

Parent Perspectives

Insights on your Student's Experience

Wear Red on Fridays!

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 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 Vermilion Hall or online at <http://bookstore.louisiana.edu>

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

August 2013

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 email: ofye@louisiana.edu or call the Office of the First-Year Experience at 337-482-6599.

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 how much sleep they are getting. For every 3 credit hours in which they are enrolled, encourage them to spend at least 5 hours per week reading, studying, and completing assignments. Students who are most successful completing a full-time course load spend 20-30 hours a week on homework, reading, and studying for tests.

Welcome Week: Presented by the Office of the Student Union and UPC

Welcome Week is one of the many [traditions](#) held during the first week of classes in the fall. Sponsored by the Office of the Student Union and the University Program Council, Welcome Week consists of activities meant to greet students as they come back to campus or arrive for the first time. These activities include a Fruit and Donut Give-away, Get on Board Day, Rec-Fest, Breakfast in the Quad, and Block Party. More information on all of these events can be found [here](#). Encourage your student to attend and enjoy these events and to join the tradition that has been around for years and will be for many years to come!

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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 Emergency Notification System (ENS). This is the official means of communication during a campus emergency. Learn more about ENS, health, safety and hurricane preparedness at <http://safety.louisiana.edu>

The Student Union Proudly Presents:
WELCOME WEEK

Monday, August 26 Wednesday, August 28 Thursday, August 29 Friday, August 30

Fruit and Donut Giveaway Rex Street 7:30 AM	Get on Board Day Quad 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Rec-Fest Rec Sports @ Bourgeois Hall 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Breakfast in the Quad 7:30 AM
		Block Party Rex Street 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	

UPC
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM COUNCIL

Freshman First Down:

The University Program Council (UPC), a student organization that plans campus events, created Freshman First Down to give incoming freshmen a sense of belonging. Now a tradition on campus, UPC is offering the family of every incoming freshman two (2) complimentary football game tickets to the October 5th, 2013 game with additional tickets available. All students get in FREE with a valid UL Lafayette ID.

In conjunction with Freshman First Down, the Office of the First Year Experience will be hosting a Parent Pow-Wow before the game where you will be able to meet some of the OFYE staff, ask questions or discuss your son/daughter's UL experience.

The Freshman First Down football game will be held on October 5th, 2013 against Texas State University. **Save the date** and be on the look for more details from UPC!

Season tickets are available from <http://ragincajuns.com/sports/2012/6/19/Tickets%20Central.aspx?path=tickets>

**National Recognition**

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is garnering national attention in a multitude of different ways. Listed below are a few of the recognitions that the University and UL community members have received:

- UL Lafayette ranks in the top 15% of colleges, ranking at #534 out of over 4,500 degree-granting institutions in the United States. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette also ranked #209 in Research Institutions and #142 in the South.
- Ernest J. Gaines, University of Louisiana at Lafayette writer-in-residence emeritus, receives the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the United States government.
- Dr. William Davie, UL Lafayette professor will receive the 2013 Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education this month.
- Daniel Sunjata, a University of Louisiana at Lafayette graduate, made his television acting debut appearing as FBI agent Paul Briggs on the new television series, *Graceland*.
- Charlotte Wharton, a member of the Ragin' Cajun Water Ski Team, won the overall championship at the Junior Masters Water Ski Tournament.
- UL Press publications are garnering literary prizes, nominations and recognition. *Dirty Rice: A Season in the Evangeline League* and *Hell or High Water: How Cajun Fortitude Withstood Hurricanes Rita and Ike* both have earned 2013 Independent Publishers Book Awards.
- Three accordion masters — Wayne Toups, Steve Riley and Wilson Savoy — earned a Grammy Award for their self-titled CD, "The Band Courtbouillon," earlier this year. Savoy is an instructor in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Traditional Music Program. Another UL music instructor, Corey Ledet, was also nominated in the Best Regional Roots Album category.

New Student Convocation: Class of 2017, Breaking World Records

Sunday, August 25th Cajundome Convention Center. Doors open at 3:15pm

We are excited to welcome the Class of 2017! [New Student Convocation](#) marks your student's official entrance into the UL academic community and the start of their undergraduate career. All new students are required to attend this event, but they won't want to miss the fun and excitement. At Convocation, we are going to put the Class of 2017 in the record books by breaking a unique world record. Speakers will engage our students in our convocation theme : CELEBRATE: Community, Culture, & College. Encourage your student to show up early, the first 2000 students to get there will receive a free t-shirt! Following New Student Convocation, all students are invited to attend [UL Fan Day](#) where they can meet the players, get autographs and purchase merchandise. After Fan Day, they can meet at specified rally points on campus, where Orientation Staff and Peer Mentors will be available to show them where their classes will be!

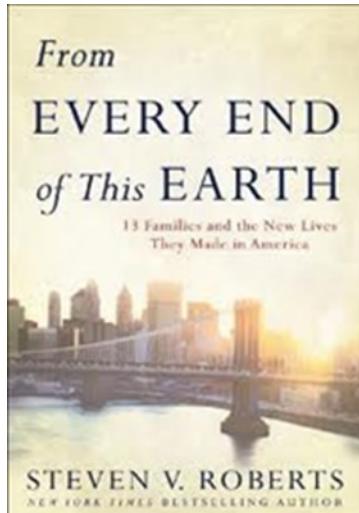
Separation anxiety? Check out the links on the Office of the First-Year Experience website for sound advice. We recommend "Resources for Parents" and "Transitional Issues."

<http://firstyear.louisiana.edu/content/good-know/parents>

Did You Know?

Thomas Morstead, New Orleans Saints' punter and kickoff specialist, was a surprise guest speaker at the final orientation this summer. He spoke about the importance of good grades and getting involved on campus and in the community.

Watch his full speech here. https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=xgR39cPWQSQ

**UNIV 100 Common Reading**

From *Every End of This Earth: 13 Families and the New Lives They Made in America*, by Steven V. Roberts is the 2014 UNIV 100 Common Reading text. Common Reading texts are selected to provide the entire Class of 2017 with a shared learning experience. With their UNIV 100 instructors, students will begin to examine and analyze their own world view in relation others and engage in discussions about cultures, demographics and human diversity.

Red Dot Discount Program

The Red Dot Discount Program was created to help students become more aware of the many businesses that support the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and its students, by offering discounts and/or special offers.

The Red Dot Discount Program is a partnership between community businesses and the UL Lafayette Student Government Association. The partnered businesses give students and faculty a discount for products or services. In turn, the Student Government promotes and advertises for the company. It's

a win-win situation for all parties involved.

To receive a discount, the student must show his/her current identification card (Cajun Card). Without their current I.D. card, students WILL NOT receive the discount specified in the contract.

Encourage your son or daughter to visit these business to save money and to support the local community!



For a list of all businesses in Red Dot partnership, visit <http://www.ulsga.com/red-dot-discount-program>

Campus Resource Spotlight

The Career Counseling Center provides career counseling services to prospective students, currently enrolled students and alumni. They have the tools to help you identify his/her interests and passions and connect them to potential careers. Research indicates that students who have clearly identified career interest and are more satisfied and successful in completing college experience.

If your student is unsure about his or her major or struggling with trying to find the perfect job for them, encourage them to visit the Career Counseling Center to receive assistance.

Career Counseling Center
Lee Hall, Room 110



Financial Aid

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is the most affordable university in Louisiana, according to the U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency List. In addition to leading Louisiana as the university with the lowest average net price to attend, UL Lafayette is among the top 10 percent of most affordable four-year public universities in the United States

But this does not mean that you and your students will not need some kind of financial assistance. The Office of Student Financial Aid is here to help you. Whether it be filling out your FAFSA or applying for Pell Grants, Student Loans, Scholarships, Grants, TOPS or Work study, the Office of Student Financial Aid is readily available to assist you.

Office of Student Financial Aid. Foster Hall, 1st Floor. (337) 482-6506
financialaid.louisiana.edu

All First-Time Freshmen receiving TOPS are required to attend one of the workshops below. Parents are invited to attend as well! *Please note the room change on Thursday, September 19th

Tuesday, September 17th: **HLG 147:** 2pm, 3pm, 4pm.
Wednesday, September 18th: **HLG 147:** 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm.
Thursday, September 19th: ***Moody 103:** 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Office of the First-Year Experience

The Office of the First-Year Experience (OFYE) is pleased to support and serve your student during the exciting and challenging transition period of the first year, and in particular, the first semester. OFYE supports freshmen in a multitude of ways. Academically, we offer the UNIV 100 course which allows students to gain or improve skills needed for success in the college environment. We collaborate with the Academic Success Center in offering a safety net to students identified as at-risk through the Grades First reporting system (more on that in the September newsletter). OFYE is also committed to the personal development and enrichment of our newest Ragin' Cajuns by offering and promoting many opportunities for engagement.

You can help promote your students' engagement in campus life—whether your student is a commuter or campus resident. Encourage your student to attend campus activities and explore student organizations in the first semester. If your student is living in campus housing and within driving distance of home, encourage him or her to stay for a weekend or two during the first month rather than drive home every weekend. This encourages making friends on campus by giving them time to socialize.

If your student is a commuter, he or she can be very engaged in campus life. Encourage your student to stay on campus for at least some late afternoons, even if the class schedule ends earlier. Mid-to-late afternoon is when many student organization meetings are held. This also allows time for students to attend tutoring, participate in study groups, and visit professors. Students who are engaged in their learning and in campus activities are more likely to finish their degrees and to graduate with a higher GPA than those who are not engaged.

Office of the First-Year Experience (OFYE)
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Move in Day Article

[How parents can help make college move in day a success.](#)

Commuter Student Article

[How to handle the issues with living at home.](#)



Like

Like the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Facebook to see what is happening around campus and with our alumni, to get updates on Ragin' Cajun Athletics, and to get a little bit of history.

<https://www.facebook.com/officialullafayette>

Attention Parents of Residential Students

All students who will be keeping a car on campus must purchase a campus parking permit. Permits are issued by the Office of Parking and Transit. We suggest that you purchase the permit on-line before arriving on campus, saving time and hassles upon your arrival. The student will then have it when they arrive at UL. Parking permits are purchased by going to ULink. Under the students tab and scrolling all the way down to the bottom of the page and click on the bus. Permits are 40 dollars for the fall semester and 40 dollars for the spring semester. When purchasing the permit the student should pick zone 22 R for the following residence halls (Coronna, Bonin, Baker, Huger, and Harris)

Problems normally arise when the student waits to purchase the parking permit once they arrive to campus. They often put their home address and the permit gets mailed home. If the student has a UL PO Box then he/she will have the permit mailed there. Make sure not to mail it home (because the student will have to go home to get it) or to the Residence Hall room number (can't be mailed to residence halls). For questions about parking permits please call the parking and transit office at 337-482-6858.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Office of the First-Year Experience

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The first five weeks of school are jam-packed with activities and events for your son or daughter to attend. From Welcome Week Activities sponsored by University Program Council, to academic workshops put on by our Academic Success Center, and everything in between, your son or daughter is sure find something they will enjoy and want to attend!

Check out the list of events at cajuncraze.louisiana.edu

"Go confidently in the direction of
your dreams. Live the life you have
imagined."

-Henry David Thoreau

Online Parent Guide
universityparent.com/lalaf



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WEAR RED