



The University of Louisiana at Lafayette
September 2011

Parent Perspectives

Insights on your Student's Experience



WEAR RED

Wear RED on Friday!

You can support your son or daughter and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette by wearing red each Friday! Encourage your son or daughter to wear red on Friday's as well. It shows support for our university.

Still need that Ragin' Cajun Gear? Check out the wide array of apparel available at the University Bookstore. Located in the Student Union or online at <http://bookstore.louisiana.edu>

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Emergency Notification System

If you have not done so yet, encourage your son or daughter to add your cell phone to the university's ENS. This is the official means of communication during a campus emergency. Learn more about campus preparedness plans at <http://safety.louisiana.edu>.

From Parenting to Partnering

Partnerships of learning are an important part of the message we give to students and parents during our annual New Student Orientation programs. The idea of a partnership, that we all have a joint interest in the success of our students, is an important one for parents to think about as your son or daughter begins their first week of classes at the university. How will you partner with your son or daughter, as well as with our university, to ensure that your student has optimal academic, social, and personal success during their time at UL Lafayette?

Parent Perspectives is part of the university's commitment to partnering with parents of our students for their success. Our newsletter will aim to give you timely information on the

university, your student's adjustment, and insights into how you can be a partner with us to ensure a positive experience for your son or daughter. Contact us at any time with your thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns. You can e-mail parents@louisiana.edu or call the Office of Orientation at 337-482-1391.

During the first few weeks of school, it is important to ensure that your son or daughter is achieving balance. Ask them about their time management skills, what organizations they are getting involved in, and ensure they are studying at least 2 hours outside of class for every credit hour in which they are enrolled. Students should study, on average, 24-30 hours a week.

Getting the Year Started

SOUL Camp, Convocation, & Welcome Week help welcome students home



SOUL Camp 2011 Participants

“Your college grade point average will affect which companies you can apply for, your starting salary, and where you can work. Your GPA is the cover of your book. It summarizes your knowledge and maturity”

-Jonathon Boudreaux, 2011 New Student Convocation Distinguished Alumni Speaker

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette continues to strengthen programming and initiatives to increase student success. *SOUL Camp*, *New Student Convocation* and *UNIV 100—Cajun Connections* are important components of the university’s five year strategic plan.

SOUL Camp 2011

160 incoming students participated in this year’s 2nd annual *SOUL Camp* program. This four-day experience was an extension of New Student Orientation and was designed to assist new students with developing mentoring relationships, university spirit and tradition, leadership skills, multicultural awareness, career planning skills, and a commitment to civic service and engagement.

SOUL Camp attendees spent the first day of camp participating in a community service project at six elementary schools in Acadiana. The final three days were spent at Tall Timbers campsite in Woodworth, LA. Students were led through the four day experience by 24 upper-class student mentors.

Camp participants are already making an impact by joining campus organizations, forming study groups, and participating in service work.

New Student Convocation

The university held it’s first New Student Convocation in over 40 years on Sunday, August 21, 2011. Over 2500 freshmen attended the event at the Cajundome Convention Center to welcome the Class of 2015.

The theme of New Student Convocation was CELEBRATE: Community, Culture, & College. Students heard about the importance of these themes to their college experience. Following the event, all students participated in a tailgate at Cajun Field.

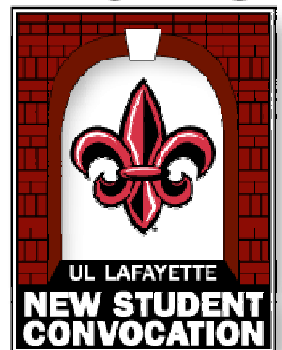
UNIV 100—

Cajun Connections

Cajun Connections is the university’s First Year Student Seminar. It is designed to help students develop skills in academics success, further develop knowledge of campus resources, participate in community service, and engage in a common reading experience.

Cajun Connection classes are purposely kept small, with less than 25 students per section, taught by a full-time faculty member. In addition, each section has a student mentor to provide incoming students with a peer to help them through the course and transition to college life. Students in the College of Business, College of Liberal Arts, & College of Sciences are enrolled in the course this fall.

**CLASS OF
2015**



Transition Tribulations

Timely information on typical September transition issues

The first few weeks of college offer tremendous challenges for new students. Adjusting to new time schedules, academic and social demands, and school/life balance issues can create some stresses and anxiety that you can coach your student through. Here are some typical issues students face and some insights on how you can help your student successfully navigate through them.

“I wonder how that person can believe that or live that way.” UL Lafayette has students from all over the state, country, and world. Students often meet people with different religious, political, or value beliefs, as well as people from different backgrounds. Encourage them to think with an open-mind and clarify their own values, beliefs, and lifestyle.

“My classes don’t seem all that hard. The professor never takes roll and we never talk about the assigned reading.”

Students often underestimate the difficulty of the college curriculum. Encourage your son or daughter to make sure they are taking notes in class, completing assigned reading prior to class, participating in study groups, and making academics their top priority. This will help them be successful academically.

“I feel so stupid in class. I’m afraid to talk to the professor and I don’t understand what is going on.”

Students oftentimes feel intimidated by professors. Faculty want your student to succeed. Encourage them to ask questions in class or after class, to go to the professor’s office hours, and to participate in study groups. Students can also receive tutoring assistance for free at the Learning Center, located in Lee Hall. Tutoring schedules are available on your student’s ULink account under the Tutoring Tab.

“I thought I would have free time, but I can’t find time to do anything. I’m stressed by the amount of work.”

Time management may be one of the biggest challenges facing new students. Encourage your student to use a planner and schedule their lives. Each student was provided a student planner during New Student Orientation this past summer. Your son or daughter could download a copy of our [Student Survival Guide](#), which includes tips on many transition issues including time management.





2011 Football Schedule

9/3: @Oklahoma State, 6:00 PM
9/10: @Kent State, 6:00 PM
9/17: Nicholls State, 6:00 PM
9/24: @FIU, 5:00 PM
10/1: Florida Atlantic, 6:00 PM
10/8: Troy, 6:00 PM
10/15: North Texas, 4:00 PM
10/22: @WKU, 3:00 PM
10/29: @MTSU, 6:30 PM
11/5: UL Monroe, 2:30 PM
11/12: @Arkansas State, 2:00 PM
11/26: @Arizona, TBA

Support Ragin' Cajun Athletics

UL Lafayette being recognized nationally for coaching and rising programs

Ragin' Cajun Athletics is a big part of student and community life at UL Lafayette. Our students participate in 16 NCAA Division I sports and compete in the Sun Belt Conference. Information on tickets and all athletic events can be found online at <http://www.ragincajuns.com>.

UL Athletics is garnering attention nationwide. New head football coach Mark

Hudspeth was recently named the #3 best new hire in college sports for Fall 2011. Head basketball coach Bob Marlin was named by ESPN.com as one of the nation's most underappreciated Division I head basketball coaches. Marlin lead the Cajuns to an 11-game win streak last spring.

You can find a listing of all our women's and men's sports schedules at

www.ragincajuns.com.

If you are looking for a way to become more involved with supporting athletics, consider donating to the *Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation*. Money raised through RCAF goes to support the university's athletic programs and student athletes.

Information on the *Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation* can be found online at <http://www.rcaf4ul.com>.

Campus Resource Spotlight

Dean of Students Office
Martin Hall 211
(337) 482-6272

www.louisiana.edu/Student/Dean
www.ullafayettestudenthandbook.com

The Dean of Students Office is committed to working with and challenging students on their college journey. We encourage students to take full advantage of every opportunity of engagement. Involvement outside the classroom is vital to student success and the Dean of Students Office is

a great place to find out about areas that can enhance the college experience. The office houses information on all student organizations and Greek life. Please visit our web page where you can find a listing of all student organizations & the Code of Student Conduct.

INVOLVEMENT MATTERS!

There are over 170 Student Organizations at UL Lafayette. Encouraging your son or daughter to become involved is an important part of the transition to our university.

Most studies of college student retention and success show that students who get involved early will perform better academically and adjust to college life more quickly and easily.

Encourage your son or daughter to join a club or organization today by visiting www.ulstudentlife.com.



2011 SOUL Camp Staff

Inside the University

Information on university issues, projects, & accomplishments

UL Lafayette garners “Best Colleges” Distinctions

UL Lafayette has garnered national praise from two major national publications.

The university is among The Princeton Review’s “Best 376 Colleges” and Forbes’ “America’s Top Colleges” rankings.

“Being recognized in these publications lets students know that UL Lafayette is a university with high-quality programs coupled with affordable tuition. We’re an appealing choice for students and these rankings validate that,” said UL Lafayette President Dr. Joseph Savoie.

The Princeton Review rankings are based on surveys of 122,000 students at the 376 schools in the book during the 2010-2011 academic year. The 80-question survey asked students about their school’s academics, administration, campus life, student body and themselves.

“Each of our 376 best colleges offers outstanding academics,” said Robert Franek, the book’s author and Princeton Review senior vice president and publisher.

Forbes’ rankings are based on five general categories: post graduate success, student satisfaction, debt and graduation rates and competitive awards. “We try and evaluate the college purchase as a consumer would.” said Michael Noer, Forbes’ executive editor.



University Enhancement Projects move forward

Renovation projects across campus are moving along at record pace as the university invests in providing top quality residential, student service, and learning facilities.

This fall saw the opening of Baker Hall, the first of four new residence halls that are being built on campus. The new facilities will increase the student housing capacity by 37%. The second of the buildings, Huger Hall, will open in January. The remaining residential facilities will be completed by Fall 2012. To learn more about the new facilities, visit www.housing.louisiana.edu



Baker Hall opened this month. It is the newest residential facility on campus.

The university also opened a new 17,000 square foot addition to Bourgeois Hall, the university recreation facility. The addition adds more workout space, weight and cardiovascular equipment, and includes a climbing wall for students.

This fall, a renovation to OK Allen Hall will be completed. This will be the new location of Student Health Services and the Counseling Center and will make way for the expansion and renovation of the Student Union complex.

The Student Union project will commence next summer and will expand the current facility, renovate the bookstore, ballroom, and Bayou Bijou theater, and help the facility become the center of campus life.

All projects are part of the university’s master plan to enhance living and learning on campus.

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*-Dr. E. Joseph Savoie
University President*

The Campaign for Scholarships

University works to increase financial assistance for students

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is committed to student success. In today's competitive academic climate, one component that is a key to student success is through scholarship funds for students who show academic promise, but students who might also have financial needs.

UL Lafayette is currently engaged in the Campaign for Scholarships, the first campaign at the university dedicated specifically to enhancing the scholarship endowment to benefit students. The Campaign for Scholarships at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is dedicated to building funds to support current students and compete for future scholars who will enhance the intellectual capability on our campus. The \$4.5 million campaign goal has reached beyond the half way mark, as of last spring, and is now in the public phase.

The scholarship campaign aims to help transform lives. The campaign seeks to increase the current endowment for scholarships by 25%. But the goal is not only to increase the endowment for scholarships by \$4.5

million, but to also increase the number of available scholarships. A combination of two methods will be used to accomplish the growth of 120 scholarships: by creating a number of newly endowed scholarships and by increasing the amounts of the endowments of already existing scholarship accounts.

The minimum amount needed to endow a scholarship is \$10,000. A portion of the interest, generated from the invested account, funds a scholarship. The larger the endowment, the larger the scholarship. Even with the current increase in tuition rates, a scholarship award from a \$100,000 scholarship endowment can cover students tuition costs for a year, most years.

Gifts to scholarship can come from many sources, such as an outright gift from an individual to establish a new endowment or enhance an existing fund. A scholarship gift of appreciated assets, a pledge over time, a bequest, utilizing a corporate matching gift program at work are some of the many ways to invest in the futures of our students.

Scholarships help recruit and retain quality students. Not only incoming freshman benefit from scholarships, but other targeted groups benefit, as well, including currently enrolled students, transfer students, non-traditional students, returning military personnel, and distance learners.

Scholarships change lives and make a difference for the students at UL Lafayette. Scholarships can make the difference between whether or not a student decides to pursue a college education and whether or not they choose to attend UL Lafayette. That's often the case for our first generation students, who are the first in their families to attend a university.

Scholarships allow students to participate in college life more fully, without the distractions of excessive outside employment. Likewise, scholarships allow graduates to enter the

workplace without an abundance of financial indebtedness. It also allows them to learn from the experience of the power of personal giving.

Scholarships make a difference. We invite you to help make a difference in a student's life – and in your community – through a gift to the Campaign for Scholarships at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. For more information about the campaign, call 337-482-0922. For more information about giving, visit www.louisianagifts.org.



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Parent Perspectives is produced by the Office of Orientation at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

We're on the Web!

www.ulorientation.com/parents
www.universityparent.com/lalaf

Calendar of University Events

Important dates for students & parents to know

September

September 3: Volleyball vs. Nicholls State, EK Long Gym, 6:00 PM

September 5: Labor Day, No Classes

September 17: Football vs. Nicholls State, Cajun Field, 6:00 PM

September 19: UL Celebrates US Constitution Day. 11AM, Quad

October

Month: LGBT History Month.
Full listing of events at <http://diversity.louisiana.edu>

October 1: Football vs. Florida Atlantic, Cajun Field, 6:00 PM

October 8: Football vs. Troy, Cajun Field, 6:00 PM

October 13: Last day to Drop a Class

October 10-15: Homecoming Week

October 15: Football vs. North Texas, Cajun Field, 6:00 PM

October 17—28: Spring 2012 Academic Advising

October 20-21: Fall Break, No Classes

November

November 24-25: Thanksgiving Break, No Classes