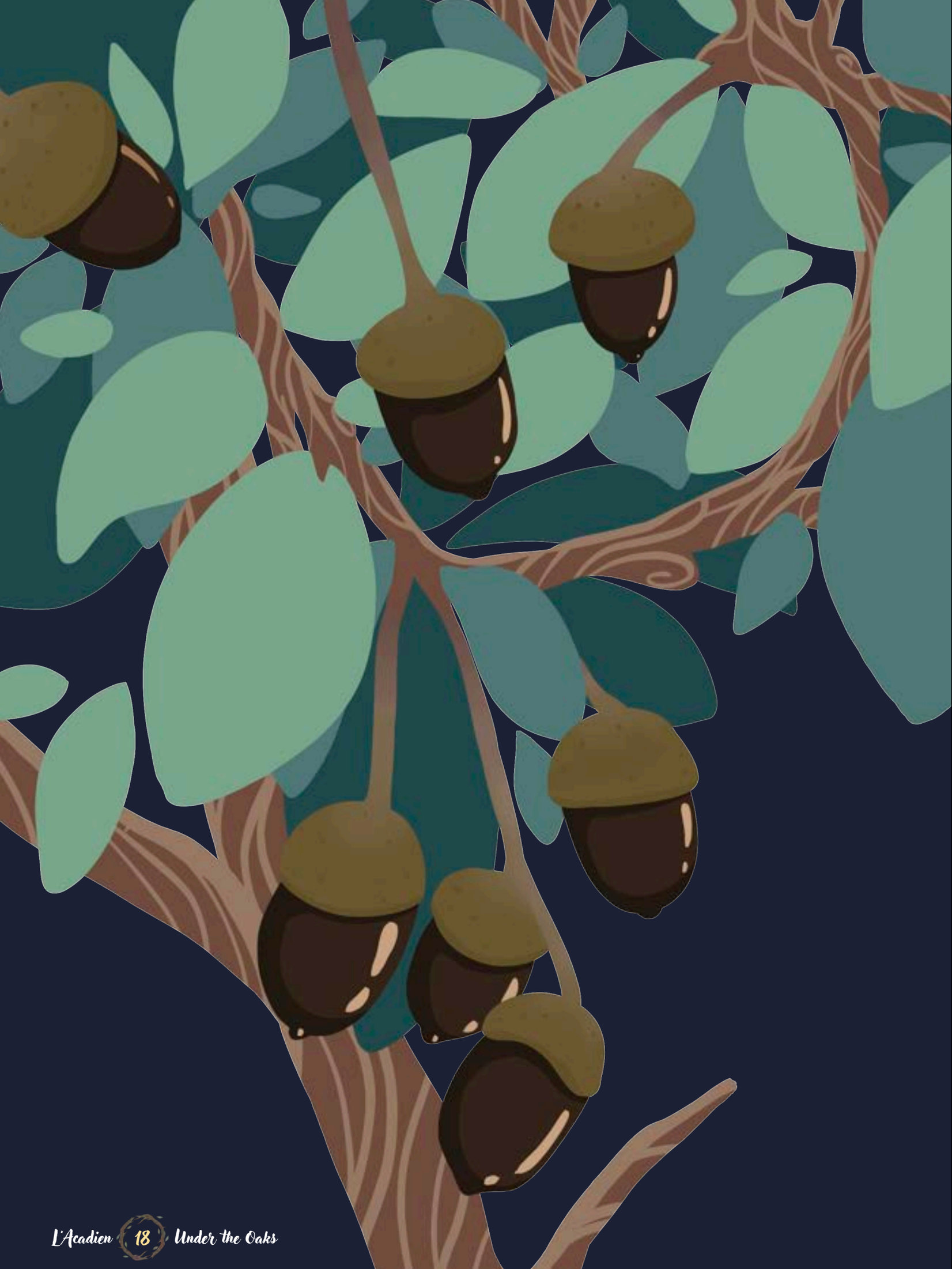
STUDENT DRIVEN, COMMUNITY CENTERED

14 NCAA DIVISION I TEAMS

STUDENT FOCUSED SHOWCASE



UNDER THE OAKS

A note from the L'Acadien staff

The L'Acadien staff chose "Under the Oaks" as the yearbook theme for the 2022-23 academic year, to reflect students and faculty fully returning to campus as COVID-19 ended. The theme is inspired by the oak trees that are well known around the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus.

UL's first president, Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens planted the oaks in 1901, three years after the university was founded. His statue, located near Girard Hall, holds an acorn that freshmen can rub as part of a tradition that assures good luck as they begin college.

The oaks have been a long-standing symbol of UL Lafayette's history, and the L'Acadien staff wanted to utilize the theme of "Under the Oaks" to portray the uniqueness of the people, programs and campus at UL.

The staff decided to depict the mighty oaks, throughout the book and in the folio art at the bottom corner of each page. This design includes a circle of leaves and branches. The patterned backgrounds on most pages feature tree rings, branches, magnolias, Japanese magnolia blossoms, leaves and the commonly seen Spanish moss. The colors in the book also exemplify the theme by primarily utilizing earth tones of brown, green and yellow.

The L'Acadien staff hopes that the 2022-23 yearbook offers a chance for reflection and keeps the year's memories alive and strong like UL Lafayette's great oak trees.

Julia McDow | Writer, Illustrator and Designer

UL'S OAK TREES

120-year symbol of growth and strength

The first oak trees were hand-planted by the university's first president Dr. Edwin Stephens when the University of Louisiana at Lafayette was founded as Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute. The Century Oaks are located near the intersection of Johnston Street and University Avenue.

Stephens decided to plant the trees on the 25 acres of donated cane field where SLII resided. According to an article by The Advocate, "On Jan. 1, 1901, the first day of the 20th century, he planted oaks with the volunteer help of Jack Nickerson-perhaps as few as 10 live oaks, according to Harry Chatterton, an agriculture professor in 1919." Eight of the 10 trees that were planted are still standing strong more than 120 years later.

Stephens loved the oak trees for their strength. According to The Advocate, he had more planted around the expanded campus. He sent seedlings to other local schools and in the 1930s he and his wife, Beverly, drove throughout the region looking for oaks, assessing them, measuring them.

In 1934, Stephens founded the Live Oak Society. According to their website, the mission of "The society is to promote the culture, distribution, preservation and appreciation of the live oak tree, scientifically known as Quercus virginiana." Stephens chose 43 trees to start the society which now has 9,760 members in 14 different states. Some of the states in the society are Kentucky, California, Texas, New York and Ohio.

The Live Oak Society only has one human member, a chairman, who is responsible for recording and registering the trees—which are the other members of the society. The president of the society is the "Seven Sisters Oak" which is located in Lewisburg, Louisiana and the vice presidents are made up of four trees.

"Middleton Oak" is the first vice president and is located in Charleston, South Carolina. The second vice president is the "St. John Cathedral Oak" and can be found in Lafayette.

"Lagarde Oak" is the third vice president and calls Luling, Louisiana its home. The last vice president is the "Martha Washington Live Oak" and can be found in Audubon Park in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 2010, the Office of Sustainably was founded on campus to continue the University's dedication to sustainably.

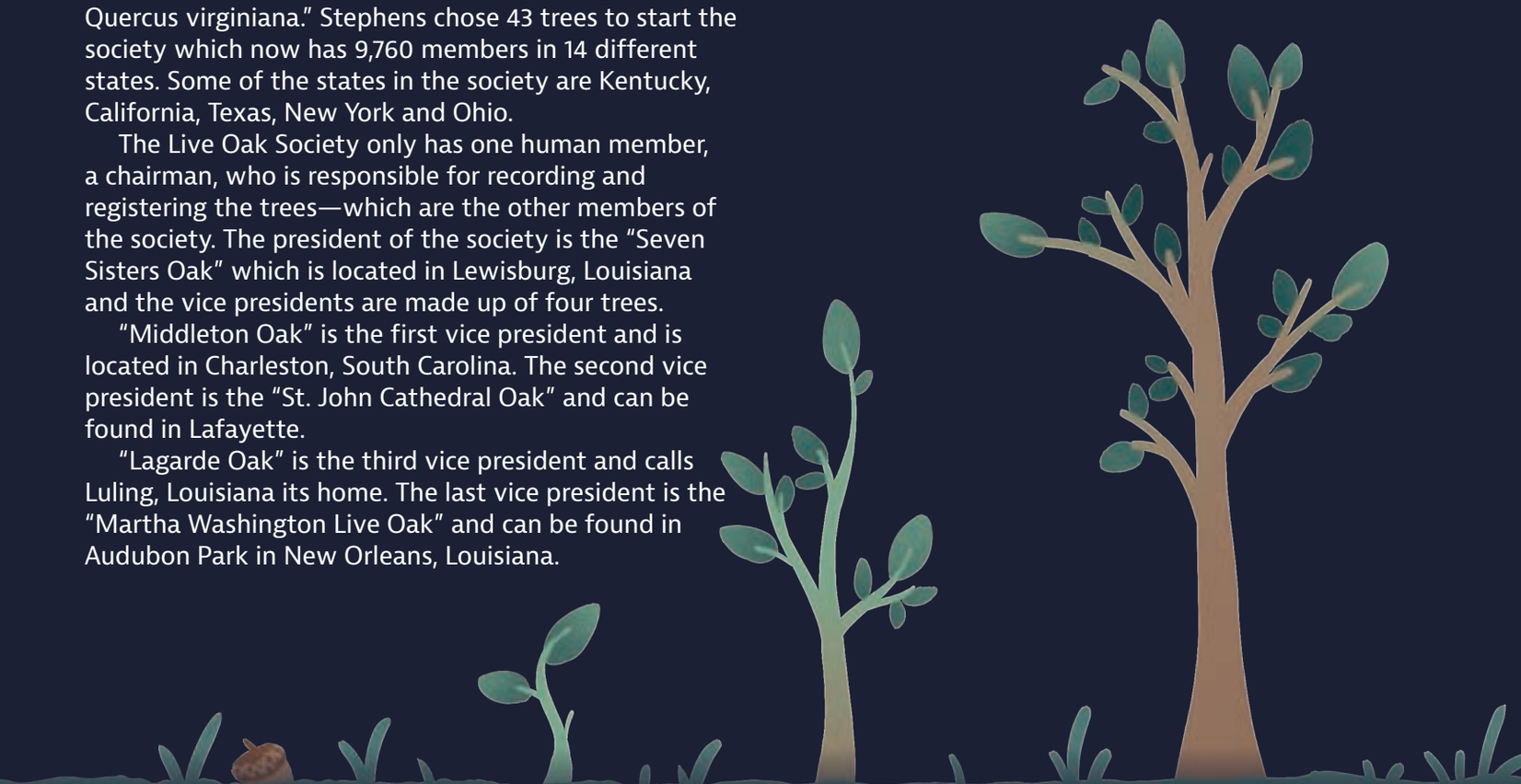
The office works in formalizing the University's sustainability efforts, actively engaging students, and further expanding community outreach efforts.

On Arbor Day 2023, the Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with UL Lafayette Americorp, planted a 1,000-pound live oak tree at the Whittington House, located on Johnston Street. The live oak was grown from an acorn from Lafayette's own St. John Cathedral.

In 2014, the university unveiled a bronze statue of Stephens next to Girard Hall to further honor his legacy. The life-size monument faces the oaks Stephen planted more than a century ago. In the right hand of the statue is an acorn.The artwork was created by Patrick Miller.

A quote from Stephens is included on a plaque near its base that detailed his vision for the oaks.

"To my mind, the live oak is the noblest of all our trees, the most to be admired for its beauty, the most to be respected for its majesty and dignity and grandeur, most to be praised for its strength."



Marie Ducote | Writer
Julia McDow | Illustrator
Julia McDow | Designer

ALLISON LEIGH

Art Historian

Allison Leigh, Ph.D., is an art historian and assistant professor of art history at UL Lafayette. Leigh is also a SLEMCO/LEQSF Regents Endowed Professor in art and architecture. She has been teaching on campus for seven years.

Leigh specializes in 18th and 19th-century Russian art and masculinity studies.

"I always say, as an art historian, I specialize in two things, both of which are a little unusual. I'm known mostly in my field for specializing in 18th and 19th-century Russian art, which very few people do," Leigh said. "It's just kind of earlier in the history of that country's art than most people tend to look. I'm sort of one of the few that people can go to if they want to know about that kind of art and the 1800s, 1700s. Going all the way back to Peter the Great, that's kind of what I do."

"But as my career has unfolded, I tend to specialize in masculinity studies. I study what men's lives were like in earlier periods in history. What were the ideals, the rules? What did it mean to violate standard notions of what it meant to be a successful man? How do we assess using art, what men's lives were like, what their desires were? So it's a new up-and-coming field to study men; it's a new part of gender studies, basically."

Before coming to UL, Leigh lived in New York City and when she was interviewing for jobs seven years ago, she had two offers she liked, but says what drew her to Louisiana was the culture.

"I almost think it was Louisiana itself that did it to me. I felt so charmed by my visit down here like the Spanish moss, the trees and there were those big white birds flying around in Girard Park," Leigh said. "I moved here from New York City, where it's super urban jungle concrete, tall skyscraper buildings. I felt like there was a magic here, like true old fashioned. I don't know. . . culture, voodoo magic, like something spiritual to this place in the nature in particular."

Mardi Gras break is her favorite tradition in Lafayette because those extra days off gives her and her students a break during the semester.

"The time that affords me at that moment in the semester. I wish every professor all over the country had that because it's very special that we get those days," Leigh said. "And I think both students need it, and professors need it."

Leigh is currently writing a book about misogyny and sexism in modern art.

"I'm going back and really doing what I think is a radical reassessment of some of the major artists like names we all know, Picasso, Renoir and Degas with his ballerinas these famous guys from the last 200 years," Leigh said. "And assessing them in terms of what they said to women, what they did to women, the abuse they inflicted in many cases on their children, their wives and their lovers. And sort of trying to restore some ethical sensibility. Thinking about you know, we revere these guys. Should we revere these guys like in the wake of #MeToo? Is it time to reassess who our heroes are in terms of what we really know about them?"

To keep her lessons fresh, Leigh constantly changes her syllabus and takes in students' opinions to help her change it.

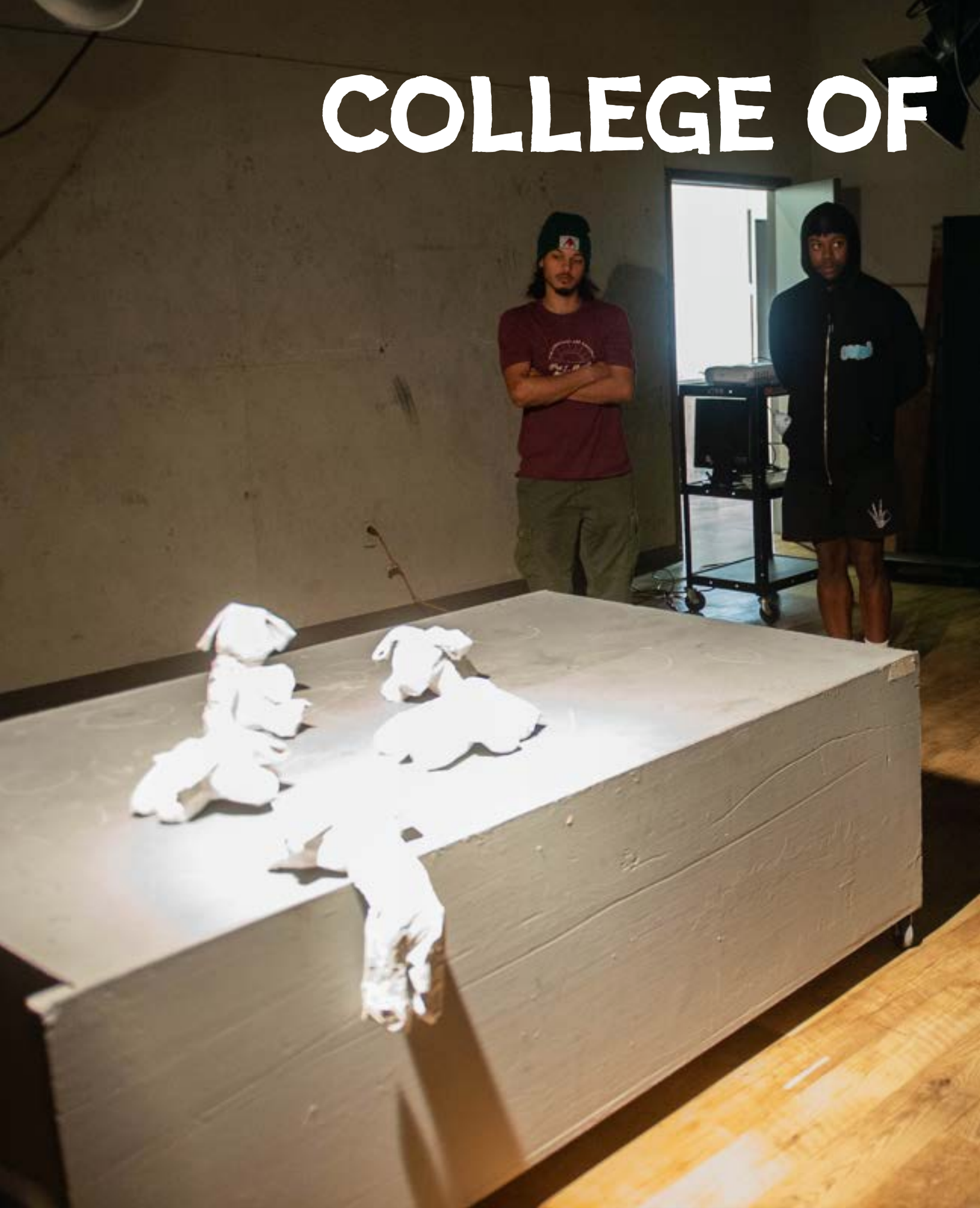
"One is because I do tend to teach the same stuff every year with a few exceptions and I don't ever want it to become stale for myself," Leigh said. "So one of the ways for it to not ever be like, 'Oh, I've taught this lecture 1,000 times. This is boring. I kind of want to look at that painting,' is to constantly change the readings that I'm giving and change the configuration of the history that I'm teaching. I like to alter the story in subtle ways basically. That keeps it really fresh."

Leigh loves teaching because she is sharing her knowledge with the future generation and helping them grow as leaders.

"I love that I actually get to make a difference in terms of growing the knowledge of the future generation," Leigh said. "I mean, the world is going to be ruled and belong to you all and sharing my knowledge and what wisdom I was given by those before me. That system is beautiful."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

COLLEGE OF



ARTS

Collaborative Creativity

In February 2023, Daryl Joseph Moore was named dean for the College of the Arts. This new appointment comes after the retirement of the former dean H. Gordon Brooks in 2021. The associate dean of the School of Art and Architecture Michael McClure had been the interim dean.

In September 2022, the college hosted a community art exhibition and online auction for the SPARK fund, titled 12" x 12" in Fletcher Hall. This exhibition featured art from UL alum, staff, faculty and artists from the Acadiana area. According to the UL website, "The SPARK fund is committed to funding facets of college and student development that help to make the College of the Arts a vibrant and thriving community. This annual fund helps support the Dean's Scholars program, student organizational support and grants for creative research."

The School of Music and Performing Arts, for its 2022 spring show, put on the musical "Urinetown." This production saw the collab of several departments within the school, such as cast members from the music, dance and theatre programs. The School of Music provided the musicians. Faculty and students from the theatre program provided designs for lighting, scenic and costumes. The dance program provided the choreography for the musical.

The Chamber Choir in the fall of 2022 won at the Michelangelo International Music Festival in Florence, Italy. They were awarded the Grand Prix prize meaning they were the best choir across all categories with two gold medals.

In February of 2023 ,the department of visual arts hosted a visiting artist talk in Fletcher Hall from photographer Pradip Malde. During the presentation, Malde showed selected photographs from his book "From Where Loss Comes."

The 2021-2022 Dean's Scholarship Award was presented to Imani McCullum (theatre), Keiona Williams (dance), Braelyn Richard (interior design), Rebecca Judice (VIAR painting), Clare Kavanagh (industrial design) and Arrington Holmes (VIAR graphic design).

In 2022, the interior design program received a designated studio in Fletcher Hall that includes two sides of floor-to-ceiling windows. Also in 2022, Annika Miller, a visiting assistant professor in the UL School of Architecture and Design, won gold at the Muse International Design Awards in the accessories category for her 720° shoulder bag design.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Julia McDow | Designer

HOMECOMING COURT 2022

UL Communications | Writer
UL Communications | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Homecoming Queen
Lauren Lopez

Lauren Lopez is a junior from Lafayette, majoring in management. She was nominated by Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority.

Lopez served as the sorority's vice president of new member education. She was Panhellenic Woman of the Year. Lopez was an SGA senator for the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration. She has been a member of the Student Orientation Staff leadership group, and was a New Student Convocation host for the Office of First-Year Experience.

Lopez is the daughter of Betsy and Jason Lopez.

Homecoming King
Colby Hebert

Colby Hebert is a junior from Lafayette, majoring in political science. He was nominated by the Student Government Association.

Hebert has served as president of both Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Student Supporter Organization. He is SGA vice president.

His parents are Melanie and Donny Hebert.

Amelia Claire Hebert

Amelia Claire Hebert is a junior from Lafayette majoring in Kinesiology. She was nominated by Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Hebert serves as Delta Delta Delta Sorority's vice president of membership experience. She belongs to the Greek Life Core Team of Ragin' Cajun Catholics. Hebert served as a volunteer for The Big Event, a daylong community service effort completed by students.

She is the daughter of Raymond and Allyson Hebert.

Destiny Broussard

Destiny Broussard is a senior from Opelousas, La., majoring in Human Development and Family Sciences. She was nominated by the Student Government Association.

Broussard served as learning coordinator for the University of Louisiana System's Student Advisory Council. Broussard is SGA president and a SOUL Camp lead staff mentor for the Office of Orientation. She was director of volunteer and recruitment for The Big Event. Broussard belongs to Infinity Dance Group.

Her parents are Cynthia and Joseph Broussard.

Emma Taylor

Emma Taylor is a senior majoring in Kinesiology. She was nominated by Order of Omega, and she served as president for the Greek honor society.

Taylor has been the Panhellenic Council's vice president of membership recruitment. She represented the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration as an SGA senator. Taylor was a student ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment. She worked as an intern for Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Football.

Stacia and Michael Taylor are her parents.

Jordan Elizabeth Richard

Jordan Elizabeth Richard is a senior from New Iberia, La., majoring in Biology. She was nominated by Kappa Delta Sorority.

Richard has served as the sorority's vice president for community service and its vice president for inclusion. She has been president and volunteer coordinator for the Pre-Professional Society for the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership. As a member of Ragin' Cajun Catholics, Richard has led Bible studies and retreats.

Her parents are Russ and Melissa Richard.

Grayson Stepanek

Grayson Stepanek is a senior from Lafayette majoring in Marketing. He was nominated by Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Stepanek is the fraternity's public relations chair. He has been the Interfraternity Council's vice president of public relations. Stepanek earned the Outstanding Marketing/Recruitment Award as part of the 2022 Ragin' Recognition Awards. He was among five athletics marketing interns who volunteered for the 2021 Sun Belt Conference Football Championship Game.

His parents are Doc and Roxanne Stepanek.

Rylan Theyard

Rylan Theyard is a graduate student from New Orleans majoring in Kinesiology. He was nominated by the University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Theyard is a member of the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns track and field team and belongs to the Black Student-Athlete Association. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the National Panhellenic Council.

His parents are Rodrick and Nikeitha Theyard.

Terence Toomer Jr.

Terence Toomer Jr. is a senior from New Orleans majoring in General Studies. He was nominated by the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Student Supporter Organization and served as its vice president.

He is president of the University Program Council and was a three-year peer mentor for the Office of First-Year Experience.

He is the son Anya Braddy and Terence Toomer Sr.

Cade Roy

Cade Roy is a sophomore from Maurice, La., majoring in Political Science. He was nominated by Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority.

Roy represents the University as a member of its Ragin' Ambassador Program for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment. He belongs to the University Honors Program. Roy was a New Student Convocation speaker. He serves as executive board president for Dance Marathon, a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals initiative.

His parents are Scott and Angela Roy.

HOCO WEEK 2022

All roads lead . . .

The 2022 Homecoming theme was "All Roads Lead to Vermilion Red and White." Homecoming featured two weeks of events.

Kicking off Homecoming with a bang, dozens of organizations showed off their artistic skills in the expressive tradition "Paint Your Pride."

Next, students served looks at the fashion show with students strutting the catwalk and showing off their styles in multiple categories: casual, business and UL.

The Homecoming block party had several local businesses show their support for the Ragin' Cajuns, including a service for personalized UL license plates. The block party featured fun party games and delicious food for students to enjoy.

Ragin' Cajuns showed off their skills at the "Cajuns Got Talent" show. With dozens of performances rocking the stage, only four acts could make it out on top. Congrats to Leading LIFE, Kappa Delta sorority, Sigma Chi fraternity and Joshua Mason for crushing the competition.

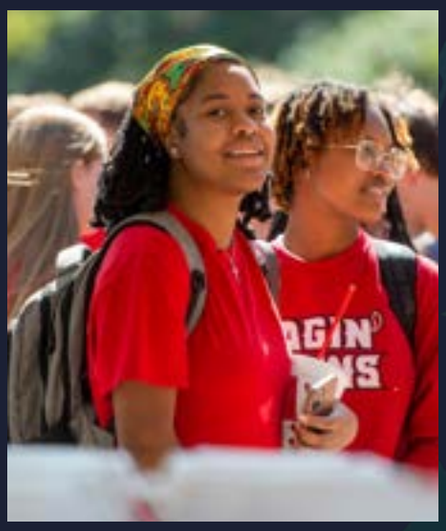
The biggest pep rally of the year, Yell like Hell brought intense energy and featuring performances from Ragin' Cajun Cheerleaders, Ragin' Jazz, and, for the first time, Infinity Dance. They all rocked Cypress Lake.

Several schools showed their Ragin' Cajun pride during the annual Paint the Town Red. Schools included Edward J. Sam's Accelerated School of Lafayette, Broussard Preschool, Acadiana Preschool, Carencro Preschool, Eaton Park Elementary, Jesse Owens Elementary, Woodvale Elementary, and Education Destination.

Businesses around Lafayette participated in Paint the Town Red, showing pride for their UL Ragin' Cajuns.

On game day, the Homecoming parade saw the community come out and show their Ragin' Cajun pride. With floats from Omega Psi Phi, Tri Sigma, and Kappa Delta, and an appearance from the Homecoming court, the festivities dripped with Ragin' Cajun flavor.

Thousands showed out at Cajun Field to enjoy gameday festivities and support the football team. Students, alumni and community members alike brought an incredible spirit and passion to an already intense game.



UL students gather on St. Mary Blvd. for the Homecoming block party (above).

Homecoming 2022 events included a talent show (opposite page) and Paint Your Pride contest (left and above).

The Homecoming parade (left and above) is a student favorite at UL as is Yell Like Hell (below left) and the talent show (below).

Aidan Millford | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Iyahna Johnson | Designer

HOMECOMING BLOCK PARTY

Boyd Daniels | Photographer
Iyahna Johnson | Designer

The Homecoming Block Party gave students a break from classes and a fun way to interact with local businesses to gain information, win prizes and have fun with friends.

COLLEGE

Leading Programs

The B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration is the largest college at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The College's student enrollment makes up 18% of the total UL student enrollment.

Within this college, students can earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, in one of eight majors, including accounting, economics, finance, hospitality management, insurance and risk management, management, marketing and professional land and resource management.

Graduate degrees include a Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Accounting Online and Graduate Business Certificate Online.

This college is accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and prides itself in being among the top 1% of business schools worldwide for being accredited in both business and accounting.

The Moody Business Professional Land Resource Management program is accredited by the American Association of Professional Landmen, and the Moody Business Hospitality Management Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration.

This college has received multiple rankings for this academic year. The College of Business Administration has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report Best Online Master's in Business Programs for the MS in Accounting, Bachelor's in Business, Online MBA programs and Online MBA programs for Veterans 2023. The college has been in the Princeton Review: Best Business Schools each year from 2018-2023.

The vision of this college is to be recognized as a leader in developing ethically responsible professionals and scholars who positively impact the Acadiana region, Louisiana and the global community. This college holds community, discovery, excellence, integrity, relevance and respect closely in its values.

The College of Business hosts and advocates various workshops, internships, discussions and networking opportunities throughout the year for its students to better prepare them for their intended careers.

Kay Padilla | Writer
Malik Jones | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

OF BUSINESS

IMC and the promotional mix
① Target Audience
② PLC
③ Channel Strategy
* push
pull

Snowball Fight!

On Nov. 30, 2022, the Student Government Association hosted the annual Sneaux Day at Martin Hall Circle. The event was also sponsored by School Leaders Involved in Drinking and Drug Education (SLIDDE) and the President's Office.

The event helps get UL students into the holiday spirit and acts as a breather before the stress of finals kicks in. Sneaux Day was an all-ages event, with a snowball-throwing area set up for children near the President's house and another snowball-throwing area for UL students set up across University circle.

Ragin' Cajuns cheerleaders, UL Lafayette Chamber Choir and Infinity Dance Group provided performances. Free t-shirts were handed out to UL students. There was also a Christmas-themed trivia contest where students could win gift cards. People attending Sneaux Day had the chance to take pictures with Santa Claus at the President's house.

Free hot cocoa and cookies were provided to help people warm up from snowballs thrown at them, and the weather was extra chilly that night.

The highlight of Sneaux Day was the snowman-building contest, where teams competed to win a $300 scholarship. As the SGA put it, Sneaux Day is "UL Lafayette's coolest tradition!"

During Sneaux Day, students were able to make snow balls and create snow people or sculptures as well as enjoy some hot chocolate and get a free T-shirt.

SNEAUX DAY

Marie Ducote | Writer
Boyd Daniels | Photographer
Julia McDow | Designer

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Long live the Queen

On Sept. 8, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II passed away at the age of 96, succeeded by her eldest son Charles III. She had reigned for over 70 years, the longest of any British monarch. The United Kingdom observed a 10-day national mourning period following her death, along with tributes to the late Queen on display throughout the country and condolences expressed by international leaders.

King Charles III spoke on his mother's passing in his first address as the new monarch.

"Throughout her life, Her Majesty The Queen—my beloved Mother—was an inspiration and example to me and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother; for her love, affection, guidance, understanding and example," Charles III said.

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden released a statement about the Queen after her death.

"She endured the dangers and deprivations of a world war alongside the British people and rallied them during the devastation of a global pandemic to look to better days ahead. Through her dedication to her patronages and charities, she supported causes that uplifted people and expanded opportunity." the statement says."Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was more than a monarch. She defined an era."

Two days before her death, Elizabeth II appointed Liz Truss as the new Prime Minister of the UK in one of her final acts as Queen. Truss stepped down from the office 50 days later.

Since Elizabeth II became Queen of England, the world saw many historical changes, such as the Soviet Union's launching of the first artificial Earth satellite, China's Cultural Revolution, the end of the Cold War, the Arab Spring, Britain's vote to leave the European Union and the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Her reign also saw the decolonization of Africa, in which all of Britain's remaining colonies were granted independence by 1980. The process was not entirely peaceful, evidenced by the Mau Mau

1926 - 2022

Rebellion in the British Kenya Colony, whose people fought against and were suppressed by the colonists and the British Army.

Notably, The Troubles also took place during Elizabeth II's reign. It was a three-decade period of conflict in Northern Ireland between the Loyalists, who wanted Ireland to remain as part of the United Kingdom, and the Republicans, who wanted Ireland to be independent from Britain. Fighting mainly took place between paramilitary groups on both sides, and British forces, including the British Army.

This conflict eventually ended with the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which restored self-government to Northern Ireland while keeping it a part of the United Kingdom.

Though King Charles III took the throne immediately after the Queen's passing, his coronation wasn't until May 6, 2023. It was met with celebrations, protests and ambivalence within the United Kingdom. While many people watched the coronation, many others joined in demonstrations calling for the abolishment of monarchy, and others still weren't interested in the event at all. According to a poll by YouGov, 35% of British adults stated that they "do not care very much" about the coronation.

The late Queen is buried in St. George's chapel. She is survived by her four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is remembered for having the longest reign of any British monarch, and one that saw countless historical events and monumental changes throughout the world.

Adhamm Safford | Writer
Sarah Guidry | Illustrator
Meg Norwood | Designer

GLASS DRAG SHOW

On Monday, Oct. 17, 2022, Giving, Love, Acceptance, Safety and Support (GLASS) hosted its 13th Annual Drag Show in Angelle Hall.

The drag show is GLASS' biggest fundraiser and helps fund events GLASS hosts on the UL campus.

President of GLASS Cody Barbier shares why the drag show is such an important event.

"First off, because drag has been part of queer culture for a long time," Barbier said. "You know, sort of the fighting of gender norms and playing around with femininity and masculinity in the form of performance. So bringing that to UL is important for those reasons, just giving more people exposure to those elements of queer culture. And trying to make people know that there is this presence on campus that they can feel a little bit more safe, hopefully."

This year's show saw a performance by the 2021 King GLASS, Mr. Mistiffelees. The Mistress of Ceremonies was 2016 Queen Glass Veronica VanHorne. With a guest performance by 2018 Queen GLASS Laxus Chantal.

There were eight contestants in all four drag kings and four drag queens. Contestants lip-synced to a song of their choosing. A panel of five judges graded the performers on stage presence and the audience's reaction.

Veronica VanHorne interacted with the audience and invited select members of the audience and one judge on stage to strut the runway. The judge that was chosen to go up was Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Engagement and Leadership Heidie Lindsey.

According to Barbier, the planning process is intense.

"The planning process, largely, is year-round because people are throwing out ideas and stuff, but really we started having our group meetings and planning it late springs," Barbier said. "We have a big Google Drive full of information from previous drag shows in a step-by-step guide of how to plan the drag show."

After intermission, there was a guest performance by drag queen Miss Thing and a basket giveaway to a few lucky audience members. All of the contestants then strutted the runway before the top two Kings and Queens lip-synced for their life to decide the 2022 King and Queen of GLASS.

Mr. Mistiffelees and 2021 Queen GLASS Annie R. U. O'Gay crowned Mister Skeeto as the 2022 King GLASS and Rivule the 2022 Queen GLASS. They were both presented with a crown and a bouquet of roses. The winners then walked together across the stage to everyone cheering.

Barbier expressed how much it means to him to be a part of the drag show.

"It feels great. I mean it gets a little stressful. It's a lot of work, but it's seeing that payoff and seeing it actually come to life is so important and just makes it all worth it," Barbier said. "Also like the fact that I mentioned before, it helps fund queer community building, and stuff like that even makes it so much more worth it to me."

Students participated in the 2022 GLASS Drag Show.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Mister Skeeto was crowned 2022 King GLASS and Rivule was the 2022 Queen GLASS.

FALL GRADUATION

The Fall 2022 graduation was held between the two days of December 16 and December 17. Half of the graduations were held at the Convention Center and the other half were held in the Cajundome.

Through all of these graduations from the eight colleges at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, there were 1,214 degrees awarded to students. Of the 1,214 degrees awarded, there were 896 bachelor's degrees, 285 master's degrees, and 33 doctoral degrees.

This is a very large number of students who have worked tremendously hard for their degree and now deserve this. Another notable accomplishment for the Fall class of 2022 is the diversity experienced in this group of graduating students. Students were from all over Louisiana, the United States, and even international countries. It is amazing to see this diversity growing at our University.

Kayla Billiot | Writer
Malik Jones | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

In December 2022, UL Lafayette awarded 1,214 degrees, making the ceremony one of the largest in UL history.

Students smile after receiving their diplomas.

Originality was prevalent as students decorated their caps, thanking those that helped them graduate.

Students listening to the speakers during commencement.

ΣX

long story short,
I survived.

NIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
Lafayette

COLLEGE OF

New technology trends

Engineering a strong, smart, sustainable future; together we innovate. With a curriculum that strongly emphasizes fundamental theory, intensive problem solving, hands-on laboratory experience, enhanced management and business knowledge, the College of Engineering maintains national accreditation in all of its programs.

This college receives accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET for its Civil, Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering Departments; and the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering for its Engineering Technology Department.

In 2023, The College of Engineering introduced a new department; Engineering and Technology, along with a new degree, Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Technological Management. In addition, six new undergraduate concentrations and one new graduate concentration were added.

Students have the option of enrolling in the state's only undergraduate degree in Engineering & Technology Management. A few of the new concentrations include Sustainable Energy Systems in Mechanical Engineering, Autonomous and Robotic Systems in Mechanical Engineering and Water Resources and Environmental Engineering in Civil Engineering, which were introduced in the fall of 2022.

Along with new degree routes, new programs have been introduced in 2022-23. An Order of the Engineer ring ceremony and many career development workshops are a few examples of these new programs. This college is also launching a new Continuing Engineering Education Program (CEEP), which is committed to advancing technical engineering education opportunities and helping work professionals continue their education while continuing their full-time jobs.

These accomplishments are followed by the College of Engineering's active research grants increasing by 128% in the past six years. Students and faculty alike are responsible for the increase of these funds.

The College of Engineering showed an enrollment increase of first-time freshmen by 14% overall and an 18% increase in female enrollment—the highest increases in the last five years. With more than 1,400 students in the college, engineering makes up about 10% of the total UL student population.

Kay Padilla | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

ENGINEERING

FESTIVALS ACADIENS ET CREOLES

Music, food, art and fun

The three-day event now known as Festivals Acadiens et Creoles is one of the largest free public events in the state of Louisiana. Festivals started as a simple concert. It was intended to be a single-day tribute to Cajun music and was held on March 26, 1974. Soon after, the Council for Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) discussed a larger, grassroots outreach event that would celebrate Creole and Cajun cultures.

Originally located at Blackham Coliseum, the festival was so popular that, in 1976, organizers moved the event to the fall and relocated it to Girard Park as attendees requested more space to dance.

By its third year, the musical tribute had become Festival du Musique. It was then merged with other Lafayette festivals such as the Louisiana Native and Contemporary Crafts Festival and the Bayou Food Festival. This merger of three events is why the name Festivals Acadiens et Creoles remains plural.

The combination of these three festivals—focusing on the crafts, music and food of South Louisiana—is the basis for this cooperative celebration, reflecting the importance of these aspects in the culture of South Louisiana.

Festivals typically begins with the cutting of the boudin link on Friday at 5 p.m. Throughout the next three days, live music is performed on six stages; dozens of restaurants offer festival goes their best cuisine and artists of all kinds sell their creations.

Jam sessions and children's activities are held throughout the weekend. Attendees also have plenty of chances to "kick up some dust," because, by Sunday afternoon, the grass near most stages has become worn due to the thousands of people showing off their footwork to their favorite Creole and Cajuns tunes, played by musicians of all ages.

Local artists draw caricatures and display their work during the three-day festival in Girard Park.

Festival goers enjoy good music and good food during their time at Festivals Acadiens.

Local musicians showcase the sounds of Acadiana.

Kayla Billiot | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

RENOVATIONS

Madison Hall and College of Engineering

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is finalizing plans to establish a new building for the College of Engineering. The new engineering building will be a modern student-centered space that will be for the collaboration of future engineers in all areas of the college.

Jaimie Hebert, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said that the College of Engineering is one of the most reputable and responsive programs at UL Lafayette because it plays a major role in the economy and workforce on a regional and national scale.

The College of Engineering has had to evolve because the field of engineering is changing as a result of new technological advances.

"The modernization of our engineering facilities was absolutely important to continue to be responsive to changes in the workforce," Hebert said.

Construction of the new building was scheduled to start in the fall 2023 semester. The building will be located on campus between Oliver Hall and the Girard Park Circle Parking Tower. The entire project is expected to take anywhere from 16 to 18 months to complete.

Madison Hall will undergo renovations in three phases during the construction of the new building. The main use for Madison Hall after the new building is complete will be for research purposes and teaching.

The College of Engineering played a vital role in achieving the Carnegie R1 classification. The renovations will include new equipment and upgrades to the research labs which will be the main focus of Madison Hall.

Scott Hebert, director of facility management, explains that this is a state-funded project run by the Office Facility Planning and Control. The new building is estimated to cost $27 million. The state has funded $15 million, and UL Lafayette has been able to match that initial amount by generating $12 million in private funding.

Rebecca Doucet, interim associate vice president and the lead major gift officer for the College of Engineering, is responsible for strategy and execution of the fundraising plan for the new engineering building. Supplemental funding is needed to furnish the new building and Madison Hall raising the fundraising goal to $50 million.

"In addition to the building construction, there is a need to provide technology and equipment, support student programming, and endow the long-term maintenance and operation of the building and its programs," Doucet wrote in a statement to The Vermilion.

The university has contacted designers to create a schematic design, and a contractor to manage the budget. The construction of the new building is currently in the design development phase. As soon as the design development process is complete, the team will be ready to break ground next year.

Dean of the College of Engineering, Ahmed Khattab, wants the building to provide a place for students to collaborate and interact with each other. It will be a place to foster and adopt innovation and learning.

"The vision for the future depends on what we really mainly do. We educate engineers, not just to solve today's challenges, but to solve tomorrow's challenges as well," Khattab said.

The building will facilitate learning in one location for all six engineering departments including civil, chemical, electrical and computer, mechanical, petroleum and engineering technology.

The infrastructure of the building will include a new auditorium, makerspaces, classrooms, student mentoring/tutoring rooms and student organization offices. In addition, the building will house the Student Center of Excellence for Student Success and the Mosing Student Center for Outreach and Career Development.

The makerspaces are large rooms with state-of-the-art equipment used by engineers that will be available to students to work together with other students and faculty to create new projects. Some of the equipment will include computerized numerically controlled (CNC) machines, laser cutters, watershed machines and even manual tools for hands-on tasks.

"We give them the freedom to design and also to make their projects that are prototypes," said Khattab.

There is also an Engineering Center of Excellence with student huddle rooms that are similar to the library where students can work with mentors or find tutoring. The building will also be a place for students to socialize with a café and lounges.

Future College of Engineering Plans.

Brittany Lejeune | Writer
UL Communications | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

RAGIN'
CAJUNS

BEN MASSEY

Ragin' Cajuns Photographer

Benjamin Massey is a senior majoring in mass communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in promotional management. He has also been working as a photographer for the UL Athletics Department since 2007.

"I've been working with the athletic department for a long time now. My dad was a photographer there before. A long time ago, back in 2007 was my first season shooting here. So I was a young kid, 7 years old then," Massey said. "I've been around ever since just kind of helping out. They've had a full-time photographer that was hired. And since then, he's retired, and I'm kind of the full-time, person, now."

Massey's father used to bring him to the photography shoots where the athletes would take their headshots and that is where Massey was first offered a job.

"He used to bring me to the little days that we would do photo shoots like headshots and all that and pictures for the posters," Massey said. "And I'd just go over there to help them and I just kind of watched. One of the sports information directors just offered me to have a credential to go shoot the games with them. So that's kind of what I've been doing ever since."

Football is his favorite sport to photograph.

"My favorite sport to shoot is definitely football just because of how big the event is. I will definitely say that one also because I have the opportunity to travel every game with the team," Massey said.

Massey's favorite UL traditions are also football and Lagniappe Day.

"Football games are obvious. I like the players singing with the band and stuff after football games. I think that's awesome," Massey said. "Lagniappe Day is also pretty fun out here too."

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns football team winning the New Orleans Bowl in 2011 for the first time and winning Sun Belt in 2021 will always be memorable for Massey as a photographer.

"Obviously, the big one whenever we won the New Orleans Bowl for the first time in 2011. That was awesome," Massey said. "I was on the field for that. And during that game, my dad and I both took photos that ended up being hung in the indoor practice facility at football. They were like 40 feet tall by 30 feet wide or something like that. So they were some huge photos and also really cool memories. That's definitely the top of my list. Obviously winning the Sun Belt this past 2021. That was awesome."

As a full-time student, Massey said his favorite class is a public relation course.

"I'm in PR case studies right now with Dr. Madison. That one's really fun," Massey said.

Massey plans on continuing with photography after graduating.

"The plan is to be working full time with athletics whenever I graduate in May," Massey said.

Massey likes many things about UL and his growing up in Lafayette deepens that tie with the university.

"There's no other place that I would've wanted to go. I mean, obviously being from Lafayette, a lot of people end up coming here, but with my tie with athletics so young, there was nowhere else I wanted to be," Massey said.

"If there's ever a day that I have to leave for a different job, it's going to be a painful one because I have so many memories here. And the people over here also. I was involved in Greek life for many years here. I mean it's given me everything . I owe everything to this place."

"My favorite sport to shoot is definitely football just because of how big the event is."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Ava Blanchard | Designer

SCIENCE MUSEUM REOPENING

University to manage downtown learning center

In July 2022, the University announced they will partner with the Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) to operate the Lafayette Science Museum.

The Lafayette Science Museum is now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Science Museum.

According to the announcement, "UL Lafayette's plans for the downtown museum include expanded, cross-disciplinary exhibitions, enhanced programs and resources to engage learners of all ages, a café, gift shop, and public event rental options."

LCG and the UL Lafayette School of Geosciences have had an intergovernmental agreement since 2013 that allows the university to manage the UL Lafayette Geology Museum, which is located inside the science museum.

Jennifer Hargrave is the UL Lafayette Science Museum director and a senior instructor in the School of Geosciences. She said before the partnership, the museum already had the UL Lafayette Geology Museum, and the School of Geosciences had some storage areas for minerals, fossils and rocks along with a paleo lab located inside the science museum.

Both geology and non-geology students would also volunteer in the paleo lab and the museum.

In the fall of 2021, Hargrave taught a museum methods class in the science museum as a part of the new paleontology concentration in geology. The students completely designed the exhibit "Natural Born Killers," which is about dinosaurs. With the partnership, more sciences such as chemistry, math and physics will be included in the museum.

"We're in the works to develop exhibits with math, chemistry, maybe physics," Hargrave said. "We're working on getting those in there. And with that brings new opportunities for students."

She also spoke about how the planetarium will be utilized.

"We have the planetarium here, and there's some talk within physics to having some of those classes taught here," Hargrave said.

She also highlighted some of the planned programs, such as STEM Saturday, which will happen once a month.

As part of the agreement between the University and LCG, the city will retain ownership of the museum building, while proceeds from ticket sales, concessions, gift shop purchases and event rentals will benefit the facility's operations.

The museum had to close temporarily due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020. It reopened on April 10, 2021, but only on the weekends.

Hargrave said the ultimate factor in the partnership between UL and LCG is the opportunities it will create for the science museum and the university.

"I think it's a downtown presence; we can highlight the work that we do at the university. We've been very successful in the geosciences; every time we get a new exhibit, we see an increase in museum attendance," Hargrave said. "So having these changing usually every year or so, I think helps bring visitors back to the museum."

Hargrave hopes that the cooperating agreement will re-energize the science museum.

"I think it sort of revitalizes the museum," Hargrave said. "But I think with the university's help, we can take that a step further and offer more outreach to the community because we have this whole plethora of experts at the university now."

Hands-on learning amazes young museum guests.

Interactive exhibits entertain guests.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

The skeletons of prehistoric ocean giants lurk above guests at the museum.

COLLEGE OF

EDUCATION

Learning to Teach

The mission of the College of Education and Human Development is built on the three pillars of the academy: Teaching, Scholarship and Service. Through these three ideals, the college "strives to prepare outstanding teachers, educational leaders and other professionals in related domains, while developing viable public and private partnerships which systematically improve education."

There were many milestones for the College in 2022-23. The college was renamed the College of Education and Human Development to reflect the inclusion of the counseling department and the School of Kinesiology. Paula Montgomery, was named interim dean of the college after the retirement of Nathan Roberts.

The college successfully opened the Center for Excellence in Education in Maxim Doucet Hall and had a successful launch of "I Love Teaching" week for the spring 2023 semester.

Heather Stone, an assistant professor, was included in the 2022 film project "In Times of Crisis: Stories from the Gulf of Mexico" from The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Stone was interviewed for the film "Isle of Memories: Stories of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw." The film is based on Stone's six-year collaboration with residents of Isle de Jean Charles, a tiny island in Terrebonne Parish, La. Members of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw tribe have called Isle de Jean Charles home for nearly 200 years."

Other college highlights included continuing talks to have a lab school return to campus, the Regional Science Fair is now coordinated under the college, the La'Creole Center, for French Education/French Immersion Education was created, and the Counseling and Athletic Training programs both had successful accreditation visits.

Students can obtain a Bachelor of Art degree in Art or Music Education K-12 and Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education PK-3, Elementary Education 1-5, Middle School Education 4-8, Secondary Education and Teaching and Kinesiology, with minors offered in secondary education and health or Kinesiology.

On the graduate level, students can earn a Master of Science in Counseling. The Department of Educational Curriculum and Instructions offers a Master of Arts in Teaching for Elementary Education & Special Education Mild/Moderate grades 1-5 and Secondary Education & Special Education Mild/Moderate grades 6-12.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

SPLATTER BEAT

Coloring the Night

On Oct. 27, 2022, the University Program Council and the Residence Hall Association brought back the most awaited event of the year, The Splatter Beat! The event was last organized in 2015, so it was excited to have it back after seven years.

The incredible high-energy event was held at Bourgeois Hall and more than 300 students participated in it. Students came ready to dress for the mess and throw paint at each other while dancing to upbeat music. It was one of the first big events organized by the UPC post COVID pandemic.

For several students, it was their first time attending the event. They were excited to receive a t-shirt, and other goodies and to have fun with friends. The UPC and RHA worked really hard to bring this fun event back to campus and judging by the high turnout, it was a success.

According to the Assistant Director of Student Engagement and Leadership and UPC advisor, Amber Felix, "to see the excitement and determination from our Entertainment Coordinator Na'kwi Payton to turn her idea to reality was amazing. It was truly satisfying to see the students enjoy the full experience, and we cannot wait to see how this event grows in future."

Faryal Atif | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

Students participating in Splatter Beat.

ROE V. WADE

On June 24, 2022 the United States Supreme Court, in a six-to-three vote in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, decided to overturn the landmark decision in Roe v. Wade (1973). Roe v. Wade had ruled that the United States Constitution protected a woman's right to have an abortion.

Louisiana has a trigger law originally signed in 2006, which states that if Roe v. Wade is ever overturned, Louisiana would have the authority to prohibit abortion. This law only gives an exception to abortion if the mother's life is in danger but does not provide exceptions to abortion in the case of rape or incest.

In the days after the overturning, all around the state, abortion rights advocates took to the streets to protest the overturning. In Lafayette, the protesters gathered on Camelia Drive, the campus of South Louisiana Community College, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

In 2022, a Louisiana law was passed that expanded on the exceptions in the 2006 bill, such as only allowing abortions if the mother's life is in danger, but not for rape or incest. The exceptions to abortion are if it is an ectopic pregnancy or if the fetus is medically futile. However, this law requires two doctors to decide if the pregnancy is medically futile.

That same year, Governor John Bel Edwards signed a law, increasing the penalties for abortion providers. According to Reuters, "The legislation increases the criminal penalties for abortion providers to one to 10 years in prison and $10,000 to $100,000 in fines from the previous one to five years in prison and $5,000 to $10,000 in fines." The penalties only apply to the

Monumental overturning of ruling

provider and not the person receiving the abortion.

When the overturning was announced, Delta Clinic of Baton Rouge, Women's Health Care Center in New Orleans and Hope Medical Group for Women in Shreveport, the only three abortion providers in the state, had to stop providing the procedure.

On July 8, 2022, President Joe Biden signed an executive order that protects abortion rights in the United States. The order covers a wide range of reproductive health areas, some of these are protecting access to abortion pills or different forms of contraception, such as intrauterine devices (IUDs), emergency contraceptives, and access to services that assist in family planning. The order also includes access to emergency medical care.

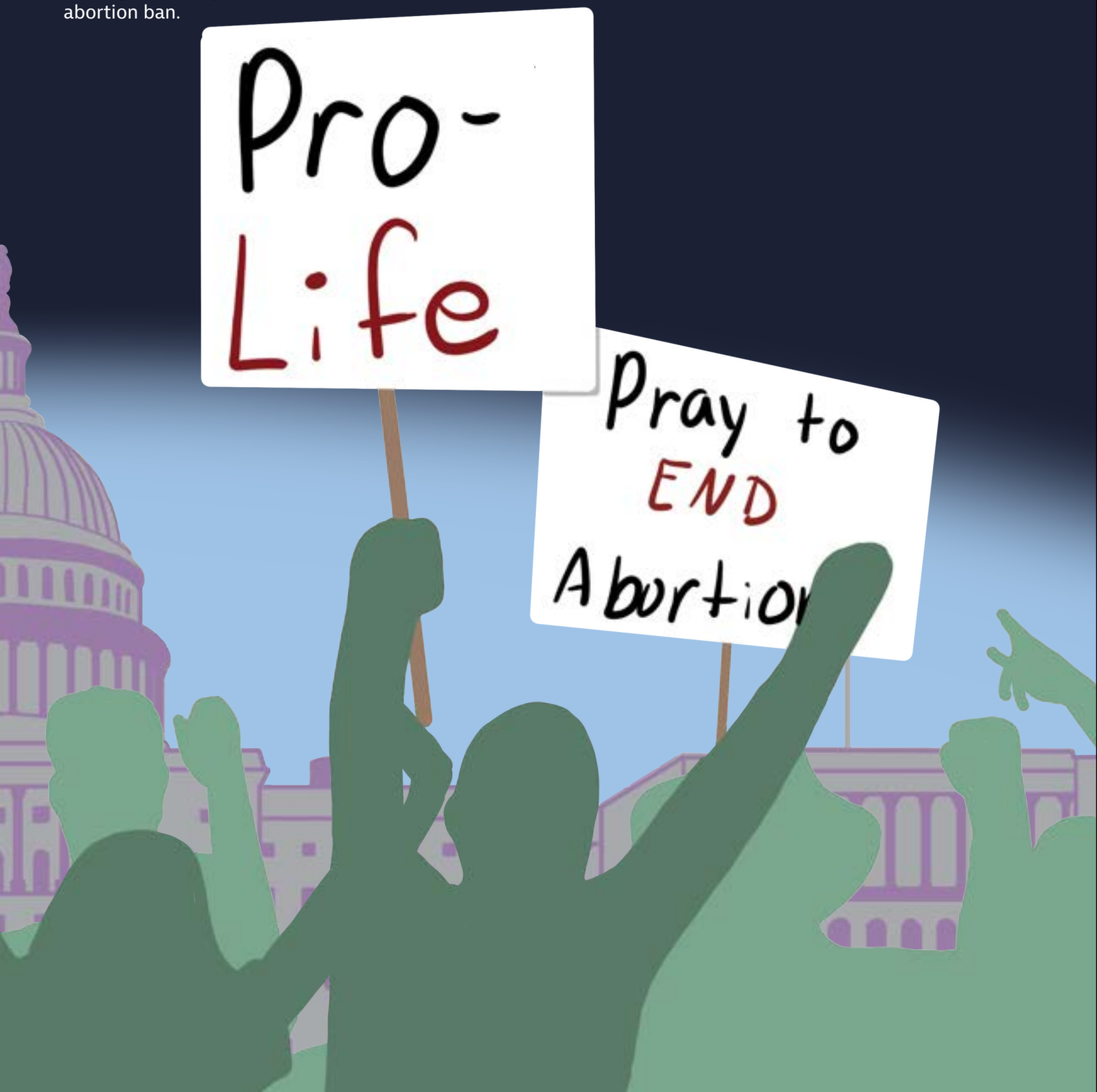
A state judge in New Orleans did block the implementation of a trigger law designed to immediately stop abortions in Louisiana upon the reversal of Roe v. Wade.

The block temporarily stopped the implementation of the trigger law. The hearing occurred on July 8, 2022, and a judge in New Orleans lifted the temporary block.

ROE V. WADE

During the July 8 hearing, it was also ruled that the lawsuit against the trigger law will now move to the 19th Judicial District in East Baton Rouge Parish. A judge then issued a second block in Baton Rouge. The judge temporarily extended the block on July 18, 2022. On July 19, 2022 the temporary block was extended again until a hearing on July 29, 2022. The July 29 hearing ultimately decided to enforce the Louisiana abortion ban.

Even before the overturning of Roe v. Wade, Louisiana had restrictions in place to make it difficult to access abortions. According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, "Pregnant people who seek abortion care must undergo a mandatory seventy-two hour waiting period, biased counseling, and an ultrasound." The state's law also requires the consent



0f a legal guardian, parish judge or parent if the person underage. Public funding for abortions is also restricted, and the Center for Reproductive Rights highlights how these restrictions affect low-income women.

According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, “Women who qualify for state assistance for healthcare coverage are prohibited from using state funding for abortions, except in rare circumstances.”

The use of telemedicine is also banned when it is used to prescribe an abortion pill. In 2019, Gov. John Bel Edwards signed into law banning abortion after six weeks.

Louisiana also has Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers Laws or TRAP Laws. The state's TRAP Laws include requirements for clinics that perform abortions to have separate licensing. The Center for Reproductive Rights says this, “subjects abortion providers to onerous and medically unnecessary requirements not applicable to other healthcare providers."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Sarah Guidry | Illustrations
Sarah Guidry | Designer

OUTSTANDING FALL

Jonathan Olivier
College of Liberal Arts

Jonathan Olivier is the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's overall Outstanding Master's Graduate.

Olivier is among five award finalists who were recognized during Fall 2022 Commencement ceremonies. Individual ceremonies for UL Lafayette's eight academic colleges were held at the Cajundome and the Cajundome Convention Center.

Graduate programs nominate one student as their Outstanding Master's Graduate. Criteria include leadership, scholarship, service and research. The dean of the University's Graduate School leads a panel that selects the top candidates. An Alumni Association committee interviews the finalists and chooses an overall Outstanding Master's Graduate.

In addition to being the fall semester's overall honoree, Olivier represents the Department of Modern Languages in the College of Liberal Arts. He is pursuing a master's degree in French.

His research interests include Louisiana French and Creole linguistic and cultural studies; vernacular medicine and ethnobotany; and the impact of climate change on oral histories, communities, and literature and cultural practices.

Olivier led an independent study that examined new speakers of French in Louisiana. He presented findings of the study at the 89th Southeastern Conference on Linguistics.

Olivier has written extensively, publishing work in magazines, newspapers and journals. His book "Gumbo – Louisiana True Series" will be published by LSU Press.

Olivier founded and manages a community garden that educates the public in French about heritage and regional farming practices. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from LSU, and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Francophone Studies at UL Lafayette.

Ryan Hood
College of Sciences

Ryan Hood is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the School of Geosciences in the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences. He is pursuing a master's degree in geology.

Hood generated more than 300 stable isotope measurements on wood collected from a pine-savannah ecosystem. The data enabled him to test whether changes in wood chemistry can be used to determine past rainfall amounts in low-permeability, waterlogged soils.

Hood served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army, where he successfully led a nine-man section during numerous combat operations. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Hood earned a bachelor's degree in geology from UL Lafayette in 2019. He completed his master's degree while working full-time as a field geoscientist. Hood also volunteered as an inspector for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Drinking Water Protection Program. He belongs to the Lafayette Geological Society and the Student Veterans Organization at the University.

MASTER'S GRADUATES

Patricia Mejia
College of Liberal Arts

Patricia Mejia is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the Department of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. She is pursuing a master's degree in psychology.

Mejia was a manager at UL Lafayette's Health, Emotion, Anxiety, and Trauma Lab and was graduate coordinator of the Psychological Assessment Clinic.

Her research interests include examining the potential cognitive and emotional mechanisms by which psychological and physical health are related, particularly among people with chronic health conditions.

For her thesis, she utilized a randomized experimental design to assess the effect of negative affect and emotion dysregulation on pain. Her study included a negative mood induction task, a multidimensional assessment of emotion dysregulation, and a behavioral pain induction task.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. Mejia plans to pursue a Ph.D. with a goal of becoming a clinical psychologist and researcher.

Briley Rome
College of Arts

Briley Rome is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the School of Architecture and Design in the College of the Arts. He is pursuing a master's degree in architecture.

His research interests include alternative education spaces for adaptive learning; design thinking curriculum in elementary schools; sustainable environmental systems; and community empowerment through equitable design.

As a graduate research assistant for the UL Office of Sustainability, Rome has contributed architectural expertise for master planning design and implementation proposals.

He also helped with design efforts for the University's Campus Cupboard and Career Closet building. As part of his studio project titled "The Market," Rome examined ways architecture can combat racial injustices through design. He earned the Design Excellence Award and the Design Merit Award from the School of Architecture and Design. Rome holds a bachelor's degree in architectural studies from UL. He will work for Corgan Architects in Dallas.

Wileesha Stevenson
College of Liberal Arts

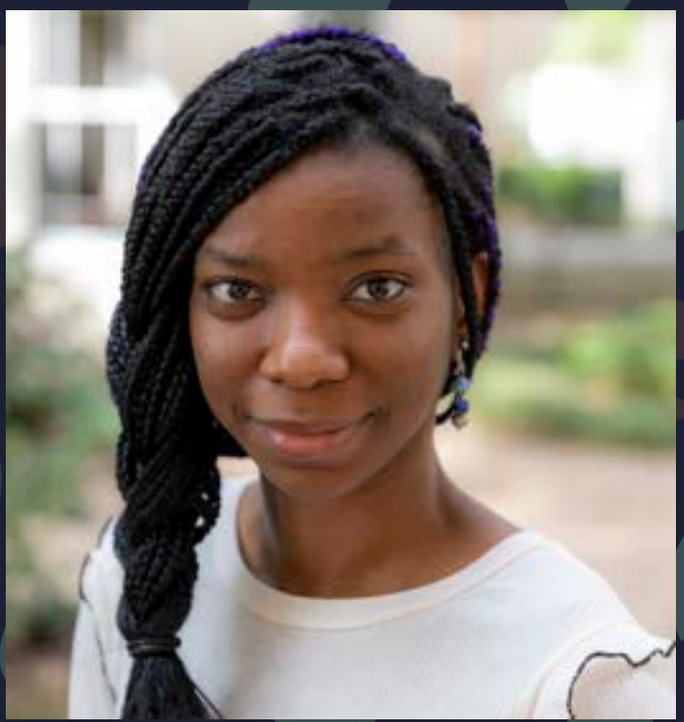
Wileesha Stevenson is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts. She is pursuing a master's degree in English.

Stevenson has taught technical writing and composition courses. She served as a writing consultant for the UL Lafayette Writing Center and was a member of the UL Lafayette Technical Writing Committee. She has written and designed content for the Department of English's website.

Stevenson's community service includes volunteering for the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, or CASA. Her contributions included assistance in drafting policies and procedures in areas such as volunteer management, advocate supervision, and online communication and social media guidelines.

Stevenson will continue to work as a technical writer at Stuller Inc., where her responsibilities include producing training manuals for new employees. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University in 2019.

Eugenia Amarachi Ndieze
College of Engineering



Eugenia Amarachi Ndieze is the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Outstanding Graduate.

In addition to being the fall semester's overall honoree, Ndieze is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Engineering. A chemical engineering major, her GPA is 3.94.

Ndieze researched the conversion of biochemical waste into viable resources for use in human habitation on Mars. She belonged to the Ragin' Cajun Sustainability Leaders, which provides waste reduction, recycling and zero-waste awareness.

Ndieze also belongs to Tau Beta Pi, the Order of the Engineer, the Society of Women Engineers, Omega Chi Epsilon, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Association of Official Analytical Chemists.

She placed first in the Chemical Engineering Senior Design Project and earned the Fluor Corporation Alumni Research Innovation Award. Ndieze led the Department of Chemical Engineering's quiz bowl team that won an Engineering and Technology Week competition.

She will work as a process engineer.

Kristina Abraham
College of Business

Kristina Abraham is the Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration. She is a finance major with a 3.75 GPA.

Abraham served as treasurer of the campus chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success and was inducted into the Sigma Alpha Lambda and Alpha Lambda Delta honor societies.

Her roles with Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority include treasurer, social chair, merchandise chair, and membership on the Sisterhood Committee. Abraham was a peer mentor for the Office of First-Year Experience, and belonged to the economics and tennis clubs.

Her community service activities include work for The Big Event, Dreams Foundation of Acadiana, Carencro Animal Shelter and Habitat for Humanity.

She plans to pursue an MBA while working as a marketing specialist.

FALL GRADUATES

Shardae Chancy

College of Nursing

Shardae Chancy is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. She is a nursing major with a 3.13 GPA.

Chancy is a scholar for the National Society of Leadership and Success and Black Faculty and Staff Association. She was on the Dean's Advisory Council and served as a Student Government Association senator.

Chancy was the National Pan-Hellenic Council's director of events and the Collegiate Outreach Mentorship Program's academic coordinator. She was an Office of First-Year Experience peer mentor and a Residence Hall Association student mentor. Her roles with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority include treasurer and physical and mental health committee chair.

Chancy will work as a registered nurse, and envisions earning a master's degree to become a family nurse practitioner.

Vanna Do

College of Liberal Arts

Vanna Do is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Liberal Arts. She is a speech pathology and audiology major. Her GPA is 4.0.

Do coordinated public relations and social media for Sisters in Speech Therapy and Audiology and belongs to the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association. She volunteered for the Language and Literacy Project at UL Lafayette's Speech, Language and Hearing Center.

Do, whose minor is creative writing, has published poetry in UL Lafayette's Southwestern Review in-house literary journal and the University of Houston's Glass Mountain literary magazine. She twice placed second in the Molett Essay Contest at UL Lafayette.

Do belongs to the Vietnamese Student Organization and was on the Division of Global Engagement's communications team.

She plans to earn a Doctor of Audiology degree.

OUTSTANDING

Logan J. Hudson
College of the Arts

Logan J. Hudson is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of the Arts. He is a performing arts major with a concentration in theater. His GPA is 3.70.

Hudson was president of the Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society and a peer mentor for the University's Office of First-Year Experience's UNIV 100 course.

His community service activities include work for the Special Olympics, Faith House of Acadiana, Parish Proud, Acadiana Center for the Arts, Cité des Arts and Acadiana Animal Aid.

He will participate in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. Hudson plans to pursue an acting career in theater and film in New York. Other aspirations include attending graduate school.

Blake McMinn
College of Education

Blake McMinn is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Education & Human Development. He is a kinesiology major. McMinn has a 3.8 GPA.

He was an organic chemistry research assistant, president of the Kinesiology Professional Association and an executive officer for the Pre-Professional Society. McMinn founded and was president of the Kinesiology Mentor Program. Upper-level students guide and support first-year students as part of the program.

He participated in PULSE, a national physician-student mentorship program. McMinn was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success. He has volunteered for the UL LIFE Program, NSI Hospice, Second Harvest Food Bank and St. Joseph Diner.

McMinn plans to attend medical school.

Ruby Shrestha
College of Sciences

Ruby Shrestha is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences. A computer science major, she has a 4.0 GPA.

Shrestha was president of the Nepalese Student Association and vice president of the Association of Computing Machinery. She belongs to the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, Students for the Advancement of Women, the International Student Council and the Nepali Women in Computing.

Shrestha has volunteered for the University's Science Day and provided tutoring for an Office of Disability Services program. She also participated in The World at UL Lafayette Exhibit. The event was a joint effort of the University's Office of International Affairs, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

Shrestha completed internships at CGI and at Ochsner Health.

Brandie B. Stelly
University College

Brandie B. Stelly is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for University College. She is a general studies major with a concentration in behavioral sciences. Her GPA is 3.95.

She holds a certificate in paralegal studies from the University, and an associate degree in general studies from South Louisiana Community College.

Stelly is a founding member for VOICES of Acadiana. The mission of the organization is to advocate for victims of domestic violence. She contributed to an article titled "Fragmented and Unequal: A justice system that fails survivors of intimate partner violence in Louisiana, USA" that was published in 2019 as part of Amnesty International's annual report.

Stelly earned her degree online at UL Lafayette, while working full time at a law firm. She plans to pursue a master's degree.

COLLEGE OF

UL Lafayette professor Yeon Choi to showcase work in Hilliard Art Museum
Scan the QR code above to share ideas, topics, and issues we should cover at The Vermilion, UL Lafayette's student newspaper.
Police Reports
March 4
March 3
March 2
March 1
Feb. 28
UL Lafayette hosting 16th Women's Leadership Conference on March 1
LOUISIANA

LIBERAL ARTS

Learning how to learn

The College of Liberal Arts, according to the UL Lafayette website, "believes that a liberal arts education with its emphasis on learning to learn, and on critical thinking, is the best preparation for careers and for life in a changing world."

In September 2022, the college hosted a screening and discussion of the documentary "City of a Million Dreams" with its director Jason Berry and the documentary subject, New Orleans clarinetist and band leader, Michael White.

The documentary "traces the history of jazz funerals and Sunday second lines of New Orleans, and how these age-old traditions struggled to rebuild after near devastation by Hurricane Katrina." The screening was sponsored by the Center For Louisiana Studies, UL Lafayette, College of Liberal Arts and the department of history, geography and philosophy.

Hannah Carmichael and Rayanna Pratt were both awarded the fall 2022 Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in English.

U.S. Foreign Officer (diplomat) and Louisiana native J. Nathan Bland gave a presentation to English majors about jobs and opportunities for liberal art students in the U.S. Department of State.

Psychology professor Emily Sandoz received the Distinguished Professor Award in 2022. This award honors tenured faculty members who have been at the university for at least eight years and have a record of solid research, publications, creative work and many more.

In 2023, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette became the first U.S. university to join the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie. The AUF, according to the UL Lafayette website, is based in Montreal. It includes more than 1,000 members in 122 countries where French is spoken in at least some regions. The AUF fosters academic excellence, and social, cultural and economic development for the Francophone world.

Journalism Assistant Professor Stephenson Waters received one of the Faculty Champion awards from the Center for Community News at the University of Vermont. He was recognized for increasing community reported multimedia stories available to local media outlets through the creation of mobile journalism kits.

In March 2023, the college hosted its College of Liberal Arts Fair where students could meet other liberal arts students and discover the organizations they could join.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

JURIED ART SHOW

On March 1-24, the Department of the Visual Arts hosted its 2023 Student Juried Art Exhibition at Fletcher Hall Gallery. This year's exhibition was called Dedicated. Visual art majors, minors and art education majors could submit up to three pieces of original work in various disciplines, such as animation, sculpture, short film, graphic design, photography, ceramics, painting, metalwork and printmaking.

This year's exhibition saw 154 submissions into the show. Out of the 154 submissions, 69 pieces were accepted.

James Tancill is an instructor of studio art for UL's College of the Arts and was chair of the committee that oversaw the exhibition. His role on the committee was to help organize the exhibition. He went into detail about the meaning behind the exhibition name.

"If you're a dedicated artist, you will hopefully make something of yourself. Dedicated to your craft, dedicated to your medium, dedicated to the arts, that takes a lot," Tancill said. "It takes dedication and persistence to get yourself to a level where you're kind of engaging."

Michael Eble, the curator of exhibitions, events and engagement for the College of the Arts, talked about how the goal of the exhibition is to give students a chance to build their resumes.

"It's to give students, while they're still in school, an opportunity to have a professional experience and to exhibit in a professional gallery space, but also deal with the juror process because to build a professional resume in the visual arts it requires you to build up exhibitions," Eble said. "And no matter what they want to do if they want to be a professor, if they want to be a working artist and be represented by a gallery. They need to show evidence of showing professionally, and so for a lot of artists this becomes their first line on their resume."

The exhibition opened with an artist talk by this year's outside juror Abigail Heuss and then the opening reception. Heuss teaches metalsmithing and 3D design classes at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia, where she is also an associate professor. The UL Lafayette College of Arts website describes her work as, "domestic and wearable objects with a sentimental focus on narrative."

Heuss, as the outside juror, chose what artwork was included in the show and who the winners were for this year's exhibition. During her artist talk, Heuss took the audience through her career as a metalsmith and how her family history has influenced her work.

Tancill dived into what made the committee choose Heuss as the exhibition outside juror. He also mentioned how sometimes they will have a local artist, but this year decided to choose an artist from out of state.

"This time, Abigail came from another university. She just happened to be here for a visit. Now for a visiting artist they come here as a part of their professional development and they usually give workshops and other things," Tancill said. "But Abigail, who is a metalsmith, was already going to be here, and we came up with the idea as per suggestions. Hey, let's get one of the visiting artist from further away. You know that has little or nothing to do with our school, and you get a fresh set of eyes from a different location in the country and stuff like that."

At the opening reception, guests could walk around and look at all the artwork accepted into the exhibition.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Tancill says this reception was one of the best.

"It's one of the best ones we had. It was very, very crowded. It gets more crowded than the senior show. That's another reason why I like it because there's more artists in there rather than just limited 10 to 12. We probably had 60 different people submit," Tancill said. You know, in general there was a unique piece by everybody. So I like it because it's lively."

Three UL Lafayette students were named as winners and were awarded cash prizes. Best in show went to Christopher Decoux for his sculpture "Unfulfilled Wishes," second place went to Emily Menard for her drawing "Tangled in Addiction" and third place went to Olivia Schatzle for her sculpture "Aversion." Honorable mention went to Morgan Paris for her pieces "Untitled" and "The exhaustion of living series." Another honorable mention went to Sharon Plano for her piece "The Messenger and the Message."

Decoux spoke about what being named the winner means to him as a returning student and how it is an honor to display his work with many talented artists.

"Being a return student that is older than my peers can sometimes feel isolating. So being given the opportunity to show my work alongside all of these talented young artists in the Dedicated Juried Art Show was already exciting," Decoux said. "Having the honor of receiving Best in Show absolutely floored me, but it's given me validation that I do belong here and the confidence I need going into my senior year in the fall."

In her juror statement, Heuss writes about the student submissions, "As I look through the submissions, I was impressed not only by the craftsmanship and fine work of the pieces, but also by the clear and poignant narratives shown in the artists' statements."

Student submissions for the Visual Arts Juried Art Show.

This year, 69 student entries were accepted for the show.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The 16th annual Women's Leadership Conference was held on March 16, 2023, at the UL Lafayette Student Union. The conference brought together students, faculty, staff and community members to commemorate National Women's History Month.

The goal of the conference is to provide an opportunity for personal and professional leadership development that is centered on the needs of women from various cultural backgrounds.

The day was full of educational breakout sessions, inspirational awards presentations, and empowering keynote speakers. The conference has several objectives:

· To develop skills for transformative service, leadership, and professional life.

· To enhance a personal sense of engagement, belonging, and empowerment.

· Create a stronger community among UL Lafayette and Acadiana women.

· Gain knowledge and skills for personal wellness and professional growth.

· Increase awareness of campus and community wellness resources for women.

· To provide a platform for male advocates who are dedicated to supporting the advancement of our women community leaders.

· Celebrate the caring

Conference speakers at the event included Donna Edwards, First Lady of the State of Louisiana; Ali Landry, UL Lafayette Alumna and former Miss USA; and Cheylon Woods, director of the Ernest J. Gaines Center at UL Lafayette.

Breakout sessions were held throughout the conference, spanning a variety of topics including:

· HER story through Visual Arts: Photography, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Drawing, Printmaking, and Visual Arts.

· HER story through Performance Arts: Music, Drama, Dance, Costumes, Film, Movies, Television and Performance Arts.

· HER story through Literary Arts: Poetry, Media, News, Literature, Narratives, Storytelling, Plays, Research Writing, Languages, Literary Arts and Education.

UL Lafayette | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Savannah Blanco | Designer

Speakers at the 2023 Women's Leadership Conference included Dr. Kristi Anderson (opposite page and top right) and Kiwana McClung (above).

MARDI GRAS

Louisiana's most festive time of year

Let the good times roll and try to find the baby in the king cake because it is that time of year: Mardi Gras! This is a holiday that only happens in the great state of Louisiana where the historical and traditional context of it is its masks, carriages and horseback, but the Louisianian context is beads, king cakes, floats and of course, the infamous colors of purple, green and gold.

One thing people cannot deny is when it is Mardi Gras season, you will never be bored, especially if you live in the great city of New Orleans. Although the holiday originated in medieval Europe, it gained popularity in the city way down on the river. There's the endless parades, festivals and let's not even get into Bourbon Street.

You can feel Louisiana come to life after the random cold, wintry days that are extremely rare since we usually have to deal with high levels of humidity here. Regardless, this year in late February everyone was on their feet.

Another thing people cannot deny is that you will get the chance to dance the night away. New Orleans is the New York of Louisiana during Mardi Gras. On regular days, the city never sleeps, but during Mardi Gras, consider NOLA an insomniac. People can come home at 6 a.m. after a day of festivities just to turn around and do it all again.

Although the daytime hours of Mardi Gras have kids getting royalty treatment with the toys from the float, once it hits after hours, the kids better be put up to bed. Not only will you see the best/worst kinds of theatrics in people, but it is guaranteed, much like every other party, that the go-to afterparty spot is Waffle House.

In the midst of the Fat Tuesday shenanigans, there are many reasons why this is one of the most anticipated, freeing events of the year. According to National Today, "Mardi Gras is when we let our hair down. You can do any goofy thing and everyone will cheer you on. Put on your most outrageous costume and boogie. Wear a tutu, don a headdress, or maybe just put on a lampshade and dance on a table. It's all good. That's the spirit of Mardi Gras!"

New Orleans also wrote "There's so much to celebrate during Carnival season, where locals rule and visitors are more than welcome to join in on the fun. On the weekends leading up to Fat Tuesday, parades roll all over town. Spectators gasp at the colossal Endymion floats and delight in the political satire of Krewe du Vieux. There's something to do during every week of the Mardi Gras season."

Whether you are a native or a tourist, Mardi Gras is that one special holiday where there is genuine fun and leisure to celebrate what makes Louisiana unique. To conduct such a celebratory carnival in the city that has endured tragedies like Hurricane Katrina truly encapsulates the justice, power and faith symbolized in the infamous colors of Mardi Gras.

Even if 364 days of your years are not the best, there is one day in the Boot where life is problem-free. Celebrate this day and be someone who spreads nothing but joy. Most importantly, have fun!

Lauren Foster | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Bubbles have become an alternative to beads and toy throws.

A detailed costume and presentation are important parts of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Grad revelers go all out in dressing up and having fun, whether at a ball or parade.

NEW STAMP

Ernest Gaines honored for literary contributions

The U.S. Postal Service showcased Ernest J. Gaines' commemorative forever stamp on campus on Jan. 23 during the First Day of Issue Dedication Ceremony.

With Black History Month, the U.S. postal service honored Gaines by making him the 46th stamp in the Black Heritage series. Gaines contributed significant works of literature and was best known for his transparent depictions of the rural South. Some of his notable works include "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "A Lesson Before Dying."

Emceed by Cheylon Woods, head of the Ernest J. Gaines Center at UL Lafayette, the ceremony consisted of an array of speakers, who were connected to either Gaines or his work and its impact.

Before entering the event, guests were able to view photos of Ernest J. Gaines in the hallway along with other documented pieces and artifacts depicting his life and his literature. Attendees could hear Michael White and his band performing jazz music as they entered a full room with some attendees having to stand.

Woods began the ceremony with Jules Edwards III, Lafayette's city court judge, who discussed Gaines' life and his triumph over adversity. Edwards described Gaines as an "individual of extra strength" during his speech.

The Acadiana Veterans Honor Guard then proceeded with the presentation of colors to acknowledge Gaines' service in the U.S. Army after he graduated high school in Vallejo, California.

Following UL President Joseph Savoie's greeting, Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service Donald Moak officially dedicated the stamp to Gaines and shared the story of how Gaines was invited to be an English professor and writer in residence Emeritus at UL Lafayette.

Moak also highlighted Gaines' other pieces including "Catherine Carmier," "Of Love and Dust" and "Bloodline" and how they've brought attention to Louisiana.

"His masterful words and his genius brought millions of people from around the world here," Moak said before officially revealing the postage stamp.

Program participants gathered towards the front of the room, where the stamp that featured an oil painting of a 2001 photo of Gaines was officially disclosed with waves of applause following. Mike Ryan designed the stamp with art from Robert Peterson along with the guidance of Greg Breeding as the art director, according to the U.S. Postal Service website.

Guests had the opportunity to view photos, documents and artifacts from Gaines' life and literature.

Annalise Smith, Gaines' granddaughter, shared how much she loved the stamp and the emotional reaction she got from seeing its realness.

"It looks too much like him honestly. It just brings me to tears," Smith said.

The program followed with a series of remarks from George Mason University professor Keith Clark, who interviewed Gaines in 2014, Florida A&M University assistant professor Lillie Anne Brown and UL Lafayette alumni, novelist and Gaines' mentee Wiley Cash.

Along with acknowledging Gaines' difficulties living on the River Lake Plantation and his literary development during that time, the speakers also brought to light some modern day issues that live in our society, especially those pertaining to race, and how Gaines used his texts and beliefs to spark the conversation.

"Here we are in 2023, when classrooms and school libraries nationwide are being purged of texts, pilloried as discomforting because of their representations of race, gender, and sexuality," Clark said in his speech. "We collectively benefit from Ernest Gaines' own wisdom on these matters."

Cash first met Gaines as a graduate student in 2003 and came to UL Lafayette because Gaines was writer in residence.

"Dr. Gaines had done what all great writers do, he had removed the barriers that would keep someone like me from perceiving the realities of life for someone like him," Cash said during his speech. "And in doing so, he had shown me the realities of racism, geographic isolation, cultural pride, class division, and historical injustice in ways that I otherwise would have never known."

After a violin performance of "How Great Thou Art" from Lily Martinez, which received full focus from the audience and a standing ovation, Louisiana Poet Laureate Mona Lisa Saloy was introduced by Gaines' wife, Diane Gaines.

After her speech, which mentioned Gaines' connection to the understanding of the relationship between the justice system and Black men, Saloy led the audience in a remix of the common "Happy Birthday" remix song by changing it to "Happy Stamp Day" for Gaines.

Residents of Pointe Coupee Parish stood up towards the end of the ceremony to represent the home of Gaines and the community he influenced and inspired.

Constance Joseph, a native of Oscar, Louisiana, went to school with some of Gaines' family members and knew about Gaines' work since she was 10 years old.

"I could cry because it's so exciting and awesome to see everybody," Joseph said.

Lena Foster | Writer
Boyd Daniels | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux, Meg Norwood | Designers

Unveiling of the Ernest J. Gaines stamp on UL campus.

Cheylon Woods emceed the ceremony, which detailed the notable moments of Gaines' life and literary career.

GREEK LIFE

Going Greek enhances campus experience

Greek Life is a part of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and is a key way to help students become more involved on campus. There are four councils that are a part of Greek Life: the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Council (NPC), MultiCultural Greek Council (MGC), and the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Alyse Brunet is a sophomore majoring in strategic comunication with a business minor, and she is apart of the Panhellenic Sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma. Brunet shared her experience so far within the sorority.

"I'm very grateful for Sigma Sigma Sigma because I have some really good friends I made in my sorority that I wouldn't have made if I wouldn't have joined. I've had so many other things to get involved with such as leadership opportunities, and I'm happy that I continue to be able to do fundraising events. I was involved in events like that in high school, and I really loved it. So I'm glad my sorority gives me the opportunity to do all those things to socialize, make friends, go to events, be busy, and then there's also leadership opportunities that you can take up like it's a great mix" Brunet said.

Brunet also said different sorority events helped her stay involved with organizations outside the university.

"We call it our philanthropy event, or our philanthropy week. We have one a semester, which is a big week of raising money and then it all leads up to the philanthropy event, and we raise money for our philanthropies which is a local one—Dreams. It's a special needs program, and they do activities and stuff like that. That's our local philanthropy."

Brunet continued by stating, "Then we have two national philanthropies which is the Tri Sigma Foundation, and the March of Dimes. These efforts are to help premature babies and their mothers. We have philanthropies to raise money for all those organizations, and we do sisterhood events where it's like we get together and we just hang out."

Lance Dupre, a junior majoring in criminal justice, is a part of Interfraternity Council Fraternity Lamda Chi Alpha. He explained how Greek Life has helped him stay involved with UL since he has joined Lambda Chi Alpha.

"Greek Life has helped my college experience tremendously. The amount of people you meet during rush and after rush and all the events and experiences you go through just helps you become a better version of yourself" Dupre said.

"Greek life does keep me involved with campus. Everyone has different majors and are interested in many different things so there's multiple announcements in our meetings about the events going on, campus jobs that's hiring, or even just like little bake sales that go on in front of the library to raise money for their organizations."

Dupre continued by sharing his first-time experience with his current fraternity.

"At first, I thought Greek Life wasn't for me, but then I got to know all the fraternities and the men in them, and I soon found out that Greek Life is for everyone. It doesn't matter who you are or the things you like, you will find your group, and they will help you grow into the best person you possibly could be, so yes, everyone should join Greek Life."

Faith Scholl | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

ΛΧΑ

TRI SIGMA
got talent

ΔΠ
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COLLEGE OF

Critical Caring

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences prides itself in providing students with the education and support needed to have an effective career in nursing—health information management, health services administration and pre-dental hygiene.

This college offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing, a Doctorate of Nursing Practice and a Graduate Certificate in Cardiovascular Nursing. This college also offers 100% online programs to earn a B.S. in Health Services Administration, a Graduate Certificate in Population Health and a Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

The University of Louisiana receives accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Within this college, there are two departments, the LHC Group Myers School of Nursing and the Department of Health Sciences.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette was ranked No. 10 out of 185 in Best Online Master's in Nursing Programs by U.S News and World Report for the 2023 Best Online Programs. They are the only MSN Nursing Program in Louisiana to rank top 10.

This college also achieved the Stellar School Status awarded by the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) for the 2022-23 year. In order to receive this award, the college needed to demonstrate an ongoing involvement in NSNA and a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of their students and faculty.

Accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, the College of Nursing & Health Sciences is one of only two accredited healthcare simulation programs in the state of Louisiana. The labs are equipped with a large number of simulators ranging from low-fidelity task trainers, to high-fidelity patient care simulators and virtual reality learning systems.

The College of Nursing has over 1,600 students enrolled and makes up 11% of the UL student enrollment population. The nursing program makes up 88% of the total enrollment population in the college.

Kay Padilla | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

NURSING

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
COLLEGE OF NURSING
& HEALTH SCIENCES
LAFAYETTE

BRIAN WEST

Informatics Instructor and Coordinator

Brian West is a master instructor in informatics and the undergraduate informatics coordinator. He has been at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette since 2009.

He has also been in the Air National Guard since 1999. West is a part of Squadron 214 engineering installation which installs communication.

“What the 214 does, there’s only 15 squadrons in the entire Air Force that does it, all of which are National Guard except for one,” West said. “So there’s only one active duty squadron that does what we do. So it’s kind of a niche thing.”

West's favorite course to teach is informatics 330, which emphasizes database systems, conceptual design and management. He enjoyed taking it when he was in school, and it was one of the first courses he taught. He notes that the most challenging courses are the fundamentals.

"I can tell you the toughest courses to teach of anything as far as I'm concerned are your fundamental courses," West said. "So like an informatics 101 is super hard to teach because I take that as truth and law and now I gotta explain it to somebody who doesn't. And the questions are, why is it that way?"

West’s favorite UL tradition out of all of the university’s unique traditions is Lagniappe Day.

“There’s is so much that ties into Lagniappe Day with the swamp and everything else that’s going on and I mean, what’s a better way to take some time off and eat crawfish,” West said.

West is involved with the study abroad program in Florence, Italy and teaches informatics classes there. The classes cover information systems in industries within Italy. The classes primarily focus on industries in Florence and the industries, according to West, are diverse such as fashion or leather. But the students can also learn about the tourist industry in Florence by talking to the hotels and restaurants to see how they operate.

"So for Study Abroad, I've done it once. We had one year where we made, but then COVID happened. So what we do is we take X amount of students, however many that sign up and agree to go and over six weeks in Florence," West said. "That's one that I usually do. We cover nine hours, three of which are off to the side because they're equally important, but it's an Italian cultural class. So they'll teach you conversational Italian. There's a wine tasting day there's an Italian cooking day. It's really like a here's what Italian culture is like because they do things differently than us."

What West likes about teaching is he gets to keep up with the newest technology and get to know the students.

"So that's a funny story too, right. I mean I was in industry and then basically got offered a job to come over here. And I mean, I took it. I never thought that I would teach, it's definitely fun. It's fun to get to know the students," West said.

"I'm not big on research, but I mean I get to play with technical toys. I get to keep up with whatever the newest technologies might be. And then really, I mean it's almost like I'm a professional student. If you really enjoy going to school, this is the job for you."

"I get to play with technical toys. I get to keep up with whatever the newest technologies might be"

Marie Ducote — Writer
Andre Broussard — Photographer
Meg Norwood — Designer

IRAN PROTESTS

On Sept. 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman died three days after being arrested for violating Iran's mandatory dress code for women, sparking ongoing protests across the country.

Upon stepping out of the train, Amini was arrested by Iran's morality police, which is responsible for enforcing Sharia law, especially the dress code for women, which requires that women wear a hijab and have their entire body covered by long, loose-fitting clothing. According to Reuters, Amini was arrested due to wearing trousers that were deemed too tight-fitting.

Two hours after being brought to a detention center, she was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where she eventually died. Authorities claim that she had a heart attack. Her family has stated she didn't have heart problems, and her father said he saw bruises on her legs and holds the police responsible for her death. Women that had been arrested along with Amini stated she was beaten by the morality police in the van that transported them to the detention center.

Hours later, protests erupted and began to spread throughout the country. Protestors chanted "death to the dictator," with many women tearing off and burning their headscarves. Demonstrations have intensified, with protestors in several cities setting fire to police stations and vehicles.

The Iranian government has restricted access to Instagram and Whatsapp, as well as shutting down mobile networks in the country, in an effort to make it difficult for protestors to mobilize and to communicate what's happening with the rest of the world. Iran's government has done the same thing in the past to suppress its people.

Iran has resorted to violence in an attempt to quell the protests, with police opening fire on crowds of protestors with shotguns, assault rifles and handguns, in addition to deploying tear gas and beating people with batons. Iran's security forces have also been raiding universities and schools in the country.

Human Rights Activists News Agency, an organization dedicated to defending human rights in Iran, reported on Jan. 14, 2023 that 522 protestors have been killed since protests began, with 70 of those being children and a further 110 protestors estimated to be under threat of a death sentence. At least 19,400 people have been detained, including human rights activists, students, lawyers and journalists.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has claimed that the protests were orchestrated by the US and Israel, referring to them as riots.

"I say explicitly that these riots and this insecurity were a design by the U.S. and the occupying, fake Zionist regime and those who are paid by them, and some traitorous Iranians abroad helped them," Khamenei said.

In response to Iran's handling of the protests, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on seven high-ranking Iranian leaders. Canada has imposed sanctions on 34 Iranian officials and entities, and the European Union has imposed restrictive measures on 196 officials and 33 entities. The European Union has further urged Iran to stop carrying out the death sentence against protestors, and stop the violent crackdown on protests.

Adhamm Safford | Writer
Meg Norwood | Illustrator
Meg Norwood | Designer

MISS UL 2023

Campus royalty reigns

In March, Annaclaire Zerangue, a sophomore phychology major, was crowned Miss UL 2023.

The annual Miss UL pageant, sponsored by University Program Council, took place on March 19 in Angelle Hall. The pageant consisted of three categories including interview, swimsuit and evening gown for the 20 contestants.

When asked about preparation for the pageant, Aniyah Breaux said that she got ready by "attending practices two times a week until the day of the pageant" and she also spent "an extra 20 minutes walking in heels and practicing poses at home in the mirror."

The pageant opened up with a choreographed dance. The theme of the pageant was "Worth More Than Gold" and all 20 ladies, along with the performance, showcased exactly that. Each contestant was dressed in various black dresses with gold headpieces.

The hosts of the pageant introduced the judges, followed by the commencement of the swimsuit portion of the competition. Each contestant came out in a swimsuit that embodied and enhanced their radiating beauty. As each girl walked across the stage in their swimsuit, the host announced their personal information, background, future aspirations and cherished quotes.

The program continued with the evening gown portion. During this section, the contestants showcased a more sophisticated and elegant side to themselves as they graced the stage in spectacular gowns.

After the evening gown portion, there was a brief intermission where junior Kaitlyn Woods played an incredible rendition of "I'm Every Woman" by Whitney Houston on her saxophone. Her talent was surely a crowd favorite.

The judges then announced the top 5 contestants: Annaclaire Zerangue, Annabelle Picou, Adeline Phillips, Ashley Levesque, and Katelyn Bedwell. Once the top five contestants were chosen, they each had to answer one question picked at random before the judges decided on a winner.

Annabelle Picou was first runner-up, Adeline Phillips, second, Ashley Levesque third, and Katelyn Bedwell fourth. Other awards given out during the night were

(Above) The five finalists in the Miss UL 2023 pageant. (Below) Sydney Fox smiles during the choreographed opening dance.

Miss Congeniality, Most Photogenic, and Crowd Favorite, which were given to Mariah Gray, Sydney Guidry, and Adeline Phillips respectively.

Annaclaire Zerangue was named Miss UL 2023-24. A sophomore majoring in psychology with a minor in English, she is a SGA Freshman Senator, Honors Ambassador, and a member of EdRising, Leading LIFE club, and SLIDDE.

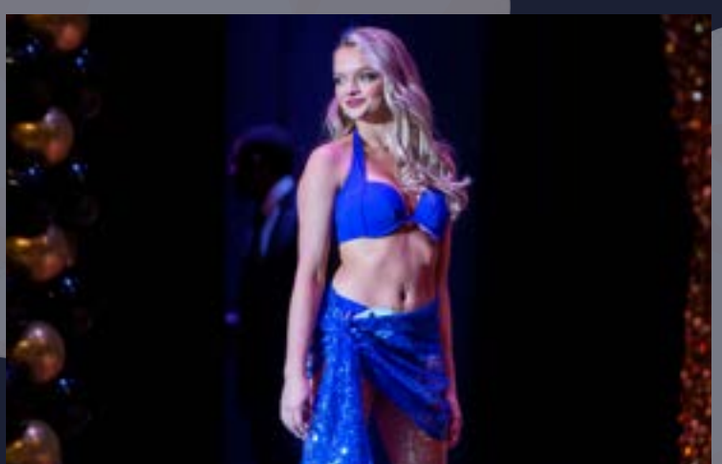
"This was my first pageant, so going in, I was a little nervous," Zerangue said. "However, along the way, I gained self-confidence. I also realized that it is important to be myself. When I walked into the interview room and on stage, I was proud of myself because I knew I was being my authentic self. The pageant was such a special, memorable experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

"Being crowned Miss UL Lafayette has been such a blessing and a beautiful journey. I have learned a lot about myself and what my values are. It is an absolute honor to represent UL Lafayette because I was born a Ragin' Cajun. This University has given so much to me, so this one way I am able to show my gratitude. I am eager to see what the rest of my reign has in store for me."

Nyria Mustiful | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Ava Blanchard | Designer

(Clockwise, from top left) Mariah Gray, Kaitlyn Woods, Aniyah Breaux, Ashley Levesque, and Asia'Lynn Harris, display poise, talent and confidence during the 2023 Miss UL pageant.

(Clockwise, from above) Annaclaire Zerangue, Jaidyn Fusilier, Adeline Phillips and Cierra Crockett participated in the evening gown, swimsuit and interview categories during the 2023 Miss UL pageant.



SPRING GRADUATION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette celebrated its Spring 2023 graduates during Commencement ceremonies Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, 2023. A total of 1,641 degrees were conferred.

Individual Commencement ceremonies for UL Lafayette's eight academic colleges were held at the Cajundome and Convention Center.

The University conferred 1,273 bachelor's degrees. Among this total were 35 students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA, the most summa cum laude graduates in a single semester in University history.

UL also awarded 41 doctoral degrees, another record, and 323 master's degrees, the second-largest number awarded in a semester. The total of 364 graduate degrees is the highest in a semester. Three graduate certificates and one undergraduate certificate also were awarded.

The Spring 2023 class is also notable for diversity. It includes the second-highest graduates of Asian descent in a semester and the third-most Hispanic graduates.

As a whole, graduates are from 49 Louisiana parishes, 33 states and 32 international countries.

Dr. Joseph Savoie, UL Lafayette president, addressed graduates during the College of Engineering's ceremony on Friday at the Cajundome.

Savoie referenced the upcoming celebration of the 125th anniversary of the University's founding. He also reflected on its "humble origins" —an institution that offered a handful of technical courses, drawing a parallel to the internationally recognized academic and research university it has become and outlining a few examples of cutting-edge research and scholarship.

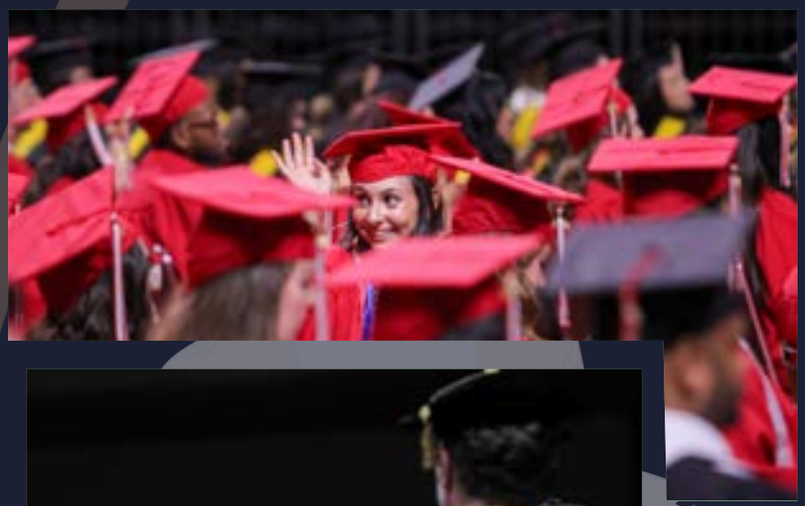
"For 125 years, our university's story has been one of exceeding expectations," Savoie said. "And now, graduates, it's your turn to exceed expectations."

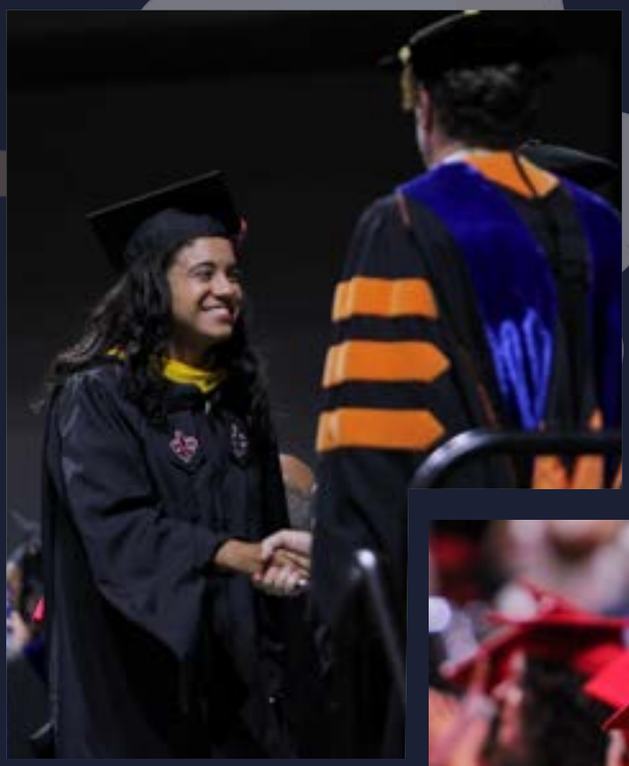
Savoie continued: "The diploma you're receiving is more than a symbol of past achievements. It also represents what's yet to come and what you've yet to achieve. Your diploma is an invitation to change the world—not just to do well for yourself, but to do good for others."

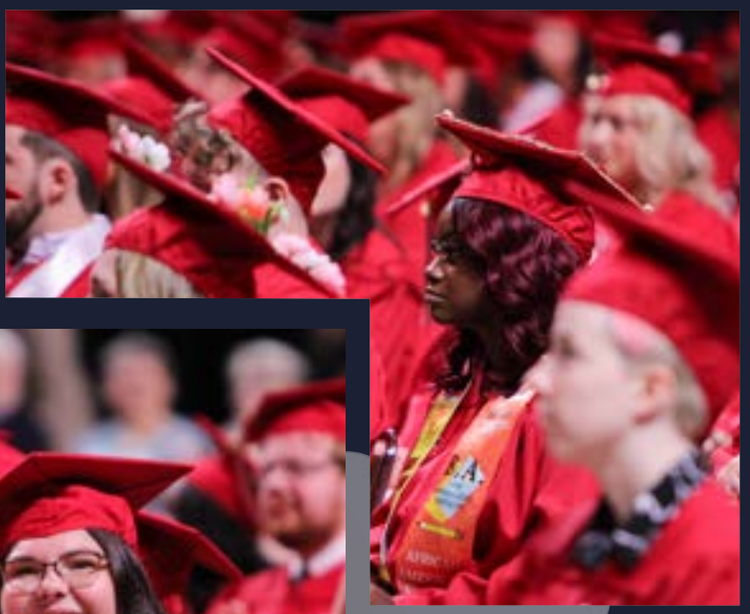
UL Lafayette | Writer
Boyd Daniels | Photographer
Savannah Blanco | Designer

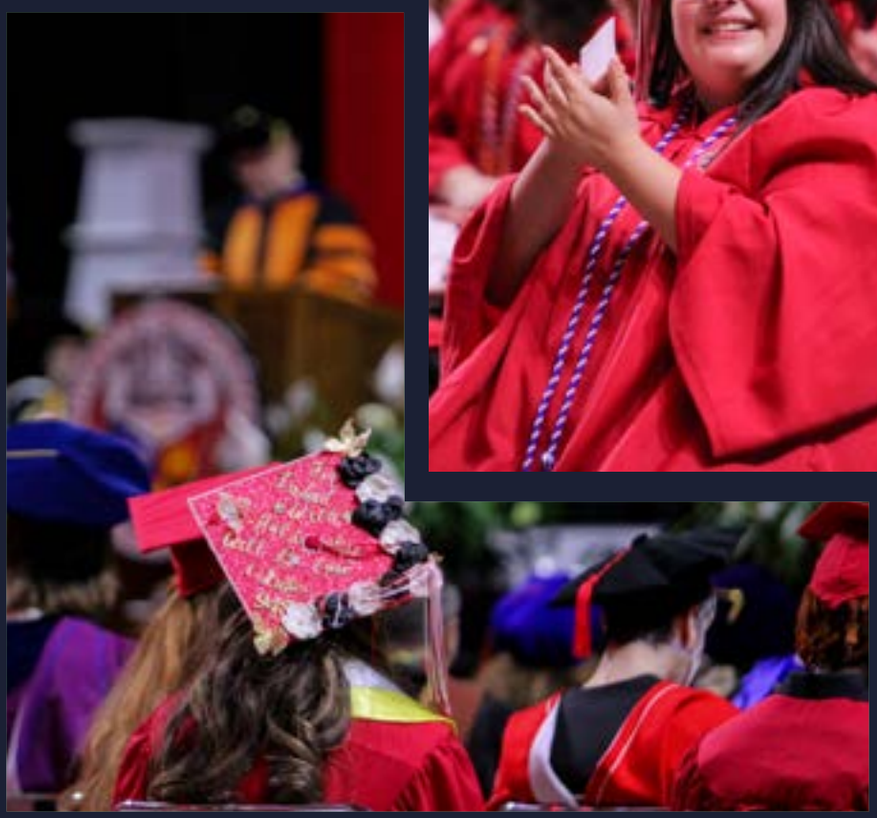
ONTO THE NEXT
ADVENTURE

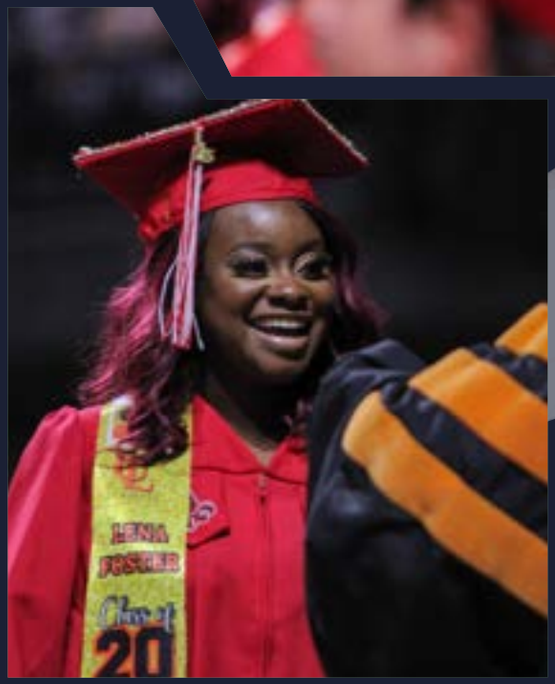
LENA
FOSTER










LENA
FOSTER
Class of
20

COLLEGE OF

Keeping knowledge current

In 2022, the Ray P. Authement College of Science awarded 318 bachelor's degrees. After a two-year break because of the pandemic, on Nov. 11, 2022 the college hosted its annual Science Day. This event allowed more than 500 high school students to visit campus, engaging in experiments and demonstrations and getting to know UL faculty and students.

The School of Geosciences' own Dr. Jorge Villa, received the Early College Research Award courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy. He received nearly $750,000 over a five-year period.

Xu Yuan, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the School of Computing and Informatics, was awarded the National Science Foundation Faculty CAREER award. Yuan will receive a total of $500,000 during several years to fund his research on "malicious attacks on social media platforms and how to stop them."

The School of Geosciences competed in the annual competition AAPG's Imperial Barrel Award Program. The five-student team competed over the course of eight weeks where "the team analyzed real datasets including information on basin's geology, petroleum system elements, geophysics, and production infrastructures. The UL team became champions for a third time, and UL is the only team have that accomplishment.

Two biology Ph.D. students, River Bryant and Stacy Calhoun-Grosch, were selected as 2023 Ecological dissertations in the aquatic sciences program. According to the College of Science website, the program is sponsored "by the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography and the National Science Foundation. Eco-Das is a highly competitive program that seeks to accelerate the careers of a small, select group of Ph.D. students working in the aquatic sciences."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

SCIENCES

KAITLYN JOHNSON

Panhellenic President

Kaitlyn Johnson is a junior majoring in civil engineering. She is a part of Kappa Delta sorority and the Panhellenic Executive Council for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Johnson was elected president of the Panhellenic Council at the beginning of the spring 2023 semester and will serve as president for a full year. She explained the purpose of the Panhellenic Council.

"So Panhellenic Exec is the governing body over all of the Panhellenic chapters. We have six chapters on campus, and Kappa Delta is one of the six chapters," Johnson said.

"I'm pledge class 2020. I went through recruitment as a freshman in my fall semester."

Johnson's main motivation in joining a sorority was because she wanted to be involved in an organization and find a community of people.

"Well, I grew up with two sisters. My house was always a girls' house. There was constantly just people to talk to and always something to do," Johnson said. "I did a bunch of sports. I was actually in yearbook in high school. And so I needed the club atmosphere or an organization that can help me in the beginning to socialize because I can be the type of person to not talk to anybody for a week. But then if I have a group of people that will encourage me to be the best that I can be. That's what I was looking for, the strong sisterhood."

She has many favorite UL traditions such as Homecoming week, Lagniappe Day and a major-specific tradition engineering and technology week.

"In the engineering world, we have engineering and technology week. And so we have high schoolers come to campus, and they get to tour all of the engineering buildings, get to see all the cool projects that we've been working on," Johnson said. "I love giving tours to people and talking to them about engineering, getting them to come in, especially the females in engineering because it's so slim. I like to be the face of it too."

Johnson went into detail on what her duties as president are. She mentions being the face of Panhellenic and if anyone from the university needs anything Greek-related, they contact her. Johnson also is the person for Panhellenic members to contact if they have questions or concerns.

"So I'd say some of the main ones would be just like, assisting with the rest of my exec. There's eight of us on the exec council. So assisting with anything that they can need, just guiding them and leading them through meetings," Johnson said.

"On Mondays at four, we have meetings with the entire, we call it community. So that the president first delegate and second delegate all meet. And we'll just discuss what's happening in IFC and NPHC. And then we also have exec meetings on Wednesday, where I'll just lead both of those meetings, just talk about what's going on and what we can do better."

Her decision to run for president came from her love of Kappa Delta and wanting to have more leadership experience.

"I ran for it. They open it up to all six chapters. Anybody can run, but I was a Gamma Chi. So it's a recruitment counselor. I disaffiliated from my chapter over the summer time last year, and so that could be a prereq for exec," Johnson said. "So I did that and that's where I really learned that I have a huge love for Panhellenic. I love Kappa Delta, but I also wanted to take my leadership capabilities to the next level, and that's why I thought exec is where I wanted to be."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Submitted Photo | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

"I love giving tours to people and talking to them about engineering."

OUTSTANDING SPRING

Oakley Montgomery
English Department

Oakley Montgomery is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts. She is pursuing a master's degree in English.

Montgomery completed her degree requirements while working as a full-time English teacher at St. Thomas More High School. Her focus is British and American literature. She also teaches those subjects to high school students taking college-level courses as part of dual enrollment programs at UL Lafayette.

Montgomery has published two books. "The Ceiling Winked" is a collection of stories about life's quirks and mishaps. "Blame it on the Moon" is a book of poetry divided into three chapters. She contributed to a collaborative essay about the work of the writer Randall Kenan that will be published by the "North Carolina Literary Review."

Montgomery will continue to teach high school and also plans to earn a Ph.D. in creative writing.

Kevin Hilburn
School of Music and Performing Arts

Kevin Hilburn is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the School of Music & Performing Arts in the College of the Arts. He is pursuing a master's degree in music.

Hilbun is a widely published composer and editor of compositions for other musicians. He sings and plays a range of instruments, including trombone, electric bass, bass drum, string bass and guitar. Hilbun performs regularly with a variety of musicians at events such as Festival International and Festivals Acadiens et Créoles.

He held many leadership roles in the School of Music and Performing Arts, including its Low Brass Studio, Symphony Orchestra, Brass Ensemble and Wind Ensemble. Hilbun has also served as a graduate teaching assistant in undergraduate music theory courses.

He plans to teach public school students in the Acadiana region. Hilbun will also continue to write music, edit the work of other composers and perform.

Joshua Wilson
Department of Chemical Engineering

Joshua Wilson is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the Department of Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering. He is pursuing a master's degree in chemical engineering.

Wilson participated in the U.S. Department of Energy's Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship Program. He spent several months at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, Wyoming, researching chemical looping combustion.

Wilson has conducted extensive research at the University on solid oxide fuel cells, including in in areas such as operation, cell fabrication and test methods. He relied on his expertise to build an initial thermodynamic model that was validated with input and guidance from industry professionals at NASA, Boeing and Nexceris.

Wilson authored a technical paper on model construction and initial output data that was published in "Energies," a peer-reviewed, open-access journal. He will work for a chemical company as an engineer and business development manager.

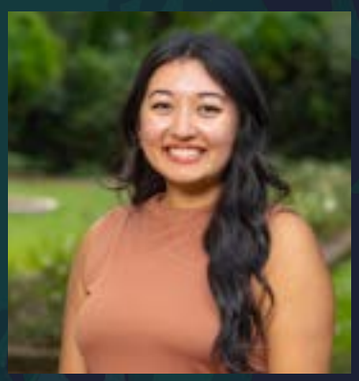
MASTER'S GRADUATES

Emily Walker
School of Kinesiology

Emily Walker is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the School of Kinesiology in the College of Education & Human Development. She is pursuing a master's degree in athletic training.

Walker served as president of the school's Sports Medicine Association. Her widely published research includes a study that examined impaired anabolic response that led to decreased muscle synthesis in mice with colon cancer. Her capstone project focused on heat illness education.

Walker served as a student athletic trainer for the University's baseball and track and field teams. She managed rehabilitative care for lumbar disc herniations and lower back muscular injuries. Walker also learned various forms of instrument assisted soft tissue mobilization treatment. She will work as an athletic trainer in collegiate track and field and pursue a doctorate. Her eventual goal is to teach at a university.



Brianna Sadighian
Department of Psychology

Brianna Sadighian is an Outstanding Master's Graduate Finalist for the Department of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. She is pursuing a master's degree in psychology. Sadighian conducted research in the department's Data Science Application in Social and Community Psychology lab. She examined social, community and cross-cultural psychology using innovative research methods and computational analytic techniques.

As part of her thesis study, Sadighian examined whether generation status, cultural values and stigma predicted mental health help-seeking behaviors among Asian Americans. She contributed significantly to a chapter that will be included in the book "Strategic Social Media as Activism: Repression, Resistance, Rebellion, Reform." It will be published by Routledge, a global publisher of academic texts. Sadighian has presented research at many national and regional conferences. She assisted with assessments and evaluations in the department's Psychological Assessment Clinic. Sadighian plans to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology.

Adam Ortego
School of Architecture and Design

Adam Ortego is the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's overall Outstanding Master's Graduate.

In addition to being the fall semester's overall honoree, Ortego represents the School of Architecture and Design in the College of the Arts. He is pursuing a master's degree in architecture. Ortego earned a Design Excellence Award for his "Towards a Collective Consciousness" project. It created space with no boundaries or biases and revealed a shared desire for health, safety and opportunity.

He made a virtual presentation based on his master's thesis project at an online international symposium. As a graduate assistant, Ortego has conducted research and taught in the school's design studios. He worked as an intern at Remson Haley Herpin Architects, contributing to numerous projects including at University Terrace Elementary School and Prairieville High School. Ortego plans to work in architectural design in a metropolitan area.

OUTSTANDING SPRING

April Bourlet

College of Engineering

April Bourlet is the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's overall Outstanding Graduate.

In addition to being the spring semester's overall honoree, Bourlet is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Engineering. A chemical engineering major, her GPA is 3.95.

She was a research ambassador for the Department of Chemical Engineering. Bourlet earned a Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience grant from the Louisiana Board of Regents. She researched superhydrophobic surface coating. Her findings earned Bourlet a Leaf Award from the University's Student Center for Research, Creativity and Scholarship.

For her senior design capstone project, she developed effective methods to optimize a propylene oxide manufacturing plant. As a member of the Chem-E-Car team, she helped build a small, chemically powered car that placed highly in several categories against an international field of 32 teams.

Bourlet is a co-author on a peer-reviewed paper that was published by the American Chemical Society's "Langmuir" journal. She will work as a process engineer. Her parents are Terry Bourlet and Brett Bourlet of LaPlace, La.

Kameron Miller

College of Nursing

Kameron Miller is the Outstanding Graduate for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences. A nursing major, his GPA is 3.6.

Miller served in the U.S. Army. As a UL Lafayette student, he earned numerous rankings through the University's Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Miller was also ROTC Corps of Cadets president and a member of the Army ROTC Color Guard.

He ranked sixth at the U.S. Army Cadet Command Advanced Camp. Miller was recognized as an ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate. He was a member of the LHC Group · Myers School of Nursing's mentor program. He belongs to the Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nurses.

Miller will work as an intensive care unit nurse in Wichita, Kansas, and as an Army Reserve nurse corps officer. His eventual plans include becoming a nurse anesthetist or a flight nurse. He is the husband of Perla Neave Miller and father of Micah Miller.

GRADUATES

Amy Dartez

College of Sciences

Amy Dartez is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the Ray P. Authement College of Sciences. A biology major, she has a 4.0 GPA.

Dartez was recognized for academic excellence by the Black Faculty and Staff Association four times; she was selected one of the Top 50 undergraduate students in the College of Sciences three times.

Dartez tutored fellow students for the college's Academic Mentoring Matters program. She also mentored K-12 students in Science, Engineering, Technology and Math, or STEM, subjects during interdisciplinary summer camps. Dartez was a member of Alpha Alpha Alpha, a national honor society for first-generation college students.

She plans to attend medical school and become a pediatrician, a career choice shaped by her volunteer work with Healing House. The nonprofit organization provides support and resources for grieving children. Her parents are Carlene and Ronnie Dartez of Sunset, La.

Cydnei Meredith

College of Liberal Arts

Cydnei Meredith is the Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Liberal Arts. She is a psychology major. Her GPA is 3.8.

Meredith has conducted research in the Department of Psychology's Building Effective Environments through Scholarship Lab and its Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Cognition in Social Organizations Lab.

She participated in a rigorous, six-week computational social science workshop, and has been active in undergraduate research. Meredith presented a total of four research posters at the Southwestern Psychological Association Conference and at a Department of Psychology student research showcase.

Her extensive volunteer work includes assisting fellow students as a peer notetaker for UL Lafayette's Office of Disability Services. Meredith has been accepted directly into the doctoral program in organizational science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is the daughter of Gwyn Meredith of Thibodaux, La., and Richard Hawkins III of Buford, Ga.

OUTSTANDING SPRING

Lane Bergeron

College of Education

Lane Bergeron is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of Education & Human Development. He is majoring in secondary education. Bergeron, who completed his degree requirements in three years, has a 4.0 GPA.

Bergeron conducted research that addressed literature gaps on topics relevant to K-12 educators. He helped to create a drop box program, collaborating with area retail businesses to seek donations that helped the underserved.

Bergeron was vice president of the campus chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education. In that role, he reinstituted its "Read Aloud" program, which enables volunteers to read to young children at area libraries.

His plans include teaching high school in Lafayette Parish. Bergeron also intends to earn a master's degree followed by a doctorate, with a goal of becoming a university professor. His parents are Ann and Keith Bergeron of Scott, La.

Celia A. Theaux

University College

Celia A. Theaux is the Outstanding Graduate Finalist for University College. She is a general studies major with a concentration in behavioral sciences. Her GPA is 4.0.

Theaux is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest multidisciplinary collegiate honor society. She has been on the President's List for academic excellence numerous times.

Theaux's community service includes volunteer work as a member of Our Lady of Wisdom Church & Catholic Student Center's student group Ragin' Cajun Catholics.

She is a self-employed artist. Theaux is the owner of a business that creates portraits of pets that she established during her time as a student at the University. Expanding the business will be a key focus of hers following graduation. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. G. Ray Theaux of Lafayette.

(Opposite page) UL President Joseph Savoie speaks to outstanding graduates at the Alumni Center.

GRADUATES

Mary Harrel

College of the Arts

Mary Harrel is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the College of the Arts. An industrial design major, her GPA is 3.72.

She was appointed to the college's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee. Harrel was recognized for academic excellence by the Black Faculty and Staff Association three times. She attended the Industrial Designers Society of America national conference; Harrel also served as public relations chair for the society's campus chapter.

She has earned several awards for design excellence and merit, and received the School of Architecture and Design's Student Service Leadership Award. Harrel belongs to the campus chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

She will work as an industrial designer, and envisions designing products that address quality of life and equity considerations. Harrel also plans to earn a master's degree in design. She is the daughter of Agnes Gobert-Harrel, of Baton Rouge, and the late Leon John Harrel Jr.

Victoria Marks

B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration

Victoria Marks is an Outstanding Graduate Finalist for the B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration. She is a finance major with a 3.76 GPA.

Marks served as president of the campus chapter of the Financial Management Association, a national honor society for finance students. She belongs to Phi Kappa Phi, a multidisciplinary honor society.

Marks presented findings of an independent study at the Southwestern Society of Economics annual convention. She examined the proposed outcomes of tort reform legislation in Louisiana, a project that earned Marks a Leaf Award.

Her community service includes volunteer work with The Hub ministry center and Faith House of Acadiana. She will attend law school. Marks' goal is to establish a firm in Lafayette, where she will focus on influencing change in areas such as crime rates and gun violence. She is the daughter of Tandy and Kenneth Marks of Carencro, La.

HONORS

PROGRAM

Promoting a love for learning

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Honors Program has called Judice-Rickels Hall home since 2001. But the program has been around since 1968 with math professor Maurice Dossey as one of their early directors. The program is a part of University College.

The program today has, "over thirty departmental Honors courses in twenty academic departments, and 10 or more interdisciplinary courses in the Honors course list per semester." A central part of the program is the Honor Seminars which are held in H.L. Griffin Hall three to four times a week. The goal of the Honor Seminars "provides a weekly exposure to a wide variety of intellectual notions in the company of a large group of faculty and students."

Honor students are required to read an "Honor Book" each semester and submit a final essay.

Incoming freshmen who are in the honors program have a chance to live in Coronna Hall where they can be a part of the Honors Living Community where they can live and interact with other Honor students who share the same interest as them. Some of the activities that honors students can participate in are pizza parties, movie night, debate events, trivia night, ice skating, bowling and freshman mixer.

When students complete these honors programs, the Provost of UL Lafayette presents them with an honor cord. These cords are worn around the students necks during graduation to represent their hard work. At the Cording Ceremony, senior research posters are on display. According to the honor programs website,"The research poster is a project that the student did at some point during their courses at UL Lafayette." The students are then able to take their posters with them.

The Honors Program also has a commitment of giving back to the community. Students are expected to volunteer. "Civic duty as well as the Honor Code of the Honors Program express a need to give back to local organizations and individuals, but also to do the same for the international community." Each semester, the student who accumulates the most honor service hours are rewarded and their name is added to the honors service hours plaque in the quiet lounge located in Judice-Rickels.

The Honors Program, "believes in our students, and works hard to promote their hard work, love of learning, and sense of social commitment."

Marie Ducote | Writer
Boyd Daniels | Photographer
Julia McDow | Designer

DOWNTOWN ALIVE!

Celebrating 40 years of street partying

Downtown Alive! celebrated its 40th Anniversary by kicking off with its Spring season of Downtown Lafayette Friday-night concerts. Since 1983, the beloved tradition of the Acadiana community has been free concerts every Friday night in the month of March, with music starting at 6 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m.

What began as a small local Friday-night street party has since evolved into a successful large scale concert series. Thousands of people attend every year, and Downtown Alive! keeps gaining new supporters and lovers of music every year.

Located in the heart of Lafayette, Downtown Alive! is surrounded by an enormous amount of local art, culture, food, and music. In the spirit of keeping the Downtown Lafayette culture alive, they showcase the music of all types of genres, not just Cajun music. The genres span from Cajun and Creole to Indie Pop, rock, country and even R&B.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Downtown Alive did not want to hault its concerts. So they came up with virtual stay-at-home concerts where they were able to have two successful concert seasons in 2020. They reached more than 200,000 people and kept their community safe and entertained. They were excited to come back from virtual concerts to traditional live in-person concerts.

This year's Spring 2023 Lineup consisted of many Lousiana-based local and popular artists and bands. Wayne Toups, Jeffery Broussard & The Creole Cowboys, Nathan Williams & Zydeco Cha Chas, Boogie Kings with Special Guests, and Donny Broussard & The Louisiana Stars made up some of the lineups that played every Friday night at the Parc International and Parc Sans Souci venues.

The first concert on March 3 was met with a boom of fans and party-goers. Being a family-friendly and smoke-free environment, all ages can enjoy these concerts. Children, adults, seniors and even pets could be seen dancing, singing, chatting and enjoying a fantastic night of music and celebration.

As the sky above darkened, the mood and atmosphere of Downtown Alive! did not. The music amped up and the dance floor was engulfed with families, friends and dance partners showing off their moves. During the long night of singing and dancing, the festival attendees could sit down and enjoy concessions sold by vendors all around.

Food, beverages, and merchandise were sold, and proceeds from that went towards funding Downtown Alive! It is also funded by sponsors and supporters both local and nationwide, who believe in keeping tradition, art, and community alive.

The Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Lafayette Unlimited, who proudly produce Downtown Alive!, invited companies, organizations, businesses, individuals, and families to donate towards their production this season. They were successfully met with proud donors who showed their love and support to Downtown Alive!, and helped create and celebrate the 40th season this year.

Supported by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Downtown Alive! works to promote local arts, restaurants, and businesses oriented in the Downtown Lafayette area.

Kay Padilla | Writer
Kay Padilla | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

Music, dancing and food are what Downtown Alive! has been about for 40 years.

LAGNIAPPE DAY

Crawfish and Fun for All!

Something extra. That's what Lagniappe Week is all about. Beginnings in 1974, Lagniappe Week/Day is a time-honored University tradition that gives students a chance to relax during the spring semester.

The high point of Lagniappe Day is a huge crawfish boil where students can eat crawfish while sitting in the sun. Lagniappe Day is the ultimate way for students to decompress and prepare for the end of the semester.

April 21, 2023 marked the 49th Annual Lagniappe event that is sponsored by the University Program Center. Due to inclement weather, events took place both in and outside of Blackham Coliseum. Students who bought tickets got to feast on the infamous 10,000 lbs of crawfish provided by UPC.

In addition to the crawfish, there was also a Jalapeno eating contest. Contestants were challenged to eat as many jalepenos as they could, but were also provided milk to ease the burn.

Lagniappe Day returned to campus in 2022, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions. Besides the crawfish boil and the jalapeno-eating contest, a traditional Lagniappe Day includes canoe races between teams of students as well as faculty and staff. Participants have the opportunity to paddle through the lake to enjoy the view from a different perspective. They can also take a closer look at the alligators, fish, turtles, birds and squirrels in and around the lake.

A lake jump is another traditional part of Lagniappe Day. The jump began in 1977 when then-student Philip Beridon took the first plunge in the water. Beridon would return to campus yearly to perform the jump, usually dressed in a tuxedo.

The tradition continued until Beridon's untimely death in 2006. A memorial jump took place in 2007, and beginning in 2008, a UPC student performs the task each year, taking the plunge feet-first or back first into the murky waters of the lake.

In the late 1980s, Cypress Lake was a question on the game show Jeopardy in a category about unique college landmarks.

UL students enjoying Lagniappe Day festivities.

Matthew Tarver | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

THE BIG EVENT

UL's Annual Day of Service

Another year, another BIG EVENT! On March 25, 2023, the hot and spicy spirit of the Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns came to serve its community. The Big Event is an opportunity for UL students to come together and give back to those in their campus community as well as to people in Acadiana.

The event is also open to family, faculty, staff and alumni, or "flock" which is the student organization or team that you've volunteered with. Flocks are involved with a variety of community service projects ranging from planting trees, litter clean up, serving food plates, painting local businesses walls, restoring flower beds and more. This event provides a way for students to gain a sense of pride, belonging, purpose, and a social responsibility in their community all while building up their Ragin' Cajun spirit.

The Big Event began nationally in 1982 when the vice president of the Student Government Association at Texas A&M, Joe Nussaum, wanted a way for students to provide a large token of appreciation to its nearby community Bryan-College Station. Over the years, The Big Event has spread to more than 80 universities across the nation. Being one of those universities inspired by the idea of students completing various tasks in their area to support locals, UL kicked off The Big Event for its students and community in 2013.

For this year's Big Event, there were more than 700 volunteers that gave back to the community with an enthusiastic attitude. Student organizations and individuals that exemplify the motto, "One Day, One Big Thanks, One Big Event" are gifted with a Golden Flamingo. The Golden Flamingo awards consist of the "Super GREEK Award" given to a fraternity or sorority with the largest number of volunteers for The Big Event.

The Now That's A Flock! Award is for a student organization with the largest number of volunteers. Awards such as Most Creative Name Award, The Early Bird Award-Flock, and The Early Bird Award-Individual are also handed out during the event.

Sponsors for The Big Event included Parish Proud, Raising Cane's, Smoothie King, Pizza Artista, Costco Wholesale, and Hilton Garden Inn.

Once the Big Event has concluded, the torch is ready to be passed to a new E-board in preparations for the following year in order to maintain the objective of reaching out to the community to serve.

In short, this is a community service project that screams a BIG "Thank You" to the community for the constant support and love. Many organizations, businesses, families and friends offer help to the University, and we can never be grateful enough with words that are loud enough to express said gratitude. The Big Event is one day out of many used to express our thanks.

Malik Jones | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

Students, faculty and staff participated in The Big Event's day of service in March 2023.

SPRING STARTING

Getting Back to Work After Fall Break

Getting back into the semester after any break can be difficult. After having so much time off to indulge in leisurely activities and spend quality time with family, it can be challenging to get back into the groove of things. Beyond that, just getting back to a normal sleeping schedule and demanding academic requirements can be daunting.

As the time to actually commit to those schedules we made at the end of the fall semester approaches, you may find yourself stressed and altogether just not ready to get back to work. But, with the proper time management, mental health prioritization and planning, this can all be very manageable and even enjoyable.

One thing that has really helped me get back into the swing of things is planning ahead for the semester in general. A Tennessee Tech, College of Graduate Studies's article also lends some insight into this. They recommend getting accustomed to your spring semester schedule by starting to follow that schedule during the end of your winter break.

Essentially, it is the equivalent of your mom making you follow your bedtime the week before school starts. This allows your body and mind to get accustomed to your new schedule without the added pressure of syllabus week, school related requirements and moving back in.

Some examples they give are waking up at the time you would normally wake up for classes, engaging your mind academically with studying or reading and eating when you would probably be eating during the semester. This can be implemented the week before the semester starts or just the beginning of the semester before things get too chaotic.

By easing yourself back into these rhythms, it won't feel so jarring to start all at once when the semester becomes more and more demanding. I also find a good tool for me that helps me get into a "back to school" mindset is shopping.

Obviously the beginning of any semester can be tough financially, but if you have the means, buying a pack of cheap multicolored pens, a new notebook or even just a new item of clothing can make the semester seem a little less bleak. By giving yourself reasons to look forward to this upcoming time, it can seem less intimidating and even exciting.

The Tennessee Tech article also recommends making a schedule and creating new goals going into the semester. As far as a schedule goes, outside of the obvious class times, students are urged "to schedule in set study times, gym sessions, and extracurricular activities at set times each day".

I find this tip very helpful because I tend to function better on a schedule, specifically a written one. One thing I have done in the past that makes this tip work better for me is keeping a planner or a calendar. This allows me to hold myself accountable for my schedule and commit it to memory.

Setting goals for the semester can get you more motivated for the classes to come. Instead of just getting through classes, which I am very guilty of doing, you can become motivated to excel in classes with the goals you set in mind.

The article stresses that you keep these goals realistic so that you do not become discouraged if you don't achieve all your goals. I think this is important and touches on something I find beneficial when beginning any semester—being gentle with yourself.

The academic and social demands of school can be a lot for anyone, especially after coming back from spending most of your our time doing whatever you want. While these demands are important, so is prioritizing your mental health.

I think the beginning of the semester, above all else, is a unique period of the semester that allows you to be gentle with yourself. This is a time where you can just do what you can, go easy on yourself when you can't, and treat yourself when possible before things get too stressful.

Kaylin Ambrose | Writer
Sarah Guidry | Illustrator
Sarah Guidry | Designer

January
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
School starts :)
11
12
13
Test English
15
16
17
Present Project Idea
18
19
20
22
Project Due!
23
24
25
26
Test Chem
27
28
30
31
To Do
Homework
Group Project
Goals
Survive :)
Eat healthy
Exercise
Pass Classes
Spring Semester
January 11th

GRADUATE

Advanced Scholarship

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette values its graduate students and aims to provide them with a stimulating academic environment. The Graduate School at UL offers a wide range of master's and doctoral programs demonstrating the University's commitment to prepare future scholars, researchers, practitioners and leaders in various fields.

The graduate programs not only focus on developing professional skills but also emphasize critical thinking and research. There are a diverse range of disciplines offered—spanning the arts, liberal arts, sciences and education, which provides students with a wide array of options to pursue their academic and career interests.

The availability of online components in several graduate programs is a valuable feature for students who have busy schedules or other commitments. By incorporating online components, the Graduate School demonstrates its commitment to adapting to the changing landscape of education and meeting the needs of a diverse student body.

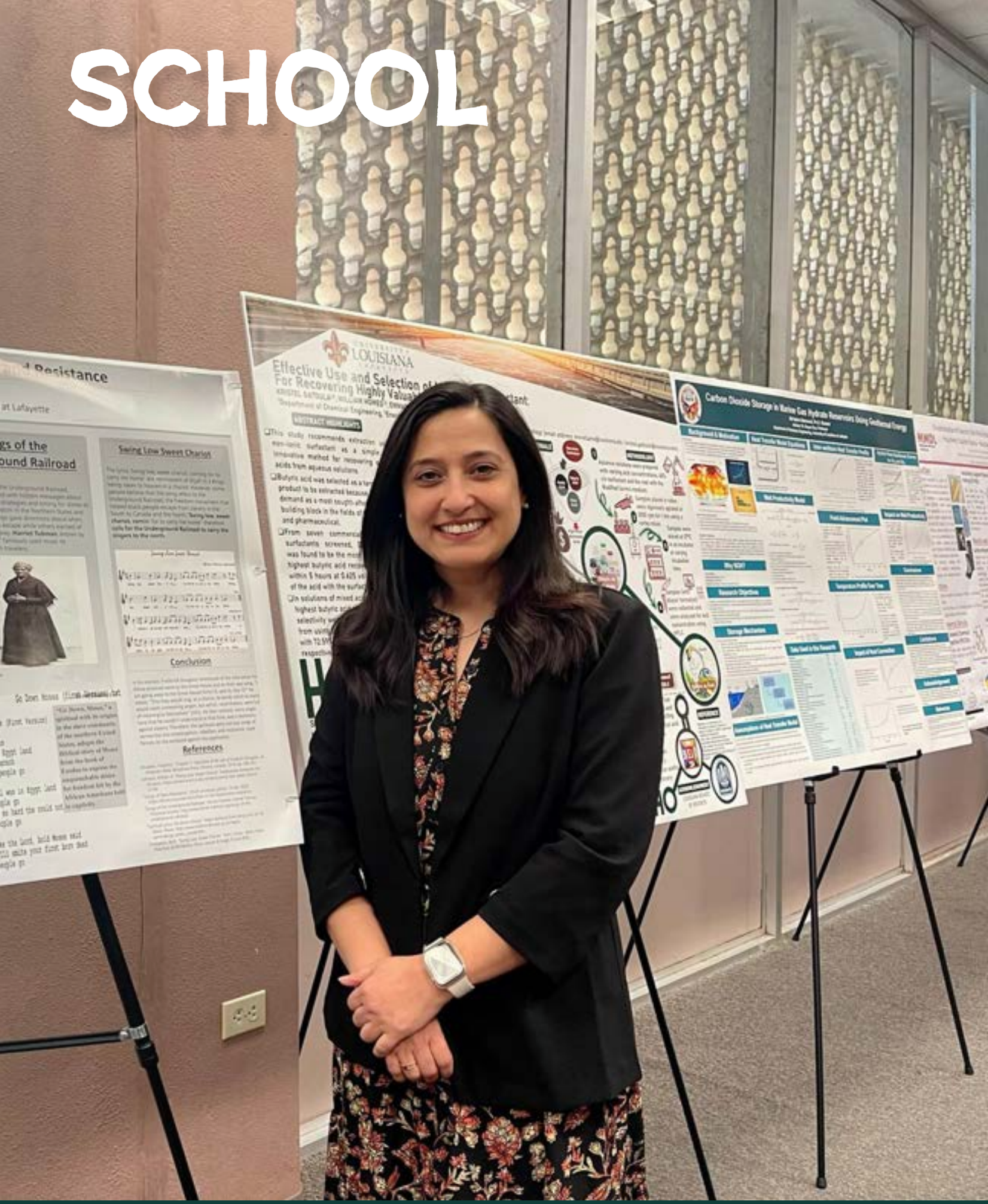
This year, the Graduate School provided variety of professional development opportunities for graduate students such as the Three Minute Thesis competition, UL Graduate Student Symposium, and Wake Up and Write bootcamp. From March 25-31, Graduate Student Appreciation Week was organized that included the Most Loved Graduate Program competition—the Graduate Student Research Showcase, Poster, and Paper competition. Graduate School along with graduate students also took part in the Grad Tree Planting event with The Big Event on campus in March.

The Graduate Student Organization or GSO is a student organization that serves all graduate students at UL. It advocates for graduate students and provides them with professional development opportunities through programs and fundings. GSO provides funding to graduate students to help defray the cost of attending conferences and purchasing research equipment and supplies. The GSO also provides one-time grants for purchasing thesis, dissertation, or project supplies. This year, GSO organized fun events such as Trivia Nights and Socials at Acadiana Center for Arts.

This was a great year for Graduate School, and it is committed to make the next one even better through engaging the graduate students socially, professionally and scholarly by providing opportunities to learn and grow.

Faryal Atif | Writer
Submitted Photo | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

SCHOOL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Carbon Dioxide Storage in Marine Gas Hydrate Reservoirs Using Geothermal Energy

GAP YEAR

Why high school graduates should wait a year before starting college

It is no secret that college requires dedication no matter what age that you decide to begin. That is why it is so important to know what you want to study before you begin college. However, it is difficult for high school graduates to know exactly what they want to do when they have just graduated high school. This is why high school students should take a gap year.

Most people are against taking a gap year because they believe that not going right after high school will push them back. I was one of those people. However, if you are not set on what you want to do, going to college early will in fact push you farther back.

Now I am not saying that you will not be successful or you will not graduate on time without taking a gap year. However, most college students end up changing their major at least once or they have taken so many courses for their major that they feel stuck in a field that they do not see themselves in anymore.

In my opinion, a gap year should be about growth. High school graduates should use this time to travel, try different jobs and even volunteer.

Allow yourself this time to figure out how you want to show up in the world. I believe that these kinds of experiences open up our eyes to see the world at a larger level. A gap year does not just give a deeper sense of personal awareness but also has professional and practical benifits.

It is no secret that college is expensive. Many college students have more loans to their name than work experience. Constantly changing your major and trying to find yourself only deepens this problem. The feeling of being lost and stuck in a major that no longer resonates with you will only smother the motivation that you once had to finish your degree.

Although taking a gap year is a good idea for a lot of high school graduates, we can not discuss this without mentioning the cost. The idea of taking a gap year was not very appealing to families who were not bringing home a high income.

According to the U.S. News & World Report, "Verto Education has emphasized making gap years more accessible to students across all income levels, which means offering a single semester experience for as low as $5,000 through an "opportunity grant" for families making less than $100,000 annually."

If I could go back and take a gap year, I definitely would. I have completed so many courses in many diffrent majors. I do not have the gall to change it or the motivation. I can only trust that the girl who I was when I graduated from high school made the right decision. There is always that thought in the back of my mind that questions if this is the path I was supposed to take.

This is why I think high schools and colleges should promote gap years. I'm sure many colleges would be afraid they would lose money or have low admissions if they did, but they should consider about how many dedicated students they would earn. They should consider how much higher the grades and graduation rates would increase because students are not only dedicated but motivated to finish.

For these reasons alone, I am convinced that maybe gap years should not be a requirement, but they should be highly recommended to incoming freshmen.

Summer Landry | Writer
Meg Norwood | Illustrator
Meg Norwood | Designer

Work
Travel
School

HOLI FESTIVAL

Hindu celebration signifies start of Spring

Acadiana residents and UL students gathered in Girard park in March to celebrate the 13th annual Holi Fest.

Since 2011, Holi Fest has been an annual tradition in Lafayette, held at Girard Park. The last Saturday of March was officially proclaimed as Lafayette's Holi Festival, by Lafayette City-Parish President Joey Durell in 2014.

Holi is celebrated by Hindus in India and all across the world, marking the passage of winter and commemorating the beginning of Spring. It is celebrated according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar; Holi usually lands on the last full moon in March.

The Holi festival is also heavily related to Hindu mythology, celebrating the victory of good over evil. Traditionally, Holi is celebrated by splashing water mixed with vibrant colors on people passing by. Now, these water mixtures are swapped for brightly colored powders.

Each color represents something different: blue stands for the color of the gods, green is the color of nature, red is the color of festivals and weddings also signifying passion, yellow represents warmth, and orange is the color of ambition.

For this year's 11th Lafayette Holi Festival, people attending were able to join a T-shirt designing contest. Contesters were asked to design a Holi based hand, or digitally drawn, creative logo for this year's festival. The winner was recognized on stage and received bragging rights.

Festival attendees were advised to wear white clothing to have a better canvas for their colors. Eye protection, hair protection, and a change of clothing were advised to bring, as the powders may stain heavily.

Holi is a family friendly environment where anyone is welcome. There were many activities such as a henna station and a kids' splash zone. Food such as Indian food, snowballs, cotton candy, funnel cakes and pizza were

sold. Drinks including beer, juice, water and soft drinks were also available for participants.

You could see people of all ages enjoying themselves at this event. Children, as well as adults, enjoyed being able to throw colorful powder on people consequence free. As well as adults. The setlist included music by DJ Tariq and live music by Morpankh, gaining a large crowd throughout all of Holi Fest.

UL students, as well as Acadiana residents, all seemed to be loving the atmosphere created at the festival. Biology major, Natalie Duvall said, "It was wonderful. I had a really good time. My favorite part was being around lots of people from our community and dancing with everyone and the food was really good."

Francesca Hildebrand, a non-UL student, stated "I just love that it's a good time with my friends and I get to come and hang out and you know throw some colors on people, and get colors thrown on me, and experience a different culture a little bit. The music is great every time."

Holi Fest is an event that brings a new culture to the Lafayette area. It is a way for many people to appreciate Hindu way of life and its traditions. Everyone was welcome and open to experiencing a different culture.

The Acadiana's Festival of Colors is partnered with the Cardiovascular Institute of the South, and sponsored and supported by various local businesses and organizations. Holi Fest is made possible by the support, love, and dedication of the organizers and sponsors as well as the Acadiana community.

Kay Padilla, Krisha Rosales | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Ava Blanchard | Designer

COLLEGE INTERNSHIPS

Gaining experince beyond the degree

Internships—the primary way inexperienced students gain legitimate knowledge of their careers. At UL Lafayette, there is a strong focus on internships and an even stronger push for students to pursue them while in attendance. Some majors, such as mass communications and accounting, require students to take an internship to graduate.

What's so great about internships? Kim Billeaudeau, director of Career Services sat down to answer this question. Located in Agnes Edwards, Career Services aims to equip students with the right tools to find their footing during and after college.

As the director, Billeaudeau "oversees the career guidance and development for all students." She and her department guide students to uncover what it is they want to do in life. When asked what benefits internships specifically had on students, she answered that "it provides students the opportunity to test career paths, gain professional skills, build a resume, and create references." These are invaluable skills that give students the necessary steps to get into the workforce. Career Services, as Billeaudeau explained, provides internships to students of all majors and degrees. No matter what someone may be interested in, there is bound to be an internship ready to be filled. It is not surprising that Billeaudeau recommends "100%" that every student should pursue an internship. In her words, "we are here to support students."

But, Billeaudeau's words are not the only glowing reviews for internships. Many students have come back after their internships grateful for actually doing it. They gain an advanced understanding of what is being taught in the classroom. Student Publication's own Andre Broussard discussed his positive experience with internships.

Broussard had received an internship from CGI Federal as a Business Analyst; they specialize in contracts with State and Federal government in all sectors including Department of Defense, DOJ, and Space Force. He worked on projects with other software developers to fit the technological needs of clients. In his eyes, it was the "perfect way to see how the business worked."

He received hands-on experience in the career he wants to pursue. When asked how his internship compared to the classroom, he responded that "What I learn at CGI doesn't compare to what I've learned in the classroom. There are so many aspects of the tech industry that you have to work in it to understand all that goes on. Some things you can't learn in the classroom effectively like you can on the job."

His experience is not just distinct to the tech industry either: it applies to all industries. Students in nursing, engineering, moving images arts, etc. could all benefit to gather real experience outside of the lecture room. Needless to say, Broussard highly recommends his peers just give it a try.

College is the final frontier before the workforce. The classroom teaches how to have a successful career post-education. Internships provide exposure to real jobs that ultimately prepare students for their future. UL is a place to discover what the future has in store, and internships are only a part of that journey of discovery.

Joseph Lormand | Writer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

UL students participate in internships that provide opportunities that supplement classroom and individual studying.

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL

Free festival celebrates world music in style

On April 26-30, downtown Lafayette hosted the 37th annual Festival International de Louisiane. This free five-day festival is one of the largest international festivals in the world.

Festival started in 1987 and according to their website, "It was founded to help boost the cultural tourism and overall economy in our region while celebrating diverse music, food, and art."

In the weeks leading up to the festival, Lafayette residents and businesses decorated their houses and office buildings with the Festival International logo flag marking the beginning of this festive time.

Artist and Lafayette local Lu Wixon was chosen as the 2023 Festival International Artist. As the official artist, Wixon created the festival official artwork that is featured on the posters, pins, cups, shirts and cups.

The 2023 festival saw a diverse group of musicians from all over the world. Some of the musicians that performed were Lisa LeBlanc (New Brunswick, Canada), RAM (Haiti), San Salvador (France), ADG7 (South Korea) and Malentina (Puerto Rico/Louisiana).

Four stages were scattered around downtown giving guests a chance to listen and dance to music in nearly all areas of the festival grounds.

Thursday night of festival events included the opening ceremonies and a performance by Lauren Daigle. The performance was a part of the bicentennial celebration of Lafayette Parish. The bicentennial celebration continued on April 29 with "A Celebration of Zydeco" featuring Rockin' Dopsie Jr. and special guests. There was also a booth at the festival, where people could stop by and learn about the 200-year history of the parish.

Lillian Babineaux, a sophomore majoring in graphic art, went into what her favorite part of the festival was.

"I like the food and different experiences," Babineaux said.

Local restaurants such as Pho Home, Fezzo's Seafood, Steakhouse & Oyster Bar, Cafe Habana City, Zeus, Patacon Latin Cuisine and many more had booths at the festival, highlighting Lafayette's wide variety of cuisine.

Artists specializing in jewelry, painting, printmaking, ceramics, African arts, glassworks and so much sold and showcased their creations at two main locations Marche Des Arts and Marche Du Monde. Festival goers were able to purchase all of these wonderful pieces of art.

The morning of Saturday April 29 had the annual Courir Du Festival 5k race. Participants ran or walked through downtown.

Saturday and Sunday of Festival International had activities exclusively for the children. Kids were able to get their face painted, make arts and crafts and watch performances. The main branch of the Lafayette Public Library had storytime Saturday morning with award winning children picture author Rana DiOrio.

Chloe Mali Phrommabouth, a senior majoring in architectural studies, mentioned the food and dancing as her favorite memories from the 2023 festival.

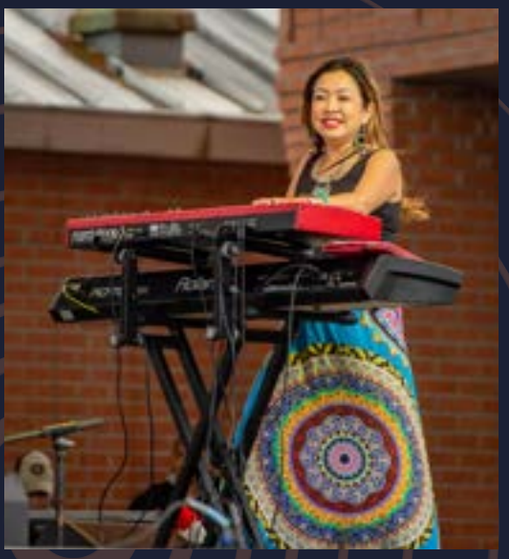
"My favorite festival memory this year was eating new foods and dancing everywhere with my friends," Phrommabouth said. We'd all randomly just started dancing in the middle of the street and we made a lot of new friends."

Downtown staple the Acadiana Center for the Arts hosted events in conjunction with Festival International such as an art exhibit showcasing paintings from New Orleans artist John Isiah Walton series "Color Coded." The ACA Theater had performances by Ngaiire (Papua New Guinea/Australia) on April 27. April 29 in the ACA Theater had a presentation titled "Roots of Zydeco" with Zydeco expert and radio personality Herman Fuselier and musician Jeffery Broussard presented by Louisiana 1823.

Joshua Moton, a senior mass communication major, loved how this year's festival exposed him to multiple cultures.

"I loved this year's festival, the opportunity to be exposed to so many different cultures, hearing amazing music and being surrounded by wonderful people have made festival an unforgettable experience," Moton said.

Marie Ducote | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer



Musicians and performers showcased at Festival International.

Musicians and performers brought talents from many cultures to Lafayette for the 37th year.

Festival atendees were encouraged to shop from local artisans while enjoying cuisine from around the world.

UNIVERSITY

University President E. Joseph Savoie

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie is the sixth president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He returned to his alma mater as president in July 2008.

Savoie was formerly the Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Louisiana, where he was involved in several major postsecondary education reforms, including:

· the restructuring of higher education governance

· creation of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System

· teacher, education, and school reform initiatives

· the state's Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education and

· the promotion of collaboration within the entire education community.

Under his leadership, financial support for public postsecondary education more than doubled and Louisiana's colleges and universities became more engaged in addressing Louisiana's economic and social challenges. Savoie was a cabinet member in three governors' administrations—M. J. "Mike" Foster, Kathleen Blanco, and Bobby Jindal.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner of Higher Education, he served in many roles on the UL Lafayette campus, including vice president for University Advancement, executive director of the Alumni Association, program director for the Union Program Council, student government advisor and adjunct assistant professor. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from UL Lafayette and earned a doctor of education in educational leadership and administration from Columbia University's Teachers College in New York.

Under his leadership, the University has affirmed its commitment to its core mission of education and developed a blueprint for future growth.

It has developed a strategic plan to further academic success by improving retention rates and increasing the number of graduates.

Soon after his appointment, Savoie initiated a comprehensive review of academic offerings that has led to the creation of new degree programs, including master's and doctoral degrees.

With the construction of new residence halls, the University has increased its capacity for student housing and created living-learning environments, where students with similar interests live and study together. And, students, faculty, staff and community members helped create a master plan for the campus that addresses issues such as facilities, transportation, and housing

ADMINISTRATION

Provost Jaimie Hebert

Dr. Jaimie Hebert is UL Lafayette's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. He joined the University administration in July 2018.

He is responsible for the general direction of UL Lafayette's instruction, research, and outreach activities. He coordinates Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Research, Advancement and Administration. One of his duties is recruiting faculty members.

Prior to joining the UL Lafayette administration, Dr. Hebert served as president of Georgia Southern University and was previously the Sam Houston State University provost and vice president of academic affairs.

An Abbeville, La., native, Dr. Hebert holds a bachelor's, a master's and a doctorate – all in statistics – from UL Lafayette. He received his bachelor's in 1986, master's in 1988 and doctorate in 1990.

Patricia Cottonham

Patricia Cottonham is vice president for Student Affairs.

She is responsible for coordinating various non-academic departments that relate directly to the well-being of UL Lafayette students and is also a liaison with the student body. She oversees critical university offices such as Residential Life, Counseling and Testing, Disability Services, Health Services, Recreational Sports, Student Publications and University Police.

Cottonham's UL Lafayette career includes working in financial aid for 14 years, serving as financial aid director for four of those years, and serving as associate dean of Student Life and director of Greek life for 10 years. She was interim dean of Student Affairs from December 2008 until she was appointed vice president for Student Affairs in 2014.

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Dr. DeWayne Bowie

DeWayne Bowie is UL Lafayette's first vice president for Enrollment Management.

The Enrollment Management Division directs and coordinates the efforts of several offices charged with improving student recruitment, retention and graduation rates.

Areas that report to Bowie include Financial Aid, Undergraduate Admissions, the Registrar's Office, New Student Orientation, Enrollment Services, Veterans' Affairs, and the Scholarship Office. He is also chair of the University Ring Committee. Bowie was the University's registrar for eight years before being named a vice president.

He is a former director of UL Lafayette's Office of Financial Aid

Dr. Ramesh Kolluru

Ramesh Kolluru is vice president for Research, Innovation, and Economic Development.

He drives the University's transition to a top-tier, modern research university through research, scholarship, and innovation. His leadership efforts include stimulating activities related to sponsored research, doctoral programs, technology transfer, corporate and governmental relations, and economic development. He also oversees operations of the University Research Park, as well as various research centers and institutes at UL.

He is a nationally recognized leader in the application of computing and informatics research to solve challenges in health care, disaster management, supply chain management, public-private partnerships, and big data analytics.

He founded three premier applied research centers at UL Lafayette, including the nation's only National Science Foundation "big data" center of excellence. He generated more than $65 million in research grants and contracts.

John Blohm

John Blohm is the vice president for University Advancement and the University of Louisiana Foundation CEO.

He supervises the offices of Advancement Services, Alumni Affairs, Development, Governmental Affairs, and Communications and Marketing. He is also UL's liaison with the UL Lafayette Alumni Association and the UL Foundation.

Blohm attended college in Michigan. He was Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University.

He had leadership roles at the University of Arkansas, Emory University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Florida.

Jerry Luke Leblanc

Jerry Luke LeBlanc is UL Lafayette's vice president for Administration and Finance.

He served as Louisiana Commissioner of Administration from 2004 to 2008 where he was responsible for the state's administrative and financial operations. Prior to his service as Commissioner, LeBlanc was elected to five consecutive terms, 1989-2004, in the Louisiana House of Representatives, representing District 45 based in Lafayette.

He is the first House member in history to serve as chairman of Louisiana's Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. During his legislative service, he was chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations from 1996-2004.

Dr. Bryan Maggard

Bryan Maggard joined the Ragin' Cajuns in 2017 after spending 21 years at the University of Missouri where he served as the Tigers' Executive Associate Athletic Director.

Putting excellent leadership in charge of Louisiana's teams has been one of Dr. Maggard's clear objectives during his tenure, with an emphasis on the student-athlete experience and the culture surrounding the program of the utmost importance.

Maggard has served his profession and community over the past several years. He is a certified APR consultant with the NCAA/N4A and has served as a facilitator for various student-athlete leadership summits.

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PLAYER COMPENSATION

Name, Image, Likeness

On July 1, 2021, the NCAA adopted a name, image and likeness (NIL) policy allowing college athletes from all three divisions to benefit off of their individual brand. Student-athletes can now connect with companies and profit the same as any other college student.

Two major aspects of this policy are emphasized by NCAA rules: companies cannot pay student-athletes for their performance and NIL deals cannot be used as recruiting inducement.

Companies cannot pay the starting running back for each touchdown he scores on the football field or the middle blocker for every ace earned on the volleyball court. Companies also cannot offer recruits and transfer student-athletes NIL deals as a means of luring them to the university or maintaining their enrollment.

Student-athletes at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette are given the opportunity to go out and seek their own deals. The university requires that each NIL deal is disclosed with the athletic department.

UL Lafayette associate director for compliance, Tom Burke, spoke about the university's student-athletes and how they're taking advantage of the new policy.

"We have some athletes that are go-getters," Burke said. "We have some athletes that will send a DM to an online business or company and say, 'Hey, I'm a student-athlete at UL. I'd like to get involved in NIL opportunities for your business. Is there anything you guys do for athletes in this space?'"

Some student-athletes at UL are grabbing the bull by the horns when it comes to NIL deals.

Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns Andre Jones, Greg Williams Jr., Danielle Taix, Zi'Yon Hill-Green and Trey Amos have all had NIL deals in the past year.

Burke emphasized NIL opportunities aren't just for marquee athletes such as the starting center in basketball or shortstop in baseball, but that students can market themselves to benefit from the NCAA ruling.

"Any student-athlete that has a good social media

following or a good brand is just as able to do an NIL deal as the starting quarterback is," Burke said.

A student-athlete with a few thousand followers on social media can reap the benefits of the NIL rules the same way a starting player can.

With UL Lafayette belonging to the Group of 5, many student-athletes are using the new NIL rules as they were intended: for student-athletes to promote their individual brand separate from the university.

NIL campaigns cannot use UL Lafayette intellectual property, such as logos, uniforms and marks, without permission from the University.

The intention of the NIL policy is for athletes to build their own personal and professional brand. This not only benefits the student-athlete, but it also establishes a business-oriented mindset and can lead to opportunities even after they graduate.

Members of the Ragin' Cajuns athletic department and University boosters are permitted to help facilitate NIL opportunities. No compensation, however, may be provided to the student-athletes by the university, its employees and its agents.

The main goal of NIL is for student-athletes at UL and every university in the country to build a professional background and better position themselves for success after their education all while benefiting from doing so.

Jean Guidry	Writer
Andre Broussard	Photographer
Andre Broussard	Designer

TAILGATING AND PARTIES

Fun with friends before the game

It is that time of year again when we dust off our shelved University of Louisiana at Lafayette merch and become die-hard Ragin' Cajuns. There is one side of the spectrum of people that will not be able to move on with life if they do not go to every homecoming event including the games, and then there is the other side where those people only go to tailgates to find friends and drink beverages. Then, as you are trying to sober up a little bit, you turn around and go to the after parties to get even more tipsy.

Now, the reason why this is the preference when it comes to homecomings is vague, but there is something about that Jungle Juice/ Bacardi Mango mix that relieves people of life's problems, even if it is only for the weekend. Sure, you have like three tests to study for and like six homework assignments, but when it is Homecoming Week, that assignment you need to "pass the class" might take a back seat.

I remember last year going to my first tailgate and my first Homecoming game. To say it was a production is an understatement. Seeing people that you forgot go to the same school as you or seeing people you have not seen since elementary, middle or high school gives you a surreal feeling in your belly.

The only downside to this one-of-a-kind experience is actually getting to your destination. What I mean is that the tens of thousands of alumni that pre-pre-reserved their parking spots as well as their tailgate set-up take top priority. Then, there is the entire state of Louisiana who all wants to go to the Grant Street Dancehall at 9 p.m.

From walking and/or trying to find a spot for tailgating and then washing, rinsing and repeating hours later for a party, it does begin to get tiresome. There is not even a guarantee that you get into parties because, you are in line for what seems like hours. That, ladies and gentlemen, brings down the party vibe.

Regardless, once you have gone to your first Homecoming, you are definitely going to the next one. Once you have become a part of the film, production and showing at the theaters, you are going to want to be in the sequel and quite possibly the following franchises. Homecoming is the biggest school-pride event of the year where all kinds of shenanigans can unfold.

I went to Baton Rouge High, so I did not get the chance to rep my school's football or basketball team. We had quizbowl, tennis, soccer, track and other sports that homecoming would not center around. When I went to UL's Homecoming last year, it was an eye-opening moment on what I missed in high school.

This year, who knows what this sequel will include. Who knows what UL Lafayette will put out as a trailer for the Homecoming movie. All I know, whether you go to a kickback and something chill or a cramped party with no room to turn up, Homecoming is what you make of it. Moral of the story: you only live once, so why not become one of those die-hard Ragin' Cajuns and enjoy tailgating and the game? It is all in the name of having a good time.

Lauren Foster | Writer
Sarah Guidry | Illustrator
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

RAGIN CAJUNS
GEAUX

FOOTBALL

Ragin' Cajuns finish 2022 season at 6-7

For the first time since the end of the 2017 season, the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns football team was not under the helm of Billy Napier. It was the season of loss, as many key pieces from the 2021 conference championship team were gone. This included wide receiver Kyren Lacy and defensive back Mekhi Gardner, who both transferred, guard O'Cyrus Torrence and running back Montrell Johnson, who followed Napier to Florida, and quarterback Levi Lewis to the Canadian Football League.

Michael Desormeaux, an offensive assistant with the Cajuns, was tapped to be the next head coach of the team. He believed in two quarterbacks to run the Cajun offense, redshirt sophomore Chandler Fields and redshirt junior Ben Wooldridge, a transfer from Fresno State. During the first half of the season, Desormeaux rotated the two with mixed results. The experiment finally ended on Homecoming against South Alabama, which the Cajuns lost on a last-second field goal 20-17. From that point on, there was only one quarterback playing games unless there were injuries.

The season was full of high highs, and extremely low lows. For the fifth straight year, the Cajuns clinched bowl eligibility and made a bowl game. However, the road to get there was not as smooth as previous years, with the Cajuns reaching their sixth and final win of the season against Texas State. Arguably, the lowest point of the season came against the eventual Sun Belt champions in the Troy Trojans. The Cajuns held a 17-0 lead midway through the third quarter before collapsing down the stretch and losing 23-17.

However, there were some bright spots during the season as well. The team played well in games against Marshall, Arkansas State, Georgia Southern and Texas State, convincingly winning against these Sun Belt foes.

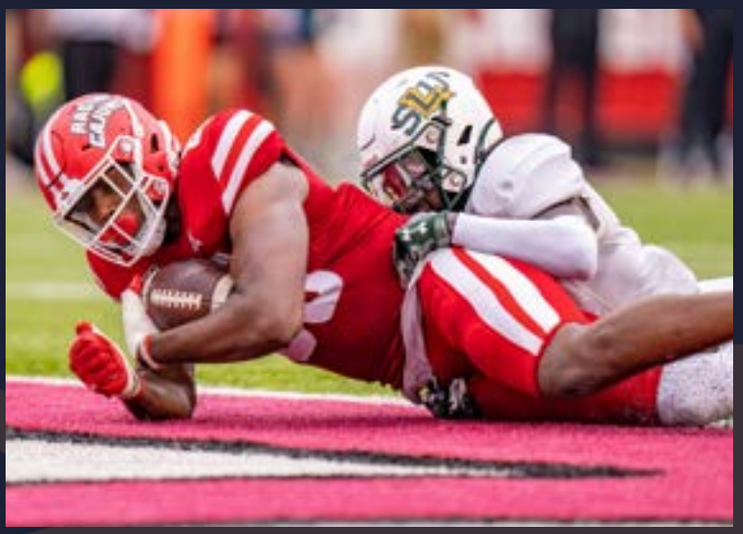
Yet it seems that for the first time in recent memory, fans are not showing up in the droves that they used to under Coaches Napier and Mark Hudspeth.

Cajun Field holds 41,426 seats, and the largest attended game was the Homecoming game, and that game did not even fill 50% of the seats. Total attendance was officially marked at 20,671 people, a rate of 49%. The lowest attendance mark was the Troy Trojans game on November 5, when only 7,888 fans came to the stadium, a low rate of 19%.

The season concluded on a below-freezing day in Shreveport, Louisiana. Not unlike their game against

Troy, the Cajuns' held a 13-0 lead against the Houston Cougars in the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl, before collapsing late in a 23-16 defeat.

Many star players are now declaring for the draft or transferring out of the program. Wideout Dontae Fleming transferred to Cotton Bowl champion Tulane after the Cajuns' season ended, and Eric Garror, Andre Jones, and Chris Smith among others declared for the NFL Draft. Coupled with this loss of talent is a daunting schedule in 2023 where the Cajuns will play seven teams who reached bowl eligibility this season. Whether or not Coach Desormeaux can win with his first full recruiting cycle is something to look forward to.



(Clockwise from above) first-year Head Coach Michael Desormeaux, punter Thomas Leo, tight end Johnny Lumpkin, linebacker Cameron George, running back Dre'lyn Washington. (Opposite page) wide receiver Errol Rogers, Jr.

Caelan Broussard | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

Cajuns in action in 2022 included (clockwise from top left) tight end Rhett Guidry, cornerback Eric Garror, safety Brandon Bishop, running back Jacob Kibodi, quarterback Ben Wooldridge and linebacker Kris Moncrief

Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

(Clockwise from top left) cornerback Caleb Anderson, wide receiver Errol Rogers, Jr., wide receiver Jacob Bernard, safety Brandon Bishop, running back Chris Smith and quarterback Chandler Fields.

VOLLEYBALL

Cajuns defeat Alabama, finish 15-13 on year

Kristi Gray's second year as head coach of Ragin' Cajuns volleyball proved to be another successful one.

The Cajuns matched their win total from Coach Gray's first year with 15. They secured the biggest win so far in their second-year coach's tenure by knocking off an SEC team, and advanced past the Sun Belt Conference Tournament to play in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship in Edinburg, Texas.

Finishing with a 15–13 overall record, the Cajuns finished fifth in the Sun Belt West Division. Their .500 division and conference record kept them in the hunt for a tournament seed for most of the season.

Coach Gray and the Cajuns faced tough, marquee opponents during the first portion of their season, playing Mississippi State, Michigan State, Texas A&M and Alabama within the team's first nine games.

Undeniably the biggest victory for the Cajuns in Gray's young Division I career came against Alabama at the TCU Horned Frog Invitational. The Cajuns dominated the Crimson Tide as senior Kelsey Bennett and freshman Lauryn Hill recorded 15 and 12 kills, respectively. In that match, four different Cajuns recorded at least eight digs, and Hill finished with her first double-double.

A five game conference win streak helped the Cajuns improve to 8–5 during the late-season stretch of Sun Belt play. The Cajuns carried that momentum into a great comeback effort against App State in the second round of the SBC Tournament before falling to Texas State in the quarterfinals.

Louisiana fell short in the opening round of the NIVC against South Dakota State. The postseason berth marked the first one in program history, a significant step in the right direction.

A huge factor for the Cajuns in 2022 was junior Cami Hicks. The Second-Team All-Sun Belt selection finished with 107 blocks on the year, easily the highest on the team, and fifth in the Sun Belt with 1.02 blocks per set. Hicks was one of five Cajuns with more than 215 points.

Senior middle blocker Kara Barnes was one of the most efficient players for the Cajuns. Her .320 hitting percentage was good for fifth in the Sun Belt as she recorded 182 kills with only 56 errors on 394 total attempts. Barnes' 86 blocks along with Hicks' 107 were a big reason why Louisiana was fourth in the Sun Belt in blocks per set.

2022 was filled with milestones for Bennett. The six-foot outside hitter eclipsed the thousand mark in both kills and digs. She finishes her Cajuns career with 1,149 total kills and 1,153 total digs.

Sophomore Coco Gillett played the most sets of any Cajuns player in 2022 and paced the team with her 227 kills and 370 digs. She averaged 2.06 kills per set, 3.36 digs per set and finished with a team-high 276 points.

Joining Bennett, Hicks, Gillett and Barnes as one of five Cajuns with over 200 points was junior right side hitter Celeste Darling, who finished with 240.5 on the season. Her 207 kills matched Bennett's for second highest on the team.

Jean Guidry | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Alexis Primeaux | Designer

Siena DeCambra, a senior setter, prepares to deliver a serve.

Cajun volleyball players in 2022 included (clockwise from top left) Kelsey Bennett, a senior outside hitter; Coco Gillett, a sophomore outside hitter; Paige Guidry, a sophomore outside hitter; Bennett; Kara Bares, a junior middle blocker and Carsen Young, a junior defensive specialist.

REMODELING

Changes to E.K. Long gymnasium

Earl K. Long Gym underwent renovations that would provide Ragin' Cajun volleyball a place to grow as student athletes.

The gym was first built in 1939 and was last renovated in 2009, when the then second-floor dance studio was converted into a student-athlete lounge.

The 2022 renovations bring a series of updates to the public portion of the facility, which include a new court and video board. Additionally, renovations were made to athlete-specific portions of the building including a new locker room, a film room, a team lounge and spaces for meetings. There will be a digital screen located above the LOUISIANA on the back wall.

According to head coach of the volleyball team Kristi Gray, "To get a brand-new, state-of-the-art Taraflex court and video board, a new locker room, team lounge, team film room and conference room in a few short months is impressive."

The industry-standard Taraflex court provides the highest impact protection than any previous court and is aimed to reduce the risk of injury for student-athletes while playing.

"We are very excited about this renovation which will greatly enhance the experience of our student-athletes, coaches and fans," Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Bryan Maggard, wrote in a statement to The Vermilion.

Renovations began late April 2022 and concluded in early August, costing just under $1 million. Benefactors who wished to stay anonymous provided the funds used in the construction.

"We are very proud and forever grateful to those that helped make this happen," Gray wrote in a statement to The Vermilion.

According to Maggard, "As a volleyball-specific facility, E.K. Long Gymnasium will now serve as one of the most elite venues in the country."

While these renovations will elevate the venue, student-athletes benefit the most from the improvements. They voiced their appreciation for the renovations.

"To me the renovations at EKL are a sign of faith in us as a program. Our dedication to creating a new UL volleyball legacy gets to start in a brand new space," defensive specialist and UL junior Brianna Franklin wrote in a statement to The Vermilion. "This enhances all student-athlete experiences by giving us something else to work for every day."

"We are so blessed to have a brand-new look to EKL. Anywhere from the court, locker room, team lounge, study rooms, and other parts of the new EKL have helped to strengthen our performance as students and athletes. We are truly thankful and grateful for our new home," outside hitter and sophomore Coco Gillett wrote in a statement to The Vermilion.

WIth the renovations, some student-athletes feel a renewed excitement for the upcoming season.

"The new EKL renovations are a huge part of our season," outside hitter and UL junior Paige Guidry wrote in a statement. "A different team, the best coaches, and a new facility is the way to start off a winning season. These new places bring pure joy to our team and our staff, along with our fans, and I cannot wait to see where this season takes us."

Aidan Milford | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sara Guidry | Designer

RAGIN' CAJUNS
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SOCCER

Cajuns finish fifth in conference play

The Ragin' Cajuns soccer program got off to a bumpy start in the team's first year under Head Coach Chris McBride.

Prior to becoming the coach of the Cajuns, McBride had a great run at Southeastern Louisiana, winning the Southland Conference Tournament in 2020 and guiding SLU to its fourth NCAA Tournament appearance.

In 2022, the Cajuns finished 3–9–5 overall on the year and 2–6–2 in conference play, placing the team fifth in the Sun Belt West Division—causing them to miss the conference tournament.

Louisiana found themselves on the wrong end of several close Sun Belt matches. The Cajuns went 0–4–2 over the first six games of conference play, losing only one contest by more than a goal, against Arkansas State.

Towards the end of their conference schedule, the Cajuns strung together two really strong performances in wins over Louisiana-Monroe and Troy.

In a 3–0 win over the Warhawks, junior goalkeeper Libby Harper delivered her second shutout performance of the season; she didn't allow a goal in the Cajuns' season opener against Louisiana Tech.

Harper recorded five saves while senior forward Karleen Bedre started the scoring with a goal just six minutes in, her third of the season. Sophomore defender/midfielder Ruthny Mathurin assisted Bedre on her goal and provided a goal of her own, also her third on the season, in the win.

Four days later in Louisiana's 3–1 win over Troy, Mathurin stopped the show again as she scored two goals in the contest, one at the 11:52 mark and another at the 56:42 mark.

While it might've been too little too late, late-season conference victories like these can provide momentum heading into a new season.

Mathurin earned Second-Team All-Conference honors with her performance in 2022. She scored five goals on the year in 31 shots. Her 18 shots on goal were the highest on the team. Among players with at least eight shots on goal, Mathurin led the team with a .581 shots on goal percentage.

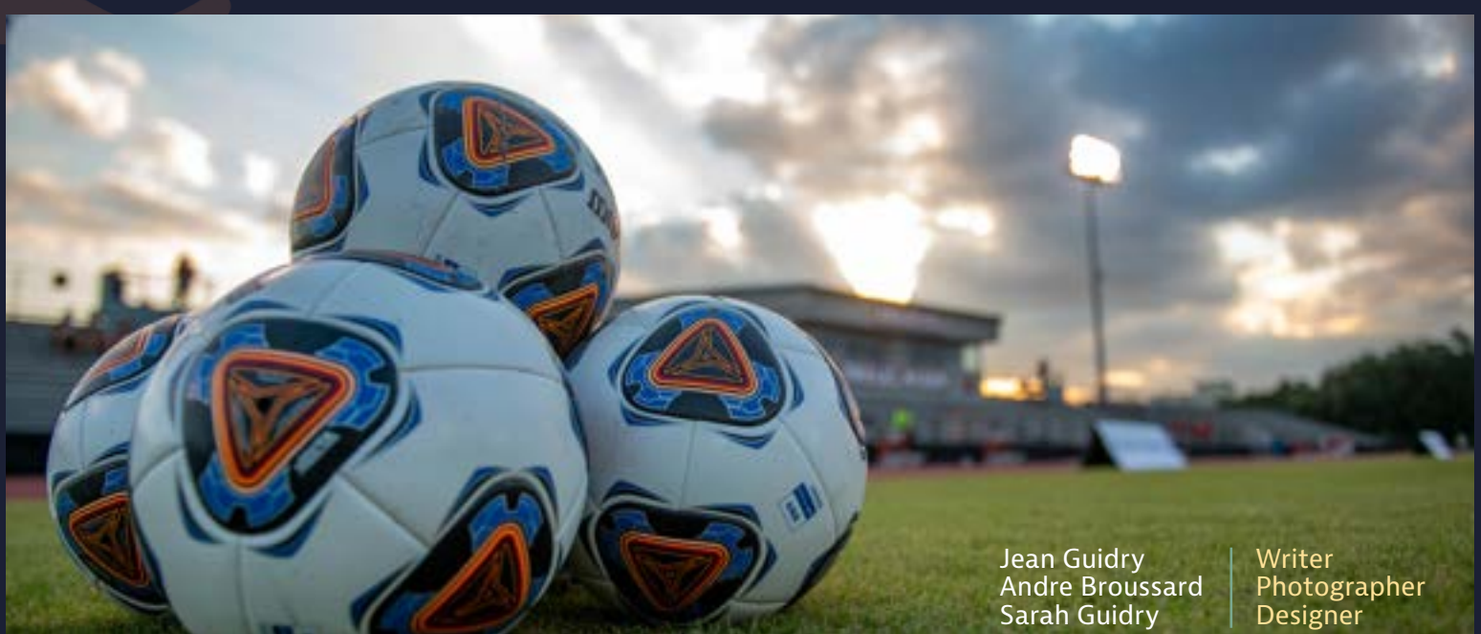
Harper was one of the more stout goalkeepers in the Sun Belt Conference in 2022. The Hatfield, England native ranked fifth in the conference with 61 saves and averaged 3.81 saves per contest. In two years of collegiate soccer, Harper has tallied 124 career saves.

Bedre filled up the stat sheet in 2022 with her three goals, five assists and 13 shots. Her 11 points were second on the Cajuns behind Mathurin.

Louisiana consistently scored more of their shots on goal than their opponents, a trend the Cajuns hope continues in 2023.

Sophomore Hailly Waterhouse and freshman Penelope Montenegro attempted a combined 38 shots, with 14 of those shots on goal. Waterhouse scored three goals on the year while Montenegro scored one.

Juniors Alyssa Abbott, Mariella Stephens, Lucy Ortiz and sophomore Tatum Beck were constant threats to score during the year, with all four having a shots on goal percentage of at least .563%. The four Cajuns took a combined 30 shots on goal in 2022.



Jean Guidry | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Sarah Guidry | Designer

Ragin' Cajuns in 2022 included (clockwise from top left) defender Perri Belzer, goalkeeper Reese Keller, forward Karleen Bedre, defender Ruthny Mathurin, forward Hailey Hoffmann, and forward Marielle Stephens.

CHEERLEADERS

Keeping the Cajun crowds Ragin'

The University of Louisiana Ragin' Cajun cheerleading team is one of the spirit groups on campus. This school year, they have continued to bring a great spirit to our games, including football, basketball, and volleyball. When morale is running low, the cheerleading team manages to bring new, inspiring passion to both the team and the audience.

The Ragin' Cajun team is a co-ed squad under the Spirit Program that requires heavy pride and commitment to the school. This commitment entails up to 20 hours of practice and performing every week along with maintaining academic commitments. Along with cheering at games, cheerleaders perform at other school-related functions like pep rallies and parades. To get on the team, they are judged by their tumbling, stunting, knowing the team's signature cheers, crowd-leading ability and general fitness level. These requirements as well as the tryout process allow UL's team to consist of the most dedicated and passionate students at the university and give them a chance to inspire our other sports teams to victory.

The squad began the spring semester with a win at UDA nationals, getting ranked 9th nationally with their new head cheerleading coach Annadel McKnight.

They accomplished this feat despite several hurdles. For one, they had only two months of prep time and for much of this time, they had no coach and had to train themselves. Annadel McKnight took over in the middle of December. In her first year coaching at a collegiate level, she managed to lead the cheerleaders to victory with only three weeks to train for the competition in Orlando, Florida.

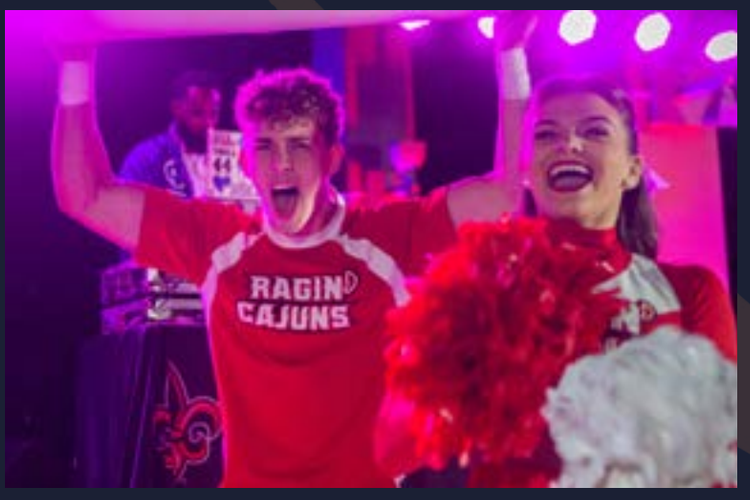
This marked the second time in UL's history that the squad was ranked in the top ten in the country. Cheerleader Jack Richard described the experience as the stars aligning. This accomplishment showed the team's undeniable spirit and passion for what they do and increased the team's drive and ferocity as the year continued.

The squad also held their Louisiana Cheer College Prep Clinic and gave other Ragin' Cajuns a chance to see what the team is all about and see whether tryouts would be a good fit for them.

The squad continues to impress the Lafayette community with their work in service and charity events. On these occasions, they show the heart and spirit of the university and what it really means to be Ragin' Cajun. On and off the field, stage, or court, they proudly represent and celebrate UL and the local culture's mantra of working hard, playing hard and taking care of those around us.

They live and perform true to our Ragin' Cajuns Fight Song, singing "triumph and glory" and helping us "fight on to victory."

Krisha Rosales | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Andre Broussard | Designer



The Ragin' Cajuns cheerleaders keep the crowds pumped up at football and basketball games as well as pep rallys and other University and community events.

RAGIN' JAZZ

Squad keeps spirits up with dance

The University's official dance team, Louisiana Ragin' Jazz, along with the Ragin' Cajun Cheerleaders, have a significant role in Louisiana athletics and are part of the campus spirit program.

A few academic requirements of eligibility to be a Ragin' Cajun Jazz member are that each team member must be a full-time student in the fall and spring semesters (minimum of 12 hours each semester), maintain high academic and social standards and have at least a 2.0 GPA for the current semester.

Tryout technique requirements for the dance squad require the ability to properly perform a pirouette (triple and quad), variety of leaps (grand jetes, straddles, switch leaps, turning disc, calypso, etc.), a la seconde turns (and fouette turns), pique and chaine turns, grand battements and fan kicks and tilts. Though this does not guarantee a spot on the team, they are required skills.

This dance team consists of approximately 20 student athletes who promote Louisiana's football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, volleyball and soccer teams at home and away. Not only do these women and men dance at sporting events, but they also perform at pep rallies, parades and other university events throughout Acadiana. As committed members of the team, these college students dedicate around 20 hours per week practicing and performing from June to May.

This season, one member of the Ragin' Cajun Jazz team was chosen each month based on their hard work, performance and attitude to be the MVP of the squad. Ally Bordelon for August, Angelle Martin for September, Keke Williams for October, Lauren Landry for November, Lauryn Menard for December and Victoria Richard for January were all chosen to represent the team.

Though this squads' passion is showing their love for spirit and dance, they also come together in community service, public appearances and charitable events. The

team appears at the Games of Acadiana Survivors Walk, The Big Event, Kids Day at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the New Orleans Bowl Parade.

The Ragin' Jazz keep the crowds pumped up at football and basketball games as well as pep rallys and other events.

L'Acadien staff | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Ava Blanchard | Designer

PRIDE OF ACADIANA

Band brings big sounds to campus events

The past year has been good to the Pride of Acadiana, with the band finally getting back to its pre-COVID form. Much to the delight of the band directors, staff, and members, the season began in August with band camp.

Band camp is a fun week where new members are introduced to their fellow members and the basics that make up the Pride of Acadiana are taught. It is not only for the new members of but also as a way to get older members back into the swing of things.

The main emphasis of band camp is getting pre-game on the field; if you have been to a football game, it is when the band runs out of the tunnel and forms the letters UL and the fleur-de-lis. The marching part of band camp though is focused on in the cooler mornings before lunch and evenings after dinner.

In the afternoon when the sun is at its height and the thermometer busts due to heat, the band is inside practicing music. There is much to work on music wise that needs to be paired with on the field drill.

All the music that you see us play on the field is memorized. From the fight song to the Alma Mater and Jambalaya Sunshine, all need to be practiced and memorized to near perfection for the enjoyment of those who watch.

After the day is over, the band has some fun, mainly in games between the sections such as tubas, trumpets and percussion. One of the favorite games in the band is the annual dodgeball tournament.

The work does not stop after band camp, for during the week before football games, the band is hard at work on the practice field practicing our shows. These shows are performed at halftime as well as at events such as the Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands State Championship, which is also run by the members of the Pride of Acadiana.

This year, the band put on the field four different shows, all of which took hours of preparation during the weeks of the football season. Those shows were Horn Bands (25 or 6 to 4, Let's Groove, and What is Hip), Number Ones (Blinding Lights, Crazy Little Thing Called Love, and Levitating), Veteran Recognition (Armed Forces Melody and America the Beautiful), and the final show Salute to Animation which included classics such as Pokemon and Inspector Gadget.

The band then took a trip north on I-49 to Shreveport for the Independence Bowl. The band left for Shreveport on Dec. 22. Later that night, they were supposed to march in a parade through the Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets which would end with the band participating in a Battle of the Bands with the University of Houston.

However, Shreveport was experiencing a historic cold front. How historic? When the parade kicked off, it felt like -7 degrees. As a result, many of the band's instruments were frozen. Brass instruments such as trumpets and tubas had their valves frozen and trombones slides froze in place. Some instruments even had icicles coming out of the horn.

Despite this, the Independence Bowl went well overall with the sun shining, most of the band was able to play their instruments despite the 25-degree weather, made even colder by the wind of the stadium. By the time the game ended, the band was once again unable to play their frozen instruments.

In most years, the Pride would be done after the bowl game; this year was different. The band this year took part in the King's Parade during Mardi Gras. Marching right behind the King's float at the head of the parade. The band was happy to march in the parade and help spread joy and fun to the community. It was a fun experience that those that took part will remember.

Charles Martin | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Pride of Acadiana members performin at athletic game as well as University and community events in Acadiana.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cajuns slide down the stretch to end season 16-15

Ragin' Cajuns for the 2022-23 season included (clockwise from opposite page, top left) junior foward Caira Wren, sophomore gard Lanay Wheaton, freshmen guard Alicia Blanton and junior guard Destiny Rice.

Everything had been going the Cajuns' way, under Head Coach Garry Brodhead. In mid-February, the team was 16-11, looking to secure a higher seed in the Sun Belt Tournament. At 10-4 in conference play, the Cajuns were threatening the top teams like James Madison, Texas State and Southern Mississippi. The goal was a double-bye, advancing straight into the quarterfinals.

Then, a defeat at the hands of Arkansas State. And another against Texas State. Then to end the season, the Ragin' Cajuns fell flat in the Cajundome against Southern Miss. As such, they limped into the conference tournament unable to secure a double-bye. However, they secured a first-round bye, setting the stage for a date with the Appalachian State Mountaineers.

Louisiana fought hard and valiantly, but the offense was stymied in a 51-38 loss in Pensacola. The Cajuns lost their last four games to finish the season at 16-15 and 10-8 in conference play.

Overall, a lack of offense did not help the stellar defense that the Cajuns played throughout the year. The team was young, however, and only had two seniors and two juniors on the roster.

The Cajuns scored only 57.9 points per game. This puts the team in 303rd place nationally. They allowed 57.8 points per game, which means that the Cajuns were usually in close games. However, in close games, they more often than not could not finish the job.

From beyond the arc, the Ragin' Cajuns struggled. Louisiana shot 26.8% from the same range, putting the Cajuns at 313th in the nation. Leading the way for the

Caelan Broussard | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Ava Blanchard | Designer

Cajuns was Lanay Wheaton. In 26 games, the sophomore guard averaged 12.3 points. She also led the team in three-point percentage with 35.1% of her threes made and in steals with 1.8 per game. Wheaton as also second on the team with 46 steals

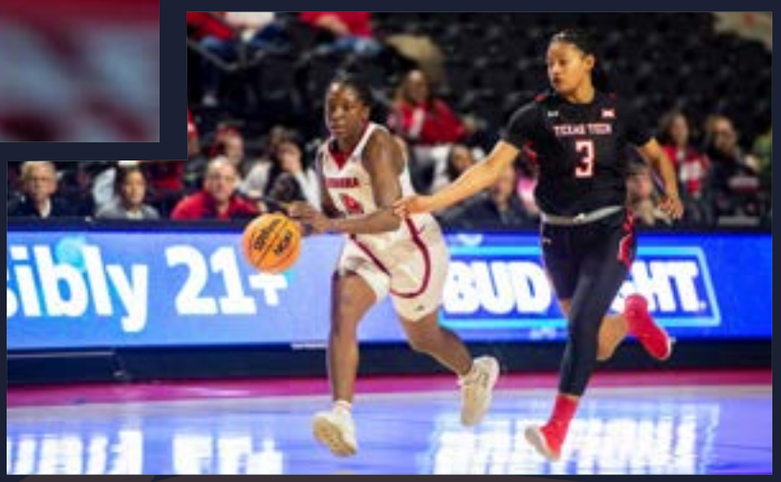
Tamera Johnson, a sophomore forward, was second on the team in points with 11.3 per game. She led the team in rebounds with 7.9 per game, in steals with 54 and in blocks with half of a block per game.

Junior guard Destiny Rice led the team in assists with just under two per game. She was third on the team in scoring with 7.4 points per contest and fourth in rebounds with 3.3 per game. She also recorded 31 steals in 2022-23.

Of players who took at least 100 shots during the season, sophomore center Mariah Stewart led the team in field goal percentage with 46.6%.

Other key contributors for the Cajuns included Nubia Benedith who averaged 6.6 points and 1.4 rebounds. She paced the Cajuns at the charity stripe with a 82.4 free-throw percentage. Sherry Porter averaged 6.4 points and 2 rebounds per game.

(Clockwise from left) forward Caira Wren, guard Sherry Porter, guard Lanay Wheaton, guard Nubia Benedith, Head Coach Garry Brodhead, and guard Destiny Rice.
(Opposite page, clockwise, from top left): Rice, Benedith, Wren, Rice, Porter, and Alicia Blanton.



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cajuns finish undefeated at home, 26-8 overall

On March 16 as the final buzzer sounded in Orlando, the Ragin' Cajuns season came to an end with a near-upset against the fourth-seeded Tennessee Volunteers. Despite being down by as many as 18 points in the second half, the Cajuns' fight never wavered, and they eventually cut the deficit to just three points. However, the Volunteers advanced to the next round, 58-55.

But just because the Cajuns were defeated in the first round doesn't mean the season was disappointing. In fact, this was one of the best seasons the Cajuns have had under Head Coach Bob Marlin. The team finished the year 26-8, won the Sun Belt Conference tournament, and went undefeated at home.

The Cajuns were projected to win the Sun Belt Conference in the preseason, and they opened the season hot, winning the Asheville Championship against Eastern Tennessee State University. Their only two losses in non-conference play came against Drake and seventh-ranked Texas. Both of these teams would eventually make the NCAA Men's Tournament.

Louisiana entered conference play sloppy, losing two straight games before going on a tear. The following 10 games would all be victories, the highlight being a 19-point comeback at home against Georgia Southern.

With a supportive and energetic crowd at each home game, it made sense that the team would bring back its most beloved mascot on Feb. 4, the Fabulous Cajun Chicken. That night, inspired by an even larger crowd of raucous fans, the Ragin' Cajuns defeated the Marshall Thundering Herd convincingly 77-67.

For the Cajuns' final home game of the regular season against South Alabama, ESPN2 nationally televised the game. Louisiana showed out, handing the South Alabama Jaguars a 74-64 defeat.

The two teams would meet again in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, this time to decide who would become the Sun Belt's lone, automatic bid. It was a back-and-forth affair, but when the final horn sounded in Pensacola, the Cajuns were the ones cutting down the nets with a 71-66 victory.

This would earn the team the 13th seed in the East Region of the NCAA Tournament, setting the stage for a date with the fourth-seeded Tennessee Volunteers of the SEC. Despite cutting the lead to only three with seconds left, Jalen Dalcourt's Hail Mary heave fell just short, ending Louisiana's great season.

Jordan Brown led the team with 19.4 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game. Newcomer Themus Fulks led the team in assists with 5.9 per game. Terence Lewis II led the team in shooting percentage with 61.8% from the floor. Of those who took at least 100 shots, Kentrell Garnett led the team in three-point percentage with a 44.4% clip.

Defensively, Brown averaged just over one block per game. Greg Williams Jr. and Joe Charles led the team in steals per game with 1.1. Lewis II led the team in free-throw percentage shooting 85% from the charity stripe.

Ragin' Cajuns that kept the crowd cheering included (opposite page) Terence Lewis II, (this page clockwise from right) Themus Fulks, Kentrell Garnett, the Fabulous Cajun Chicken , Jordan Brown and Coach Bob Marlin.

Caelan Broussard | Writer
Andre Broussard/Boyd Daniels | Photographers
Sarah Guidry | Designer

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LOUISIANA
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The Cajuns were paced by several key players who helped them finish undefeated at home in 2022-23. (Opposite page, clockwise from top left): guard Greg Williams, forward Terence Lewis II, forward Jordan Brown, forward Kobe Julien, guard Jalen Dalcourt, and Brown. (This page, clockwise from right): guard Joe Charles, guard Michael Thomas, Brown, and guard Kentrell Garnett, Brown, and Lewis.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Cajuns squad finishes rocky season at 8-12

After a strong effort, the Ragin' Cajuns women's tennis team began their 2023 season with a 2-5 loss to Mississippi State and a 0-7 loss to Rice University in Houston, Texas.

The home opener game on Feb. 10 against Southern University resulted in a 6-1 win, and playing on their home turf ensured some good luck as they had a 3-win streak against Southern (6-1), Southeastern (4-3), and Nicholls State (5-2).

The streak was broken on Feb. 19 against the University of Houston with a 1-4 loss, followed by a 5-2 win against McNeese State on Mar. 23. The season remained inconsistent with a 0-4 loss against Old Dominion on Mar. 10, and another loss against James Madison by a 2-5 score. Two wins were gained against Gonzaga (4-3) and ULM (5-2), followed by two defeats by Coastal Carolina (1-4) and Georgia Southern (1-6). The season ended with a 3-streak loss against Troy (2-4), Texas State (3-4), and South Alabama (0-4) in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

Although the overall season may have been rocky, the singles matches were led by incoming freshmen Angelique Berrat and Cristina Tchanichev. Berrat, from France, posted a 10-6 (5-4 conference) record, and Tchanichev, from Belgium, posted a 10-8 (5-5 conference) mark this year. The were followed by teammates Carla Urchoeguia with a 7-10 (2-7 conference) overall and Japanese junior, Momoko Yoshimura earning a 6-9 (4-4 conference) mark.

In doubles, the Cajuns were led by Berrat and Urchoeguia with a 9-5 overall and a 6-3 conference match. Juniors, Angel Santiago and Yoshimura earned a 6-8 (2-7 conference) mark this season. Followed by Lucie Raquin, from Besancon, France, and Cristina Tchanichev recorded a 3-5 overall and a 0-4 conference.

With these strong players hopefully returning for the next season, Cajuns have the ability to succeed in conference and nonconference matches in the future.

Kay Padilla | Writer
UL Sports Info | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Ragin' Cajuns women's tennis players in 2022-23 included Stephanie Atelius, Angelique Berrat, Laure-Line Monnoyer, Lucie Raquin, Angel Santiago, Cristina Tchanichev, Carla Urchoeguia, and Momoko Yoshimura.

MEN'S TENNIS

Squad earns multiple conference honors

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns men's tennis team finished the year with a 12-10 record (5-3 in conference play), falling to Georgia State in the quarterfinals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The season began with a loss against Texas Tech, but the team bounced back with a 3-win streak against Charlotte, Nicholls, and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Louisiana won against New Mexico State and held off the host school Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in a fierce battle to the HEB Tournament of Champions. Dynamic duo Karlo Kajin and Alejandro Sanchez Gonzalez defeated A&M with a 6-1 score.

The duo was named to the All-Sun Belt Conference First Team for doubles and also ranked 72nd in the country as a pairing; they also reached number 51 nationally earlier in the year. Karlo Kajin and Vasil Dimitrov were named All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team for doubles.

Croatian senior, Kajin led the team in singles wins with 12. He had an overall record of 12-7 and was named on two separate doubles pairings to the first and second teams of the All-Sun Conference.

The Ragin'Cajuns dominated in courts four, five, and six where they won .579 of their matches in the Spring, propelling them to a third-place finish in the Sun Belt Conference regular season. They advanced to face off between Old Dominion and James Madison in the semifinals.

A fierce battle ensued where senior Kacper Dworak opened on court six with a 6-0 win. Then Kajin went into a tie-breaker with his opening set on court one with a 7-6. After a hot performance by Georgia State, Louisiana fell 4-0 in the Sun Belt Conference quarterfinals.

This season, Vasil Dimitrov earned the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week honor after winning a pair of singles and kept the Ragin' Cajuns unbeaten in conference play. This and earning the All-Sun Belt Conference second-team position displays this sophomore's range and potential for his upcoming seasons.

Having three All-Sun Belt honorees and making it to the quarterfinals gives this team hope and promise to return in the next season to dominate.

Kay Padilla | Writer
Malik Jones | Photographer
Meg Norwood | Designer

Freshman William Ribero returns a serve.

Junior Alejandro Sanchez Gonzalez follows through.

Ragin' Cajuns on the court in 2023 included (clockwise, from top left) Ribero and Alejo Ferrer Chueca, Vasil Dimitrov (top right and right), Dimitrov and Kacper Dworak, and Karlo Kajin.

TRACK AND FIELD

Ragin' Cajuns set multiple personal records, place 16 on All-Conference team

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajun fast & furious track and field team had a year filled with many personal records and multiple All-Conference honors.

The first indoor event—the LSU Purple Tiger, on Jan. 13—was met with three students, Jacob Meek, Rosalie Michot, and Jeremy Nelson each finishing in first place during the first events of the season. This was also accompanied by the team setting 13 personal records, during the event.

The following weeks, the Cajuns then proceeded to compete in four away events: Nashville Tennessee; Lake Charles, LA; Houston and finishing at Birmingham, Alabama.

Seventeen Cajuns were qualified as finalists for the Sun Belt Conference Indoor Meet. Those students were Peyton Chiasson, Kashie Crockett, Trejun Jones, Jacqueline Pokuaah, Loubert Dagrin, Rylan Theyard, Obdarius Ware, Ta'La Spates, Moseisha Bridgen, Nathan Fergusson, Javed Jones, Antoni Hoyte-Small, Tyren Hannah, Haley Salsbury (two events), Joe Patterson, and Baptiste Depril-Dupre. They all qualified for the Indoor Championship for the SBC. Twelve of those students would finish in the top five in each of their respective events.

Jermey Nelson finished first in Men's Triple Jump with 15.52 meters, and Rylan Theyard finished in 2nd place in men's triple jump with 15.02 meters. They weren't the only ones making astonishing accomplishments that evening. New school records were being established as well. Jacqueline Pokuaah set the new school record of 6.24 meters in Long Jump. Another record was broken with speed and grace by Ta'La Spates, finishing her 400-meter with a time of 54.63.

Next, the Cajuns finished in second place with the most points recorded since 1996 and the highest finish since 2004. The Cajuns recorded 126.5 points overall. Last but not least, the final school record the Cajuns broke that evening was in the Women's 4x400 Meter Relay. This team consisted of Ta'La Spates, Alexandra Johnson, Moseisha Bridgen, and Kayla McCray who finished second and broke a school record with a time of 3:43.28.

With the indoor events being brought to a close, the Cajuns would return home on March 17 for the first outdoor event of the season at the track and soccer facility near Cajun Field.

Leading to the first outdoor meet and returning home, the Cajuns unfortunately were faced with some cold, wet, and windy weather on the track. However, this wasn't enough to prevent Sophie Daigle from setting a meet record with a time of 16:53.66 in the women's 5K. Nineteen Cajuns finished in the top 3 of their respective events.

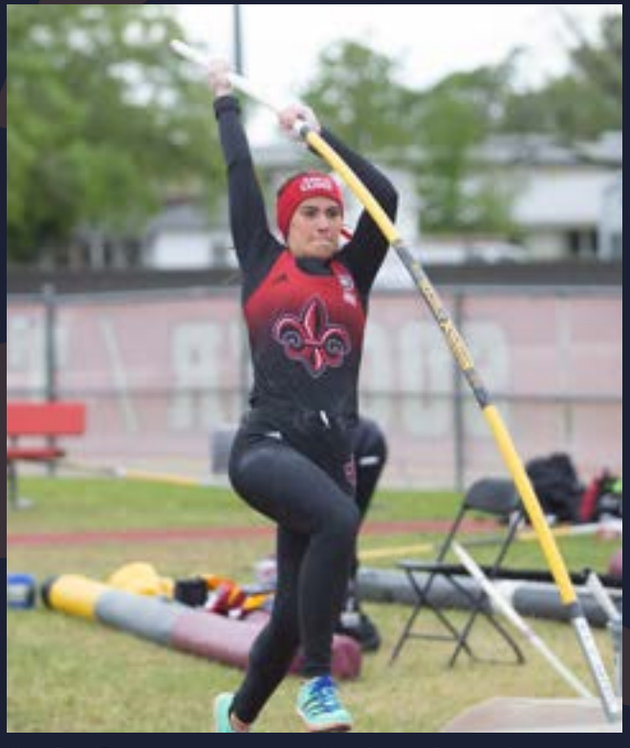
Louisiana would then proceed to go to LSU the following weekend for a "Battle on the Bayou." At this outdoor event, Sophie Daigle returned again to break two school records in one day. She set a time of 9:52.72, finishing first in the 3k meter run then performing 4:27.79 in the women's 1500.

The Louisiana track and field team placed 16 student-athletes on the All-Sun Belt Conference Team. The Cajuns had three first team members, nine second team, and four third team.

Leading the way on the first team were SBC champions Maria Bienvenu, Javed Jones, and Jeremy Nelson. On the second team were Jacqueline Pokuaah and Kennedy London for the women and Nathan Fergusson, Nick Russell, Trejun Jones, Brock Appiah, Floyd Pond, Jamhad Booth, Antoni Hoyte-Small, and Caemon Scott on the men's side. Making the third team was Ta'la Spates, Timothy Gale, and Obdarius Ware.

Josh Mason flies through the air for the long jump.

Trejun Jones finishes the final leg of a relay race.



Jordan Brown competing in the pole vault.

Ivana Cecchetti warms up before the javelin event.

Malik Jones	Writer
Malik Jones	Photographer
Ava Blanchard	Designer

CROSS COUNTRY

Daigle qualifies for ncaa Championships

Justin Unger looks to finish strong in a hurdles event.

Led by Head Coach Lon Badeaux and Assistant Coach Rocky Capello, the cross country team paced themselves well throughout the season.

In October, at the Sun Belt Conference Championship, Sophie Daigle posted the best individual finish by a Ragin' Cajuns women's runner in 19 years and helped guide Louisiana to its best finish since 2017.

Louisiana placed fifth overall in the men's 8K race with 139 points with the women's team finishing ninth on the 5K course with 220 points. Both performances marked the highest finish for both squads since both teams finished fifth overall at the 2017 Championships.

Daigle clocked a time of 16.36.2 to finish second overall for Louisiana, joining Natalie Gillis (2003) in earning the highest individual by a Ragin' Cajuns runner at the SBC Championships.

Haley Salsbury placed 45th overall for UL (18:54.9) with Brooke Spalitta placing 51st overall at 19:08.6. Senior Rosalie Michot posted a time of 19:30.7 to finish 60th overall for the Ragin' Cajuns with Caroline Spalitta placing 62nd with a time of 19:32.6.

Freshman Kamryn Williams placed 69th overall in her inaugural SBC event (20:04.7) with Meredith Hebert (20:36.0) finishing 77th.

Braden Scalisi led Louisiana on the men's side as he finished 25th overall, posting a time of 25:47.8. John Walker McDonald was 27th overall for the Ragin' Cajuns (25:55.9) with Samuel Avants finishing 28th (26:02.6), Baptiste Depril-Dupre finished 29th (26:04.5) and Peyton Chaisson finished 30th (26:05.1).

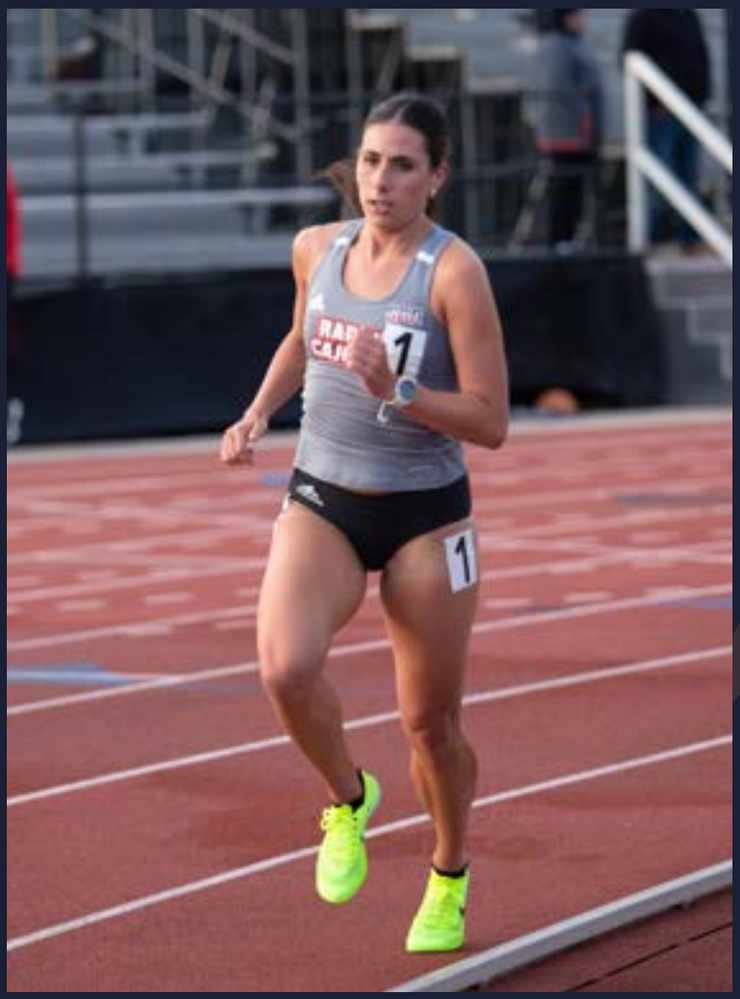
Ty Frazier covered the course in 26:33.1 to finish 34th overall for Louisiana and Jacob Marcinkus placed 47th overall in 27:22.7.

In January, Daigle earned NCAA Division I Cross Country All-Academic Athlete honors. The Ragin' Cajuns men's and women's cross country teams were recognized with All-Academic Team honors by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Daigle, who was named the Sun Belt Conference Cross Country Female Newcomer of the Year, became the first Ragin' Cajuns women's runner to qualify for the NCAA Championships after her third-place finish at the NCAA South Central Regional.

The Ragin' Cajuns women's team posted a team GPA of 3.581 to join an All-Academic Team list of 249 teams nationally with the Louisiana Men's team among a list of 216 schools after recording a team GPA of 3.438.

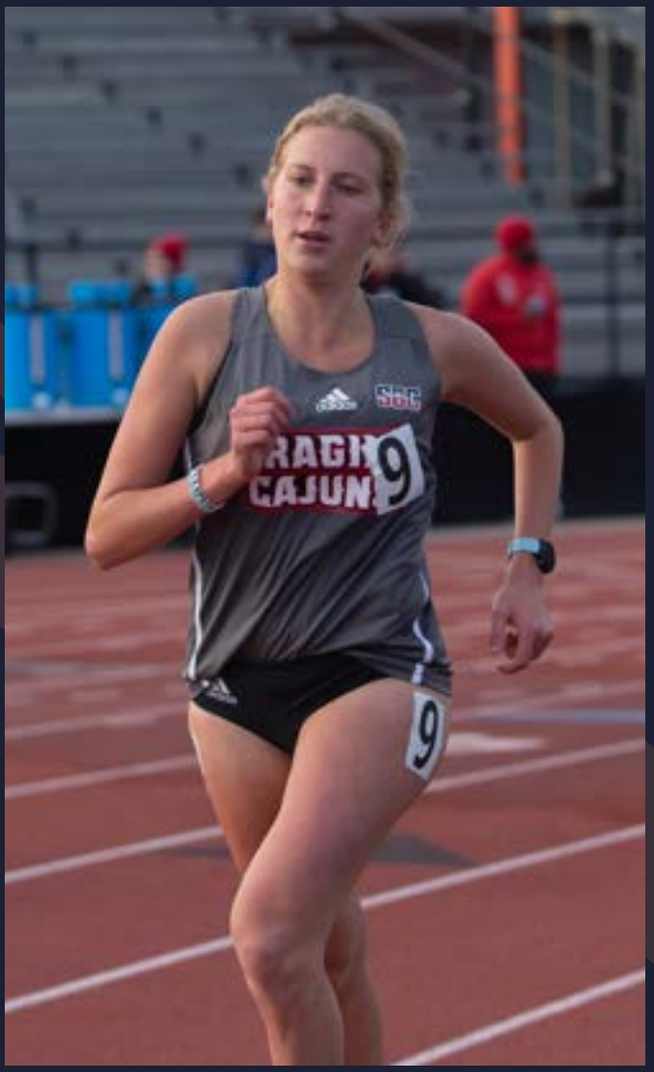
Malik Jones	Writer
Malik Jones	Photographer
Ava Blanchard	Designer



Sophie Daigle rounds the final turn for the home stretch.

Peyton Chaisson looks to the finish line.

Adam Cortez (6) and Joe Patterson maneuver for running room.



Abbie Marie Ratcliff sets the pace.

GOLF

Squad earns fourth conference championship

The Ragin' Cajuns golf team began the fall season with a seventh-place finish at the Turning Stone Intercollegiate in Verona, NY. Competing against schools such as Missouri, Stetson, Delaware and Boston College, Louisiana was led by Alexandria, LA native Charlie Flynn, who finished seventh with a one-under 215 for the tournament. Malan Potgieter, of South Africa, (35th) and Shreveport native, Jake Marler (36th) also placed for the Cajuns.

On Sept 11-13, UL finished 13th at the Jim Rivers Intercollegiate in Choudrant, LA. Lafayette native Eli Ortego and Marler tied for 35th as the Cajuns top finishers with a one-under 215. Potgieter and Burke Alford finished one stroke behind them at 216.

Three Ragin' Cajuns finished in the top 10 at the Graeme McDowell Intercollegiate in late September. Flynn, Marler and Potgieter each finished 9th with a 222 tournament mark as the Ragin' Cajuns finished third overall behind Lipscomb and North Alabama.

On Oct. 9-11, the Cajuns finished 4th with a 10-over at the Tempest Collegiate in Gladewater, TX. Potgieter paced UL with a third-place 214, good for two-under. Ortego finished with a 216 for 11th place. Marler finished the tournament at four-over (220) and Alford finished at 224 for eight-over.

Traveling to Hawaii for the Ka'anapali Classic, the Cajuns tied for fourth overall behind Oklahoma, Clemson, Kansas and Colorado with 22-under. Orgtego finished ninth with a nine-under while Flynn finished 17th at six-under.

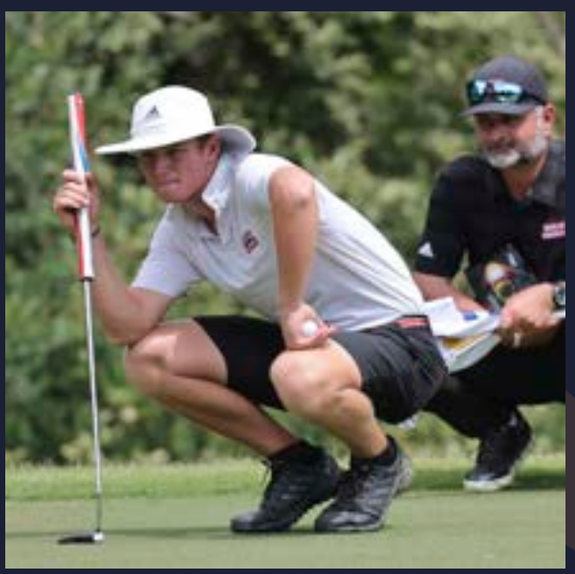
The Spring season began in February with the Cajuns finishing 13th at the Hal Williams Collegiate in Mobile, AL. Flynn was the top Ragin' Cajun with a two-over 215 for 34th.

The Cajuns stayed close to home and finished 12th at the Bayou City Collegiate in Houston. Potgieter finished the tournament at two-under 214 for 12th. St. Thomas More product Matt Weber also placed well for the Cajuns with a four-over 220 for 38th place.

Hosting the Louisiana Classics in mid-March, UL placed 4th overall with a 42-over 894. That was followed with a 15th place 31-over at the All-American Final in Humble, TX and a 17th place finish in the Mossy Oak Collegiate in Mississippi. Louisiana wrapped up the regular season at Grand Bear Match Play in Saucier, MS.

In late April, Louisiana earned its fourth overall Sun Belt Conference title—and first since 2007—with a 3-2 semifinal match victory over South Alabama. Flynn sank a dramatic, seven-foot putt on hole No. 18 to defeat Georgia Southern.

Potgieter was named a second-team selection the All-Sun Belt Conference team. He led the UL in scoring average (72.47), first-round average (71.42) par scoring (4.11), eagles (7) and birdies (115).



L'Acadien staff | Writer
Ben Massey | Photographer
Andre Broussard | Designer

SOFTBALL

Deja Vu for Ragin' Cajuns in Super Regional

If fans were told that the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns softball team dominated opponests during the season, won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament and played against LSU in the Regionals, it would seem like repetition. In the last six NCAA Tournaments, these results have happened to the Ragin' Cajuns four times.

Before the season began, the Ragin' Cajuns were expected to win the conference tournament for the 18th time in 22 seasons and the regular season championship for the ninth year in a row. Louisiana had not lost a conference series in ten years. Six players were named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt team.

The Cajuns started the regular season 5-5. However, those five losses were against top-25 teams in the country at the Clearwater Invitational in Florida. Following this, the team would play in the LSU Crossover, Longhorn Invitational and the Bubly Invitational before beginning Sun Belt play.

Once Sun Belt play began, there was no stopping the dominant Ragin' Cajuns as they only dropped two conference games the entire season. Sam Landry was a force in the circle, winning 18 games including a pivotal and grueling Sun Belt Championship game against the Marshall Thundering Herd where she only gave up one hit and struck out 11 batters en route to a 1-0 victory.

However, this would not be enough for the Ragin' Cajuns to earn the right to host a regional. Instead, they would travel to Baton Rouge for the NCAA Regionals.

In the first game, UL dispatched the Omaha Mavericks in a 5-0 blanking. The next game saw the inverse happen as UL lost to LSU 4-0. The Cajuns fought their way through the loser's bracket to again defeat Omaha 9-0. Next they defeated the home-town Tigers twice 7-4 and then 9-8. The final match was a back-and-fourth, heated game that ended with a Cajuns' late-inning comeback

The victories over LSU earned the Cajuns a berth in the Super Regionals, where they would be traveling to Seattle to face the Washington Huskies. Sadly, in a best-of-three series, the Ragin' Cajuns would fall in two games to Washington.

This season was a success for the team that finished 50-16. Sophomore pitcher Sam Landry was dominant throughout the year, posting a 19-6 record with a 2.13 ERA, 147 innings pitched, 8 complete games and 150 strickouts. Senior Meghan Schorman was 17-4 with a 1.92 ERA in 131 innings with 3 complete games and 148 Ks. Kandra Lamb had a 10-1 record with a 1.41 ERA and 92 Ks in 69 innings.

On offense, Mihya Davis won Sun Belt Freshman of the Year and led the entire country in stolen bases, swiping 52 bags in 60 attempts. She hit .380 on the year with 45 runs, 2 homers and 18 RBI.

Freshman Lauren Allred hit .375 with 12 home runs and 47 RBI. Senior Karly Heath led the Cajuns in home runs with 16 and she tied for the lead in RBIs with 47. She hit .351 and scored 52 runs. Alexa Langeliers contributed 13 HR and 40 RBI while hitting .270 and scoring 38 runs.

Karly Heath celebrates a double and RBI.

Head Coach Gerry Glasco leads the Cajuns.

Meghan Schorman fires a pitch to the plate.

Kramer Eschete takes off for third base.

Lauren Allred waits for a pitch to drive to the outfield.

Mihyia Davis slides into third base.

Caelan Broussard	Writer
Andre Broussard	Photographer
Ava Blanchard	Designer

Sam Landry fires a pitch to the plate.

Samantha Graeter throws back to the infield after a putout.

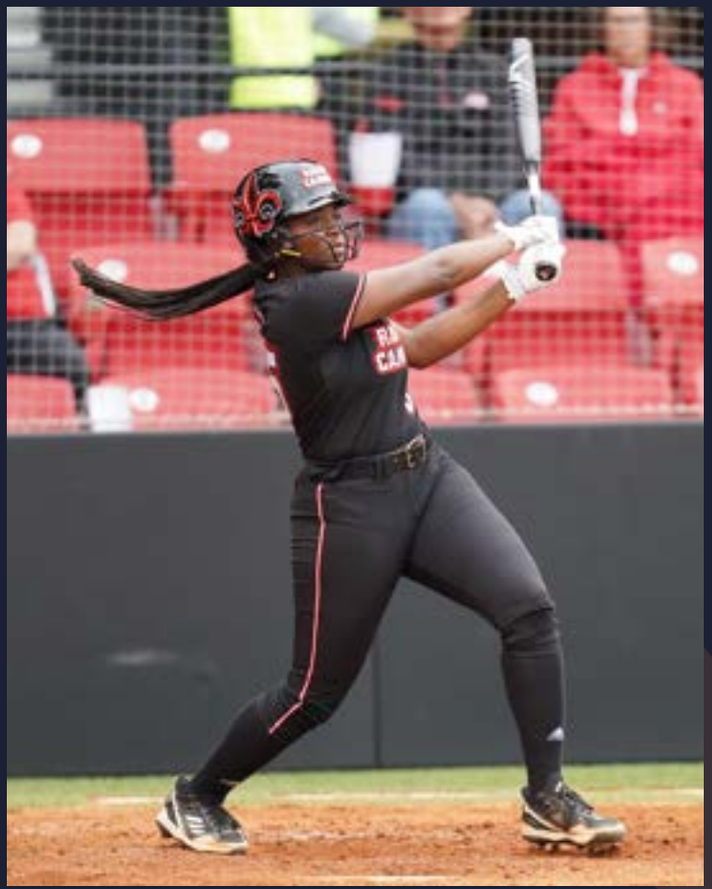
Assistant Coach Lacy Prejean watches a batter intently.

The Ragin' Cajuns celebrate a win with UL hand signs to the fans.

Jourdyn Campbell runs to base after a hit.

Alexa Langeliers takes a lead off third base.

Laney Credeur makes contact with a pitch.



Kylei Griffin drive the ball to the outfield.

Victoria Valdez frames a pitch for a strikeout.

BASEBALL

Ragin' Cajuns complete 41-win season

Junior pitcher Sam Hill fires the ball toward the plate.

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day, because the Cajuns want to play. The 2023 Coral Gables Regional was, by far, the rainiest of the 16 NCAA Regionals, and this caused multiple delays spanning hours.

After the rain cleared however, the Cajuns were eliminated by the Miami Hurricanes 8-5, ending a great season for Louisiana that included a 24-9 home and 18-12 conference record.

The season began against Rice in Houston, with the Water Hose Boys taking the series against the Owls. In non-conference series before the official start of conference play, Louisiana found themselves at 11-6.

When they entered conference play, the team was up-and-down. For example, a series sweep against Arkansas State and a series victory against South Alabama would be followed by a series loss against Appalachian State.

The highlight of the season was a midweek victory against the then No. 1 ranked LSU Tigers.

This up and down season would continue on into the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. After defeating the Texas State Bobcats in the opening round, the Cajuns lost to Coastal Carolina in the second round.

The team would fight through the loser's bracket, beating Texas State again before defeating the seventh-ranked Chanticleers twice to make it to the championship game. However, the team would fall 6-2 to the Southern Miss Golden Eagles.

The NCAA selection committee considered the Cajuns' overall performace during the year and gave the Cajuns one of the last four spots in the NCAA Tournament.

(Clockwise from above): Junior pitcher David Christie and catcher Julian Brock pose after a game. Infielder John Taylor makes a catch. Junior outfielder Carson Roccaforte makes contact with a pitch.

In the opening game against Texas, the Cajuns held their own. However, key defensive plays by the Longhorns kept Louisiana at bay in a 4-2 defeat.

The Cajuns took this personally and decided to take it out on the Maine Black Bears, tying the record for most runs scored in a regional game in a 19-10 slugfest.

This earned the team a chance to play the hosts, Miami Hurricanes. Despite heavy hitting from the lineup, the team found themselves at the losing end of the 8-5 game to finish the season at 41-24.

Sophomore Kyle DeBarge led the team with a batting average of .371, and he also had 7 home runs and 38 RBI while scoring 53 runs. Junior Julian Brock led the team with home runs (11) and RBI (65) while slugging .559. Junior Carson Roccaforte hit .318 with 8 HR, 55 RBI, 22 stolen bases and scored a team-high 64 runs. Senior Heath Hood led the team in hits (86) and stolen bases (36); he added 6 HR and 41 RBI while hitting .354.

Senior Jake Hammond led all starting pitchers with a 3.78 ERA. He was 3-3 in 50 innings pitched with 51 strikeouts and a 1.3 WHIP. Senior Cooper Rawls led the team with a 10-1 record. He had 53 strikeouts in 67 innings and a 1.16 WHIP.

Jackson Nezuh, a junior, led the team in strikeouts with an even 100. He posted a 9-6 record in 90 innings pitched and an ERA of 6.00. Junior Blake Marshall led the team in saves with 5. He posted a 3-2 record in 35 innings pitched. Junior Carson Fluno added 3 saves in 63 innings pitched with 64 strickouts and a 4.69 ERA.

JT Etheridge, Brendan Moody and David Christie each added 3 saves for the Cajuns.

Caelan Broussard | Writer
Andre Broussard | Photographer
Andre Broussard | Designer

FIRST
HORIZON

Ragin' Cajuns in action in 2023 included (opposite page, clockwise from top left): infielder Ben Robichaux takes off to steal a base, infielder Kyle Debarge throws to first, Robichaux slides into second, catcher Julian Brock takes aim on a runner and infielder Max Marusak makes contact. (This page from top left) Head Coach Matt Deggs heads to the mound, infielder Lee Amedee returns the ball to the pitcher, and infielder John Taylor applies a tag.

GREEKS

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PANHELLENIC COUNCIL

The Panhellenic community is one of the most active and diverse groups of women on UL's campus, and joining our community will provide you with opportunities that have the potential to positively impact your life. Our Panhellenic Community is continuously growing. The Council includes Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Kappa Delta, Phi Mu, Tri Delta, and Tri Sigma.

Alpha Delta Pi

Alpha Delta Pi provides ongoing opportunities for learning and growth as sisters continue through their college experience to become better women. We want our women to discover themselves and find their voices to become amazing leaders along with finding lifelong bonds in our sorority. Our philanthropy is Ronald McDonald House Charities.

The mission of RMHC is to create, find, and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. We are proud to announce that we now have a location in Lafayette, and we can't wait to be able to be more hands on. Our biggest event that we have is our Burgers and Fries event where we sell tickets to help raise money for RMHC and the Alpha Delta Pi Foundation.

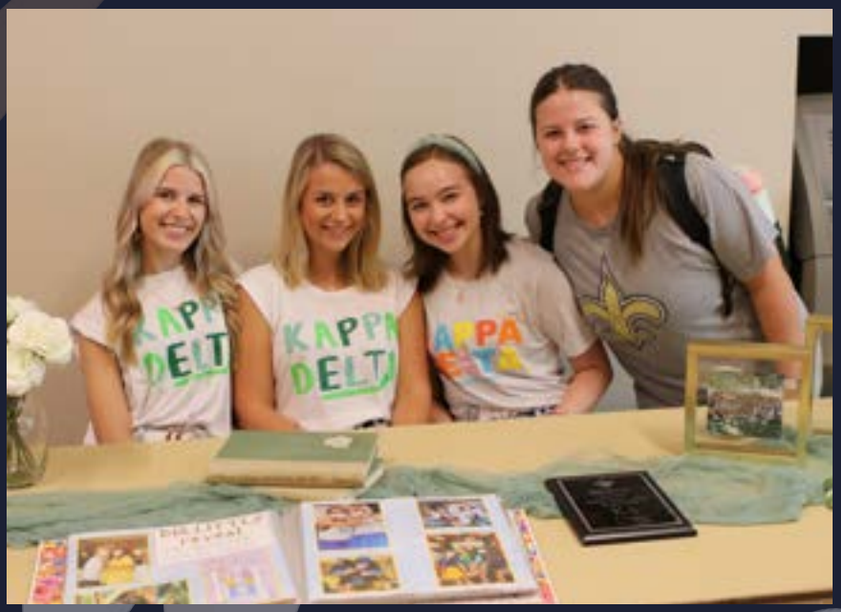
Alpha Omicron Pi

Alpha Omicron Pi was founded on Jan. 2, 1897 at Barnard College of Columbia University in New York City. Alpha Omicron Pi began as the dream of four young college women to continue their friendship throughout life. Jessie Wallace Hughan, Helen St. Clair Mullan, Stella George Stern Perry and Elizabeth Heywood Wyman created Alpha Omicron Pi with ideas of simplicity, character, and good fellowship in which narrow discrimination and foolish displays would not have a part in life.

The Delta Beta Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi was founded Sept. 22, 1956 at UL Lafayette. The chapter name comes from Anne Delie Bancroft, a former faculty member of SLI. The UL Lafayette Library was named after a member of AOII, Edith Garland Dupre.

Alpha Omicron Pi's mission is to promote lifelong friendship, inspire academic excellence and lifelong learning, and develop leadership skills through service to the fraternity and community.

Kappa Delta



Kappa Delta is a national sorority with more than 260,000 members. We make great things happen in women's lives, on campuses and in communities for leadership, personal development, academic success and community service—all in the context of true friendship.

Phi Mu

Phi Mu Fraternity is a vibrant values-based women's organization. Our purpose is found in the principles of love, honor and truth. We pursue the interests and purpose of women on collegiate campuses and in our communities.

The promise of our mutual efforts is a lifetime of sisterhood. We are individuals, leaders, philanthropists and friends. The Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Mu has been a staple of UL's campus for 60 years.

Tri Delta

Delta Delta Delta is a national women's fraternity that engages its members for life through timeless values, enduring friendships, and innovative opportunities for growth.

Delta Delta Delta instills in its members the commitment to serve, high standards of excellence, and dedication to leadership and development.

Tri Sigma

There are so many reasons why the Alpha Mu chapter of Tri Sigma is such a special sorority, one being our values—faith, hope, love, wisdom and power. These values set up the framework for everything we do as a sorority, and we strive to uphold these values ourselves, as well as motivate our sisters to. We help one another grow into our full potential by inspiring each other to take on new roles or try new things that will help us successfully transition into our lives after college.

However, we don't only focus on our own needs as a chapter. We put time and effort into helping others less fortunate by supporting various causes. We help in any way we can, whether that includes raising money, volunteering or promoting foundations. We share special experiences that we will never forget and are proud to say that we are Sigmas for life.

INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

The Interfraternity Council serves as a governing body for the IFC Fraternities on campus, as well as a representative of these fraternities when interacting with other Greek councils and UL faculty and administration. The IFC Executive Board has 7 members, each who has a specialized role in collaborating with equivalent Officers in each respective chapter. We support each chapter's philanthropy and encourage cross-council collaboration between all different Greek organizations on campus.

Delta Tau Delta

Delta Tau Delta is the place for leaders to hone their skills, youths to grow, students to find support and guidance, and men to find their paths to a life of excellence. With more than 150 years of guiding men via Truth, Courage, Faith, and Power, the Delta Tau Delta experience has fostered innovators, advocates, change agents, and community leaders by affecting the world through self-discovery.

Since recolonizing in Fall 2019, we've been working to continue that process and redefine what it means to be in Greek Life. We're proud of our academic accomplishments and our involvement on campus. Brothers can be seen helping others, meeting new people, and having a GREAT time!

This chapter received recognition as a 4-Star Chapter, had the highest IFC GPA for 2021-2022, and had a member inducted into the Greek Hall of Fame as well as win the IFC Member of the Year award.

Kappa Alpha Order

Kappa Alpha Order is a fraternity in the IFC organization. We have formals and socials as well as tailgates and fundraisers. We have 60 active members. Our philanthropy is the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and we plan to have a gumbo cookoff this year.

Lambda Chi Alpha

The Iota-Omega Zeta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha was established at UL in 1962. Lambda Chi Alpha was the first fraternity to abolish pledgeship in 1972. It was replaced with associate membership. Associate members have had full and equal rights within each chapter. Associate members can vote on prudent matters and even hold office.

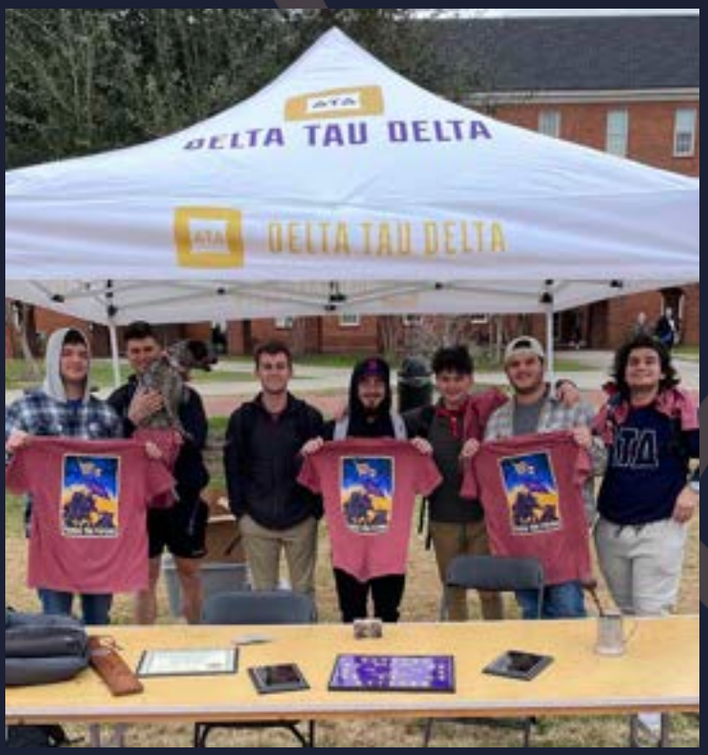
The Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha become leaders among UL students. Our brothers have been Freshman Peer Mentors, Soul Camp Mentors, Student Orientation Staff Leaders, and IFC Executive Officers. In 2022, Lambda Chi Alpha hosted the annual Pumpkin Bust, and we donated more than $6,500 and 2,600 canned goods to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Our brotherhood is a family; for some, a home away from home. We aim to foster men who will be loyal and supportive to one another during some of the best years of their lives. But this bond does not stop with college. Acceptance into Lambda Chi Alpha is merely the start of a Lifetime of True Brotherhood.

Sigma Chi

Sigma Chi is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious Greek letter organizations. Rooted in the principles of friendship, justice, and learning, Sigma Chi has developed values-based leaders since its founding in 1855.

Sigma Chi started on UL Lafayette's campus as a colony in 2012. In 2014, the colony became the Lambda Psi chapter and has quickly become one of the most recognized Sigma Chi chapters internationally.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RAGIN' CAJUNS

DELTA TAU DELTA

NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC), is currently composed of nine international Greek letter Sororities and Fraternities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

NPHC promotes interaction through forums, meetings and other media for the exchange of information and engages in cooperative programming and initiatives through various activities and functions.

On May 10, 1930, on the campus of Howard University, in Washington D.C., the National Pan-Hellenic Council was formed as a permanent organization with the following charter members: Omega Psi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternities, and Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta Sororities. In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternities joined the Council. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority joined in 1937 and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity completed the list of member organizations in 1997.

The stated purpose and mission of the organization in 1930 was "Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of mutual interest to its member organizations." Early in 1937, the organization was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois and became known as "The National Pan-Hellenic Council, Incorporated."

Omega Psi Phi

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college. We were founded on November 17, 1911 at Howard University in Washington D.C.

The founders were three undergraduate students Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman. Joining them was their Faculty Advisor Ernest Everett Just. Our fraternity motto is "Friendship is essential to the soul."

Delta Sigma Theta

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913 by twenty-two collegiate women at Howard University. The Theta Xi Chapter was Chartered by 10 women on April 10, 1971 on the campus of USL (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette). We have five current members, and we have put on several events this year, including Money Talk- Financial Literacy, Domestic Violence Awareness Month Ribbon Giveaway, Black Boy Joy- talking about Black men and their mental health. This year's community service included making cards and letters for Amelia Manor Nursing Home, St. Joseph's Diner and Destiny of Faith Church College Fair.

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is committed to cultivating and encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards, promoting unity and friendships among college women, and alleviating the problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature.

Since 1967, The Epsilon Beta Chapter has upheld the values of Alpha Kappa Alpha through their service, scholarship, and sisterhood. By Culture and By Merit we will continue to be of Service to All Mankind. Recognized as a 4-Star Chapter in 2022 and an Official Partner of Parish Proud.

Greek Hall of Fame

Members of the 2023 Greek Hall of Fame during the spring awards banquet.

ΔΔΔ
337 DDD

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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THE VERACITY
NEW TREE

Academic Mentoring Matters

AMM is an organization in which students taking specific courses can be tutored one-on-one by students who have already taken these classes and earned an "A." We strive to enrich the experience of every student that is working to achieve their goals and reach academic success. All of our mentors volunteer two hours a week to be available to any student taking a number of courses in biology, chemistry, and computer science, and we are continuing to expand our network to other disciplines.

Actively Moving Forward

Actively Moving Forward® (AMF), a HealGrief® program, is a national network created in response to the needs of grieving young adults. For over a decade, AMF has connected, supported, and empowered grieving young adults to “actively move forward” in memory of their person. Here at UL Lafayette, the focus of AMF is to "help you cope with life" because no one should have to cope alone.

Arabic Culture Club

The Arabic Culture Club hopes to allow English speaking students a chance to work on their Arabic language skills, while also learning about the culture of the many Arabic nations. The Arabic Culture Club also hopes to give Arabic students a community to connect with other students interested in learning about their home countries and cultures.

African Student Assoc.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's African Student Association is a diverse group of African students whose mission is to unify the African students body within the University.

Americorps

AmeriCorps is a national community service program that lets you serve your community while earning money for school.

We are the only university-based AmeriCorps program in the state of Louisiana. Our projects focus on housing and environmental needs in our community. Members of our 30-person team work with Lafayette Habitat for Humanity, Moncus Park, and The Office of Sustainability on campus. UL AmeriCorps members also volunteer with dozens of other non-profit organizations in our community.

Anime Club

We're an organization dedicated to all things anime! We strive to create a comfortable social setting where all are welcome to talk, watch, and enjoy anime and otaku media. Come check us out in H.L. Griffin 215 on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

ASC Peer Advisor

A Peer Advisor serves as an additional unit of academic support for freshman and sophomore students in the Academic Success Center (ASC) at UL. Peer advisors help students select classes, provide information on academic policies and procedures, assist with registration, general education courses, waitlist procedures and make appropriate referrals to campus resources. They also provide advising based on their experiences as students. Peer advisors hold drop-in and appointment hours.

Athletics Marketing

Ragin' Cajun Athletics offers marketing internships for students.

Baptist Collegiate Ministry

The BCM is a Christian Ministry who's motto is to Know the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Share the Gospel, Together. We are all about finding community and following God. We provide UL students with numerous events to get plugged in and grow in their relationship with the Lord, and our building is the perfect place where you can come to study, drink coffee, and hang out with your friends in between classes. We have student-led small groups every weekday as well as Free Lunch Tuesdays at 11:30 AM, Freshman Tuesday Nights at 5:30 PM, and Worship on Tuesdays at 7 PM.

Big Event

The Big Event gives UL Lafayette students the opportunity to volunteer in their community in their own way. Through a variety of service projects, students gain a sense of citizenship and social responsibility, all while promoting a Ragin' Cajun spirit.

Biology Society

The objective of the UL Biology Society is to promote and nurture interest in the biological sciences. Any students interested in biology, conservation, or the outdoors may join, no matter their major!

This organization was created to help students learn more about careers and studies in the ever-changing world of biology, and to keep them updated with interesting and relevant scientific facts. Join us for kayaking, camping, night hikes and more.

Black Male Leadership Assoc.

The purpose of the Black Male Leadership Association is to promote & provide opportunities for Black involvement & leadership on our campus and to enhance our communities with hard work & dedication to building a better world.

Black Student Union

Black Student Union aims to promote multiculturalism in education and social matters among students, faculty, and staff. Through programming, BSU strives to provide opportunities for social interaction among minority students, faculty, and staff. The BSU will serve as an organization that fosters student development through diversity, academics, and social services.

Black Women Leadership Assoc.

The mission of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL) Black Women Leadership Association is to provide services and programs that address the needs and concerns of women that are of African American or African Descent. We are committed to cultivating, empowering, unifying, and stimulating intellectual and effective leaders.

Chess Club

This is a chess club dedicated to teaching the game pragmatically as well as instilling the love of the game in its members at UL. The club hopes to improve and compete on the collegiate level. Our members are excited, and rating or past experience does not matter. We want to create a friendly environment where we can compete and have fun at the same time, all while improving each individual's game.

Chi Alpha

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship is a community of students earnestly following Jesus. We're not a fraternity or a sorority (although we're a great place to find brothers and sisters); rather, our name is Greek because the New Testament was written in Greek. It comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20 which says "we are therefore Christ's (Chi) Ambassadors (Alpha)." We often abbreviate our name as XA.

College Republicans

We are dedicated to advancing the Republican cause on campus, electing conservatives, and mobilizing the next generation of Republican leadership.

Cru Bible Study

Studying the Bible as a group can transform lives, but it also presents unique challenges. Learn how to lead life-changing discussions and browse hundreds of tried and true studies that will engage your group.

Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon is a student-led organization that raises funds and awareness throughout the year for sick and injured kids treated at local children's hospitals. Students can join our campus-wide movements by registering and creating fundraising pages, participating in events on campus, and seeking donations. At our annual Dance Marathon event, we connect with and honor patient families, play games, enjoy entertainment, fundraise, and reveal our annual fundraising total—in support of kids at local hospitals.

Delight Lafayette

Delight seeks to establish a college women's community that grows together, serves together, learns together, and does life together while chasing the heart of God. Delight is intentional about learning from one another through stories and experiences while potentially discovering or continuing to grow in relationships with Christ. Delight exists to be a place that any UL collegiate woman can come and grow in relatonships with others, ask difficult questions, and find a strong community of Christians and non-Christians alike.

Delta Lambda Pi

The mission of Delta Lambda Phi is to enhance the quality of life among men irrespective of sexual orientation or gender expression by providing dignified and purposeful social, service and recreational activities.

Delta Nu Delta

Delta Nu Delta is a table top club, where we meet up twice a week to play board games, including Dungeons and Dragons.

Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited is a nonprofit organization that focuses on conserving marshland and waterfowl. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Chapter of Ducks Unlimited focuses on raising awareness of the importance of marshland and waterfowl conservation throughout their college campus, as well as hosting fundraising events to help the Ducks Unlimited organization succeed in its goals.

Educators Rising

Educators Rising is cultivating a new generation of highly-skilled educators by guiding young people on a path from high school through college and into their teaching careers. By working with aspiring educators who reflect the demographics of their communities and who are passionate about serving those communities through public education. Educators Rising is changing the face of teaching.

Equestrian Team

The UL Equestrian Team is a horseback riding club sport. We have weekly practice and compete with an intercollegiate organization in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and in higher levels the US. We provide the horses, equipment, and anything you may need to better your self in horsemanship. Our coach, Brooke Miller of Brooke Miller Equestrian, strives to instill personal growth in and out of the saddle.

E Sports

Ragin' Cajuns Esports is a nationally competitive video gaming team open to all UL students. We assemble competitive teams from players at UL Lafayette and play against other universities across North America. We also host events for everyone—from beginners and experts.

Ragin' Cajuns Esports is all-inclusive and a safe space for students to learn about Esports and build skills for the future. We focus on academics, competition, and community and hold all our players and student staff to high academic standards.

Film Club

The UL Lafayette Film Club is an organization dedicated to becoming a meeting place for students with the same interests, passions, and objectives concerning the cinematic arts. Students of all majors are welcome, especially those in Moving Image Arts.

Future Healthcare Professionals

HOSA's mission is to empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration, and experience. HOSA actively promotes career opportunities in the health industry, and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health science instructors and students to affiliate and be actively involved in the HSE-HOSA Partnership.

Glass

GLASS (Giving Love, Acceptance, Safety and Support) is a student-run organization. Its goal is to promote a diverse and accepting campus for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity by educating the UL community about LGBTQIA+ issues, addressing all anti-LGBTQIA+ harassment and discrimination, and providing social activities for all UL Lafayette students. Supporters of LGBTQIA+ issues are welcome to join and participate in GLASS, whether they are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community or simply an ally.

Grad Student Organization

The Graduate Student Organization exists to empower and assist all graduate students at UL Lafayette. We advocate on behalf of our graduate students and meet regularly each semester to address issues that are important to UL Lafayette graduate students. We also provide funding assistance for research supplies and conference travel. Our leadership consists of executive officers, as well as representatives from each graduate department on campus. All graduate students are automatically members of the GSO.

Human Resources Management

The UL Lafayette Society for Human Resource Management (UL SHRM) is open to all students who are interested in expanding their knowledge of the Human Resources field. The mission of UL SHRM is to serve and advance the human resources professions. We provide networking, professional development activities, guest speakers, volunteer opportunities, internships, fundraising events, and more.

Institute of Management Accountants

IMA was founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York as the National Association of Cost Accountants, later changing its name to IMA in 1957. It has its headquarters in Montvale, New Jersey, United States, and regional offices in Americas, Asia/Pacific, Europe, and Middle East/India. In 1969, it formed the management accounting practices committee that was entrusted with the task of promoting management accounting as a core area of study in line with IMA views

Infinity Dance

The purpose of Infinity Dance Group is to give students a chance to express themselves through dance, focusing on the genre of Hip Hop. IDG participates in various performances both through the University and the community of Lafayette. IDG hosts an annual Spring Showcase fundraiser for the local PJ's Dance School.

International Student Council

International Student Council (ISC) is a student organization at UL Lafayette that caters to all international students at the UL campus. ISC aims to bridge the gap between International and other students, encouraging integration, and spreading cultural awareness. It holds programs such as International Education Week, International Night, Global Cafe, and more.

Karate Club

Traditional Shotokan karate for UL Lafayette students, faculty, and staff. We are affiliated with the Japan Karate Association and offer training and rank exams for beginner to advanced level students. High level regional and national competition is also an option.

Kinesiology Professional Assn

KPA is the School of Kinesiology's premier club for students. It is one of UL's most up and coming student organizations with its rapid growth and exceptional fundraisers. KPA places its focus on community service and professional development. Students attend state and national conventions and meet other students aspiring to be professionals. While members get to sharpen their professional skills in preparation for their future, they also get to attend events such as various socials and parties. Students who are highly involved in the club are rewarded through scholarships.

Learning is For Everyone

Our student organization advocates for the inclusion and post-secondary education of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as our friends in the UL LIFE Program.

Louisiana Green Energy

Louisiana Green Energy strives to stimulate interdisciplinary research and innovative ideas, educate and ensure environmental protection and process sustainability, and provide an open and informative forum for interested parties.

MBA

The MBA Association exists to promote career development programs, to provide student input into academic areas, and to facilitate interaction between MBA students, alumni, faculty and the local business community.

Moot Court

We are a nationally competitive team focused on simulated Supreme Court oral arguments and case briefs. We have been active since 2015. Our alumnae have secured many law school scholarships.

NAACP

The mission of the NAACP Youth & College division shall be to inform youth of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the economic, education, social and political status of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and their harmonious cooperation with other peoples; to stimulate an appreciation of the African Diaspora and other people of color's contribution to civilization; and to develop an intelligent, militant and effective youth leadership.

National Minority Architecture Students

The National Organization of Minority Architecture Students chapter is dedicated to promoting diversity, civic engagement and excellence within the design professions. We achieve these aims by participating in design scholarships, community service, mentorship, recruitment and fundraising efforts that aide in the professional development of our members.

National Society of Black Engineers

The National Society of Black Engineers, NSBE, is an American Engineering Society that focuses on improving recruitment and retention of black engineers and other minorities in the engineering industry. NSBE has over 30,000 members from around the world. With more than 310 student chapters, 99 pre-college programs, and 88 professional chapters, NSBE is one of the largest engineering societies.

National Student Speech, Language, and Hearing

The National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is the only national student organization for pre-professionals studying communication sciences and disorders (CSD) recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). They explore diverse areas of speech-language pathology to expand upon their member's knowledge and experiences while also serving local organizations related to communication sciences through volunteering and fundraising.

Nigerian Students Association

The UL Nigerian Students Association is a local student association that dedicates itself to the overall development of Nigerian Students. This organization will endeavor to provide avenues for personal, educational, and professional development.

Our Mission is to unify Nigerian Students within the university. Our goal is to enhance the college experience through educational workshops, social events, and mentorship. We also promote cultural integration into American society.

Office of First-Year Experience

The Office of First-Year Experience (OFYE) is here to help you begin your journey as a university student. Our mission is to connect first-year students and their families to the necessary resources to provide a strong foundation for success. We help students transition to college by offering academic support (UNIV classes), freshmen programs, and freshmen events that provide an enriching collegiate experience.

Phi Mu Alpha

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is the world's oldest and largest secret national fraternal society in music. Sinfonia began on October 6, 1898, at the New England Conservatory in Boston, when a group of thirteen young men and Ossian Everett Mills met "to consider the social life of the young men students of that institution and to devise ways and means by which it might be improved."

Pre-Occupational Therapy

The purpose of this organization is to bring UL students to a better understanding of what Occupational Therapy is by...

-INSPIRING them to put the 'FUN' in functional,

-PROMOTING the INTEGRITY of the profession

-PROVIDING students with MENTORS who can lead them to a successful future.

Ragin' Cajun Catholics

We are the Catholic Student Organization at Our Lady of Wisdom Church and Catholic Student Center's on campus. We are a vibrant community of young adults committed to building the community of faith on our campus, spreading the gospel and having as much fun as we can in the process. Come by the cafe for some Reve coffee.

Ragin' Cajun Climbing Club

The Ragin' Cajuns Climbing Club is a student-run collegiate sports organization dedicated to giving all students the access to both indoor and outdoor climbing. From beginners to professionals, we welcome all alike to practice climbing on indoor rock walls or travel along to real rock wall sites.

Ragin' Cajun Racing

Ragin' Cajun Racing, University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Formula SAE chapter, is going into its third Generation design! We are looking to improve and validate our previous design while continuing to structure and grow our team. This year, we are moving into our new home on campus and are looking forward to giving our team the opportunity to learn, be challenged, and thrive in a competitive, deadline-intensive environment.

Ragin' Records

We are a student-run record label here on UL's campus! We allow future artists a place to practice their craft and set themselves up for a career in the music industry and a place to make mistakes and learn lessons before having to take off into the real world of the music industry. We offer students opportunities to volunteer for live events, chances to shadow our in-house engineers, and create connections with other artists.

Ragin' Rescue

Ragin' Rescue is a student organization dedicated to the protection and care of animals both on and off campus.

Ragin' Writers

Ragin' Writers is an undergraduate creative writing club here on campus. We provide a space for all undergraduates, regardless of major or classification, to share their original works and get feedback on them.

Rotaract Club

The purpose of the UL Rotaract Club is to bring together young leaders who have a passion for helping their community. Our goal is to promote peace, support education, and volunteer in our communities.

Sigma Alpha Iota

Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity is a music fraternity for women and non-binary founded in 1903. Our purposes are to foster interest in music and to promote social contact among musicians. We are a specialized Fraternity in that we confine our membership to persons interested in the single academic discipline of music.

Slidde

Student Leaders Involved in Drinking and Drug Education (SLIDDE) is a student organization dedicated to educating the students of UL about the effects and consequences of consuming alcohol and drugs. By acting as a medium through which facts and statistics about safe and legal alcohol and drug consumption may reach the students, SLIDDE hopes to provide a safe environment for the students both on campus and off.

Soccer Club

The Ragin' Cajuns soccer club is a recreational sports team.

Soul Camp

Service, Outreach, Unity, Leadership. SOUL Camp is a unique experiental transition program that supplements New Student Orientation. SOUL Camp is designed to provide you with the skills and networks to help you develop leadership skills and Ragin' Cajun spirit. Through a combination of a community service project, educational speakers, social activities, interaction with faculty, staff, and upperclass student mentors and team building, students leave Camp prepared to be an engaged member of the campus community.

Sports Medicine

The Sports Medicine Association (SMA) is the School of Kinesiology's student organization for Athletic Training majors, but any UL student with an Allied Health Profession major is invited to join. Students in the SMA participate in medical coverage of local and regional sporting events as well as host educational events pertaining to the field of Athletic Training. SMA works to further the public's knowledge of Athletic Training as well as give back to the community through community outreach and volunteering.

Student Engagement & Leadership

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership exists to promote the benefits of student involvement as a co-curricular learning experience. Additionally, our office exists to support our 190+ registered student organizations through through workshops, retreats, training seminars, and more. Our staff can provide advice to students seeking ways to get involved, and provide leadership training and resources for student organization members, officers, and advisors.

Student Orientation Staff

SOS is a premiere student leadership group at UL. Selection to staff is extremely competitive, and the staff represents the best and brightest of the University. SOS works to facilitate orientation programs, welcoming more than 5,500 new students and parents to campus each year and volunteering more than 15,000 hours each summer. SOS members participate in leadership training, developing skills in group problem solving, conflict resolution, interpersonal communication, multicultural understanding, program planning and team building.

Student Veterans

SVO supports UL students that are part of the active duty, guard, or reserve military components, are veterans, or dependents of military members, and their families. This includes people that understand past experiences and unique challenges that may be faced.

The support includes but is not limited to resources, peer advice, events, and the building of personal and professional networks. Our organization's goals are to epitomize, "No One Left Behind", and "We Achieve More Together."

Students for Advancement of Women

Student for the Advancemengt of Women is based on several tenants: feminism, inclusivity, empowerment and equality.

Study Abroad

In an age of increased globalization, humans benefit from the experience of living in a different culture. If you participate in these programs, you might find them life changing. You'll certainly have a wider view of the world than when you first board the plane that will take you to Costa Rica, England, France, Italy or Morocco.

You can earn from three to nine credits over the summer and you will find your classes both interesting and challenging.

The Pulse

The Pulse is a community of students who love Jesus and are endeavoring to show His love to the world. We strive to serve our campus, community, and fellow students by providing opportunities to worship and experience Jesus. We love all, and welcome all.

Trap Skeet Team

The Ragin Cajun Trap and Skeet Team is dedicated to providing a safe and competitive environment to support and improve the skills of those who participate in competitive shotgun sports

Turning Point USA

Free markets, free speech, limited government. Get involved in the movement! Join us at University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

UL American Chemical Society

Better known as ACS this organization is for anyone interested in chemistry, no matter their major! Guest speakers in chemistry-related fields provide information concerning careers in the industry, including forensics and petroleum as well as medical, pharmacy, and graduate school. The organization is also greatly involved in giving back to the community through community service and STEM outreach. Field trips are also available for members to unique chemistry-related places.

UL Student Nurses

ULSNA is an organization for all nursing students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Our goal as an organization is to help guide students through the nursing curriculum and build leaders for our community. We act as a resource for the College of Nursing and Allied Health and provide many networking opportunities. We are here to give advice, promote nursing as a profession, build leaders, support our community, and help build future nurses.

University Program Center

The University Program Center is the premier programming organization on campus. By enrolling in the university, you become a member of UPC, which produces a variety of events on campus including Homecoming, Lagniappe Day, and Movie Madness. UPC encompasses five committees that plan and execute out events: Entertainment, Spirit, Culture, Traditions, and Marketing. We constantly search for new talent as additions to UPC, so whether you're a great organizer, recruiter, speaker, or someone who knows how to sing the Fight Song just right, we welcome you into our organization.

V Soul

V-SOUL is a student organization on UL's campus that serves to prompte the Vietnamese culture, unity within the community, and to give back through philanthropy.

V Day

V-Day is a global non-profit organization and activist movement working to end bullying and violence. We have to decided that being quiet isn't working and We Need to Stand UP! Speak UP! and Stand Firm! against all forms of oppression. V-Day Lafayette works locally to advance V-Day's and Society's missions of Equality and Safety for All.

Waterski team

The UL Lafayette Water Ski Team is one of the top teams in the nation. We are a diverse group of student-athletes from across the world, representing the Ragin' Cajuns! We love to water ski, support each other on and off the water, have fun, stay active, and succeed academically. It is very important to us that we succeed on and off the water.

Wesley

Wesley United Campus Ministry (affectionately known as UL Wesley) is a Christian faith community located across University Ave. from Martin Hall (next to Domino's). We believe that our instructions were very clear about loving God and loving our neighbor. Thus, we recognize all individuals as beloved children of God. ALL are welcome, EVERYday.

Women's Chemistry Society

An organization at UL Lafayette focused on promoting and supporting women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Student Publications

Vermilion staff received a first-place newspaper and fourth-place website award at SEJC on Feb. 10, 2023.

Ellie Moore and Morgan Courville find the final clue of the Student Publications scavenger hWWunt.

Vermilion staff get in the Halloween spirit for Production Night.

Vermilion staff celebrating the end their final Production Night for the Spring semester and 2022-2023 Academic year.

VOLUME 119 | ISSUE 25

THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper April 27, 2023

The Vermilion expanded greatly in members and content this year. A new mascot for Student Publications was created called "Allan," an alligator. With the help of a new comic artist, Lauren Gerald, who created weekly comics for the newpspaper, Allan gained friends and went on adventures throughout the semester. A weekly crossword was created as well by Ava Blanchard, the hints and answered based on the stories printed that week.

Under the leadership of Lena Foster, the Editor-in-Chief, and Adhamm Safford, the Managing Editor and News Editor, writers were pushed to explore new topics and develop their skills throughout the year. Meg Norwood challenged the graphics team to be cohesive and add special touches when it came to special editions in tandem with the layout suprivised by Julia McDow. Candy Gettridge added a new section, Food Reviews, which quickly gained popularity, especially on the website.

Foster developed a working environment for The Vermilion where members could present story ideas and also discuss unrelated club matters, creating trust and better communication between members through team activities and group trainings.

With a focus on covering events that are important to all of the student population, the newspaper was able to win multiple awards this year:

First place, overall paper: SEJC 2023

First place, Individual layout and design award: SEJC 2023

First place, individual writing award: SEJC 2023

Fourth place, website: SEJC 2023

Fourth place, design and layout: SEJC 2023

Sixth place, illustrations: SEJC 2023

10th place, photography: SEJC 2023

First place, American Scholastic Press Association 2023

UL Student Organization Award of the Year, 2023

Julia McDow	Writer
Malik Jones	Photographer
Julia McDow	Designer

Lena Foster
Editor-in-Chief

Adhamm Safford
Managing Editor
News Editor

Julia McDow
Design Manager (Layout)

Meg Norwood
Design Manager (Graphics)

Boyd Daniels
Business/Web Manager

Nyria Mustiful
Writer/Podcast Manager

Isaac Henry
Sports Editor

Marie Ducote
Allons Editor

Morgan Courville
Copy Editor

Candy Gettridge
Food Reviewer

Leonard Powell
Photographer

Faith Scholl
Allons Writer

Ann Soileau
Allons Writer

Jessica Ojadi
News Writer

Lauren Foster
Allons Writer

Lauren Gerald
Comic Artist

Ellie Moore
Allons Writer

Charles Martin
Sports Writer

Jean Guidry
Sports Writer

Caelan Broussard
Sports Writer

Other Vermilion staff:

Kaylin Ambrose, Lillian Babineaux, Kate Frazar, Iyahna Johnson, Malik Jones, Braylohn Judge, Cameron Magee, Mallory Michel, Aidan Milford, Kay Padilla, Krista Rosales

VOLUME 119 | ISSUE 15

THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper | January 26, 2023

Students struggle to find places to stay after being evacuated from Baker Hall

Adhamm Safford, Krisha Rosales
MANAGING EDITOR, NEWS WRITER

On Jan. 18, a room in Baker Hall tested positive for bed bugs, resulting in students being made to leave their rooms by 5:00 p.m. while treatment was done. Though the Office of Housing said that the situation went smoothly, reports from students say the opposite.

In a statement to The Vermilion, Dawn Miller, interim director of housing, wrote that the Offices of Housing and Residential Life are working with a pest control contractor and affected residents following the report of bed bugs. Miller further shared how students can reduce the risk of bed bugs.

"Residents can help reduce the risk of bed bugs by regularly washing and heat-drying bed sheets, blankets, bedspreads and other bedding that touch the floor," Miller wrote. "Residents should also remember to clean laundry containers or hampers when doing laundry, and should reduce clutter in their residences, particularly clothing on floors."

Kat Standford, a freshman majoring in English, was among the students affected. She said that the entire situation had been difficult and stressful, and that students didn't receive much help or information about what was going on.

"We were informed about it by email and a flyer. That's it. No one else has said anything," Standford said. "Housing hasn't helped us at all with any of the procedures they've told us to do. We've would be sprayed at 5:00 p.m., but by 7:15 p.m., she hadn't seen any sign of that or heard anything new.

"We haven't been given any updates at all. It's been really stressful," Standford said.

Miller, conversely, stated that the whole process had been very smooth.

"The affected students were asked to leave their room for one hour while the treatment was done. Then they were able to go back to their room after that. Everything went really smoothly."

Ja'Khia Dodson, a freshman in elementary education, said that her room was sprayed four hours after the expected time, and that they didn't receive updates on the situation or a place to stay.

"The only update we received was when they finished fumigating our rooms," Dodson said. "They didn't give us a place to stay. Everyone who had to evacuate had to stay in another friend's dorm or find a hotel to stay in."

Many students took to YikYak in order to share what was happening, with various reports sharing that they received little information on what was happening and no guidance on where they should go.

Dodson and Standford both said that their RAs weren't told about the situation beforehand and had as little information as the residents.

"Our RA seems to know just as little as we do. She's handling it as best as she can by trying to contact housing, but I don't think they've been giving her the information she needs," Standford said.

"Housing didn't even inform the RAs of the situation. None of the RAs knew what was going on and it was such a last minute thing that nobody knew what to do," Dodson said.

Follow The Vermilion on Twitter @TheVermilion for more content

Photo by Cristi Bantiling

terior of Baker Hall

Kiwibots: a new-age way of food with on-campus robots

SOUNDING OFF

"What are your goals for this semester?"

Alahna Plumb
PSYCHOLOGY PRE-MED JUNIOR

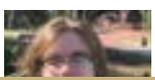
"To get myself more organized. And grade-wise, I want to try and get a 4.0 this semester."

Andrew Marshall
MOVING IMAGE ARTS FRESHMAN

"To finish more projects, and to get more outside-of-school projects to finish."

Bredyn Robinson
FINE ARTS FRESHMAN

"To make the Dean's List. I could have made it last semester, but I slipped up."



Bruce Tete
PSYCHOLOGY FRESHMAN

"Get all A's and join a

COMIC

Sleepover

Graphic by Lauren Gerald

Tell them that it is human nature

Lauren Foster
ALLONS WRITER

The world we live in is the furthest thing from black and white because some of the choices people make have many complexities. Imagine if someone stepped on a poisonous insect of an unknown species, and it died. Was it the right choice because it was poisonous and could have endangered people or was it wrong because the creature was simply taking a nature walk and had not caused any harm?

Then, what if we learned that the

at the story's resolution. Thus, cognition and emotion are highly interrelated, as they interact to impact enjoyment."

An example of a morally gray character is Jinx/Powder from "Arcane." I will not say too much, but throughout the show, she goes through an identity crisis based on a traumatic event that happened in her childhood.

What makes her interesting is her constant battle with herself and how despite everything happening around her, she does not choose a side. She either acts on her own accord or goes with the people who find her the most

Special thanks to the following:

Matthew Tarver - Student Publications Director
Beth Washington - Executive Assistant, Vice President for Student Affairs
Patricia Cottonham - Vice President of Student Affairs

L'ACADIEN YEARBOOK

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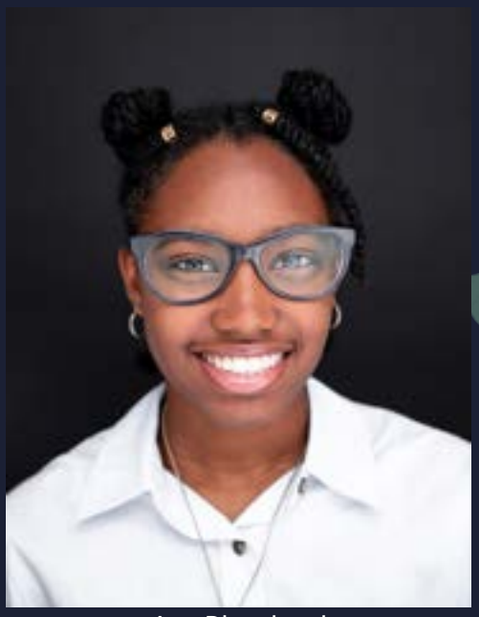
Editor-in-Chief

Julia McDow
Design Manager

Meg Norwood
Illustrations Manager



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Sarah Guidry
Designer and Illustrator

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Designer

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Illustrator

Joeseph Lormand
Photographer

Cameron Magee
Photographer

L'Acadien staff not pictured:

Kayla Billiot, Savannah Blanco-Trumps, Cristi Bantiling, Tyler Clement, Kim Hebert, Mallory Chenevert, Cade Roland, Joshua Rumsey

Staff members took time from the pressure of the publication deadlines to relax and be college students.

Nyria Mistful and Malik Jones in the scavenger hunt.

Late night with Design team in the office.

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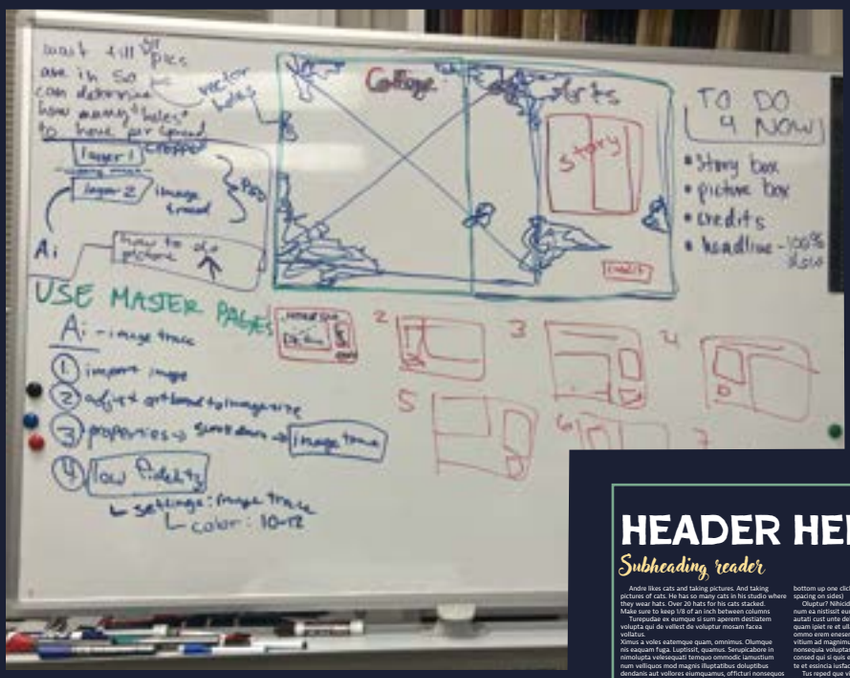
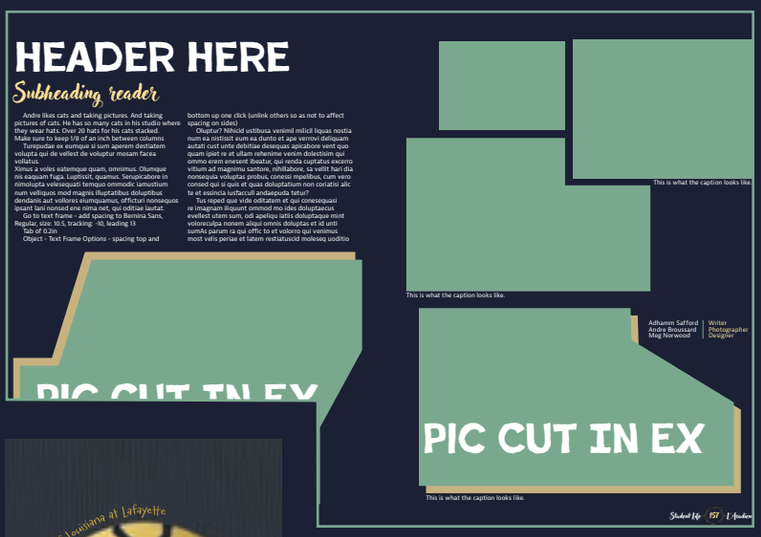
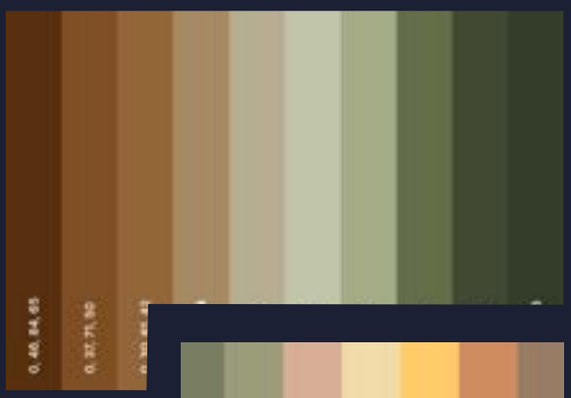
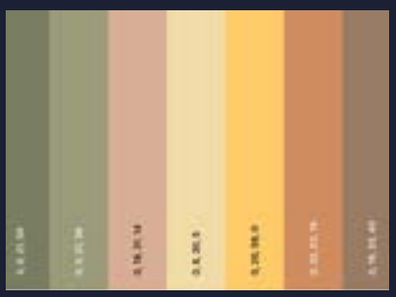
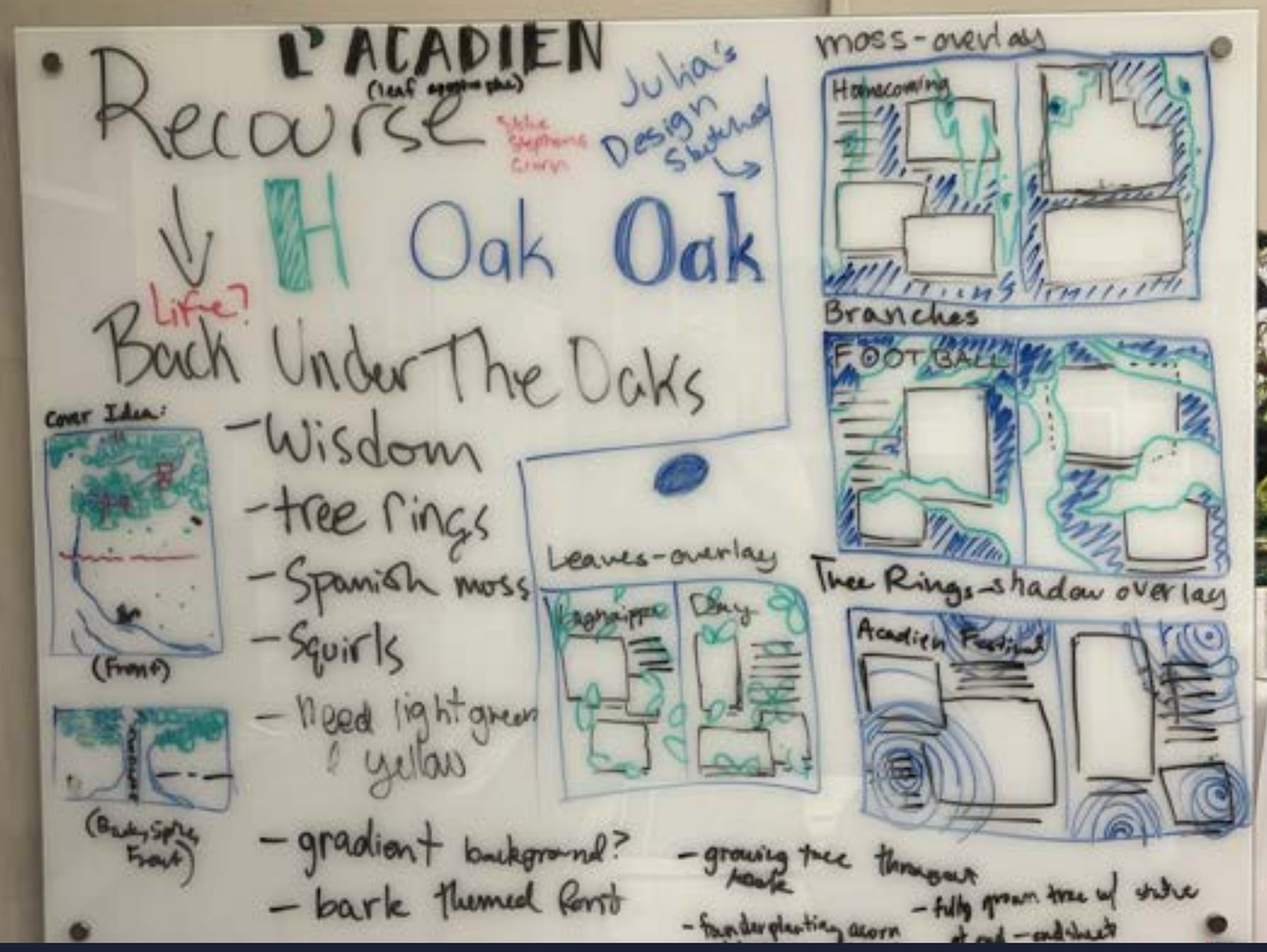








WORK IN PROGRESS



The L'Acadien yearbook team meets in the Fall the second week of school to discuss themes and what direction they want to take the yearbook to best represent the year that lies ahead. Ideas are thrown around until they stick, and the main idea for this year was to step away from COVID themes as classes and life seemed to return almost completely back to normal.

The first theme idea was "Back Under the Oaks" but was altered to "Under the Oaks" to show how campus was back to life, referencing the oak trees that make UL a special place.

Color palattes were then debated. Lots of nature tones of greens, browns, blues, and yellows ended up being the main colors to use throughout the book.

After colors, the rules of layout needs to be established. Layout designers tried different layout ideas and worked together to make the template that acts as a guide for all layouts throughout the yearbook. The team used a clean-cut look and fonts that are rough like tree bark and organic, like as seen in nature.

Next, the folio, the page number design, is created. Illustrators came togther and made various designs and in the end decided on tree branches creating a ring around the number.

Finally, content for the entire book is developed. The ultimate decision being the Editor-in-Chief's, Andre Broussard.

The design team also wanted to add patterns for spreads, different ones for each section broken up by the collage and division pages. The patterns are also seasonal to represent the time of that section whether it be spring with magnolias or winter with snow coated branches. The patterns also add depth as they fade in the background. Division pages have big graphics of oak trees with the popular squirrels seen around campus, running through the branches.

The cover was originally a traced image of an oak tree and very colorful, but then the idea of a leather bound look with gold embossed took over. The team decided on a almost story-book like cover with a swirling tree of gold as the final cover option.

Overall, the yearbook team had a great time challenging themselves to make the best yearbook they could for this year and are ready to tackle the next one.

Julia McDow | Writer, Designer