

# THE VERMILLION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper 📍 September 25, 2025

## All remote campus employees have been asked to return to office and limit travel

**Caitlyn Comeaux**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Sept. 3, 2025, a letter regarding multiple new policies meant to trim down the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's spending was sent out to all vice presidents, deans and department heads. By Sept. 15, all employee remote working was to be "phased out" and costs such as conference travel and operational services were to be reduced.

This letter came from the Office of the President, currently seated by interim president Dr. Jaimie Hebert, along with vice president for administration and finance, Dr. Edwin Litolff.

Louisiana's Gov., Jeff Landry, previously sent out executive order 25-048 earlier this year stating that, "All existing telework arrangements shall end no later than June 30, 2025, except those that are medical accommodations

approved in accordance with the policies of the respective state department, agency, board or commission as required by R.S. 46:2594."

The second section of the executive order noted who this applies to, saying, "...all state departments, agencies, boards and commissions under the Governor's authority shall require their employees to perform their duties at a designated physical office or facility."

It was originally questioned if public higher education fell under this list but the University followed suit about 10 weeks later.

The University employs thousands of people between teachers, administration and student workers.

Per the Office of Communications and Marketing, there are 1,996 full-time employees within the University, and 53 were still fully remote at the time of these new policies.

This is around 2.6% of all full-time employees, or one in every 38.

Regarding bringing remote workers back to campus, there are exceptions. Litolff said, "I know there are a few special cases where the job is not here. Like, we have a recruiter that we hire in Dallas."

Employees whose jobs are meant to be out of the area will remain so, such as recruiters and some research projects, but the goal is to bring as many employees back to office in Lafayette as possible.

When it comes to the cost of employees in the campus budget, from 2017 to 2024, the University is up \$40 million in employee payroll, but down more than 1,600 full-time undergraduate students and more than 300 graduate students.

Full-time undergraduate students are where the majority of University tuition money comes from; full-time undergraduates take at least 12 credit hours per semester, often have housing and generally stay for four-year degrees.

The tuition for a full-time undergraduate is \$5,580 per semester.

This number is then roughly doubled with the inclusion of University fees, housing and meal plans, bringing in just over \$11,000 per student. In 2024 we had about 11,100 full-time undergraduates, much lower than our peak of nearly 13,000 in 2015.

Litolff noted, "When you're down 1,684 students...that's \$19 million dollars." So, bringing enrollment back up is one part of improving the University's fiscal health.

The exact number of newly enrolled students for the 2025-26 school year has yet to be released.

However, per the University's website about Freshman Convocation from the Office of First-Year Experience, "Over 3,000 first-time freshmen will soon be on campus for the Fall 2025 semester." Many of these 3,000 will fall in the basket of full-time undergraduates.

Litolff's goal of trimming down additional employee costs such as conference travel is going hand-in-hand with our beginning in increasing enrollment.

The increase in funds from tuition combined with lowered expenses can help fill in the University's negative cash flow, as our expenses currently outweigh our revenue.

Regarding travel, according to the University's 2024-25 fiscal report, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, \$8.4 million was spent on travel. Of this, \$1.8 million came from conference travel.

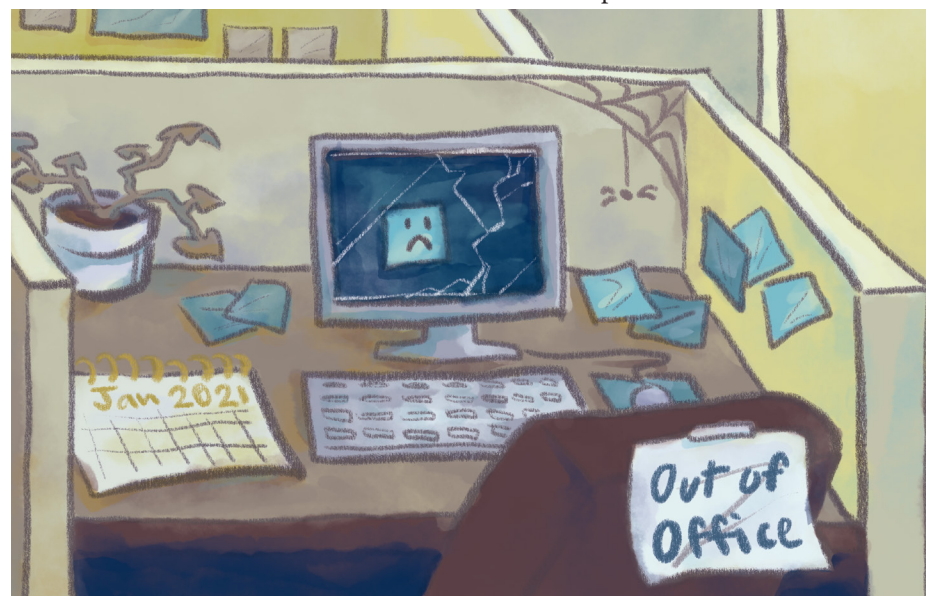
In the letter it is said that travel is not completely eliminated, but all requests will be under heavy review and virtual attendance is recommended whenever possible.

There will also be a cut to special meal expenditures and catering, which also cost the University several million dollars this past fiscal year.

All of these new implementations exist not only to lift the University out of a fiscal deficit, but to restore the connections and local involvement that students and faculty have within their campus.

There is a lot to expect between phasing out remote working, more students and less travel.

With growing enrollment and reduced expenses, the hope is to pull the University out of the fiscal red and put money back into the Ragin' Cajuns.



Graphic by Paige Stevens

## With a very tight budget, renovating the Cottages at Cajun Village is a challenge

**Kayla Woods-Crane**  
MANAGING EDITOR

With about 100 students on the waitlist, the Cottages at Cajun Village at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette have 56 vacant units due to a need for renovations, but with a tightening school budget, funding potential renovations is a challenge.

The Cottages are family housing on campus for married couples and single parents. According to Scott Hebert, the director of facility management, the Cottages are some of the oldest housing accommodations on campus, causing renovations to be difficult.

Scott explained some of the vacant units have asbestos under cracked tiles, along with other "wear and tear" over the years. Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring fiber minerals that are toxic, creating danger when asbestos-containing materials are damaged.

With a few damaged asbestos-containing tiles in some of the vacant units, it creates a dilemma with what to do about renovating those units. According to Hebert, discussion has been ongoing on whether to fix the few cracked tiles, redo the whole flooring or build a whole new apartment complex.

"So the price goes from...going glue a couple of tiles down from Home Depot or something for like 30 bucks... to like, \$60,000 to \$80,000," Hebert said.

Other housing buildings on campus have a maintenance fund, or money set aside for that specific building to fix maintenance problems it may have. There is no maintenance fund for the Cottages. Along with the tight school budget and other active construction

projects, funding renovations is difficult. Scott explained how the age of the building could also create a snowball effect to the amount and types of renovations that would need to be done.

"You open up a wall, you expect it to be perfectly healthy and just wooden studs and ready to go. We open it up, and you realize that there's been a water leak in there for 20 years. You got to deal with all that stuff now too."

If there were going to be significant renovations made to the Cottages or a new complex, Hebert said it would have to be paid for by the Capital Outlay fund, or money provided by state tax dollars to the University for planning facilities. To acquire funds for potential renovations, the project has to be approved by the University of Louisiana System a year in advance.

Though there are currently no definitive, long-term plans for renovating the Cottages, Dawn Miller, the director of property management, said they "are looking at a handful of apartments that have minor repairs," and are "going to try to get those up and running and have families in them for October."

Jenita Jahangir, a student getting her doctorate in mathematics, said her husband and herself have enjoyed staying in the Cottages.

Jahangir moved into the Cottages in 2021 with her husband, where they now stay together with their 3-year-old daughter. She described the Cottages as a "very safe place" where she and other parents feel comfortable letting their children play.

She also noted the convenient distance from campus. "I like to live here because of the environment. It's

very close to the campus. I don't need to... take my car, I can walk to the campus easily," she said.

Another resident, Amobi Henry Iwuchukwu, noted the affordability of the housing. For the Fall 2025-26 school year, the housing rate for the Cottages is \$3,740 per semester. Students who cannot pay the semester price up front can also sign up for a payment plan.

Proximity to campus and the price of the Cottages make them a desired housing option for some families. Though the application wasn't hard to fill out, Iwuchukwu said it was being given an apartment that took a long time.

He knows many people who have been on the waitlist for the Cottages. Miller said some students have been on the waitlist for about one to two years.

"So I think that is where the problem

is right now," Iwuchukwu said. "I know a lot of students right now who have applied and want to get into Cajun Village. Yeah, but they can't get in because the University wants to renovate, and because they want to do that, those guys are stuck, right?"

Miller revealed it's been suggested that the University raise the price of the Cottages, but she said they "have to be very sensitive, because a lot of the students who live back there are on graduate assistantships or Ph.D. fellowship type things." The University doesn't want to "price it to the point where they can't stay any longer. So, it's a very fine balance," Miller said.

Balancing student priority and the monetary needs of the University does require a detailed and thought out plan on how to proceed with renovating the Cottages, but it is a challenge that the



Photo by Morgan Parker

The Cottages family housing at Cajun Village

### News

#### AI IN CLASS

AI is making its way into school life; students and teachers alike are starting to wonder if it really has a place here.

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### Sports

#### JONATHAN LUCROY

Former Ragin' Cajuns catcher, Jonathan Lucroy, has the prestigious honor of being accepted into the MLB Hall of Pretty Good.

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### Allons

#### BURNOUT

Allons writer, Ja'lyn Braud, grapples with American society's obsession with overworking ourselves and why it is detrimental to our health.

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### Food Review

#### TWIN'S BURGERS AND SWEETS

The food review section visits Twin's Burgers and Sweets and experiences delicious burgers, a variety of tasty desserts and a lovely atmosphere.

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# Enrollment trends in Louisiana's higher education institutions

**Joann Seow**  
NEWS EDITOR

Across the state of Louisiana, there have been fluctuations in enrollment in public higher education institutions, with some schools experiencing different enrollment trends compared to others for various reasons. These include demographics, financial aid and national disaster factors.

The "Higher Education State Fact Book" by the Louisiana Board of Regents for the Academic Year (AY) 2023-2024 collated enrollment data for all state public higher education institutions that fall under the Louisiana Board of Regents.

These include campuses under the Louisiana State University (LSU) System, Southern University (SU) System, University of Louisiana (UL) System as

well as the Louisiana Community and Technical College (LCTC) System.

The Louisiana State University System as a whole has seen an overall unwavering increase in the "total annual unduplicated headcount," from 47,916 in AY 2014-15 to 77,973 in AY 2023-24.

The largest public university in Louisiana, Louisiana State University Agricultural & Mechanical College, or Louisiana State University (LSU), has been on the rise, with the "total annual unduplicated headcount" going from 32,188 in the AY 2014-15 to 48,091 in the AY 2023-24.

A large component that has contributed to LSU's increasing enrollment rates is the school's increased recruitment efforts outside of Louisiana. The percentage of students from out-of-state rose from 19.1% in Fall 2014 to 33.7% in Fall 2023 while the percentage

of students from Louisiana dropped from 75.6% in Fall 2014 to 62.2% in Fall 2023.

According to NOLA.com, "LSU has ramped up out-of-state recruitment to broaden its pool of high-achieving applicants, raise revenue and boost the school's national profile."

LSU Alexandria, LSU Eunice and LSU Shreveport have also all had a rise in enrollment, with LSU Shreveport experiencing the greatest increase in the "total annual unduplicated headcount," from 5,193 in AY 2014-15 to 14,300 in AY 2023-24. The percentage of out-of-state students also rose from 10.7% in Fall 2014 to 55.5% in Fall 2023, while the percentage of students from Louisiana dropped from 87.1% in Fall 2014 to 40.6% in Fall 2023.

Looking at the University of Louisiana System, there has been an overall decrease in the "total annual unduplicated headcount," from 100,146 in AY 2014-15 to 95,379 in AY 2023-24.

The campuses under the UL System that have seen a rise in enrollment are Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University and Southeastern Louisiana University.

On the other hand, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the University of New Orleans have seen a drop in enrollment.

Northwestern State University and University of Louisiana at Monroe's enrollment numbers have been fluctuating, but the overall trend has remained somewhat stagnant.

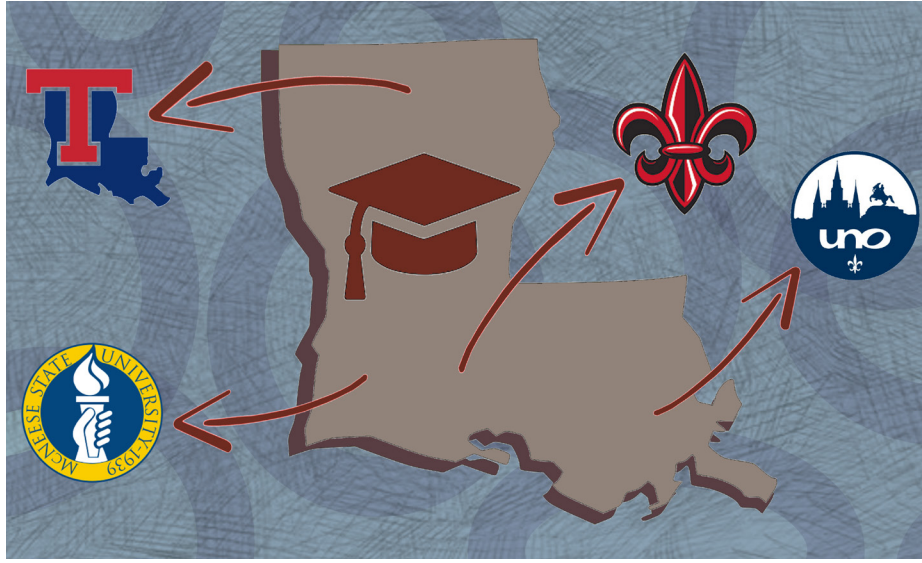
A school that has suffered a prominent impact on enrollment is the University

of New Orleans (UNO), which has been experiencing a years-long slump owing to the impact from Hurricane Katrina. According to the Louisiana Illuminator, "There are 5,670 students enrolled at the university this semester, UNO President Kathy Johnson said in a campuswide email this week. The count is down about 12% from a year ago."

"The decrease in enrollment at UNO has spanned two decades. The school had a student body of around 17,000 before Hurricane Katrina, with an immediate drop to around 6,000 after the storm." The Louisiana Illuminator also wrote that UNO is preparing for its transition back to the LSU System, after being moved to the UL System 14 years ago. "Lawmakers and university officials hope the transfer will have a positive impact on enrollment. Despite national trends of falling enrollment, every school in the LSU System has reported increasing, often record-breaking enrollment over the past several years."

UL Lafayette's enrollment has been steadily declining in the past decade, due to reasons like COVID-19, although numbers have been picking up in recent years. According to the University's Office of Institutional Research census enrollment data, the University's enrollment dropped from 17,519 in 2016 to 15,219 in 2022. However, the enrollment gradually rose to 15,665 in 2024.

At the time that this story was written, the official census enrollment data from the University for the year 2025 had not been released. An in-depth analysis on the recent increase in enrollment will be published.



Graphic by Caitlyn Comeaux

## Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

### Sept. 21

- At 10:11 a.m., officers were dispatched to Fraternity Row in reference to the theft of a Red Craftsman Push Lawn Mower. No arrests were made.

### Sept. 20

- At 10:56 a.m., officers were dispatched in regards to a suspicious person sleeping in the Lourde's parking tower. The individual was warned to not return to campus.

### Sept. 18

- At 5:00 p.m., a walk-in report was received in reference to the theft of a scooter.
- At 12:47 a.m., officers were dispatched to Coronna Hall in reference to an intoxicated student.

### Sept. 17

- At 5:53 p.m., officers responded to the Cajundome in reference to four suspicious persons. Multiple arrests were made.
- At 12:45 p.m., officers received a walk-in report regarding a harassment complaint.

### Sept. 16

- At 11:21 p.m., officers dispatched to Zone 29 for a parking lot crash between a 2016 black Kia Forte and a 2023 white Hyundai Tucson. No injuries were reported and no arrests were made.

### Sept. 15

- At 3:21 p.m., officers were contacted and dispatched about conducting a welfare check on a student.
- At 12:16 a.m., officers responded to a property damage call involving a black chain link fence at Blackham Coliseum. The suspect was arrested and later released on a misdemeanor summons.

### Sept. 14

- At 10:21 p.m., officers witnessed a physical domestic disturbance where a battery occurred. The prominent aggressor was arrested.

### Sept. 13

- At 11:22 a.m., officers were dispatched to the ROTC building in reference to a burglary involving a 1999 red Chevrolet 2500. The suspect was later arrested under an arrest warrant.

## Weather

Thursday 9/25	Friday 9/26	Saturday 9/27	Sunday 9/28	Monday 9/29	Tuesday 9/30	Wednesday 10/1
High: 84 F Low: 67 F	High: 86 F Low: 64 F	High: 87 F Low: 65 F	High: 88 F Low: 66 F	High: 89 F Low: 68 F	High: 88 F Low: 68 F	High: 87 F Low: 68 F

**Isabelle Brumley**  
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

- La Niña is expected to be at its peak in the last quarter of this year.
- As the fall season begins, temperatures are expected to stay in the mid to high 80s.

- Gabrielle is expected to impact Bermuda as a hurricane early this week, and meteorologists are also monitoring another disturbance in the region.

## WHERE'S ALLAN?



Back to my car after studying for hours, the side of this garage has some really pretty flowers. Where am I?

Last Issue's Answer:  
Bridge between Moody and F.G. Mouton

### 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](mailto: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.

# Artificial intelligence use in the classroom: A threat or a tool?

**Leilani Chester, Jenna Kimball**  
NEWS WRITERS

From crafting the perfect email to ordering a cheeseburger, artificial intelligence (AI) has become a daily occurrence for everyone. Its arrival in higher education has brought polarizing opinions to college campuses worldwide, raising questions about whether it is reshaping learning or destroying critical thought. AI is here, whether students and faculty like it or not.

The term “artificial intelligence” has shifted meaning over time. Originally it was coined in the 1950s to describe machines that could mimic human reasoning. Today, it has become an umbrella term for systems that perform tasks requiring human-like processing, with the most recent innovation being generative AI.

Generative AI tools, like the popular ChatGPT, can produce text, images or code on demand. These systems can dazzle with fluency but also hallucinate, the industry’s term for confidently generating false information.

At the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, AI use is under professor’s

discretion. While some are strictly banning, others are grappling with how to respond.

Dr. Rick Swanson, a political science professor, said, “Last spring semester, I was completely against the use of AI at all, and I had a complete prohibition in my syllabus.”

“But over the summer, I realized if we don’t give our students the tools to succeed in their careers and teach them these skills, we’re doing them a disservice. They need to become as fluent in AI as possible to be competitive on the market,” Swanson added.

Success in the job market is a prominent reason students pursue higher education. According to the American Council of Education’s 2023 Freshman Survey, 80% of students said a better job was a very important reason for attending college, 74% said training for a career and 72% said higher earning potential.

Unfortunately for recent graduates, the current job market is tough. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, college graduates in 2025 from ages 23 to 27 have an unemployment rate of 4.59% compared to 2019’s rate

of 3.25%. Swanson, who advises and teaches pre-law students, said ignoring AI would leave graduating students limited in their job prospects.

“Nobody’s going to hire someone who says, ‘I only use typewriters and landline phones.’ If our graduates aren’t fluent in AI, they won’t get hired, and they won’t get promoted.” Swanson compared it to the way law firms already use AI to draft contracts and analyze cases.

Clinical psychologist and psychology professor Dr. Angela Coreil takes a similar view about AI’s inevitability. She said, “AI is a technology that our students are going to be asked to use when they get out in the world and their jobs.”

“So it’s our job to also train them to use it properly before they’re out in the world with it, to give them some skills. I try to help them use it in ways that are going to help them learn more deeply and become more critical thinkers, rather than using it to do their work for them.”

Some students see the benefit in AI, but still have caveats about the morality of its application. Chalsia Johnson, a junior majoring in criminal justice, said, “I will say, if you’re doing it for the right purpose to like, help you get a head start, or to help you with outline or help you correct your grammar, I would say, yeah. But if you’re using it to, like, literally, just get ahead and just do your work for you, I would say no to it.”

Megan Broussard, a senior majoring in psychology, said, “I think that it can be taken out of hand and people can use it wrongly, but I also do think that there are positive perks like studying or just trying to get more clarification of a concept.”

Coreil incorporates AI into mandatory

assignments, requiring students to challenge its mistakes and identify possible hallucinations. “I use that in some assignments in my lower level classes for them to ‘beat the bot’ and try to catch where it’s wrong, try to correct it,” she said.

Hallucinations are a huge concern in real-world applications. Swanson relates this issue to law practice. He said, “Submitting some false documents to the court with a false legal claim or false legal citation is a huge issue that could lead to suspension.”

“If you’re just accepting the answers all the time, that’s going to lower your use of critical thinking, but if you realize you can challenge AI and sometimes be more accurate, you can use it in a way that improves your thinking.”

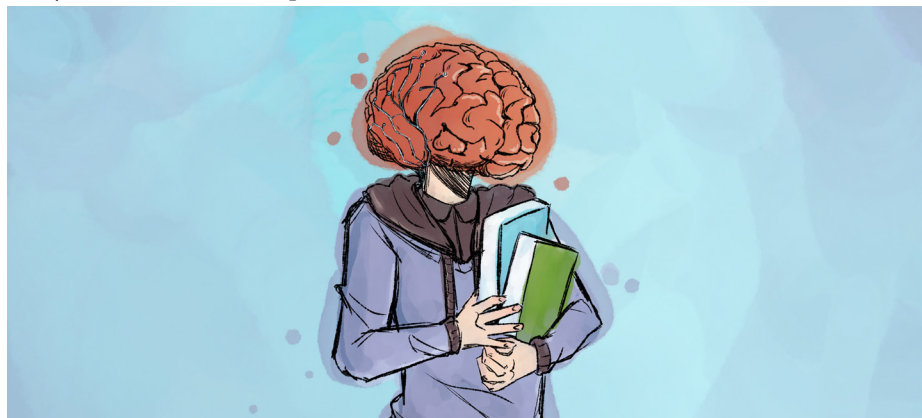
Concerns about misuse are widespread, due to a gap in use and training.

A 2025 Savanta survey of 1,041 undergraduates found that 98% had used AI tools, most often to generate or edit text. The survey also found that 67% saw AI as a vital tool in modern society, but only 36% said their university had trained them to use it.

Faculty experiences are just as troubling. The Digital Education Council’s 2025 Global Faculty AI Survey found that 86% of instructors expect to use AI in their teaching, though only 6% feel sufficiently trained.

Is AI use going to be education’s downfall, or its latest advancement? Even the creators of the technology admit they cannot fully predict its effect.

As AI becomes more embedded in higher education, faculty will face the same question their students do: are AI tools a threat to guard against, or an instrument to master?



Graphic by Ray Bardales

## Politics

### Trump’s National Defense Policies

**Andrew Courville**  
NEWS WRITER

On Sept. 5, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14347, “Restoring the United States Department of War,” signifying his intent to rename the Department of Defense under Secretary Pete Hegseth to the “Department of War.” Only Congress has the power to officially change cabinet departments’ names, but Trump’s tactics aim to normalize it if Congress warms up to it.

According to the White House Fact Sheet, the EO explicitly permits using the “Department of War” moniker for “official correspondence, public communications, ceremonial contexts and non-statutory documents within the executive branch.”

It also urges the executive branch to “recognize and accommodate these secondary titles.” The fact sheet cites that it indicates the military’s “unmatched power and readiness to protect national interests.” It remarks that the Department of War, established in 1790, was unparalleled from the War of 1812 through the World Wars.

The EO doesn’t mention President Truman changing the name to the Department of Defense in 1947 as part of an effort to shift the military’s focus toward defending democracies around the world from authoritarianism and the threat of communism.

In the White House press conference to sign the EO, Trump somewhat jokingly referred to Hegseth as the “Secretary of War,” and asked him to say a few words before signing. Hegseth stated, “it’s not just about renaming. It’s about restoring... the warrior ethos” that was lost since 1949, citing outcomes in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, War on Terror and others. It marks a new beginning for Trump’s peace through strength agenda.

The President’s actions aren’t met with smiles everywhere. Jack Detsch writes in a Politico article that the change forces the department to

spend significant time and money creating new letterheads, insignias, seals, embroidered clothing and more. The name could give off the wrong impression that Americans are warmongers rather than conflict mediators.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette political science professor Jason Maloy reasoned that the “military apparatus has been, now is and will continue to be the most destructive organized force on the planet. The name of the executive department overseeing it doesn’t affect that reality one way or the other.”

The United States has over one million active personnel across at least 300 domestic and 750 foreign military bases and alliances with 80 countries. The United States has cultivated its reach for decades to set a tone of formidable omnipotence.

This is Trump’s 200th EO, surpassing his predecessors this early in the presidency and reflecting his persistence in diminishing the federal bureaucracy. With every new president comes a new set of policies that impact Americans and the world.

In February, the Department of Defense adopted new guidelines banning individuals in the military with a “current diagnosis or history of, or exhibit symptoms consistent with, gender dysphoria are also disqualified for military service.”

In June, Trump claimed his negotiation style and tariffs have ended seven wars, although American influence is debatable.

Some resolutions are clearly attributed to Trump, like Thailand and Cambodia or Israel and Iran. Others, such as India and Pakistan, Armenia against Azerbaijan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo versus Rwanda, extend back to the 1990s. Although Trump has convinced the parties in each conflict to sign agreements, regional tensions remain high.

» See **DEFENSE** on page 4

## Arts and Culture

### Hilliard Art Museum: New exhibits

**Landon Fruge**  
ALLONS WRITER

On Sept. 11, 2025, the Hilliard Art Museum showcased its latest exhibits. This included three exhibits, each related to the theme of “connecting with the landscape.”

When first entering the Hilliard, the first exhibit that can be seen is “Nervescape XI,” made by Hrafnhildur Arnardó, also known as Shoplifter, an artist from Iceland. This work was extremely fascinating, as it took up nearly the entire space of the room it was being showcased in. It showed large, nerve-like structures scattered about the room, each covered in a variety of real and synthetic hair, all a multitude of different colors. When walking through it, you feel as if you’re walking through a fantasy-like jungle, the large structures towering over you and the vibrant hair hanging down. It’s something that can’t fully be expressed through a photo alone.

When asked what inspired the artist to make this piece, she stated, “I’m really inspired by colors, but also by nature and forms in nature like tangles and vegetation, and then also on a microscopic level, when it comes to like, the neuroscience and neurons in your brain, all the pathways, veins and all the landscape that like happens under your skin that you don’t really like, thinks about all the time.”

She later said that she likes to take things out of context and give them life through her work, as she did for “Nervescape XI.” “...I want the viewer to dwell. Take time with the piece. Move



Photo by Alyus Dick  
Nervescape XI exhibit

around and just really kinda space out and just be transported into like some dream world that actually does exist here in this room,” Arnardó explained.

Moving on from “Nervescape XI,” directly across from it is the “Beyond the Botanical” exhibition, made by Mare Martin. Martin is a woman from Opelousas. The most fascinating part of this exhibit is that everything was made completely within her garden. As you walk around, you see numerous different paintings featuring plants within her garden and nature in general. There is even a collection of crawfish holes with a real crawfish within one of the displays.

Immediately going in, it feels like you are walking through the artist’s garden and into her own mind. My favorite detail of this exhibit is the walls, because of the sketched out plans for the design of her garden, further adding to the immersiveness of the exhibit. According to the museum, Martin wishes to draw the viewer in and make them reflect on their own personal experiences with the nature around them.

At the final exhibit upstairs, rather than it being centered on solely one singular artist, it instead features the works of three different artists: Harriet Joor, Manon Bellet and Hannah Chalew. The exhibit is called “Fragile Matter” and it features art from the museum’s permanent historical collection. The sole focus of the art was centered around Louisiana and the fragility of its ecosystem. This exhibit features a collection of different types of artworks, ranging from sculpture, sound, drawings, photography and even scent. Walking through, the theme became immediately apparent through the artworks on display. One of the most interesting parts of this exhibit were the displays in the back in which there were containers you could lift up and smell, each depicting water and sediment samples from different areas across Louisiana.

These exhibits will remain on display until varying times next year, giving people plenty of time to stop by and take a look at the artworks themselves.

## THE VERMILION

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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. 4

## INSTRUCTIONS

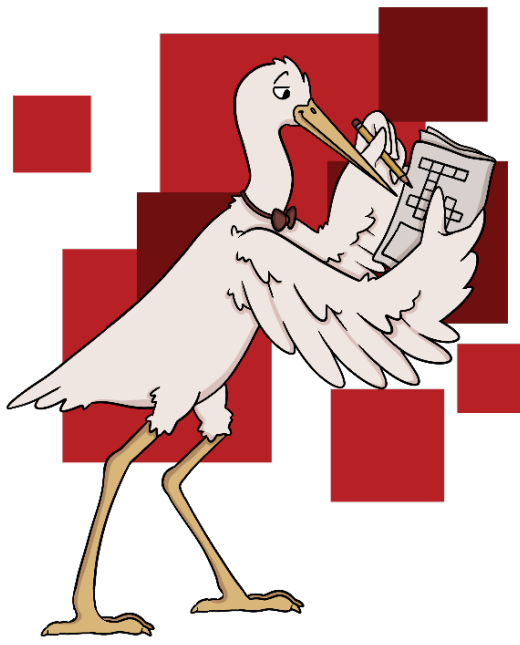
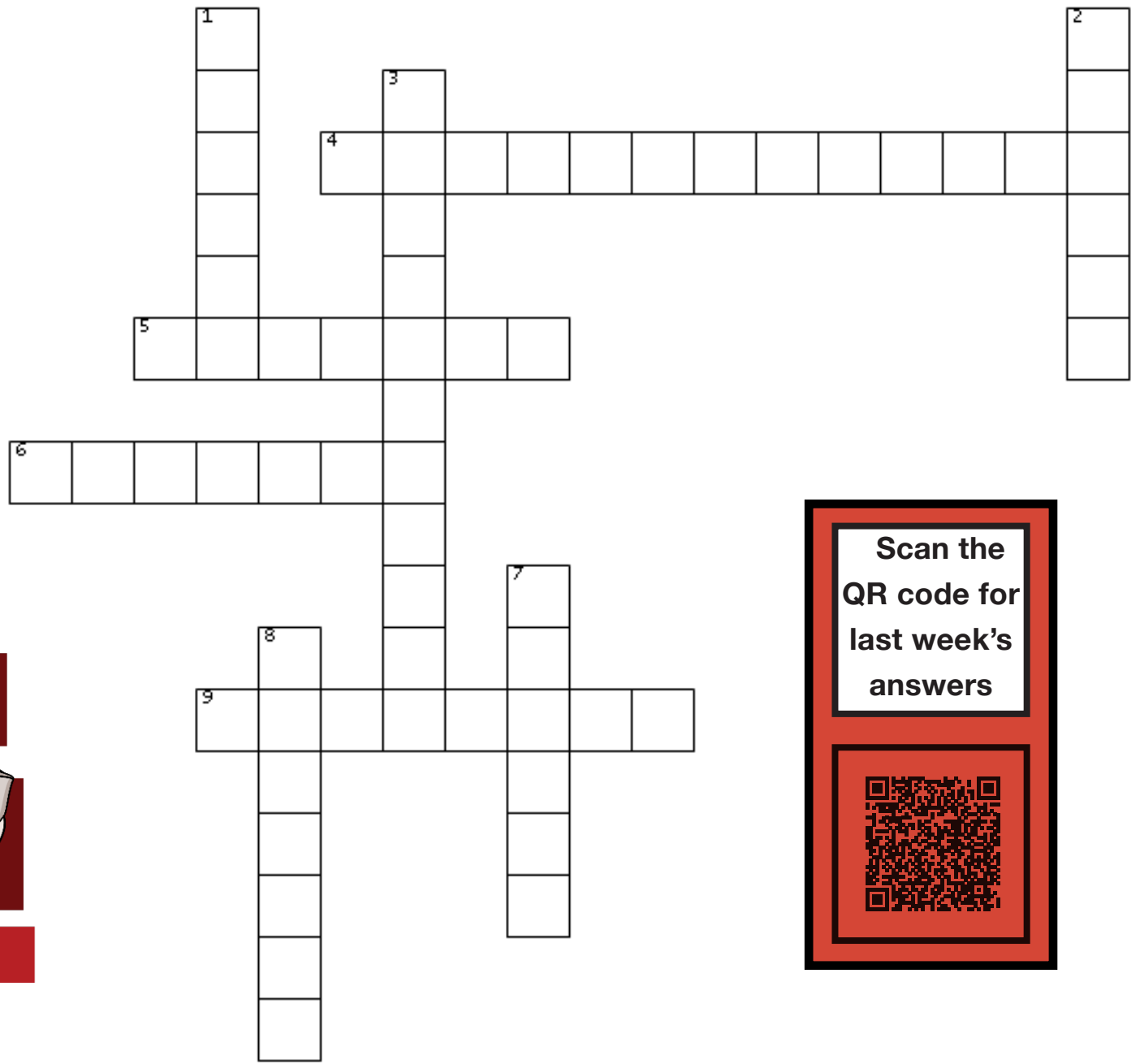
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

### ACROSS

4. Term for when AI confidently gives a user false information.
5. Who drafted Jonathan Lucroy (last name)?
6. A school that has suffered a prominent impact on enrollment is the University of New Orleans, which has been experiencing a years-long slump owing to the impact from Hurricane \_\_\_\_.
9. Name of the head coach during Brett Baer's time at UL (last name).

### DOWN

1. In Hollow Knight: Silksong, after beating one of the Cogwork Dancers, the music becomes \_\_\_\_.
2. What day is Twin's Burgers and Sweets closed?
3. What is Jenita Jahangir getting her Ph.D. in?
7. Including University fees, full-time tuition is just over \_\_\_\_ thousand dollars per student per semester.
8. What is commonly normalized in American culture?



## Cajun Candids Constitution Day

Photos by Nicholas Cloyd, Ellie Schmidt and Morgan Parker



### DEFENSE

Continued from page 3

Everyone is testing the meaning of "peace" or how serious Trump is about tariff threats.

Trump has mostly ignored the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia since they signed a peace agreement in 2020, although the continuing feuds have now garnered his attention again. The feud between Ethiopia and Egypt has never broken out into armed conflict, although Trump has tried to claim his involvement in protecting peace.

The leaders of Israel, Cambodia, Thailand and Pakistan have even nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, which he's been eyeing for the last decade.

Trump said, "They won't give me a Nobel Peace Prize, because they only give it to liberals," while discussing involvement in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip. His most credible claim to the award is the Abraham Accords from his

first term, which convinced multiple countries in the Middle East to formally recognize Israel's sovereignty in exchange for economic and security cooperation.

Trump has called for a new age of American Imperialism by suggesting annexation of Canada, Greenland, the Panama Canal and the Gaza Strip, renaming Mount Denali and the Gulf of Mexico.

Domestically, Trump is enforcing the rule of law by deploying the national guard to high-crime cities and utilizing Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents to a great extent to arrest and deport those residing in the U.S. illegally.

He demanded in May that all NATO member nations devote 5% of their GDP on their military and related infrastructure, or else they're not worth defending, even threatening to force nations out or that the U.S. leave. The new 5% target by 2035 was agreed to in late June.

Why is Trump doing all this in the first place? Professor Maloy thinks it's part of

a grander strategy. Since China currently controls the international clean energy industry, "instead of trying to catch up and innovate, the U.S. should play its strongest hand, which is dirty energy, and do as much as possible to stop other countries from going clean, because the clean economy currently relies more on China."

Ensuring American dominance on all fronts is the forefront of the Trump administration. His lightning speed of executive actions precludes the 2026 midterm elections on the horizon. If current polling and history hold true, the Republicans are doomed to lose control of Congress, setting the stage for a more difficult second half of Trump's term.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

# Sports

## Jonathan Lucroy: The greatest catcher in Ragin' Cajuns' history

**Charles Martin**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns have a long history of baseball, and a deep love for it. There have been many greats and fan favorites to don the vermilion and white on the diamond. One of the best players to do so, and the best catcher in the University's history, was Jonathan Lucroy.

Lucroy is different from the other fan favorites that have played ball in Lafayette, mainly because he had a 12-year career in Major League Baseball.

His contributions were recognized when he was inducted into the MLB Hall of Pretty Good on Sept. 11, 2025. The Hall of Pretty Good is a page on Instagram and X that is meant to give a spotlight to solid career players like Lucroy. It is a place to honor players that had good careers, and even amazing seasons, but were not good enough to get into the Hall of Fame.

Lucroy was voted in with 83% of the 29,500 votes recorded by the page. He acknowledged this on X saying, "Thank you all who have elected me to this prestigious institution. I'm humbled and honored to join such a quality group of mediocre players."

Lucroy was born on June 13, 1986, in Eustis, Florida, and is the oldest of three brothers. He attended Umatilla High School, where he was an absolute beast in the batter's box. He batted .500 as a junior and .450 as a senior, and finished his career with a school record of 22 home runs. He also racked up a number of All-State and All-Region honors in his time.

During his senior year he announced that he would play for Tony Robichaux and the Ragin' Cajuns. He would instantly prove his worth as a freshman.

Lucroy was the youngest of the three catchers on roster in 2005, so he would not see much time behind the plate. But during his short time in Lafayette,

he proved that he was too good at the plate to not play, so he was named the designated hitter.

As a freshman, he batted .379 with five home runs and 48 RBIs, helping the Cajuns to a 48-19 record, which earned them the title of regular season champs for the Sun Belt Conference. This incredible performance earned him honors, being named to the All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team and the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American Team.

As a sophomore, he was named the starting catcher for the Cajuns. This new responsibility would contribute to a dip in his batting average at the start of the year, though he would turn it around at the start of April.

He would finish his sophomore year with a .333 average, 12 home runs and 58 RBIs, leading the team in the latter two statistics. He would end the year with an incredible showing in the Sun Belt Tournament, notching 11 hits in 17 at-bats, with seven of those being extra base hits. This would not be enough to see the Cajuns overcome the Troy Trojans in the final though.

Lucroy's junior season would be both his best and last season at Louisiana. The All-Sun Belt catcher would lead the Cajuns to another regular season title while leading the team in batting (.373), hits (87), doubles (19), RBI (59) and total bases (155). Those 155 total bases would set a school record for total bases in a season.

During the NCAA D-1 tournament against Texas A&M, Lucroy hit his 182nd collegiate RBI, breaking Louisiana's all-time record held by Damian Grossie. The Cajuns would not be able to get out of the regionals after losing to Texas A&M 5-2 in the elimination game.

Lucroy would forgo his senior season to enter the 2007 MLB Draft. He would finish his college career with a batting average of .356, slugging percentage of

.612, 54 doubles, 35 home runs, 184 RBI and 414 total bases.

Jonathan Lucroy was drafted in the third round, 101st overall, by the Milwaukee Brewers. He would sign with the team just two days later, officially starting his professional baseball career.

Lucroy would make his MLB debut three years later on May 22, 2010 after Brewers starting catcher, Gregg Zaun, was put on the 15-day disabled list. He would hit a single in the eighth during the Brewers 15-3 loss against the Minnesota Twins.

He would spend six seasons playing for the Brewers, becoming a fan favorite. He was named to two All-Star teams in 2014 and 2016.

2016 would be his last season in Milwaukee as he was traded to the

Texas Rangers. Lucroy would spend two seasons on the Rangers before he spent his last five years in the league bouncing from team to team as a journeyman.

He would officially retire in 2022 after he spent his last season with his childhood team, the Atlanta Braves in 2021 during their World Series season.

He would finish his career with a batting average of .274, an OBP of .335 and .416 slugging. He notched 1,134 hits, 108 of which would go for home runs. His fielding was equally good as he finished with a fielding percentage of .993, making only 67 errors in over 1,100 games. This helped contribute to his 17.5 career WAR.

Lucroy's 12-year career in the MLB was very respectable. While he will never be remembered as the greatest catcher in



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

## Legendary Cajun kicker inducted into the Louisiana Athletics Hall of Fame

**Jake Allelo**  
SPORTS WRITER

Many collegiate athletes go into their career with certain goals and dreams, that being most plainly, to win. However, it goes deeper than that; they want to contribute to their team and the culture, cement themselves in the history books, make their way to professional sports and have iconic moments. If you're Ragin' Cajun's former kicker Brett Baer, you've done every one of those things.

On Sept. 5, six new members were added to the Louisiana Athletics Hall of Fame, recognizing them for their "significant contributions to their professions and their communities." Baer was inducted alongside Kevin Brooks, Corey Coles, Richard Ainley, Haley Hayden and Dr. Ed Dugas.

Baer was born on Jan. 30, 1990, in Brandon, MS, and is an alumnus from Brandon High School. The Brandon

Bulldogs are located in Rankin County, to which Baer himself earned two all-county selections over the course of his high school career.

In 2008, Baer redshirted for his first year with the Cajuns, meaning he sat out from in-game competition to develop further and extend his eligibility.

For his freshman year in 2009, Baer was the kickoff specialist for all 12 of the Cajuns games that year. The team went 6/6, and Baer totalled 52 kickoffs for 2,895 yards.

The 2010 season for Baer would present the first set of challenges in his collegiate career as he was demoted to backup kicker for the first four games of the season. Senior Tyler Albrecht started until the fifth game of the season against Oklahoma State University, where Baer would step in as starting kicker, alongside his kickoff responsibilities.

Baer would go 7/7 on field goals and 23/23 on extra points, and be the only

kicker in the Sun Belt Conference to hold the distinction of perfection for the 2010 season.

The 2011 season would present itself as the most important in Baer's time with the Ragin' Cajuns. Going 18/20 on field goals and 46/50 on extra points would earn Baer a semi-finalist spot for the Lou Groza Award, which is given to the best kicker in the nation. Furthermore, Baer led the nation in field goal accuracy at .900 (90%).

The ending of the 2011 season proved to be the greatest moment in Baer's career, along with one of the most memorable moments in the program's history with the Cajuns beating San Diego State University.

In the 11th annual New Orleans Bowl on Nov. 21, the Ragin' Cajuns would go up 13-3 at halftime, and at the beginning of the 4th quarter the score was 19-17 in favor of the Cajuns. With 35 seconds left in the game, the Aztecs would go up 30-29 and had virtually snatched victory from the jaws of certain defeat.

Until the Cajuns managed to get Baer in his range, with the offense marching down to the 45-yard line, it looked to be just too much. Baer had already missed an extra point that game and had one blocked right from under him, the momentum was completely in San Diego State's favor.

Baer lined up, began his kicking cadence and ... flag on San Diego State for illegal stemming. The ball was now on the 40-yard line and Baer had to make a 50-yard kick to prevent the comeback victory.

The broadcast team mentioned that Cajun's head coach Mark Hudspeth had gone on record saying Baer was "the worst practice kicker I've ever seen, but he gets the job done in the games."

With four seconds left, Baer sent the kick up, it curved left for a second, and went through the uprights.

Cajuns win 32-30, and Baer is absolutely swarmed by an entire team of grown men who had all of their faith in him.

A record 42,841 fans celebrated the triumph of the home-state team winning in the Mercedes Benz Super Dome, along with Baer being lifted up on the shoulders of his teammates in an image burned into the hearts of many Cajuns fans.

It was the team's first Division 1 bowl-game, and the first post-season in 41 years. Much of what the Cajuns have built today, is off of the rock of Baer's kick that day.

A program that had historically come up short proved their mettle that day, and legitimized themselves in the eyes of the college football world.

Baer ended the 2011 season with 100 points, and certified himself a Ragin' Cajun legend.

Baer would end his collegiate career with an extra point accuracy rate of 94.6%, a field goal accuracy rate of 90% and 257 total points, making him third of all time for Cajun kickers. He also leads the NCAA in field goal accuracy.

After college, Baer would sign with the St. Louis Rams for the NFL preseason, but then he would return to school and earn a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of St. Augustine for Health Science in 2017.

As the members of the Hall of Fame were recognized in the Sept. 6 game against McNeese State University, Baer knocked down one last field goal for the Cajun faithful, reminding everyone in attendance that he is the trailblazer and forever a Cajun.



Graphic by Cade Plaisance

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# Allons

## Why our culture is crumbling: The impact of normalizing burnout

Ja'lyn Braud  
ALLONS WRITER

As a student who is currently living off of two to five hours of sleep each night, burnout is absolutely real. This desire to accomplish everything in such minimal time literally makes one feel like a zombie-dead.

Society has unleashed a tight idea of what success looks like: accomplishing any and everything in the smallest time frame possible. This is quite literally the death of us all. Generation after generation, the mindset of normalizing burnout has become more instilled into American culture.

Burnout is essentially suffering—getting to a point where you face a mental and/or physical collapse—and yet when we get to this point in our lives, we still try to keep going.

Culturally, Americans take pride in indulging in impractical amounts of work and are beginning to structure it in a way that determines success in a workplace, education and even in day-to-day life.

It's strange to realize that no one will tell you that overworking yourself is a bad thing. In fact, people believe that if you aren't overworking then you simply aren't doing enough. This is how I perceived success my entire life up until recently.

Since middle school, I have always joined multiple clubs. As soon as I was old enough, I started working. No matter what field it was, I was actively seeking to reach the top and now (what I deemed as my biggest achievement), I'm enrolled in college.

How much more successful could I be? Well, frankly, a year ago, I could have given you a multitude of ways to be more successful.

However, as I'm getting older and more exhausted, I'm realizing that success actually looks a lot different than what our society perceives it to be.

Success is not defined by numbers but by life experiences and purpose. Trust me, your purpose on this earth is not to have the most cords at graduation or

the highest paying job, but to achieve fulfillment and joy and to find your calling. Not that these things can't happen in your life, but they don't determine your value as a human being, and honestly, that's how seriously we're taking the aspect of work.

Living this type of lifestyle has forced us to dress up in stress and anxiety as if we were wearing a badge of honor, and without it, we feel like nothing. Since coming to college, I've realized that this badge is actually a burden, a heavy weight I carry with me daily.

We've misunderstood rest for laziness. The idea of disciplining our work ethic outweighed the notion of taking care of ourselves.

Night after night, I stayed up doing homework because I spent my day keeping up with people, attending

meetings, going to class and showing up to organizational events.

What I thought were all things that would make me happy and fulfill me ended up draining me, producing a numbness within me.

Last year was when I realized I was spending my life chasing after exhaustion, and that resulted in me inviting in tension and suffering. Being absolutely miserable, I vowed never to let myself experience such distress again. Unfortunately, here I am today in my second year of college, finding myself exhibiting the same traits.

Though it is not as bad this year, it is confusing why I keep circling back to bad habits. I think it's because I have normalized this as a way of life. In hopes of not facing such a trial as this again, I have to advocate for all of us to wake up.

We've been programmed to keep going, even when we can't anymore and as the next generation, we have to put an end to this normalization. Burnout cannot continue to consume us; we need to be able to center our values on the notion that rest is productive and that there is strength in knowing our limits.

I'll admit, it's a hard thing to realize in the moment, and some of us will never see it until we collapse. It's pride that convinces us that doing too much is "thriving" when your body is actually just struggling to survive.

Allow yourself to seek help, to face humility and accept your limits, to enjoy rest. If not, we as a society will fumble harder than where we are now, and then there will be no going back. We must change our way of life before we catch ourselves living with the walking dead.



Graphic by Paige Stevens

## Pilgrimage in a strange land ruled by silk and song; Hollow Knight: Silksong

Landon Fruge  
ALLONS WRITER

More than six years ago, Hollow Knight: Silksong, was announced to the public. Many fans of the original Hollow Knight were excited at the announcement of a sequel focused on the character Hornet, an antagonist from the first game.

In the beginning of the game, Hornet is shown to be kidnapped and taken to the land of Pharloom. Pharloom is a very strange place, ruled over by silk and song, in which its people ascend on a pilgrimage to the kingdom's peak. Most of the people either die or get controlled by silk and turned into enemies that you face along the path.

At the time of the game's announcement, I was not really into Hollow Knight. It wouldn't be until a couple months ago that I ended up beating the game and learning about its extremely interesting and vast world. A

running joke in the fandom was about how people were constantly saying Silksong is finally going to be announced, as very little updates were revealed about the game.

To my surprise, just a couple months later, Silksong would finally get a release date revealed and it was releasing in less than a month.

After falling in love with the first game, I was so excited to learn about the sequel finally coming out. The best part is that, just like the original game, the sequel was also really cheap. Despite how much content it has, the game is priced at just \$19.99.

Now, when this game came out, I was ready and waiting to buy it, but, to my surprise, the Steam servers were down.

It seemed so many people were hyped about the game that it not only crashed the Steam servers, but also the Playstation and Nintendo online stores as well. Later that day, I would finally be able to purchase the game myself.

As of right now, I have 25.6 hours total within the game. While I am not done with the game yet, it has greatly lived up to my expectations so far.

The game adds on to what the original Hollow Knight had, giving the player a variety of different tools and fighting styles at their disposal.

Though it was somewhat difficult to get used to at first, it becomes fairly easy to understand the new game mechanics. The mechanics this time around allow for more traversability for the player, as the kingdom of Pharloom is very vast and more focused on climbing than the kingdom of Hallownest from the previous game.

Just like the previous game, the music and artwork of Silksong is genuinely some of the best and most beautiful that I've seen in a while.

The environments within the game are so detailed, from the old and hollow look of Greymoor to the ancient look of Bellhart.

I can't help but to stop and admire each and every single environment. That is also a core factor to the Hollow Knight series in general. By taking the time to look around at the environment, you can learn so much about the world of the game. Hollow Knight has some of the best in-game world building I have ever seen, and the same can be said for Silksong.

The boss designs are also incredibly interesting. They are definitely a step up in difficulty compared to the ones in Hollow Knight, but they are so much fun to play through once you learn their patterns. Some of my favorite bosses in the game include Fourth Corus, a giant, ancient robot, and the Cogwork Dancers.

The Cogwork Dancers are, by far, my favorite fight. They attack alongside each other, but as the fight goes on, their movements become strayed from one another as the music goes from a very light and classical tune to a more intense and heavy one.

When you finally manage to beat one of them, the music suddenly goes somber, sounding like a tune from a dying music box.

The craziest and most inspiring part about Hollow Knight and Hollow Knight: Silksong is, despite how vast and large the game is, it was made by only three people, four if you include the music composer.

Team Cherry, the team behind the series, truly serves as inspiration for many aspiring indie developers with how they were able to create such an amazing series with so few people.

I can't wait to see what else lies within Hollow Knight: Silksong as I dive further into the game and its many secrets, and what future projects Team Cherry may develop in the future.

If you have never experienced any of the Hollow Knight series before, I highly suggest looking into it. Even though the games can be difficult, they are decently priced and are such a joy to experience firsthand.



Graphic by Landon Fruge

# Beaucoup

## Art Walk

The Beaucoup section goes to Art Walk in Downtown Lafayette. Below are their thoughts.



Photos by Morgan Parker

### Landon Fruge

ALLONS WRITER

This is the second time I've ever been to an Art Walk in Downtown Lafayette, and, just like last time, I highly enjoyed my time attending. Now, while there wasn't too much that I bought while at the Art Walk, I still found it a joy just walking around and looking at all the stands everyone had set up.

There were many stands selling

beautiful clothing and multitudes of different bracelets and necklaces.

Some of my favorite stands to go and visit, though, were the ones selling stickers or posters of characters from series or of their own original characters.

The people at some of the stands were really nice and I would stop by and talk to them about anime or games.

I can't wait to see what type of people I'll meet and art I'll see the next time I go to Art Walk!

### Sadie Lynn Burrell

GRAPHICS ASSISTANT EDITOR

I've attended a couple of Art Walks in Downtown Lafayette in the past, but this time I actually went to sell my own art! I sewed about 30 plush frogs in different colors and sizes. I also made stickers, keychains, comics and prints of designs I thought would be cute.

Once I set up my table (with the help of some friends), I waited for my first customer.

Everyone who stopped by was very nice, and I had a lot of good conversations! Even if someone didn't buy anything, they left a cute doodle in the sketchbook I set out.

One highlight I had was doing an art trade with the people at the table next to me. They got some of my stickers and I got a cute painted dragon!

Overall, I had a very nice time selling and made more money than I expected! I felt very good about how it went, and I hope to sell again next month.

### Reese Provost

NEWS WRITER

If my memory serves me right, this will mark my sixth time going to Art Walk in Downtown Lafayette. Lafayette can seem like a dull place, but Art Walk is a reminder that the city is teeming with art and culture that is waiting to be discovered.

One of my favorite aspects of Art Walk has always been the music, and there always seems to be new subcultures of it every time. I once saw a two-man band,

one playing the bongos and the other blowing through a long didgeridoo. This time, I spotted a man shaking a tambourine, another strumming an acoustic guitar, and lastly, probably my favorite, a DJ spinning club records on turntables.

For each person, a small crowd was formed, with people of the audience either watching intently or dancing to the rhythm.

Whether it be music, clothing, crafts or visual art, Art Walk truly has something for everyone to enjoy.

### Ray Bardales

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

One of my favorite things about living in Lafayette is Art Walk. I'm a sucker for vendor markets, especially those run by the local community. I love walking downtown and finding new trinkets and treats to buy. Every Art Walk I've been to I've always found something different.

From keychains and stickers to stuffed animals and pins, there's something different every time I look. I always

blow my budget without fail, too. The latest Art Walk was no different. I came with a budget, a list and a promise that I wouldn't buy anything I didn't need. I left with nine dollars in my bank account and zero regrets.

I always look forward to Art Walk. It gives me a chance to relax, forget about schoolwork and hang out with my friends.

On top of that, I get the chance to buy cute things and support local artists. It's a win-win!

## Food Review

# Twin's Burgers and Sweets: Some of Acadiana's best comfort food

### Isabelle Brumley

BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 2801 Johnston St., Twin's Burgers and Sweets is a family-owned, casual burger restaurant with a bakery that is known for its laid-back atmosphere and delicious burgers, hot dogs and sweets.

Their menu offers a diverse selection of different renditions of burgers and sweets, as well as hot dogs and salads. Some of their most popular burgers include their specialty burgers, which incorporate the theme of twins. The Evil Twin features twin patties, jalapeno grilled onions, bacon, Cajun spicy mayo, pepper jack cheese, lettuce and tomato. In contrast, The Doppelganger features a turkey patty, bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo.

Some of their other popular burgers and sandwiches include a wide variety of options, such as the Twin Burger, Junior Burger, Crab Burger, Turkey Burger, Chicken Sandwich, Egg Sandwich and Grilled Cheese. Other meals include Twin Burger Salad, Crab Burger Salad, Good Dog and Bad Dog.

Identical twins Billy and Denny Guilbeaux decided to open Twin's in June of 2012 after years of having a passion for making and selling sweets

from an early age. They both wanted to start a restaurant with a sweet but savory food style. Their goal was to create everything in-house for the sake of freshness and quality.

According to Billy, they make the products that they are capable of producing in-house. "We grind our meat, bake our buns, make our icing and all of our sweets..."

Over the past 13 years, Twin's has become successful as a staple in the community. With their delicious sweets and burgers, they have earned a loyal following. People not only love the food but also appreciate the welcoming atmosphere.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was cozy and had a sort of ambiance to it. It was wrapped by windows almost entirely around the place.

I enjoyed the natural lighting throughout each of the times I have been there.

The warm surroundings also make it ideal for families and friends. All of the sweets were on display for everyone to admire. I enjoyed the overall scent, a lovely blend of chocolate, vanilla and strawberries, in the air.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting this establishment on Tuesday, Sept. 16. As we walked in,

several people greeted us at the counter. We began to browse the menu and quickly made our decisions while in line.

Once we reached the counter, I ordered the Chicken Sandwich with regular fries and my colleague ordered The Eggcellent Twin with cheesy fries.

We also, of course, couldn't resist getting a whole box of sweets, which included Oreo Cake Balls, Strawberry Cake Balls, Cheesecake Petit Fours, Dubai Chocolate, Frosted Brownies and a Chocolate Dinky Doozie.

Soon after we sat down, we received our orders. My Chicken Sandwich contained a grilled chicken breast, lettuce, tomato and mayo.

At the same time, my colleague's Eggcellent Twin consisted of twin patties, a fried egg, bacon, American cheese, grilled onions, lettuce, tomato and mayo.

The sandwich and burger both looked certainly homemade and tasted even better. The chicken on my sandwich was well-seasoned and full of flavor; all the vegetables tasted fresh. My colleague describes her burger as a well-balanced proportion between the egg and the burger patties. Each bite was a delightful combination of crispy and savory elements.

After we finished our meals, we decided to start taking on the large amount of desserts we had. I decided to start with the cheesecake dessert. When I took a bite, it was incredible. The creamy texture of the cheesecake filling complemented the flaky and crisp crust very well.

Next, we tried the Oreo Cake Balls. These were a delightful treat, with a soft, gooey interior that was flavorful. The alternative, the strawberry version, was even better and offered a refreshing sensation to my palate.

The Dubai chocolate was extremely rich, melting in my mouth with each bite. The kadayif (crispy, shredded phyllo dough) added a nice crunch to the richness of the chocolate.

Finally, the very large Chocolate Dinky Doozie was a surprisingly familiar treat — a sandwich-style dessert with a soft cookie exterior and a creamy filling. It tasted very similar to a Hostess Ding Dong.

The culture and ambiance of this place are always evident every time I visit. The passion that Denny and Billy put into this restaurant was noticeable.

If you would like to visit this establishment, they are open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are closed on Sundays.



Photos by Ellie Schmidt

(Left) Chicken Sandwich with regular fries; (Middle) Box of desserts; (Right) Interior of Twin's Burgers and Sweets.

# SOUNDING OFF

**"What is a stereotype about your major that you think is untrue?"**



**Bailey Singleton**  
PSYCHOLOGY SENIOR

*"I would say...the idea that we are...really good emotionally... because I think there's a lot of really emotionally immature people in my major."*



**Matthew Barrois**  
ENGINEERING TECH SENIOR

*"So I'm in engineering technology. Okay. And a lot of engineering majors are, like, it's not real engineering."*



**A'miah Thomas**  
CHEMISTRY SOPHOMORE

*"A lot of people say chemistry is hard. To me, I'm good at science, so it's not hard. It's still challenging, but you just gotta do what you gotta do."*



**Tyrin Edwards**  
KINESIOLOGY SENIOR

*"That all of us want to be physical trainers. I want to be an exercise physiologist."*



**Shelbi Zaruba**  
ART EDUCATION SENIOR

*"I feel like a lot of times people don't realize that we do like interacting with school spirit stuff and... being part organizations and everything...."*



**Jarden Goodie**  
HEALTH INFO MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

*"I feel like people think that the medical field is majority women."*

*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 Tracy Engel.*

## COMIC

# Missing Hat



Comic by Lauren Gerald

**Vermilion Awards**

- UL Ragin' Recognition**  
2025- Marketing Award
- American Scholastic Press**  
2024- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2023- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
2022- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- Southeastern Journalism Conference**  
2023- 1<sup>st</sup> Place "Best Overall Newspaper"

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