

THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 September 4, 2025

Dr. Joseph Savoie's presidential legacy

Gracie Cormier
NEWS WRITER

When Dr. Joseph Savoie began his role as the sixth president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2008, he said, "I'm excited about the opportunity to help the University of Louisiana at Lafayette as it continues to move ahead, always focused on students' success."

The Office of the President announced Savoie's resignation to students via email on Jul. 30, 2025, in a letter titled "A New Chapter." He assumes a new role as president emeritus, a role that honorarily allows him to guide the administration of the school.

In the letter, Savoie reminisced on his time spent at the University, both in his positions as president and student. He also stated in his letter that he will "continue working on strengthening external partnerships with [UL Lafayette's] community of stakeholders."

Savoie began his academic career at UL Lafayette—University of Southwestern Louisiana at that time—where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He received his doctoral degree in Education from Columbia University's Teaching College and continued his working career at the University, holding multiple positions before becoming president.

Before his doctorate in 1995, he held the position of vice president for university advancement, and afterwards became commissioner of higher education for the State of Louisiana. He served as commissioner under Govs. Mike Foster, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and Bobby Jindal before returning to UL Lafayette to serve as president.

In his time as president, Savoie saw unprecedented challenges and changes, including the COVID-19 pandemic. An article by Leigh Guidry, a writer for The

Daily Advertiser in Lafayette, touched on one of the struggles that came with that: lower enrollment. The article, published in September 2020, explained that while many Louisiana colleges, including others in the University of Louisiana System, saw enrollment growth, UL Lafayette's enrollment decreased for the fifth year in a row.

However, after 2020, UL Lafayette saw a record high enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Much of this success can be attributed to the expansion of academic programs and a focus on community engagement within the university.

Under Savoie's leadership, the University launched its largest fundraising campaign, improved infrastructure and earned its position in the top 5% of research institutions in the United States after earning the Carnegie R1 designation in 2021.

Research efforts became more important to the University during Savoie's tenure, which is a feat unto itself, but in order to receive an R1 distinction, specifically, a school must spend over \$50 million on research and award over 70 doctoral degrees.

Despite the multitude of changes Savoie oversaw during his tenure, current students and alumni alike expressed a lack of knowledge as to the impact he had on the university as a whole as well as their programs.

Parker Romero, an alumnus from the class of 2025 with a bachelor's degree in mass communication and broadcasting, gave his input as someone who only recently graduated from the University.

Of his thoughts on Savoie, Romero said, "I've never met him personally, but I have heard that he's done a lot for the University, and a lot of the things he has done have been behind the scenes, but it's not really in my field, I guess."

He is not the only person to express this lack of understanding of Savoie's

impact. Emily Guidry, a sophomore studying electrical engineering, said, "I know that he was the president of the University. That's about it." She went on to clarify she had no knowledge of any impacts he might have had on the university or the program she is in.

However, this is not the only experience that students of UL Lafayette have had.

Olivia Guidry, who graduated from the University in May 2022 with a bachelor's degree in political science and english and recently graduated Washington University Law School, expressed her gratitude toward being able to work with him.

Guidry stated, "I found that my college experience was enriched by getting to work with Dr. Savoie, seeing how responsive he was to student concerns, and witnessing how proud he was to be a part of UL Lafayette."

Her experience with Savoie was more extensive than others who spoke about him. She said, "I interacted with Dr. Savoie while serving in various

leadership positions for student organizations on campus. From these interactions, I observed just how invested Dr. Savoie was in the University for the many years that he served as president. He cared deeply about the student experience and worked tirelessly to make UL Lafayette the best that it could be."

These student testimonies reflect the plethora of experiences former and current students have had with Dr. Savoie.

Romero's point on Dr. Savoie's behind-the-scenes work was particularly insightful, as it brings attention to the truth behind manufacturing a new campus life and attitude.

Despite the lack of attention his efforts may have received from those without a relationship with him, Savoie's impact on UL Lafayette should not be understated.

Expansions in programs such as engineering have led UL Lafayette to great things under Savoie's tenure, and many are sad to see him go.



Photo by Alyus Dick

Dr. Savoie being honored at Louisiana's opening football game Aug. 30

Three time alumnus steps up to fill the presidential role after 17 years

Jenna Kimball
NEWS WRITER

Three-time graduate Dr. Jaimie Hebert has accepted the role of interim president for the Fall 2025 semester as of Aug. 1.

Hebert is originally from the Abbeville, Louisiana area and attended UL Lafayette for his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree in statistics.

He served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Sam Houston State University and

the president of Georgia Southern University, until he returned to his alma mater in 2018 as the provost and vice president of academic affairs.

According to The Advocate, "In his first address to University of Louisiana at Lafayette stakeholders, interim president Jaimie Hebert said the administration's top two priorities are fiscal stability and process efficiency."

The job of president is a demanding and work-intensive role that requires excellent communication skills, along with time management skills, patience,

delegation and a deep understanding of the institution.

According to the Office of the President, two years after the founding of UL Lafayette in 1898, Edwin Lewis Stephens became the very first president and had a lasting impact on the school.

The name of the school was Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute at the time.

Other than leading the construction of Martin Hall, DeClouet Hall, Foster Hall and O.K. Allen Hall, Stephens also planted the first oak trees on campus, some of which are still standing today.

After Stephens retired in 1938, Lether Edward Frazar took on the role of president and led the construction of Mouton Hall, Broussard Hall, Earl K. Long Gym, Stephens Memorial Library and many other buildings.

He made many decisions and added many programs to expand the school during his short time in office.

Frazar added the departments of agriculture and engineering, along with music, commerce and publicity.

The third president, Dr. Joel Lafayette Fletcher Jr., started his term in 1941 and remained in office through World War II until he retired in 1965. Fletcher Jr. took an interest in helping soldiers get their college degrees after the war ended.

During his term, he led the construction of F.G. Mouton Hall, Montgomery Hall, Oliver Hall, Madison Hall, Griffin Hall and Coronna Hall.

He also officially changed the name of the school to University of Southwestern Louisiana.

In 1966, Dr. Clyde L. Rougeou became the fourth president of the university and managed to increase the number of students enrolled by almost 4000. Rougeou added Maxim Doucet Hall, Wharton Hall, the Student Union, Cajun Field, the Athletic Complex and

expanded the Edith Garland Dupré Library.

Many graduate programs were implemented during Rougeou's term, along with the addition of the doctoral program.

Succeeding Rougeou, Dr. Ray P. Authement earned the title of longest sitting president of a public university in the United States, beginning in 1973 and retiring from the position in 2008.

Due to his background, in which his parents had limited education, Authement took special interest in first-generation students at UL Lafayette.

During his 34 years as president, Authement changed the name of the University to University of Louisiana at Lafayette, established multiple research centers, earned the school many awards and new titles and constructed over 30 new buildings.

The most recent president of UL Lafayette was Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, who served in the role for 17 years until he retired from the position on Aug. 1 of this year. He is now serving as president emeritus.

Savoie led the university to becoming a part of the top five percent of research institutions in the U.S., added new degree programs, expanded fundraising efforts and opened a new health sciences portion of campus. He also initiated the renovation of many existing buildings and facilities, including the fitness center, research centers and student housing across campus.

The Board of Supervisors is currently working on finding the right person to become the next UL Lafayette president and lead the school to even greater heights.

Until the next permanent president is chosen, Dr. Jaimie Hebert will continue to take on the role of interim president during the Fall 2025 semester.



Photo by UL Communications

Headshot of new interim president Dr. Jamie Hebert

News

HOPE FOR A NEW COLLEGE

Honors program outlines new changes in hopes of becoming a college by 2030.

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Sports

LEFT US RAGIN'

Louisiana loses season opener to Rice 14-12, after offensive struggles throughout the game.

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Allons

CAJUNS GO INTERNATIONAL

Writer Andrew Courville traveled with Chamber Singers for international choral competition.

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Food Review

MAC AND CHEESE HEAVEN

Beaucoup Editor, Isabelle Brumley, reviews Shane's Loaded Mac Bar in Lafayette.

PAGE 7

Remembering Hurricane Katrina: Honoring survivors 20 years later

Kay Padilla
OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall off the coast of Louisiana, unleashing one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in U.S. history. Now, 20 years later, we pause to reflect on the lives lost, the communities reshaped and the lessons learned in the aftermath of the storm.

Hurricane Katrina began as a

Category 1 hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean but quickly strengthened into a Category 5 as it crossed the Gulf of Mexico. When it struck the Gulf Coast, it brought with it 125 mph winds and an unprecedented storm surge.

Over 1,800 people lost their lives to Hurricane Katrina, and the number continues to climb as many are still considered missing. Entire neighborhoods were submerged under several feet of water, especially

in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, a historically Black neighborhood. Tens of thousands of residents were displaced, forcing many to seek shelter in the Superdome and Ernest N. Morial Convention Center under inhumane conditions. In total, Katrina caused over \$186.3 billion in damage, making it the costliest hurricane in U.S. history at the time.

Katrina also laid bare systematic failures at the federal, state and local levels. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) faced scrutiny for its delayed mobilization, inadequate resources and poor coordination. In the days after the storm, images of dead bodies, stranded families, flooded streets and pleas for help written on rooftops hit national news.

Amid tragedy, there was resilience, courage and unity from the New Orleans community. First responders, volunteers and everyday citizens stepped up to rescue neighbors and provide aid. Communities across the country, and worldwide, opened their doors to evacuees.

This reshaped the demographic of New Orleans and evacuation hubs like Houston and Atlanta, because many residents did not return to their homes. Rebuilding was slow and expensive, with a large sum of money spent on rebuilding the failed levee system and other flood protections. Many historically Black neighborhoods were

slower to recover and some have still not rebuilt.

Today, New Orleans still bears scars of Katrina. Louisiana and Mississippi were heavily affected, with substantial economic damage and human deaths. Buildings have been reconstructed, tourism has returned and the culture along the coast has become even more vibrant. But for many residents, Hurricane Katrina was not just a weather event, it was a traumatic and defining moment that reshaped their lives forever.

Anniversaries like this one are not just times for remembrance but also for reflection. In a time of increasing climate uncertainty, Katrina's legacy serves both as a cautionary tale and a call to action.

Since Hurricane Katrina, there have been many documentaries detailing and exposing the real stories of survivors and victims, which have caused uproar on social media and in American society alike.

It reminds us of the importance of building physical, social and political systems that can withstand the power of nature.

As we remember survivors' stories, mourn the loss of family and community members, we must also honor the resilience of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, demand accountability and push for a safer future.

Hurricane Katrina changed America. Take a moment to reflect on all those who no longer have that opportunity.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burell

Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

Aug. 29

- At 12:46 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Taft Parking Garage regarding a theft report of a Mac laptop computer. Items were recovered. An arrest was made.

Aug. 28

- At 8:26 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop at 2678 Johnston Street. Narcotics were located and an arrest was made.
- At 1:51 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a parking lot crash at the Taft Street Parking Garage between a 2014 gray Chevrolet Silverado and a 2025 gray Chevrolet Silverado. No injuries were recorded.
- At 12:29 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the fourth floor of the Girard Park Circle Parking Tower in response to a parking lot crash involving a 2024 white Jeep Cherokee and a 2008 red Pontiac Solstice.

Aug. 27

- At 4:33 p.m., officers were dispatched to Cajun Village in reference to a fire.
- At 1:14 p.m., officers responded to a threat complaint via email and text messages.
- At 12:39 p.m., an officer received a walk-in complaint in reference to a crash that occurred in the Girard Park Circle Parking Tower involving a 2017 black Mercedes E300.

Aug. 26

- At 10:09 p.m., officers responded to Cypress Lake Plaza in reference to an electric scooter being stolen.








Aug. 25

- At 2:15 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the Student Union for suspicious circumstances.
- At 1:32 p.m., an officer was informed of a parking lot crash that occurred at Cajun Field between a white 2013 Chevrolet Malibu and a gray 2021 Toyota Camry. No injuries were reported.

Aug. 24

- At 9:05 p.m., officers were dispatched to Bonin Hall in reference to a drug complaint.
- At 7:20 p.m., officers were dispatched to Heritage Apartments in reference to a drug law violation.
- At 5:03 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Wyngate hotel in reference to a theft complaint.

Weather

Thursday 9/4	Friday 9/5	Saturday 9/6	Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8	Tuesday 9/9	Wednesday 9/10
 High: 91 F Low: 70 F	 High: 92 F Low: 73 F	 High: 90 F Low: 72 F	 High: 89 F Low: 70 F	 High: 86 F Low: 71 F	 High: 86 F Low: 71 F	 High: 88 F Low: 71 F

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

- Louisiana will continue to watch the tropics as hurricane season continues.
- Large thunderstorms hit Texas over the Labor Day weekend causing 'blinding' conditions.

- A ruthless, record-breaking heat wave has persisted in Japan over the summer, with temperatures reaching 107°F.

WHERE'S ALLAN?



I've been studying in the library all day. Now I've gotten lost, I need help finding my way.

Where am I?

Win a free sandwich from Roly Poly

The first UL student to recognize where The Vermilion's mascot, Allan the Alligator, was photographed on campus will win a free sandwich from Roly Poly on Coolidge Street in Lafayette. The first UL student to email the correct location of Allan to TheVermilion@louisiana.edu will receive the prize. The Vermilion will continue this contest each week until the end of the semester. Participants cannot win more than once a semester, and must be attentive to their emails.

The Honors Program shares new plan to become a college by 2030

Kayla Woods-Crane
MANAGING EDITOR

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Honors Program hopes to become the University's next academic college by 2030. Emily Sandoz, the director of the Honors Program, outlined the program's strategic plan created by head staff to further define the mission and goals of the program.

Sandoz, who uses she/they pronouns, said the previous directors made great strides on the path of turning the program into a college, something Sandoz hopes to complete. Currently, the program is a part of the University College, which Sandoz emphasized has been a very good experience, but becoming its own college would give the program "support from the university to compensate faculty directly through honors" and allow them to report directly to the academic head.

According to Sandoz, those are the last two pieces of becoming a college, which has "a visibility and formality associated with it that we think all students would benefit from."

At the center of their mission, outlined in their plan, is community building, socially and academically, to enhance student support within the program. Continuing to support students through social events, comfortable workspaces, one-on-one meetings with students and checking in are key parts of the program's plan.

On the academic side of support, one big priority of the program is making an honors minor so students can continue to receive financial aid for honors courses deemed outside of their major. Sandoz also aims to create an advisor

network for honors students so student needs can be met across different departments through a more consistent flow of communication.

Sandoz was selected as the program director nearly one year ago. They described that when they initially started the position they wanted to clarify exactly what the function of the Honors Program was. Though they felt like there were many people who understood what the program was about, if someone did not understand, there wasn't a clear way to explain it to them.

To repair this, the lead staff of the program met with various students, stakeholders and administrators to ask what they thought the program was about. In the end, they came up with a plan that they hope will not only lead the program to the prestigious title of a college, but also strengthen the community of the program itself and bridge the gap between honors and the rest of the University.

This past summer marked the unofficial enactment of their plan by starting with a concerted effort to recruit incoming freshmen before school started rather than at orientation.

According to Ethan Gautreau, the coordinator for the Honors Program, the recruitment effort used data to target students that met the requirements to be in the program. "Really, it's that what we're trying to work against is students self-selecting before they even get here, that they're not honors material. We're trying to dissuade that," Gautreau said.

To be admitted into the honors program, previously, students had to have a 3.2 unweighted GPA, but the program has upped its GPA

requirement to 3.5 for first-time freshmen, continuing students and transfer students.

First-time freshmen also have to have a 23 or higher composite ACT score or 1130 SAT score.

To graduate from the program, students have to maintain a 3.5 or higher and are also required to take six semesters of Honors seminar, at least 12 semester hours of honors courses with an average grade of "B" or better and complete a senior project to present at the Honors Poster Symposium.

As of now, out of the 761 students enrolled in the honors program, 377 of them are a combination of first-time freshmen and transfer students, a number Gautreau and Sandoz both said could change in the future.

For Sandoz though, retention in the honors program is important, but

fostering personal and academic growth for students is more important and something their plan aims to fine tune within the program.

"Because yes, it matters who graduates from honors, but it also matters, are you helping with their retention more broadly in their communities," Sandoz said.

Overall, both Sandoz and Gautreau said that the most important aspect of a potential honors student is a genuine curiosity and want to learn, and if a student is willing to commit themselves to "academic excellence" then they should consider joining the program.

"What honors offers you a chance to do is to make that education your own, to have projects that specify particular interests, to learn to teach and speak and... have discourse on things that really matter to you," Sandoz explained.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Judice-Rickels Hall for the Honors Program

Health

Stress relief by managing time

Reese Provost
NEWS WRITER

The return to school is almost always a tumultuous time. With upperclassmen returning and new students learning to make their way, commuters making the drive and residential students experiencing independence, all on top of professors beginning their lectures in the first week, it can be very easy to get lost in the details.

Stress and anxiety regarding assignments, tests, jobs, organizational meetings and social relationships can wear students out, so it is essential for students to exercise good time management habits.

It is not uncommon for a student to feel a sense of fatigue when living through the academic experience. According to the National Cancer Institute, fatigue can be described as "an extreme sense of tiredness and lack of energy that can interfere with a person's usual daily activities."

Episodes of headaches, inattentiveness, forgetfulness, loss of sleep at night and falling asleep during the day are typical symptoms of fatigue.

The piling of assignments, obligation to study and the commitment to extracurricular activities are factors that can directly cause fatigue if they are approached in either a careless or unorganized manner, such as turning in an assignment the night before it is due or cramming material for a test the same day that it is given.

Learning to manage one's time can alleviate these symptoms of fatigue because it allows for the student to designate time for their obligations which leaves space for free time. This also allows for the student to be more conscious of their academic and extracurricular responsibilities, which makes it simpler for said responsibilities to be completed.

Mary Stegall, an adjunct instructor of the UL Honors Program, hosts frequent seminars on time management for college students. When asked what time management habits she thought

succeeded or failed that she observed in her years of teaching, she said, "I think what succeeds is putting down your priorities first in order to take care of that [...], I think also is judging what works best for you."

Knowing what it is that needs to get done is the first step to creating a well-organized schedule. Once a student realizes what takes priority, they can then think of how they want to achieve whatever it is they want or need to do.

Completing this first step can be started by recording what needs to be done. This can be in the form of a planner, calendar or a simple to-do list.

The next step is finding the best way to approach and accomplish the tasks one has set for themselves. To do this, one can, as Juan Ramon Rojas Garcia, a senior electrical engineering student, says, "Find the time where you can sit down [...] by yourself or with other people that you can sit down and discuss a problem with yourself or with them, and try to get a deeper understanding of what you're actually doing."

It is necessary to have a grasp of what needs to be done instead of carelessly rushing to complete it. This can cause unnecessary stress and conflict in the future.

The last crucial part is to make sure to leave enough time for leisure and relaxation.

This helps relieve the stress of what might be going on in one's day-to-day life. Jillian Moody, a senior chemistry student, says, "I think I do best whenever I have a schedule and there's a lot of time for everything [...] it's a careful balance between what you can handle, and still push yourself, but also have time to relax and refresh."

The final concept to understanding how to manage time is to find what works best for the individual.

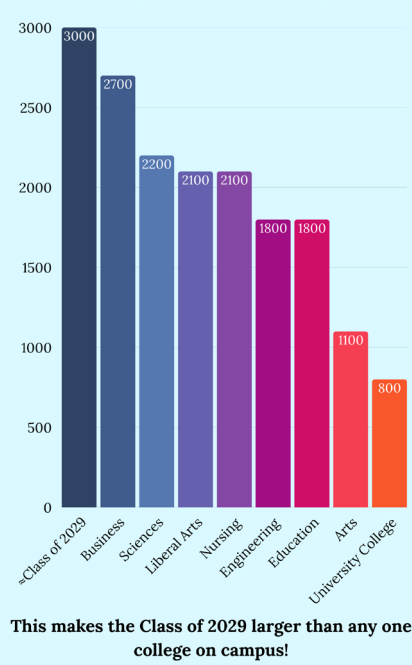
If something someone does to get through their week does not work for someone else when they try it, or vice versa, then that is okay.

It takes time, but with patience and an open mind, managing one's time can become second nature.

The More You Know

Incoming class of 2029 statistics

Approximate Students Enrolled per College vs. Incoming Class



Incoming Class Size per Year

Fall 2025.....(exact # TBA)	3,000+
Fall 2024.....	3,064
Fall 2023.....	3,066
Fall 2022.....	2,885
Fall 2021.....	2,693

This is the third year in a row UL has taken in over 3,000 students!

Class of 2029 Academic Strength

3.55 Average Core GPA

25.16 Average ACT Composite Superscore

377 Recruited to the Honors Program (includes 1st time freshman and new transfer students)

NOTE:

Numbers provided are from 2025 Freshman Convocation and the Honors Program. They are subject to change in the three weeks between then and UL Census Day on Friday Sept. 12, 2025.

The exact number of students in the newest incoming class and a more in-depth analysis of them will be available then. Stay tuned!

Graphics by Caitlyn Comeaux



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SUBMISSIONS

All letters to the editor and guest editorials must include the author's full name and phone number and be no longer than 400 words in length. Submissions are edited for libel and vulgarity only. Editorial and columns reflect the author's opinion and not those of The Vermilion staff. All advertisements must be submitted by the Friday before publication at thevermilion@louisiana.edu.

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Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power

No. 1

INSTRUCTIONS

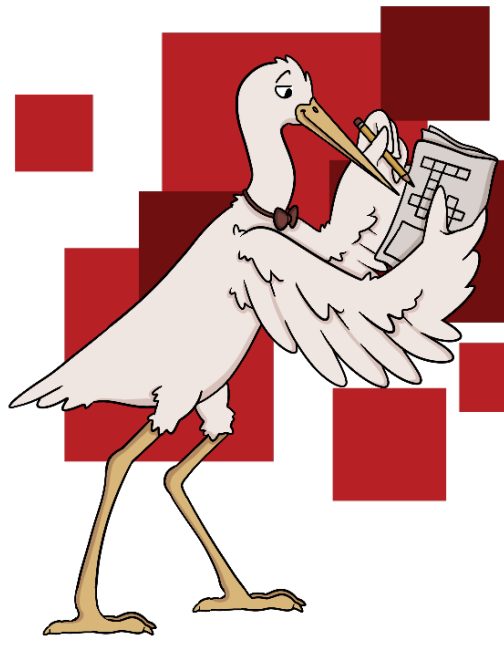
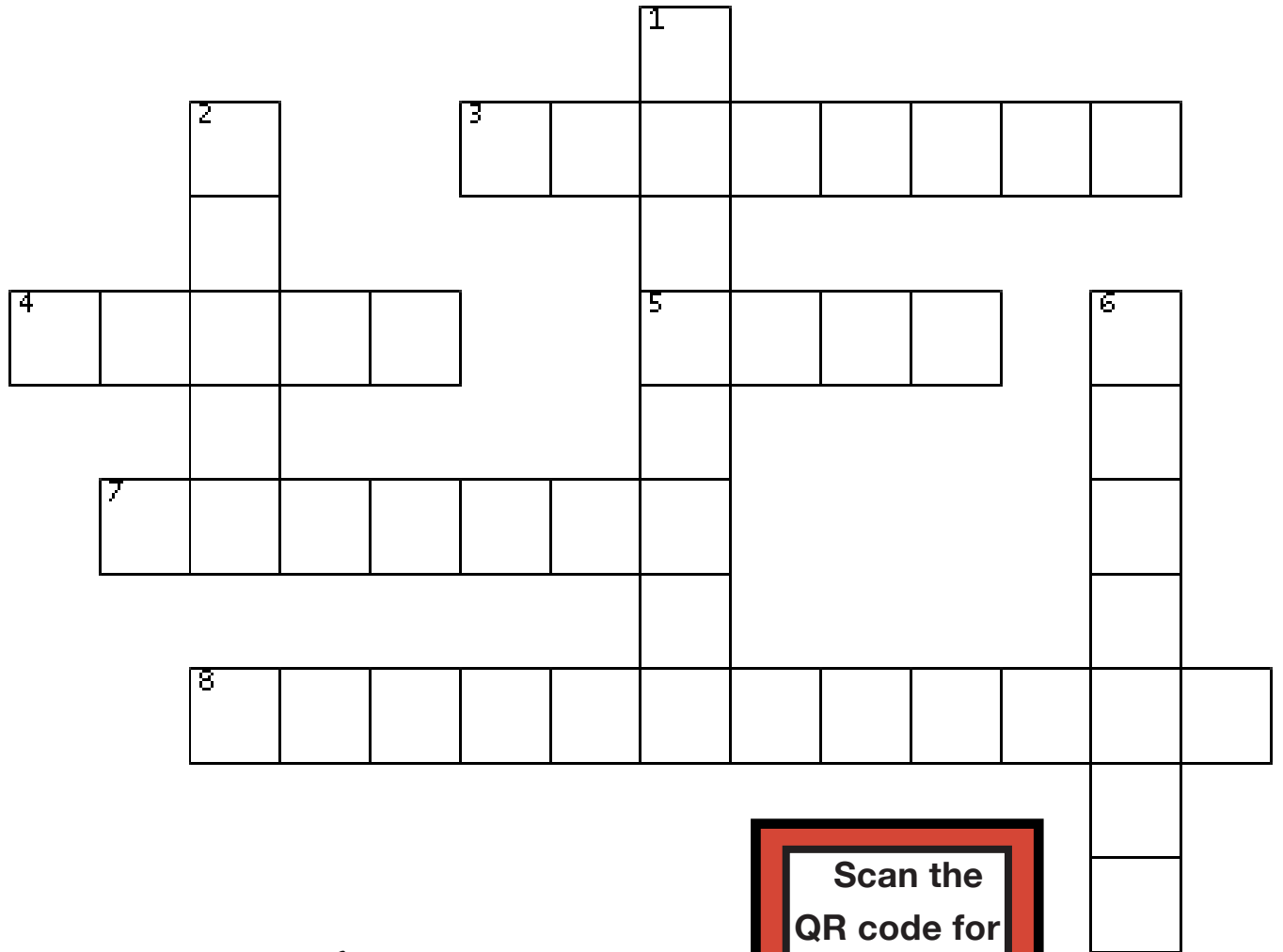
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- Which weekend night is Shane's Loaded Mac Bar the busiest?
- Who was the quarterback that came in to replace Walker Howard (last name).
- According to Superman, being optimistic is the real ___ rock.
- A potential honors student has to have a ___ curiosity.
- What title did Dr. Joseph Savoie hold in the State government in Education before working at the University?

DOWN

- Who was the first president of UL Lafayette? Edwin Lewis ___.
- UL Lafayette runs the largest ___ flag.
- The Chamber Singers first performance in Brugge, Belgium, was at Our Lady of the ___.



Cajun Candids Welcome Back

Photos by Caitlyn Comeaux



Sports

Offensive struggles: Ragin' Cajuns lose to Rice Owls 14-12

Charles Martin
SPORTS EDITOR

Spirits were high among the Ragin' Cajun faithful as 22,148 people poured into the newly renovated Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium to see Louisiana and hometown quarterback, Walker Howard, take on the Rice Owls in the season opener.

Those spirits would be slowly crushed over the course of the game as the Cajuns lost 14-12.

This is the first time Louisiana has started the season 0-1 since 2021, when the Cajuns lost to the Texas Longhorns.

It was all Owls in the first half. Rice, under first-year head coach Scott Abell, brought with them a brand-new option-based scheme. The Cajun defense was woefully underprepared, allowing Rice to keep possession of the ball and march down the field twice for two touchdowns.

At the same time that the defense was struggling against the well-oiled machine that was Rice's offense, the Cajun offense was struggling to find anything.

Despite the hype of transfer quarterback Walker Howard, he seemed to be uncomfortable in the Cajun offense. Despite a good first drive that ended in a field goal, Howard and the offense struggled to do anything the rest of the first half.

Throughout the first half, and the game as a whole, Howard struggled with accuracy. He routinely overthrew receivers or threw to spots in the field where no receivers were. Howard would finish the game with a less than 50% completion rate and only 88 yards through the air, with an interception on an underthrown pass thrown in as well.

Howard struggled throughout the game, but his new receiving did not help him with his performance at all.

That new corps was headlined by fellow transfer Shelton Sampson Jr., a former four star from LSU. Sampson

led the team in targets and receptions. Finishing the game catching only four of his 12 targets for 59 yards. This showed a glaring issue that Sampson and the rest of the Louisiana receivers were struggling with: drops.

It felt as if every time an important third down came up, the ball would go to Sampson and he would drop it. Sometimes it was a poor ball from Howard, other times it was just a lack of concentration.

Sampson, like the rest of the receiving room, was entirely new except for returning senior Robert Williams, who recorded zero receptions by the end of the game. The only other returning pass catcher was sophomore tight end, Caden Jensen, who only caught one pass for four yards.

The only consistent part of the Cajun offense was the run game, headlined by veteran backs Zylan Perry and Bill Davis.

Both backs would receive equal touches during the game, both having 11 carries by the end of the game. Davis would lead the way, churning out 58 yards, but Perry would not be far back, slicing his way through for 46 yards.

Despite his poor performance through the air, Howard proved to be an equal to Davis and Perry on the ground. He would add 47 yards on the ground, including the Cajuns sole touchdown in the third quarter.

The only offensive bright spot came during the third when Howard, using his legs, led the offense 98 yards down the field. He would cap it off with a 25-yard touchdown run, bringing the Cajuns within two points of Rice.

The story of the second half was solely about the Louisiana defense, who came out of the tunnel at half looking like a completely different unit.

The defense, led by senior linebackers Jaden Dugger and Terrence Williams, would force the Owls to punt on four of their five second half drives. The moment of the game came toward the end, the Owls had marched into the

redzone, and the Cajun defense decided they would not break.

Despite it being first and goal on the Louisiana six-yard line, the defense would stop four straight runs to force a turnover on downs, giving the Cajuns one last chance to win the game.

Hopes for the comeback were ended after one play, as Walker Howard was injured after a 25-yard pass to Sampson, taking him out for the rest of the game. This injury would force redshirt freshman Daniel Beale to trot out onto the field to win.

He would proceed to go 0/6, turning

the ball over on downs and allowing Rice to kneel out the clock for the win.

This was a game that Louisiana should have easily won. The defense played their hearts out, holding a team to 14 points should mean a win. This loss solely falls on the lack of a passing game from the Cajuns offense.

The Cajuns have a chance to bounce back this week, as they host the McNeese St. Cowboys in the Battle of I-10. They need to use this game to get back on track, especially since they will go on the road to face the Missouri Tigers in week three.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Walker Howard breaks off for a 25-yard QB run for a touchdown against Rice Aug. 30

The freshman's guide to football

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

Stepping from high school into college can already come with a bunch of culture shocks—you get to pick your own schedule, use communal bathrooms and walk 15 minutes in the blazing heat to get to your classes.

Whatever it may be, enough is already piled onto your plate for you to be worrying about football season.

When it comes to college football games, they can already be quite intimidating, especially since we're repping a Division 1 school.

Most students' biggest fear factor for games is what to wear. How should my hair be? Should I wear shorts or jeans? Is face paint weird? To answer all of your questions, simply, I would say: just wear red. That's it.

It's very easy to make your outfit the most complicated part of your Saturday,

which is to each their own; however, it should not be the sole reason as to whether you even go or not. As long as you're dressed comfortably, prepared for the heat and sporting the right colors, you're good to go.

In all seriousness, there is a lot of anxiety when it comes to game day, typically in preparation. You might stress about where to get your ticket or where you're going to park; the list goes on.

When it comes to parking, it's really easy to experience some difficulties if not thought ahead. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette offers a single-game parking pass for \$20, a season parking pass for \$60 and a tailgating pass for \$200. Important to note, though, is that all parking passes are paid for online and won't be sold at Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium.

Yet like all college students, we aren't made of money. Thankfully, Louisiana offers a lot of free parking options.

Blackham Coliseum, Intramural Fields, the CGI Lot, the Lite Center and most popularly, the Cajun Field are all places where you can freely leave your car and walk to the stadium.

If parking seems too complicated, Louisiana offers a free shuttle that picks you up from campus, on Rex St., and to the stadium. This shuttle will be en route until one hour after the end of the game.

Now, spoiler alert, the first part of the game is not actually the game.

Yeah, you heard me right. It's actually tailgating.

No matter what college you go to, there will always be a tailgate happening. At Louisiana, tailgating takes place on the practice field, right next to the stadium, starting four hours before kickoff.

Groups and organizations such as sororities, fraternities, ministries and even businesses, typically early on in the season, will appear with tents, serving food, beverages and sometimes games and prizes—it's true, I won a hat one time.

Once the tailgate is over, it is officially game time. The gates will open at Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium and you're free to hit the student section, designated in Sections 106-108.

Don't worry if you're running late, they have an overflow seating area in the north endzone.

Now, at this point, I know you must be wondering what more I could possibly have to say but the game hasn't quite started just yet. Before kickoff, Louisiana's marching band takes the field playing the Ragin' Cajun Fight Song.

While this is happening, Chi Alpha Campus Ministry runs the largest state flag across the field. As a D1 campus, we take much pride in everything we do, especially when no other school in the state can compare to the size of our flag.

The best part about this run is that it's student-led. Before the gates open, students meet at Chi Alpha's tent during

the tailgate and enter the stadium about an hour before kickoff to prepare for the run. So if you're looking for some last-minute hype right before the game, this is your chance.

Furthermore, everyone should be feeling some type of anticipation for this year's season since we will finally get to experience the new stadium.

For those who don't know, Louisiana has been working on a \$65 million project—the newly built and refurbished Our Lady of Lourdes Stadium. After a year and eight months of construction, the long, eager wait has come to an end, with new luxuries and a modern style incorporated. This year will definitely be one for the books.

Games typically last around three hours, so you will most definitely get hungry.

Thankfully, concessions will be sold the whole time, and even more so for those who have declining balance, because certain stands will actually use it.

Last but not least, the most important and the most forgotten information I have to share: tickets. Louisiana, as a college, uses mobile ticketing, and therefore, tickets have to be purchased digitally through a link sent to your school email or at ragincajuns.com.

As a student, you can attend games for free but you still must download either on the website or add it to your mobile wallet. If you have guests, their tickets will cost \$10 each.

Overall, as a first-time freshman, it's intimidating to walk into an environment where everyone else knows what to do but you. However, it truly is your mind that tricks you into overthinking all these little details, when in reality, it's so much more laid back. I hope this guide truly helps you and allows you not to take such a fun experience and fill it with anxiety or worry.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

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Allons

The Chamber Singers competed in an international competition

Andrew Courville
ALLONS WRITER

What did I do this summer? Apart from being a camp counselor and binge-watching all of Glee, I'd say competing at the CantaRode International Choral Festival was the icing on the cake. As a member of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Chamber Singers, I spent nine months preparing for our international debut under the direction of the University's director of choral activities, Dr. William Plummer.

Following our tour in Brugge and Ghent in Belgium in late May, we competed in Kerkrade, Netherlands in early June. From dozens of applying choirs, very few were accepted to compete. In the end, the Chamber Singers placed fifth out of 10 contenders.

In writing this article, I was delighted to reconnect with my colleagues and relive our shared experiences. Ty Crump, a sophomore majoring in early childhood education and a returning choir member, said, "Knowing that we beat people who have travelled internationally time and time again... I was surprised, and I was happy for us because we put in a lot of work."

Considering the world-renowned competitors, this being our inaugural overseas performance and the diversity of majors and classifications within the Chamber Singers, placing fifth is a remarkable testament to the caliber of people studying at this university.

Despite our exhaustion after 36 hours of travel, everyone would agree that Brugge being our first stop made up for it. The city is filled with canals and even more history. Photos, although beautiful, couldn't capture the feeling of being thrown back in time.

After our first concert at the 749-year-old Our Lady of the Pottery, we were astonished by the praise from the packed audience. The church clergy, to whom we're so grateful for allowing us to sing in their revered space, even requested a recording of our "Ave Maria" by Kevin Membly for their 750th anniversary commemorations.

Dr. Plummer works tirelessly every semester to introduce us to new and diverse music. For this competition, we

performed 40 minutes of music from memory, utilizing eight languages, including Hungarian, Portuguese and Cajun French. They combined at least six different styles, among them vocal jazz and Renaissance madrigal, while tackling themes of death, love, faith, solitude and perseverance.

I couldn't choose a favorite piece from such a unique repertoire, so I let Ty choose for me. Her favorite, "Butterfly," by Mia Makaroff, is an upbeat a cappella pop arrangement with scatting as it describes the brief life of a butterfly (and a crowd favorite).

Another prestigious performance was at the acclaimed Saint Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent. Former member Ashtyn Raxdale, a graduate student in speech pathology, remembered, "When I walked in there... I got teary eyed just thinking how lucky am I to be able to perform here."

It was truly breathtaking to sing beneath the ornate domes on grounds that have been consecrated since the tenth century, surrounded by grandiose paintings, marble sculptures and golden altar sets.

Not to mention the world-renowned Ghent Altarpiece, possibly the most influential painting in Christianity, was a few feet away.

Alumnus and former marketing major Daniel Richard remarked on our networking experiences with other

choirs. After the competition, all the choirs were invited to a mixer. Yet, instead of tears and tension, we enjoyed each other's company "not as separate choirs, but just as a bunch of young people having fun and teaching each other our culture," he said.

We also performed at a community event in the Netherlands alongside a competing choir from Austria, the Tiroler Landesjugendchor and a local men's chorus. We also held a showstopping joint concert with the Jacksonville State University A Cappella Choir whilst in Brugge. I was excited to talk to peers from Switzerland and Slovenia. Other members of the University team met others from America and Belarus.

I couldn't express my appreciation for those who made the opportunity possible. Dr. Plummer expressed gratitude to former University President Joseph Savoie for his support over the years, as well as to all the donors and the students who've passed through the Chamber Singers during the 13 years Dr. Plummer has taught the course.

Thinking of the future, Dr. Plummer said, "Things that are sustained look like quality, trajectory, mission and excellence." If everyone contributes their "willingness and their readiness to do that, then we can do it again and again," alluding to hopes of future travel plans for the choral program.

When asked how the Chamber Singers have impacted her life, Isabella Manrique, newly graduated from her psychology master's program, said, "I made some amazing friends and memories. It strengthened my love for music and showed me that people from all walks of life can work together to achieve great things. This program will always hold a special place in my heart."

Gwyneth Rees, now pursuing a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling at Loyola University in New Orleans, is currently researching "the effects of music ensemble membership on adolescents with depression," partly inspired by the Chamber Singers. She stated that the choir has "instilled in me a value for collaboration, listening to others and also being able to have empathy for where people are in their musical journey."

A focus of the CantaRode is that music brings people together. This experience not only made us more well-rounded, but also gave us a family where we know we're welcome. For that, I thank Dr. Plummer for fostering an environment of kindness and perseverance.

In short, the competition was a remarkable feat many years in the making, and the start of something new for the arts in Southwest Louisiana.

I can hope that our vibrant community continues to support that work.



Photo by Brenly Murry

UL Lafayette Chamber Singers performing at the Heilige Magdalenakerk in Brugge, Belgium

"Superman": A true punk rocker

Landon Fruge
ALLONS WRITER

Growing up, I was not that invested in superheroes. Later on though, this would start to change greatly. I would start to become heavily infatuated with characters such as Spiderman, Batman and Moon Knight. Despite my growing love for superheroes though, I never seemed to find myself that into Superman.

When I was young, I used to picture Superman as this just really strong dude and not too much else. When movies like "Man of Steel" and "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" came out, I never really bothered to watch them, but hearing about them would begin to further change my view of the character. They made me start leaning more into that mindset as well as thinking of Superman as an antagonist, in a sense.

The "Injustice" game series would also further push this narrative into my head, cementing Superman as this character

who, if he loses his mind, becomes some being of mass destruction.

Many characters in the future would take up this idea of a powerful being who uses their strength to commit heinous actions, such as Omni-man or Homelander. It wouldn't be until last year that this influx of these archetypes led to people to some degree reflecting on Superman and what he stands for.

During this time, I'd see many videos showing people doing heroic actions accompanied by the song "Starman" by David Bowie with an image of Superman on the bottom of the video. It was from these memes where I would learn more about what Superman was meant to represent, hope. So when, eventually, it was announced that there was a new Superman movie in development, I was actually somewhat intrigued this time.

It wouldn't be until I started hearing about how great the movie was that I had decided to go see it myself. After watching, I can say for sure that Superman has moved up to being one

of my favorite superheroes. This movie does an amazing job at portraying exactly what Superman is meant to be, rather the edgier persona he has taken up in more recent times.

This movie starts off by showing you exactly what you're in for and what to expect. It starts by showing Superman heavily injured lying in the snow telling you that three minutes ago Superman lost his first ever battle. With this it establishes that this isn't the insanely powerful and pretty much god-like Superman that the media has been portraying him as up until this point. It shows the audience that this Superman is vulnerable, making him feel more human.

In the movie, there are many scenes that incredibly depict just how kind this Superman is too. He constantly goes out his way to save people during the movie. He even has these moments where he will stop in the middle of battle to make sure people are okay, and when the world gets upset with him, he doesn't get mad, he just keeps on walking. By far my favorite showcase of this is where he stops mid-battle to protect even a squirrel from dying.

The cinematography of some of these scenes even further helps drive this feeling of hope into the audience. A core thing about Superman is that he is healed and made stronger by the power of the yellow sun. As a result, there are many beautiful scenes in the movie where Superman is flying in the sky above others and the sun is shining behind him ever so brightly, creating this almost unreal and vibrant scene showing off the hope people see in Superman.

Now while Superman is my favorite character in the movie and the main part of it, there are so many other cool characters within this movie. It has cameos from characters such as Guy Gardner, Mr. Terrific, Hawkgirl and even Metamorpho. They each have these really cool moments within the movie and each

have such amazing and cool personalities that I can't wait to see more of in the future of James Gunn's DC Universe.

There is also Krypto, Superman's cousin's dog. Krypto was a really funny part of the movie, rather than just being like some obedient pet that listens to Superman's commands, he acts exactly like most dogs. He is extremely playful and energetic, constantly causing a lot of damage and even accidentally injuring Superman.

Even when it comes down to the more human characters like Lois Lane and Jimmy, they are also such great characters throughout the movie. Jimmy has a lot of funny moments throughout and Lois Lane greatly helps to further the plot and help with Superman as he fights against Ultraman, the Engineer and Lex Luthor.

This brings me to another highlight of the movie, Lex Luthor. In this movie Lex constantly serves as this symbol and envy and hate towards Superman. Every step of the way he does whatever he can to hurt and ridicule him. It makes it all the more rewarding when he eventually gets defeated and sent to jail.

To me, this movie drives home a major theme that I feel is more important now than ever: to be kind towards others and to be optimistic.

In today's society, so many people are cynical that it is sometimes difficult to be optimistic. There might be a show or something you like and online all you see is a bunch of hate towards it, for no reason than simply just to hate and be cynical.

I've even seen people hate others for doing good things and being kind.

In times like these, it's important to be optimistic, to express trust in others and humanity. To have faith in others. As Superman himself says, "Maybe that's the real punk rock." If punk rock is to be rebellious, then in a world where cynicism and hate is commonplace, there is nothing more punk rock than being optimistic and sticking to your principles.

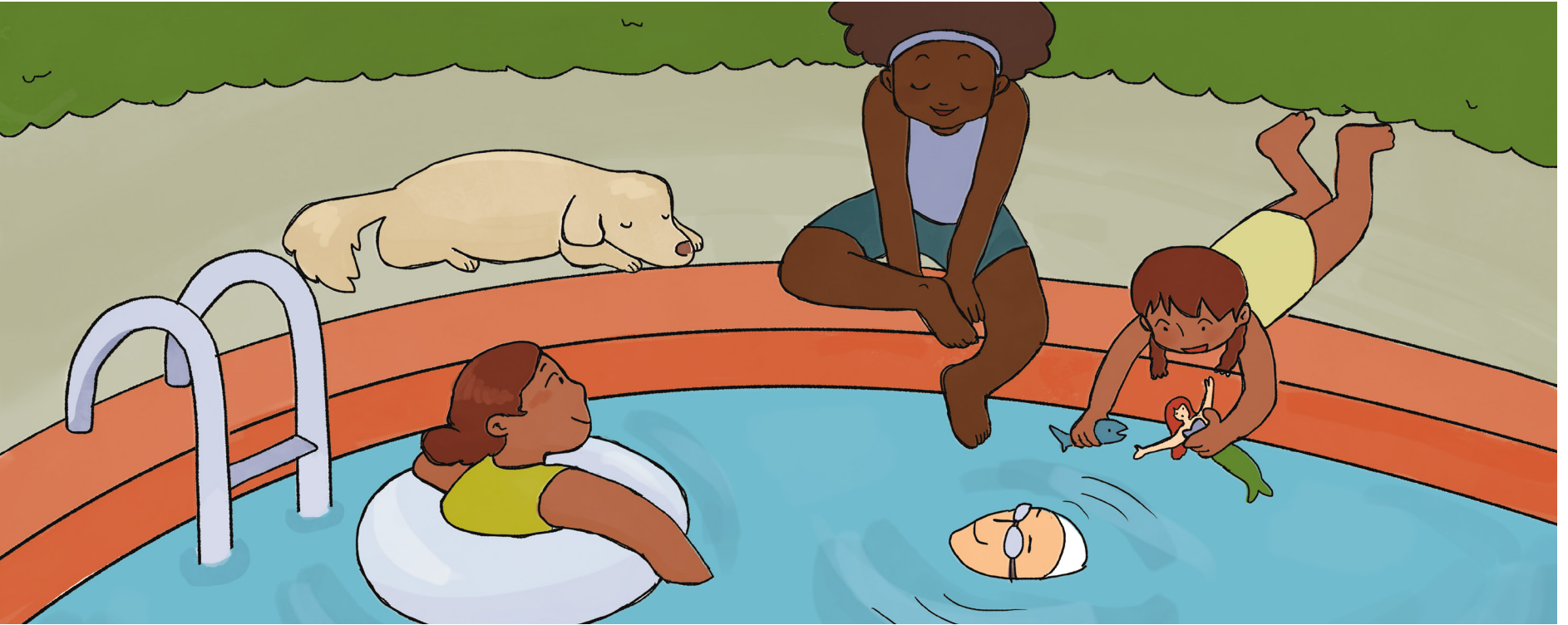


Graphic by Landon Fruge

Beaucoup

Summer Activities

The Beaucoup section writes about their summer adventures. Below are their thoughts.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

Ja'lyn Braud

ALLONS WRITER

I must say this summer was simple, yet one of my favorites. The majority of my summer went to working at a daycare. Though some days were way more chaotic than others, as you can expect, those kids filled me with pure joy.

I also attended worship nights at Louisiana State University.

Living near Baton Rouge, I thought it would be fun to attend one or two of them. Yet somehow I ended up going

every single week, becoming friends with so many people and experiencing such great moments.

In addition, though my summer was pretty routine, every now and again I found myself coming back down to Lafayette, my home away from home. Whether it was to try Coffeeweed Cottage before it closed or just to catch up with friends, I kept coming back.

All being said, with few activities keeping me occupied, this summer was great, and I hope to have many more just like.

Sadie Lynn Burrell

GRAPHICS ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first big thing I did over summer was working on art to sell at Art Walk here in Lafayette; it was really fun to have a project to work towards.

Similarly, I made a short animated film for an online competition called Art Fight, where you draw other people's characters. I made the film for my friend, an artist I admire, and it made me very happy when they liked it.

In July, I took a family trip to Dahlonega, Georgia, where we stayed in a house in the mountains.

It was really fun spending time with my grandma, cousins, and sister while also exploring the small town.

We panned for gold and saw a waterfall!

I also played a lot of D&D with my friends.

I am very grateful I was able to see them so much. They definitely turned it into one of the best summers of my life.

Jenna Kimball

NEWS WRITER

During the summer break from school, I spent most of my time working. I took on a lot of extra shifts as a geriatric caregiver and saved up some money to pay for the next semester's tuition and books.

The increased hours definitely allowed me to feel more connected and spend more time with my patients.

Even though I spent the majority of my

days working, I still managed to have a great summer and enjoy myself.

In May, I was able to go to my hometown of Shreveport and spend time with my family and friends. At the beginning of August, a couple of my friends and I went to Gulf Shores, Alabama and had fun at the beach, where I managed to burn my shoulder to a crisp, of course.

Overall, the summer was an amazing chance for me to focus on myself, while also advancing my future.

Vallen Power

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Although there were a few times I had a lot of fun, I didn't do much other than work this summer. I spent most of my time working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. three days a week, inside a farm shop on the side of the highway, selling tomatoes, watermelon and various other fruits and vegetables.

However, when I wasn't working, I was out having fun with one of my friends

back home, Jarred, or just playing video games.

Usually, Jarred and I would go to downtown Monroe or West Monroe, hang out at each other's house for long periods of time, or in most cases, both of those things.

Near the end of summer, however, we went to two metal shows together and bought our favorite band's t-shirts each time. Because of that, we're actually hoping to go to more metal shows this year!

Food Review

Macaroni and cheese reimaged: A look at Shane's Loaded Mac Bar

Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 1043 Johnston St., Shane's Loaded Mac Bar is an exclusive Lafayette restaurant that you will not find anywhere else. They specialize in baked potatoes, pastas and grilled cheeses, which are loaded with mac and cheese. Locals love this place for its authenticity and mouthwatering cheesy delightfulness.

Their menu offers a diverse selection of exclusive dishes. Customers can choose to build their own meal or select from the menu options. The 'Build Your Cheesy Dream' meal consists of five steps: choose your base (baked potato, pasta, etc.), select your sauce (house cheese sauce, Alfredo, etc.), pick your protein (chicken, bacon, etc.), pick your toppings (broccoli, mushrooms, etc.) and pick your finishers (ranch, moonshine BBQ, etc.).

The menu selections include several different renditions of pasta, grilled cheeses and baked potatoes. Some of them are as follows: Hot Chick, Chicken Bacon Ranch, The Big Back and The Johnston St. All of these options are equally as delicious and satisfying to your taste buds.

Opening on June 12, 2025, this

restaurant has gained popularity in just over two months. The owner, Shane Vallot, a former football player from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, brings valuable experience from his other restaurant in town, Shane's Famous Quesadilla Burger. Having now reviewed both restaurants, I can personally say that they are both tasty and worth a visit.

The atmosphere of the restaurant felt inviting and comfortable from the moment I walked in. The staff greeted me promptly, and I appreciated the quick service. All the food options were displayed behind a glass counter, and I enjoyed watching them prepare my meal. The restaurant's style was definitely casual, with wooden tables and metal chairs. The walls were covered in art that was mainly based on the theme of the restaurant: cheesy wonderland.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this establishment on Monday, Aug. 25. As we walked in, the workers behind the counter greeted us, as I mentioned earlier. We analyzed the menu and observed the delicious ingredients behind the counter to determine our choice. Having never visited a place like this, neither of us knew what to choose.

The menu included five types of pasta, three varieties of potatoes, two grilled cheese sandwiches and a build-your-own option. I ended up ordering the Chicken Bacon Ranch pasta, which contained house cheese sauce, grilled chicken, bacon and ranch. My colleague opted for the build -your-own option, creating a pasta with house cheese sauce, grilled chicken, shredded cheese, mushrooms, broccoli and topped with Moonshine BBQ.

After we ordered our meals, we watched as the magic began to happen behind the counter.

The first step was to combine the pasta and cheese, mixing them thoroughly. Then, add all the proteins and toppings and place them in the oven for a few seconds. Finally, our meals were topped off by the employees with our preferred sauces.

We then sat down to eat our delicious food, which I had never tried before or rarely seen. I was hesitant at first, as it looked like a lot of greasy ingredients had been thrown into a bowl, but I overcame my fear and took the first bite.

I can already tell that this food is trouble. It was so tasty, flavorful, savory and I was nearly in a food coma after eating only half of it. My colleague had a similar experience with her

pasta, which was clearly more visually appealing than mine. The chicken was well-seasoned and went nicely with the mac and cheese, as well as the toppings and sauces. Everything just blended perfectly.

After finishing our meals, I decided to interview two of the employees, Makenzi Short and Madilynn Arabie. "I am a team member for the front of the house and have been working here for a little bit more than two weeks. Saturdays are our busiest nights since we stay open very late. The atmosphere is great and talking to people is nice," said Short.

Arabie stated, "I love my coworkers the most, they are all pretty cool, this is the second week I have been here...I got hired pretty quickly; the process was very simple."

The culture of the place was evident throughout my entire stay. I can see why this place has gained so much popularity in under three months.

Tasty food, a good atmosphere, and close to campus - what more could you want?

If you would like to visit Shane's Loaded Mac Bar, they are open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Photo by Ellie Schmidt

(Left) Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta bowl on the left and make your own on the right; (Middle) interior Seating at Shane's Loaded Mac Bar; (Right) wall art on the exterior.



SOUNDING OFF

"What are you most looking forward to this school year?"



Mari Medina
MUSIC MEDIA FRESHMAN

"I'm really excited to, kind of, just take advantage of, like, everything."



Elizabeth McDaniel
ACCOUNTING FRESHMAN

"Just making new friends and experiencing everything that campus has to offer."



Cole Babineaux
CIVIL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

"I'm just most excited to meet new people and make new friends."



Lilly Giroir
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FRESHMAN

"I'm most excited to meet new people and start new classes and just have a new routine and really reinvent myself for college."



Amber Buquet
KINESIOLOGY FRESHMAN

"Rush is starting at the end of this week, so I'm excited to do that."



Cooper Passman
POLITICAL SCIENCE FRESHMAN

"I'm really excited to join a lot of clubs, like Ragin' Cajun Catholics and the Thomistic Institute that I just learned about."

Sounding Off is a section devoted to the voice of students. Views expressed in Sounding Off do not reflect those of UL Lafayette administrators, faculty, staff or other students.

Photos and interviews by Kayla Woods-Crane and Ellie Schmidt.

COMIC

The Payroll Platypus



Comic by Lauren Gerald

