

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 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 and the Red Zone or online at <http://bookstore.louisiana.edu>

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University of Louisiana at Lafayette

September 2013

Ragin' Roar

As if just saying Ragin' Cajun football wasn't enough to cause excitement, Ragin' Roar is an annual pep rally held before the first home football game. Cheers, chants, competition, music, food, excitement, and anything else you could want from a pep rally can be found at Ragin' Roar. Athletic teams are introduced and greeted by students with *roaring* excitement and anticipation as football season approaches.

Sponsored by UPC, Ragin' Roar is yet another tradition held on campus where students can show their pride and generate some excitement for the upcoming semester.

Check out last years Ragin' Roar at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PsBhDA2-Dk>

New Student Convocation: Class of 2017, Breaking World Record

On August 25, 2013, all first-time freshmen were invited to New Student Convocation held in the Cajundome Convention center. There we had a few UL alumni welcome the students to campus, including UL (then USL) alumnus and Superbowl Quarterback Jake Delhomme. Topics of these speeches follow the Convocation theme; Community, Culture & College.

The most memorable part of New Student Convocation (and the part that you probably heard about) was the world record that was broken. A total of 2331 students, faculty, staff and alumni that were present wore fake red mustaches for 5 minutes, setting a new Guinness World Record.

It was a great way to start off the Fall 2013 semester and we hope your students enjoyed it as much as we did.



UL Class of 2017 breaking a Guinness World Record



See more pictures of the 2017 class by searching ulfreshman on www.tagboard.com!

Getting the year started: SOUL Camp, New Student Convocation and UNIV 100

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 2013

Around 325 incoming students participated in this year's 4th 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 pro-

ject at six elementary in Acadiana, Habitat for Humanity, and also the United Way of Acadiana's STEM Magnet Academy. The final three days were spent at Tall Timbers campsite in Woodworth, LA. Students were led through the four day experience by 30 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 is an annual event that is sponsored by the university for over 2500 freshmen that attended this August. The theme of New Student Convocation was CELEBRATE: Community, Culture & College. Students heard about the importance of these themes to their college experience. The Class of 2017 also broke a world record, joined the community in a

Fan Day tailgate at the Cajundome to kick off the Fall sports, and were guided by the Student Orientation Staff to find their classes!

UNIV 100– Cajun Connection

UNIV 100 is the university's First-Year Student Seminar. It is designed to help students develop skills in academics, further develop knowledge of campus resources, participate in community service and engage in a common reading experience meant to promote global competence.

UNIV 100 classes are purposely kept small, with 25 students or fewer per section and divided by colleges so students with similar majors are kept together. In addition each section has a trained upper-classman (called Peer Mentors) to provide incoming students with help through the course and help transitioning into college



2013 SOUL Camp Participants

CLASS OF 2017



Freshman First Down. Saturday, October 5th, 2013.

Follow [this link](#) to see the list of events happening around UL and around Lafayette for Freshman First Down.

[Register for Freshman First Down here](#)

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 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 often times 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 before classes began, that includes campus events as well as room to schedule class, work and study time. Your son or daughter can also download a copy of our [Student Survival Guide](#), which includes tips on many transition issues including time management.



Support Ragin' Cajun Athletics

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.

UL Athletics is garnering attention nationwide. Head football coach Mark Hudspeth lead the Ragin' Cajuns to a 2nd consecutive R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Championship. The Ragin' Cajuns Softball team has made it to back to back Super Regional appearances for the first time in school history. Sophomore pitcher Jordan Wallace was invited to join the USA softball team. Baseball made it back to a regional appearance.

Schedules and information on tickets for all events can be found online at [http:// www.ragincajuns.com](http://www.ragincajuns.com)

Campus Resource Spotlight

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership exists to promote the benefits of student involvement as a co-curricular learning experience. Additionally, the office exists to support, through workshops, retreats, training seminars, and more, to our [190+ registered student organizations](#). They can provide advice to students seeking ways to get involved, and provide leadership training and resources for student organization members, officers, and advisors. See what else they have to offer [here!](#)

Their mission is "to enhance the college experience by providing welcoming, intellectual and social opportunities that engage students in the life of the university. We do this by offering co-curricular opportunities that facilitate student development, self-governance, leadership, understanding, and citizenship in the community. This office currently consists of Greek Life, Student Organizations, and the Student Leadership Council."

Office of Student Engagement and Leadership
Martin Hall 223
(337) 482- 6272

<http://getinvolved.louisiana.edu/>



2013 Football Schedule

8/31: @Arkansas
9/7: @Kansas State
9/14: Nicholls State
9/24: @Akron
10/5: Texas State
10/15: @WKU
10/22: @Arkansas State
11/2: New Mexico State
11/7: Troy
11/16: @Georgia State
11/3: ULM



Grades First

Your student will be getting feedback in the next few weeks on attendance and grades. This will come to students through Grades First. Students who have missed class or who have grades below a C level will receive an email encouraging them to meet with an Academic Success Center counselor or Office of the First-Year Experience staff member.

<http://studentsuccess.louisiana.edu/>

Inside the University: Information on university issues, projects and accomplishments

UL Lafayette has garnered national praise from two major national publications. The university is among The Princeton Review's "Best 377 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 377 schools in the book during the 2011-2012 academic year. The 80-question survey asked students about their school's academics, administration, campus life, student body and themselves. "Each of our 377 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 are moving along at record pace as the university invests in providing top quality residential, student service, and learning facilities. Fall of 2011 saw the opening of Baker Hall, the first of four new residence halls that were built on campus. The new facilities increased the student housing capacity by 37%. The second of the buildings, Huger Hall opened in January of 2012. The remaining residential facilities, Bonin and Coronna Halls, were opened for the Fall of 2012.



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

Renovation to OK Allen Hall was completed for Fall 2012. This is the new location of Student Health Services and the Counseling Center and will make way for the expansion and renovation of the new Student Union complex.

The Student Union project began in the Summer of 2012 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.

"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."

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie
University President



Baker Hall

Flu Vaccines are available through [Student Health Services](#).

Where: Student Health Services located in Saucier Wellness Center
When: Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
Time: 7:30 am - 9:30 am
Cost: \$25.00

**University of Louisiana
at Lafayette**

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Website: ulorientation.com/parents

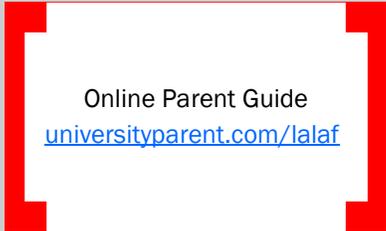


The first five weeks of school are jam packed with activities and events for your son or daughter to attend. From Welcome Week Activities sponsored by University Program Council, to academic workshops put on by our Academic Success Center, and everything in between, your son or daughter is sure find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



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L a f a y e t t e™



WEAR RED