

April/May 2015

Page 1

Inside this issue:

Finishing Strong	1
The Big Event 2015	2
Cutting the Nets	3
Acing Your Finals	3
Moving Home	4
Resources for the Sophomore Year	4
Semester in Review	5
In Theory	6

SPRING 2015

Important Dates

Last Day of Classes: **May 1**

Finals Begin: **May 4**

Mid-Exam Study Day: **May 6**

Finals Resume: **May 7**

Spring Commencement

Exercises: **May 15**

Semester Ends: **May 15**



Finishing Strong

It's a big deal. The first year of college can be a year of tumultuous change, uncertainty and anxiety. It can also be a year of unparalleled intellectual, social and emotional growth. The noted scholar Vincent Tinto identified three stages that can often be identified throughout the first year. The first stage is separation, in which students physically and/or emotionally move away from their former environment. Second, the transition stage is characterized by students feeling torn in their allegiances between their old environment and their new one. Finally, incorporation is the stage in which students now feel a full-fledged member of their new environment. In short, the first year can be a roller coaster ride for both students and their families.

As this first year of college comes to a close, take time to recognize what you and your student have accomplished. Ragin' Cajuns love a good celebration, so now is the time to take a few moments to reflect and celebrate. Here are some ideas of topics you may wish to discuss with your students in wrapping up the first year and preparing for the second:

- ✿ Let your student know that you recognize the changes that have occurred. Reinforce that completing the first year is an accomplishment. This can help remind your student that education is important in your family's values.
- ✿ Talk with them about the classes they have taken this year. What were their favorite courses? What classes gave them trouble? Help them to put this into the context of the greater issue of their future life's work. How certain are they about their choice of major? Changing majors after the first year can often be done without substantially increasing the length of time they will be in school.
- ✿ Ask your student how he/she feels about their level of engagement with UL Lafayette. Have they found student clubs or activities in which they feel comfortable? Have they discovered student organizations that may help them to develop résumé building skills and experiences or to network? Have they found a circle of friends? If not, encourage them to look on the UL Lafayette [Get Involved](#) website for a list of student groups and/or attend activities such as Get on Board Day in the fall.

These and other celebrations and family discussions over the summer months may help your student to continue to feel connected to UL Lafayette and return for their sophomore year refreshed and focused.



The Big Event 2015

[The Big Event](#) is UL Lafayette's largest community service project on campus, and work is already well under way to make the 2015 event one to remember. Inspired by the original event at [Texas A&M](#), The Big Event has expanded, now being held at hundreds of college campuses in the United States, as well as locations in Spain, Germany, Italy, and Pakistan! Ragin' Cajuns have a deep devotion to the Acadiana community, and The Big Event is their way of giving back as a thank you. With over 2,600 students volunteering their time on a single day, it truly is one of the easiest ways for students to get involved on campus and make new friends.

October 24, 2015 will mark the third time this student-run project has been put on here at campus. To help organize and run this massive undertaking, the university annually partners with the [United Way of Acadiana](#) as well as numerous community sponsors. If you are part of a business, or know of a business who might be interested in becoming a sponsor, additional information can be located on The Big Event's [donation and sponsorship page](#). The student executive board will be publishing information pertinent to students throughout the summer and fall months. In order to stay up to date, please feel free to connect with The Big Event by following it on the social media links below.

We firmly believe in the ideals and principles that guide The Big Event mission. Please encourage your son or daughter to join their classmates in giving one big thanks, on one big day, as a part of one big event.



Previous Community Partners

- [Acadiana Center for the Arts](#)
- [Another Child Foundation](#)
- [Compete 4 a Cause](#)
- [Duson Elementary](#)
- [Episcopal School of Acadiana](#)
- [Faith House](#)
- [Food Net of Acadiana](#)
- [Good Hope Baptist Church](#)
- [Habitat for Humanity](#)
- [Hearts of Hope](#)
- [Keep Lafayette Beautiful](#)
- [Lafayette High School](#)
- [Maddie's Footprints](#)
- [Maison de Williams](#)
- [Project Front Yard](#)
- [Second Harvest Food Bank](#)
- [Special Olympics](#)
- [St. Pius Elementary](#)
- [Temple Shalom](#)
- [The Extra Mile](#)
- [The Labyr Family Life Center](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Vermillionville](#)
- [Woodvale Elementary](#)





WEAR RED

We're All Family

You can support your son or daughter and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette by wearing red each Friday! And encourage your son or daughter to wear red on Fridays 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.

Tips for Passing Finals

- Make a study schedule and stick to it.
- Use mnemonic devices.
- Choose study locations wisely.
- Don't reread the entire course textbook.
- Actually look at your notes again.
- Make sure to get sleep. Don't pull all-nighters.
- Study socially by organizing study groups.
- Don't assume that you already know the material.

Cutting the Nets

One of the greatest triumphs and most well known traditions in modern sports is the cutting of the nets. What better way to remember a magical basketball finale than keeping what ushered in your success? At least that is what the [Ragin' Cajun Women's Basketball](#) team has to say.

Following a shaky regular season where the Lady Cajuns went 19-12 overall and 10-10 in the [Sun Belt Conference](#), they landed an offer to compete in the [Women's Basketball Invitational](#) post season tournament. The Lady Cajuns brought some spring life to Earl K. Long Gym by defeating the UT Pan American Broncs [78-56](#), the McNeese State Cowboys [63-58](#), and the Oral Roberts Golden Eagles [65-64](#) en route to the championship game. Facing a tough Siena University Saints team the Lady Cajuns pulled off the [52-50](#) win to earn the WBI Championship title. Sophomore [Keke Veal](#) of Opelousas was named the Most Valuable Player of the game. The winning shot that sealed the game came from senior [Robbie Brown](#) of Lafayette. Sophomore [Jaylyn Gordon](#) and junior [Kia Wilridge](#) both were named to the all-tournament team. The Lady Cajuns closed the season out with a bang, finishing with a record of 23-19.



Acing Final Exams

Your student has now been in college for roughly nine months and you probably feel pretty proud of him or her. Unfortunately, the academic calendar is ten months, not nine. A tendency amongst all college students when returning from spring break is to “check out” until summer hits.



Unfortunately passing finals is a pretty important step in making it to summer. One of the top things you can do to help prepare your student for finals is simply ask them when their finals are. The last few weeks are filled with project and paper deadlines, so studying for finals tends to be pushed out of site, out of mind. Asking them their finals schedule makes them begin to think about it and plan out their study schedule. The [schedule](#) for final exams can be located on the University Registrar's [website](#). Passing finals is one of the most important things your student will have to do each year. Help us give them the tools they need to succeed!

March 2015

Page 4

End of the Semester Checklist

- Study Hard
- Finish Exams
- Get Packed
- Clear Out Your Room
- Clean Everything
- Make an appointment with your C.A. or get an express check-out envelope from the front desk.

Tentative Fall 2015 Academic Calendar

- Aug 12: Last day to pay tuition
- Aug 24: Classes begin
- Aug 28: Last day for adding classes
- Sept 7: Labor Day
- Oct 1-2: Fall Break
- Oct 8: Last day to drop classes with a W
- Oct 19: Spring Advising begins
- Oct 30: Spring Advising ends
- Oct 31: Homecoming
- Nov 5: Last day to resign from the University
- Nov 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 4: Last day of classes
- Dec 7-11: Final Exams

Moving Home

Following finals, all on-campus residents must move out of their halls no later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9th. In order to properly check out, students may schedule an appointment with their community assistant (C.A.). Vacated rooms must be approved by hall staff, followed by each student submitting a check-out slip to the [University Housing Office](#) no later than August 19th. Once this process has been completed, the \$350.00 deposit will be refunded. There is an express check-out option, however choosing this option will waive the student's right to contest any damages subtracted from the deposit. Summer housing is available to students, which will be in Huger Hall. All that is required for consideration is: 1) submit the summer housing application, 2) pay any outstanding Housing debts, 3) apply for housing for the Fall 2015 semester. Please view Housing's [Helpful Tips for a Smooth Checkout](#) for additional information. Should you have any questions, University Housing can be contacted by email at oncampusliving@louisiana.edu or by phone at 337-482-6471.

Resources for the Sophomore Year

Many first-year students spend the summer months away from academics, working summer jobs or relaxing. This is often a necessary respite from the rigors of academia. Come August, encourage your student to reconnect and re-engage right away by utilizing any of these campus resources.

1) [Career Counseling](#) and [Career Services](#):

- ✿ If your student remains uncertain about his or her major, there are plenty of resources available to help your student explore and decide.
- ✿ For those who have made the decision, Career Services can help identify internships or part-time job opportunities in your student's field of study.
- ✿ Networking! This is the year to start attending on-campus career fairs and networking events.

2) [Academic Advising](#):

- ✿ Your student can meet with an advisor to ensure that he or she is on track to graduate on time.

3) [Academic Success Center](#):

- ✿ The place to go for tutoring or supplemental instruction. For those with strong GPAs, consider looking here for a position as a tutor.

4) [The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership](#):

- ✿ Sophomore year is the time to take an active role in leadership and service opportunities. These kinds of experiences lead to greater satisfaction while in college and better jobs upon graduation.

April/May 2015

Semester in Review

- 1) The new 3-ton fleur de lis was installed in the Quad.
- 2) A custom UL Lafayette guitar signed by [Blake Shelton](#) was donated to the Spring Gala auction.
- 3) The Lady Cajuns won the Women's Basketball Invitational.
- 4) [CSSA](#) lead the campus in celebrating the 2015 Chinese New Year.
- 5) Campus unveiled new updates in [transportation](#) and the [Student Union](#).
- 6) Members of the [Civil Engineering club](#) designed, built, and paddled the S.S. Wayne Toups to four different wins at Ole Miss.
- 7) Campus gating won a national silver award at [NOMMA](#).
- 8) Students joined the [Krewe of Roux](#) for the first annual Mardi Gras parade and ball on campus.
- 9) Chef Vigean Suparamaniam brought authentic Malaysian cuisine to UL Lafayette Dining.
- 10) The [College of Arts](#) put on L'eau de la Danse to celebrate the installation of the bamboo fountain.

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



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In Theory – Reflections on the University Experience

The arrival of warmer temperatures in South Louisiana means one thing: spring will soon give way to summer, at which time your son or daughter will no longer be a college freshman. The past nine months has no doubt been an emotional roller coaster for both you and your child, but never forget the value of those experiences in your child’s life. In the words of Kenyan photojournalist Dan Eldon, “the journey is the destination.” On the day your child walks across the stage to receive that diploma, it won’t be the piece of paper that qualifies them to enter the work force, it will be the knowledge they gained and experiences they faced which will truly warrant their entry as active participants in our global community.

The members of the Office of the First-Year Experience have walked the first leg of the journey with you and your child, but the time has come to part ways. We will always cherish the moments we shared with you and your child, but as Marianne Williamson said, “every ending is but a new beginning.” We must return to the start line to usher in the freshman class of 2019 while you and your child must continue on to reach the finish line. This chapter has come to a close, but there are still great stories of college yet to be written. We thank you for the honor and privilege of knowing your child and wish you the best as you move forward in life. Should your child ever need assistance, please remind them that OFYE’s door is always open to any student. Should you yourself ever require assistance, please contact [Dana Bekurs](#), the Assistant Director of OFYE. Thank you for your support of the Office of First-Year Experience at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Geaux Cajuns!

