

March 2016

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RESOURCES

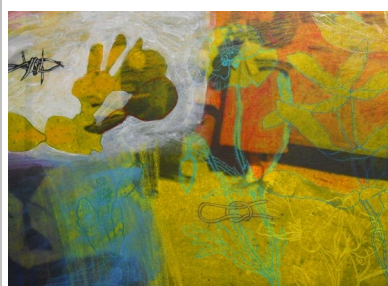
- [Writing Center](#)
H.L. Griffin Hall, Rm. 107
Call: 482-6447
- [Computer Labs on Campus](#)
- [Counseling & Testing Center](#)
Saucier Wellness Center in O.K. Allen Hall
Call: 482-6480
counseling@louisiana.edu
- [Office of Disability Services \(ODS\)](#)
Conference Center, Rm. 126



It's Festival Time!

After what turned out to be a decently chilly Louisiana winter, it's time to shake off the winter blues and join the fun of festival season. The season is already underway and it can be hard to choose among all the options!

First, the UL Lafayette College of Arts will be presenting in the annual [Festival of the Arts](#). Their [ArTech Fusion](#) will be held on March 18th and include activities and presentations



from the departments of Visual Arts, Architecture, Music, and Performing Arts. Highlights include discussion about Big Data and Virtual Reality, as well as premier performances featuring music, dance, theater, poetry and animation. Additional information can be located on the Festival of the Arts' [webpage](#).

The City of Lafayette is home to a world-famous francophone festival, the [Festival International de Louisiane](#) which celebrates French cultures from Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Cultural highlights include music, cuisine, dance, and arts and crafts. In its 31st year, the festival will be held April 20-24 at stages throughout downtown Lafayette and will feature over 100 performances by the likes of Grammy Award winner [Alpha Blondy and the Solar System](#), France's [CharlElie Couture](#), Ghana's [Rocky Dawuni](#), Martinique's [Dédé Saint Prix](#), and many more! With no charge for admission, it is a great event for the whole family! For additional information or to plan your festival weekend please visit their [website](#). Whatever your interests or culinary tastes Festival International is guaranteed to impress!



Festival of the Arts and Festival International are just a small example of what Spring in Louisiana has to offer. Think of an iconic food or object and there is probably a nearby festival for it! To name just a few, the [Acadian Memorial Heritage Festival and Wooden Boat Congress](#) will be on March 19th, the [Acadiana Drago Boat Festival](#) will be April 16, the [Scott Boudin Festival](#) will be April 1-3, the [Arnaudville Etouffee Festival](#) will be April 25-27, the [Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival](#) will be May 6-8, and the [Capital City Kite Fest](#) will be April 1-3. And these are just a handful taking place near the Lafayette area. Louisiana is a state steeped in culture, and if there is one thing we know how to do, it is to share that culture.



Consult the Louisiana Travel's [Festival webpage](#) for a full listing of events taking place during Spring 2016.

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Success Seminar Topics

- Moving into College
- Sophomore Perspective
- Learning How to Learn
- Procrastination
- Persistence in the Face of Obstacles
- Time Management
- How YOU Fit into College
- What Matters to You
- Growth Mindset
- Your Money, Your Debt
- Managing Stress
- Test Taking Strategies
- Work/Life Balance

Academic Colleges at UL Lafayette

- [College of the Arts](#)
(22 Majors)
- [College of Business Administration](#)
(8 Majors)
- [College of Education](#)
(20 Majors)
- [College of Engineering](#)
(7 Majors)
- [University College \(General Studies\)](#)
(4 Majors)
- [College of Liberal Arts](#)
(27 Majors)
- [College of Nursing & Allied Health](#)
(6 Majors)
- [College of Sciences](#)
(21 Majors)

Tips for Student Success

When students first arrive in college they often face certain difficulties, whether they be academic or social. A number of students adapt to these difficulties on their own over time, yet some continue to struggle. As their parents, you may realize that you do not always have the answers or solutions to your child's problems. But what you do have is access to the resources to help them.

The [Academic Success Center](#) schedules numerous [Student Success Seminars](#) throughout the semester which touch on a large range of issues freshman typically struggle to overcome. One of the highlights of this program is that these seminars are offered by university staff, but also by graduate students and undergraduate students in order to better relate with the struggles of young students. Seminars are offered in Lee Hall Room 110 over the course of any given term. Each session is offered multiple times throughout the semester to accommodate students' class and work schedules. The full [schedule](#) of seminars can be located online. Registration is not required, however seminars are limited to the first 12 students who arrive. Should you have any additional questions please contact the Academic Success Center at acs@louisiana.edu or 337-482-6818.

How to Know Whether Your Child is Learning

Have you ever wondered what your child is learning in class, or if they are even attending class? As their parent you not only wish to give them the tools they need to succeed in life, but as someone who might be paying for their education you no doubt want to make sure they are receiving what you are paying for. The news media is constantly talking about major academic scandals on campuses from the [Naval Academy](#), to the [University of West Virginia](#), to [Harvard](#). It hasn't even been six months since the [Wainstein Report](#) was published detailing the extent of dishonesty at [UNC Chapel Hill](#). Though scandals are rare, it can be difficult as a parent to know whether your child is learning. Sometimes college kids just skip class. In times like these how are parents supposed to feel safe in the quality of their child's education? The answer is knowing the safeguards and getting involved!

In order to confer academic degrees all universities must be accredited by a recognized institution. These institutions regularly review schools on the quality of the educational experience they provide in terms of integrity, accountability, improvements, learning, and transparency. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is accredited by the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#) (SACS COC). UL Lafayette must be officially reaccredited once every decade while also undergoing interim reviews during that time period. The accreditation provided by SACS guarantees the quality of education your son or daughter receives here at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette through both teaching standards and class attendance.

But why put all of your trust in one place? You should know what your student is getting out of UL Lafayette! The best way to do that is simply talk with your child. Ask them what they are learning in class. Use open ended questions so that your child has to fill the space with all of his or her experiences. Engage them about classes, professors, clubs and organizations, their friends, and their res-hall experience if they live on campus. College is a time of adventure and discovering the world, and as their parents you deserve to be a part of your child's adventure.

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Outside Tips on Spring Break

- [Spring Break Safety Tip Sheet](#)
- [Your First Spring Break](#)
- [Travel Safety Tips](#)
- [Spring Break Tips for Parents](#)
- [Another “Letting Go” Experience](#)

Alternative Spring Break Ideas

- Stay in Lafayette to enjoy sleep and Ragin Cajun [Athletic events](#).
- If you're not from Lafayette head home for quality family time.
- Take the [City of New Orleans](#) on a site-seeing tour to Chicago.
- Take a trip through [Louisiana Plantation](#) country.
- Go camping in a Louisiana [state park](#).
- [Volunteer abroad](#) as a way to see the world but also give back.
- Visit attractions such as [Blue Bayou](#) or [Six Flags](#)
- Gain experience by traveling to locations that support your academic or career interests.

Taking On Spring Break

The coming of sunshine and warmth means one thing to college students: Spring Break. This mid-semester vacation has become equated with a dangerous experience steeped in alcohol, drugs, and sex due to coverage in American media and cinema. Unfortunately there are facts to support some of this mentality; a study conducted at the University of Wisconsin found that 75% of males and 43% of females in college reported being intoxicated on a regular basis during Spring Break. Exploring the world is an important part of life in college, so what can you do as parents to help your child prepare for Spring Break?

According to the website [Fight Back on Spring Break](#) one of the best ways to plan a trip is to research the location and know its reputation so your child knows what he or she is getting into. A growing trend amongst college kids is to head for new locations that don't match the typical “spring break beach trip.” Once there, the best rule is the simplest rule: follow the law. Don't partake in the use of illegal drugs, and if underage, don't consume alcohol. For those of age, the best advice is to be smart and rely on your gut. It may be urban legend, but you always know what the right thing to do is, and your gut is the friend that reminds you what that is. Following it will always lead to smarter decisions.



A second situation to be aware of is that your child may not always have to fend for just him or herself. The smartest thing any student can do on Spring Break is stick with a group of trustworthy friends. That could mean your child may have to take care of a friend should any situations arise. Knowing how to recognize and respond to things like [binge drinking](#) and [alcohol poisoning](#) may be critical to keep a bad situation from getting worse. Also, when sticking with a group of friends it is always a good idea for at the least one to remain sober, to be fully aware of any situation and provide uninhibited assistance.

Finally, the last thing we can do for these freshmen is to trust them. Despite how we may sometimes feel, they are now adults and deep inside they know right from wrong because they were taught these principles by you (their parents) and us (their teachers). We can prepare them for any situation, but in the end they are out there flying free and will more than likely make the right decisions to stay healthy and safe. For additional tips about planning a Spring Break trip and staying safe, please explore the links provided in the left hand column under *Outside Tips on Spring Break*.

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Spring 2016 Academic Calendar

March 14-24: Advising Session for Summer/Fall

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 25—Apr 3: Easter Holiday/Spring Break

April 27: Beginning of Dead Days (at 8:00pm)

April 29: Last Day of Classes

May 2-3: Final Exams

May 4: Exam Study Day

May 5-6: Final Exams Resume

May 13: Spring Commencement Exercises and the official end of the semester!

See the [Academic Calendar](#) for more dates.

Looking Toward Summer: Job Opportunities

The job market is fast moving to an experience-based model, meaning the more job experience a student has, the better his or her chances of being selected over other qualified candidates. With that said, summer is a great time for students to get experience without the extensive responsibilities of the classroom. The [Office of Career Services](#) will be hosting a Part-Time Summer Job Fair on March 23rd which would be a great time for students to get a sense of what is out there, and maybe even approach a potential employer. Whether your student chooses to take advantage of the fair or not, now is still the best time to think about summer employment opportunities, whether the end goal is industry experience or extra spending cash.

Suggested Job Boards Local Summer Employers Non-local Summer Employers

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| • Career Services Online
(UL Lafayette sponsored) | • Red Lerille's | • Camp Stanislaus |
| • The Advertiser | • SELA Aquatics | • Camp Ozark |
| • The Advocate | • Mall of Acadiana | • Chestnut Lake Camp |
| • Louisiana Job Connection | • Lafayette Music Company | • YMCA Summer Camp |
| • Indeed Search Engine | • Wholefoods/Fresh Market | • Americorps |
| | | • U.S. Department of State |

Looking Toward Summer: Study Abroad

Having the opportunity to study abroad can be a transformative experience! In addition to building confidence and global competence, students who have international experience are considered to be more valuable to almost any potential employer as our world becomes more globally interconnected. Luckily the UL Lafayette [Study Abroad Program](#) works hard to facilitate this experience for Ragin Cajuns.

It's never too early to discuss study abroad options with your first-year students.



Although most students do not actually enroll in a study abroad program until later in their academic career, the time is now to start thinking about locations, costs and options. Typically students enroll for 3-9 credits and live/study abroad for one semester or during the summer. UL Lafayette hosts programs in [Costa Rica](#), [England](#), [France](#), and [Italy](#).

Did you know that financial aid packages, including TOPS, may be able to be applied to study abroad, making this an affordable option for many? So have your student check out study abroad interest sessions held on campus or contact the Study Abroad Office in Room 136 in the Student Union or by email at studyabroad@louisiana.edu.

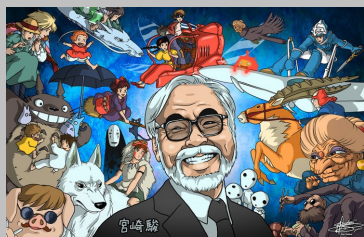
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Getting Involved

Student involvement on campus and in the community is an important aspect of college success. Research shows that students who are engaged perform better academically than those who are less involved. As such we do all we can to offer a variety of opportunities for UL Lafayette students to find their comfort zone. Below are some of the events available to students for the remainder of the Spring 2016 Semester:

Date	Event	Star Time	Location
3/15	Movie Showing: The Collected works of Hayao Miyazaki	6:00pm	321 Brookside Dr.
3/16	Iowa Rabbit Festival	6:30am	Burton Coliseum Complex (7001 Gulf Hwy, Lake Charles)
3/16	College of Business Internship & Career Fair	9:00am	Moody Hall
3/18	Baseball vs. Little Rock	6:00pm	Tigue Moore Field
3/19	Lafayette Ballet: Cinderella	7:00pm	Heymann Center
3/20	World Championship Crawfish Etouffee Cookoff	10:00am	651 Samuel Drive Eunice, LA
3/21	Alumni Speaker: Photographer Catherine Guidry	12:00pm	Fletcher Hall, Rm 134
3/24	W Tennis vs. UL Monroe	3:30pm	Cajun Courts
3/26	Rendez-Vous des Cajuns	6:00pm	Liberty Theater Eunice, LA
3/26	Icegators vs. Ice Flyers	7:00pm	Cajumdome
3/27	Lao New Year Celebration	8:00am	7913 Champa Ave Broussard, LA
3/31	Boggy Bayou Festival	10:00am	Pine Prairie, LA



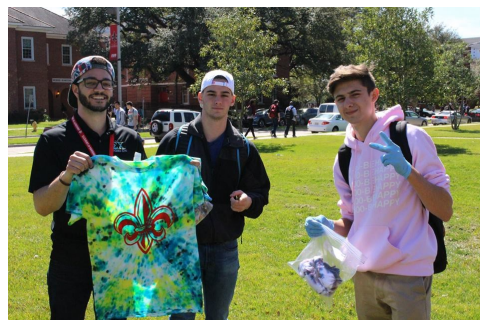
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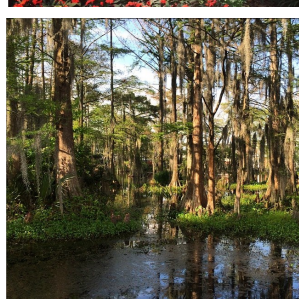
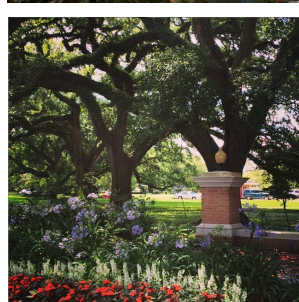
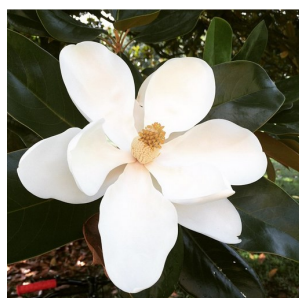
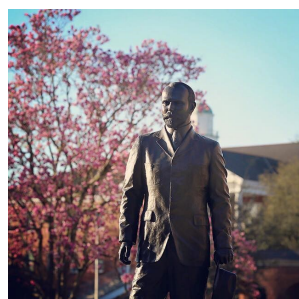
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Month in Review

- 1) Ragin' Cajun alum Sean Bruce finds national success in the music industry.
- 2) UL Lafayette was named Tree Campus USA for the 7th year in a row.
- 3) The on-campus Small Business Development Center is helping entrepreneurs make their dreams come true.
- 4) Ragin' Cajun photography students earned a special exhibit at Festival International.
- 5) The Hilliard University Art Museum extends hours with an influx of exhibits.
- 6) Students of The Big Event work to win a national \$10,000 grant to fund community service work.
- 7) Hosted by [UPC](#), students got the chance to experience a Murder Mystery Dinner Party.
- 8) Parking & Transit crack down on parking violations with cutting edge technology.
- 9) Students enjoyed warmth and sunshine while making custom tie-dye Ragin' Cajun shirts.
- 10) UL Lafayette and City response agencies simulated an on-campus shooter situation to help train personnel.

Additional information detailing these events can be located by clicking the corresponding picture to the right.





In Theory – Reflections on the University Experience

College is a massive and complex place, and as parents you know starting out fresh in anything can be daunting. No doubt your student faced at least one obstacle in the Fall that he or she had never had to deal with. Growing up can be hard, but we always seem to make it in the end. Like any other system, once students go for a few rides on the carousel they start to settle in and finally feel comfortable in their new surroundings. One bad aspect of getting too comfortable is becoming complaisant. Though students can get comfortable with the ebbs and flows of college life, it is important for them to remember the college experience is about continuously being pushed.

Mid-Spring can be a very dangerous time for the unprepared student. It is a time when students schedule classes for the Fall, relax over Spring break, enjoy a plethora of baseball and softball games, and start to think about summer plans; in all honesty, summer is only a month and a half away. But unfortunately the only time to take a break from school is after students have submitted that last final. The reason mid-Spring can be so dangerous for students is that it is just enough time for even the highest-performing students to slack off and forfeit all the hard work they have put into their classes. Jon Bon Jovi once said, “Map out your future - but do it in pencil.” Your student has worked hard to get where he or she is, but simply because 75% of the work has been done thus far and the finish line is in sight does not mean he or she will be getting an A; 75% is still a C.

College is about earning, not deserving. A lot of hard work has been put in to date, but unless students finish strong it doesn't mean much. No doubt you will soon start to hear murmurs of “burning-out” from your student, but as their teachers and their parents we must help them to persevere and fight through to the strong finish. If you are unsure how to best galvanize your student, or are unsuccessful in your own attempts to do so, please always remember that the Office of the First-Year Experience is here to serve not only enrolled Ragin’ Cajuns, but you their parents. Thank you for your support of the First-Year Experience at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Geaux Cajuns!

Phillip C. Arceneaux

Office of the First-Year Experience