

THE VERMILION

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Newspaper



October 8, 2026

Geosciences professor leading a research project on Pecan Island

Joann Seow
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A team from the Department of Geosciences at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, led by Dr. Alysia Cox, got a project off the ground on Sept. 19. The project integrates geochemistry and microbial activity in the Pecan Island area with coastal change.

Cox, an assistant professor of geosciences who is new to the campus this semester, has a previous 11 years of teaching and researching at Montana Technological University and a year at the University of Montana. She has led research through her Laboratory Enumerating Geobiochemical Exploration and Natural Dynamics (LEGEND).

Speaking with Cox, she shared that an aspect that influences her research is

contributing to whichever community that she is living in.

She said, “For the past 11 years, we lived in a super fun town with an open pit mine that was there, and it had been the biggest copper mine in the world in 1900.”

Using that as a research advantage, she said that LEGEND sampled every three months, the river and the stream both above and below where the mine and the influence of the mine is. Over the 11 years, she collated a vast data set associated with the aqueous geochemistry and the microorganisms that are living and metabolizing in those environments.

Coming to UL Lafayette, Cox had a whole new environment to work with, and an opportunity presented itself shortly after she arrived. She said, “Soon after I got here... this SpaceX

announcement came out, and I'm like, okay well... there's my project.”

She decided to study the aqueous geochemistry and the microbiology in the freshwater bayou on Pecan Island and along the Gulf Coast, and the sediments associated with that water.

Together with nine students under LEGEND at UL Lafayette, and an assistant professor of biology from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota, the team hit the ground running with collecting samples on Pecan Island.

Cox said that there is a sense of urgency due to the progression of construction for the spaceport. She said, “Since they already started dredging in some areas, right, it's really important for us to get out and get some samples... pre-installation of world's largest spaceport.”

On Sept. 19, the team got permission to conduct sampling on private property on Pecan Island, and collected samples from four locations in the affected area.

Jonathan Pillsbury, a senior geology major, is one of the students involved. Pillsbury's role was spectrometry testing, taking the different water samples, adding reactive agents to it and allowing a special machine to detect the concentration of chemicals in the water. The aim is to study a change in pH levels, and, if there is a change, how the water would be impacted.

Sharing his hopes for the project's findings and outcome, Pillsbury said, “Hopefully, nothing. It would be very nice to not find anything because that would mean that the environment hasn't really been changed that much at all.”

On Sunday, Oct. 4, Cox and her team went out for a second round of sampling at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge just beside Pecan Island. Cox said that the refuge is a good place to study coastal changes. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, “Shoreline erosion in this area averages more than 50 feet each year. Since the refuge was founded, it has lost more than 15,000 acres to coastal erosion.”

On Monday, Oct. 5, they conducted their final round of sampling for forming a baseline, before the research project can seek funding to proceed officially. They collected samples from the freshwater bayou just along and slightly off the coast of Pecan Island.

Cox said that a struggle in the sampling process so far has been the uncertainty of who holds authority over which portion of Pecan Island. She said, “It's a little bit scattered. Usually we are very organized... but this was really difficult with getting permissions.”

She compared it to her research in Yellowstone National Park, where the process of getting an official permit was detailed and straightforward.

This project is not yet officially funded. According to Cox, she hopes to seek funding for the project once the sample baseline has been achieved.

Once officially funded, Cox plans to sample once every three months for the next eight years to 10 years, monitoring changes in the ecosystem parameters and microbial organisms that live on Pecan Island.



Photo by Dr. Alysia Cox
Pecan Island

Celebrating World Teacher's Day: Educators that made a difference

Gabrielle Mouton
NEWS WRITER

World Teacher's Day, celebrated on Oct. 5, serves as a time for appreciation, advocacy and spotlights the mentors who have served hundreds of students in their life. The Vermilion spoke with three professors at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette who have spent decades of their careers being educators and helping our students become leaders in their communities.

The Vermilion spoke with Dr. Phillip Auter, graduate coordinator and communication professor, Dr. Mark Smith, interim head of the Department of Management and Barry Jean Ancelet, professor emeritus of francophone studies.

These professors spoke about their experiences working for the University, being in the teaching profession and what being a part of a learning institution means for them and their careers.

Almost every teacher has their moment of realization that this is the career path they wish to take. For some people, that decision may come after several other paths taken. For Smith, former head of the Department of Management under B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration, he took the adventurous route.

Recalling that while bringing applications to different jobs across the country, he would ride his motorcycle and sometimes sleep in ditches. He held a variety of jobs, including work with a medical charity in Central America, factory shipping, gas-meter reading and building television sets and recording studios.

“The key here,” he said, “is to find something both that you can do, and that you can keep your head together, and enjoy enough that you can keep doing for a long time.” He holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Sam

Houston State University, an MBA in business management from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in business policy from the University of Washington in Seattle.

His only other teaching position was at Louisiana State University, and he has remained steadfast with UL Lafayette for decades. Teaching is something that, for him, comes naturally.

“When I found teaching, I said ‘Here is something that I could actually do for 20, 30 years.’ And it turns out, I’ve done it for almost 50,” he said.

A part of what draws some people to becoming educators is the feeling of connecting with students. Auter has made it his entire career to do so. Though unsure of his path at first, it was through being a graduate student that brought him to education.

He had a teaching assistantship for TV studio production while living in Athens, Georgia, and it set him off. “That was when I decided, yeah, I want to keep doing this. I like grad school, I like teaching and I just kind of never looked back,” he reminisced.

At the heart of what he loves to do is building a community with students, who then turn and build a community in their respective areas. The satisfaction for him of being a graduate coordinator is not just seeing the students graduate, but to watch them flourish in their careers.

“That’s the real change that you’re getting to watch and see,” he said. “The fruit of your labors in a sense that these students are going out into the world and pursuing careers and also having an impact.”

Having received the Hubert Bourgeois Endowed Professorship in Communication in 2008 and the Leadership Service Award in 2026, he continues to dedicate his time and efforts in pursuit of student excellence.

Even after many years of being an educator, the ability to learn new things

never stops. Being the best teacher you can be requires opening your mind to new possibilities and new perspectives to grow. Ancelet may have spent 40 years in the classroom, but he does not believe his time of learning is over.

Now working as emeritus for University, he has spent his entire career learning new ways to teach, even dubbing his own form of teaching “guerilla academics,” which involves him weaving entertainment into his lessons. He has taught an array of different classes from within the Department of Modern Languages and the College of Liberal Arts, a lot of which were his own creation. But he credits his inspiration to the things he learns in the classroom.

“Some of the best ideas that ever occurred to me came out of those conversations with students,” he recalled. Ancelet never took a sabbatical during his time teaching, and his reasoning was that the most energy he ever felt was in his classroom.

One-on-ones with students and class participation gave him hundreds of voices to hear from, and when he

pushed students, they pushed him further too.

Being an accomplished writer with several published works, a director of the Lafayette Festival Acadiens et Créoles and a winner of the Humanist of the Year Award, one might think he has learned all there is to know. But Ancelet would surely disagree.

“Recalling my father's advice,” he said, “Always keep yourself in a position to be surprised, because if you’re surprised, you’re going to be learning something you didn’t even know.”

Looking through all three of these teacher's accomplishments and experiences in the classroom, it's not hard to see what keeps them motivated to continue being an educator. Whether it was for the love of the game, the impact made on students or the joy of getting to learn something new alongside them.

As Ancelet succinctly put it, “When I retired, there was a reception, and I said, ‘I’m really happy to be retiring after forty years before the University realized that I would have done it for nothing.’”



Graphic by Cade Plaisance

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DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SCIENTIST

High school seniors get a taste of being a science major via interactive exhibits.

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PIXAR'S 31-FILM WEB

Writer Andrew Courville lays out the interconnectedness of Pixar's film collection.

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News

Scientists in the making: Year 13

Caitlyn Comeaux
MANAGING EDITOR

Wednesday, Oct. 7 marks the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s 13th annual Science Day. Current chair of the Science Day committee and professor in the School of Computing and Informatics, Dr. Michael Totaro, shared about what goes on both during Science Day and behind the scenes of the event.

“I mean, we’ll get some juniors every now and then, but we really target seniors,” Totaro said. “So it’s an opportunity for a high school senior to experience a sort of day in the life of a student majoring in an undergraduate science degree program.”

The event begins bright and early at 7:30 a.m. in the Angelle Hall Auditorium with sign-ins and breakfast. After a welcome address from the Dean of the College of Sciences Dr. Azmy Ackleh, the students break off into seven smaller tour groups to begin their day.

Every 20 minutes, the groups rotate taking part in major-specific exhibits. There is also an activity that remains in Angelle Hall: the Q&A panel with recent University science alums. Totaro noted, “And when their [high schoolers] near peers are speaking, that matters. People that just graduated, they want to hear what they have to say... they can connect very quickly.”

Dr. Calvin Berry, another committee member and statistics professor at the University, told The Vermilion that there are a total of 21 different Louisiana high schools. Now, outside of the event’s inner workings, the exhibits are what students primarily come to see.

Biology, chemistry, math, physics, computer science and informatics, geology and environmental science have interactive events set up to show students that majoring in a science is more than tedious lab work.

“Science is not just simply, you know,

working in a dark, gloomy lab, boring for the rest of your life,” Totaro said. “No, it’s really... it’s all about exploration.”

Totaro added that some of Science Day’s biggest hits amongst the students are the School of Computing and Informatics and the Department of Physics. The former has an ever-popular virtual reality set-up.

The latter has some events that sound rather frightening on paper, such as a bed of nails that students are allowed to lay on.

Due to the properties of weight distribution, this is actually completely harmless.

These eye-catching exhibits are run completely by volunteer students. They are the heart of Science Day and really assist students seeing what it is like studying at the University.

Totaro said, “Yeah, the committee is faculty and staff, but to be perfectly honest with you, the entire thing has really been successful mainly because of our students.”

At the time of this paper’s physical release, Science Day has passed. At least one high school senior will have walked away with a new lens on what science is all about.

Science Day will return in the 2027-28 school year, just in time for the next wave of future students and scientists.



Photo provided by Dr. Calvin Berry
Exhibit from Science Day 2024

Food Review

Rachael’s Cafe: A taste of Louisiana

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

Located at 104 Republic Ave., Rachael’s Cafe is a family-owned restaurant serving Cajun and Creole cuisine with a menu centered around the flavors of South Louisiana.

From seafood and gumbo, to sandwiches, salads and its Fit Meals, Rachael’s offers a wide selection for customers with different tastes.

Rachael Hebert opened the restaurant on Jan. 4, 2012, with the goal of providing quality Cajun and Creole food with friendly, family-style service. Since then, the restaurant has grown beyond its original space, doubling in size in 2017 and adding catering, frozen specialty seafood products and Fit Meals.

The restaurant also added a second location in Maurice at 8218 Maurice Ave.

The atmosphere of Rachael’s Cafe was casual and comfortable, making it an easy place to sit down and enjoy a meal.

The restaurant had a relaxed feeling that paired well with the familiar Louisiana dishes on the menu.

We were particularly drawn to the outdoor seating since it was a pleasant evening.

My colleague and I had the pleasure of visiting Rachael’s Cafe on Friday,



Photos by Ellie Schmidt
Rachael's Cafe salmon

Sept. 25. We began with the fried crab cakes, which made for a savory appetizer before our entrées arrived.

The crab cakes gave us a chance to start with one of the restaurant’s seafood selections before moving on to our meals. They tasted extremely fresh, and the sauce was essential to the experience.

For my entrée, I ordered the hamburger steak with a salad and twice-baked mashed potatoes. The hamburger steak was filling and paired especially well with the mashed potatoes. The creamy potatoes added a comforting texture, while the salad brought something fresh to the plate.

My colleague chose the salmon from the Fit Meals portion of the menu, served with mixed vegetables and a baked sweet potato.

Compared to my entrée, the salmon offered a lighter combination while still making for a complete meal. The vegetables and sweet potato complemented the salmon without overpowering it.

Beyond the dishes we ordered, Rachael’s Cafe has plenty of options that showcase its Cajun and Creole roots.

Some of the restaurant’s featured dishes include crawfish bisque, seafood jambalaya, crabmeat au gratin, crawfish étouffée and Rachael’s Signature Gumbo.

Customers can also find options such as seafood gumbo, crab patties and oyster and shrimp sandwiches. For dessert, the restaurant offers homemade bread pudding.

The restaurant’s family-owned background also adds to its connection with the Lafayette community.

Rachael’s Cafe has continued to expand while keeping its focus on Cajun and Creole cooking and the family-style service it was founded on.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Rachael’s Cafe. If you would like to visit, they are open Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. They are closed on Sundays.

Police Reports

Compiled by Caitlyn Comeaux

Oct. 4

- At 2:06 a.m., officers dispatched to the parking area near Bonin Hall in response to a fight in progress. One subject was transported to the hospital. No arrests were made.

Oct. 3

- At 10 a.m., officers were dispatched to Baker Hall in reference to a complaint of online extortion via CashApp fraud.

Oct. 2

- At 6:22 p.m., an officer dispatched to The Heritage at Cajun Village in reference to a parking lot crash between a 2025 black Nissan Sentra and a 2025 black Honda Civic.

Oct. 1

- At 9:45 p.m., officers were dispatched to Harris Hall in reference to a report of verbal threats and disturbing the peace. No arrests were made.
- At 6:41 p.m., officers received a complaint of a stolen RCB black, white, grey and turquoise electric scooter near Agnes Edwards Hall.
- At 5:39 p.m., officers dispatched to the Olivier Parking Tower in reference to a report of a hit-and-run between a 2012 red Chevrolet Camaro and a 2010 white Chrysler Sebring.

Sept. 30

- At 5:09 p.m., officers received a complaint of a stolen white and black MAXSHOT electric scooter.
- At 4 p.m., officers received a complaint of a stolen black, grey and orange MAXSHOT electric scooter near the Edith Garland Dupré Library.
- At 12 p.m., officers received a report of an unauthorized purchase with a University Cajun Card in the Student Union. Officers located and arrested the suspect. A misdemeanor summons was issued.

Sept. 29

- At 7:56 a.m., officers were dispatched to the Girard Park Circle Parking Garage in reference to a hit-and-run crash between a 2027 black Honda Accord and a 2027 grey Toyota Camry.

WHERE’S ALLAN?



Nestled behind an iron gate and old oak trees, this building is visited by those who already earned their degrees. Where am I?

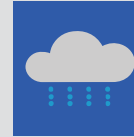
Last week's winner was **Sandeep Kc**. He is a Ph.D. student in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology. Kc is from Nepal and is a current member of the Nepalese Students Organization (NSA).



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, and 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.

Weather

Thursday 10/8	Friday 10/9	Saturday 10/10	Sunday 10/11	Monday 10/12	Tuesday 10/13	Wednesday 10/14
 High: 88°F Low: 65°F	 High: 85°F Low: 68°F	 High: 80°F Low: 70°F	 High: 83°F Low: 71°F	 High: 84°F Low: 71°F	 High: 84°F Low: 70°F	 High: 83°F Low: 66°F

Isabelle Brumley
BEAUCOUP EDITOR

- Forecasters are keeping an eye on the Gulf this week as a developing area of low pressure could bring increased rain and storm activity to the region. While tropical development remains uncertain, the system has a 40% chance of forming over the next seven days as it moves north through the southwestern Gulf area.

Sports

Hunting for HOCO, Cajuns walk it off against Red Wolves 23–20

Alyus Dick
PHOTOGRAPHY COORDINATOR

The Ragin’ Cajuns managed a narrow 23–20 victory over the Arkansas State Red Wolves to cap off the University’s homecoming week. Cajuns’ kicker Tony Sterner delivered a field goal kick as the game clock expired to walk it off in regulation.

The Cajuns were prepared for their first Sun Belt Conference game of the season after going 3–1 in non-conference play. To add excitement to an already anticipated game, it was the University’s homecoming week and the city of Lafayette was roaring.

The Cajuns differentiated from their usual homecoming getup. They donned the homecoming white script helmet, but elected to wear their normal home jersey and pants rather than the throwback ones, which Cajun nation has come to expect for homecoming games.

The game kicked off at 7 p.m. and avoided what was expected to be another rainy game.

The Cajuns won the coin toss and deferred, giving the Red Wolves the first offensive possession of the game. The Cajuns defense stood tall in the first drive of the game, causing a turnover-on-downs at their 33-yard line.

The Cajuns took over the ball and quickly made headway. They went 49 yards on only four plays thanks to a 10-yard quarterback rush from Lunch Winfield and a 24-yard pass to wide receiver Landon Strother. The drive would eventually be cut short when the Red Wolves recovered a forced fumble by safety Makai Shahid.

First blood wouldn’t be drawn until about two minutes left in the first quarter.

The Cajuns executed a 66-yard drive on nine plays, which would be capped off by a quarterback-keeper from Winfield to put the Cajuns ahead 7–0. Winfield’s score put him at seven total rushing touchdowns this year so far, leaving him two shy from his 2025 total.

The second quarter was the worst for the Cajuns on both sides of the ball. The Red Wolves first drive of the quarter resulted in a 25-yard field goal to cut the Cajuns’ lead to 7–3. The Cajuns’ offense immediately punted the ball back as they went three-and-out after unsuccessful run attempts and an overturned pass.

The Red Wolves would get the ball back and proceed to burn most of the clock out with a three-minute drive. Red Wolves quarterback Trey Owens connected with wideout Jaylen Bonelli for a 21-yard touchdown. The Cajuns were now the ones trailing 7–10 with 23 seconds remaining in the first half.

While the University crowned the homecoming king and queen for halftime, the Cajuns were in the locker room making adjustments. The Cajuns opened the second half by driving 52 yards down the field, allowing Sterner to deliver a 38-yard field goal to tie the ball game at 10–10. The Red Wolves answered back with a field goal of their own to once again lead 10–13.

The Cajuns’ next drive was almost entirely kept on the ground. Cajuns running back JJ Garner opened the drive with two back-to-back 15-plus yard rushes. The Cajuns’ ground-and-pound centered drive lasted into the beginning of the fourth quarter, ending with a Garner 13-yard rushing touchdown to take the lead with a 17–13 score.

The Red Wolves answered right back with a touchdown of their own after going 75 yards down the field. Their running back Solomon Baggett ran up the middle for a 6-yard touchdown, putting the Red Wolves back out in front 17–20 with 12 minutes to go in the fourth.

The Cajuns marched their way to the other side of the field with a meticulous drive that lasted a little over six minutes. On the first play, Winfield found his tight end Brock Chappell for a 23-yard gain. Running back Trenton Chaney followed up with a 13-yard rush to get the Cajuns’ across midfield. Eight more plays placed the Cajuns at the Red

Wolves’ eight-yard line, allowing Sterner to successfully kick a 25-yard field goal to tie the game 20–20.

The Cajuns’ defense didn’t allow the Red Wolves any chance to get in position to take the lead, forcing a three-and-out while allowing only three yards on the drive. The offense proceeded to drive the ball down the field, getting into field goal range before almost draining the rest of the time in regulation.

With the clock paused at three seconds before the snap, Sterner delivered the walk-off field goal as the time expired to avoid overtime and win the game for the Cajuns with a final score of 23–20. This marks the Cajuns’ third straight victory over the Red Wolves and the 20th win over the program when playing at home.

The Cajuns will take a short road trip north to Ruston, Louisiana, to face their in-state rival, the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs for their second conference game of the year. This will be the pair’s first matchup since 2015, which ended in a 43–14 victory for the Bulldogs.



Photo by Alyus Dick
Lunch Winfield (7) rushes for a touchdown against the Arkansas State Red Wolves Oct. 3

Allons

President Trump’s press ban and what message it sends to people

Kinsey Waits
ALLONS EDITOR

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

This is the entirety of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Widely known as the foundation of America, the rights protected in this amendment are typically agreed to be sacred to any successful democracy.

Wars have been fought and lives have been lost to protect these principles. Students are taught throughout their years of history classes what happens to countries in which the government controls all output of information.

Acclaimed authors like George Orwell and Ray Bradbury wrote “1984” and “Fahrenheit 451,” respectively, about the dangers of government censorship.

It is for this reason that President Trump’s ban of three news outlets on Sept. 18 should be a bipartisan concern.

CNN, MSNOW and Politico were all barred from entering the White House on Friday, Sept. 19 after their passes were “disabled” according to NPR. This is another decision that supports the thinking that Trump has built his administration on shock value. According to him, the decision to exclude these news stations was not an attack on free press, but an attack on the “fake news” that he claims has been targeting him.

The President did not cite a specific press release that triggered this action, but instead stated it was a culmination of years of unwarranted criticism. While it may be tiring to hear people publish

information one does not agree with, this frustration does not give anyone the right to dismiss the First Amendment.

According to Dr. William Davie, communication law and ethics professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, this decision is in direct opposition with the values of the office President Trump holds.

“He has challenged the very structure that he was sworn to uphold,” Davie said. It is also crucial to understand that the President operates in a public forum, which constitutionally prevents him from excluding publications on the basis of content.

Davie emphasized the importance of the case Sherrill vs. Knight (1977). This case set a precedent for the rights of the press to operate free of government control or exclusion. In a world that is changing so quickly, it can be easy to forget that history repeats itself. In these circumstances, we as a country must look back in our nation’s history and learn from what was ruled in previous cases.

In the case of Robert Sherrill, he was denied from the White House without explanation or proper due process. The D.C. circuit courts eventually ruled in favor of Sherrill and upheld the freedom of the press. When the same narrative played out on Sept. 18, 2026, however, the Trump administration adamantly defended the decision on the basis of national security threats.

This issue was not brought up at the initial briefing after the ban, however, the administration leaned heavily on this excuse in the following days. This raised many questions of whether the White House was using the vague reasoning of national security concerns as an excuse

to facilitate viewpoint discrimination.

Journalists throughout the White House spoke out about this blatant disregard for their 1st and 5th Amendment rights. Fox News, a conservative leaning news station that President Trump has supported in the past, even joined the statement of many other news sources that criticized this decision.

This issue has drawn immense national attention. While many workings of the government are carefully woven into legal documents and bills, this was a visible and blatant disregard for the constitution of our nation.

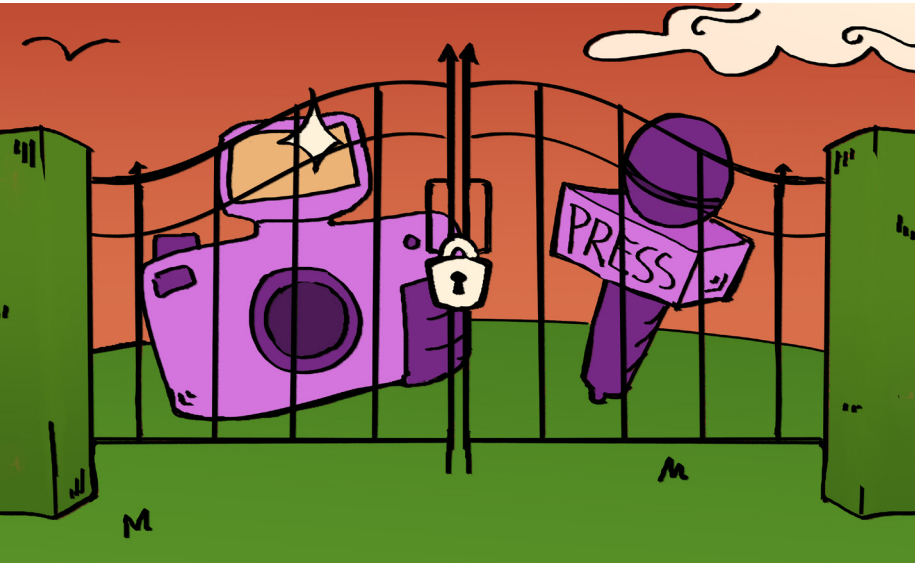
Journalists are under great scrutiny, now more than ever. The President’s accusations of “fake news” have encouraged some to use this term more and more loosely, encompassing “fake news” as any published information they disagree with.

This was never the goal of America. The First Amendment stands to protect each and every person’s right of speech, even and especially if they are controversial.

That being said, journalistic integrity is also of the utmost importance. The modern age has brought about more avenues for misinformation than ever, and social media often serves as an enormous rumor mill most of the time. That is why it is important for journalists to be educated and qualified in their reporting.

If there are issues with journalists’ factual reporting, this should be addressed through the proper legal proceedings.

The answer to misinformation or so called “fake news” should never include the disregard of the First Amendment.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

A deep dive into the Pixar Theory

Andrew Courville
NEWS WRITER

Imagine a cinematic universe where time travel, magic, multinational tech corporations, alien discoveries and everything in existence develop a consciousness. That might sound difficult to wrap your head around, but that’s the plot of the Pixar Theory. Although Pixar Animation Studios doesn’t acknowledge it, I personally love the fan-made idea that all 31 Pixar films exist in the same universe.

The SuperCarlinBrothers YouTube channel popularized the idea in 2013. They got the story from Jon Negroni’s podcast. Of course, you can believe what you want. However, I’ve found that this theory’s persistence is a sign of our collective whimsy. So, please keep in mind that I’m explaining these absurd complexities with complete sincerity and in a heavily abridged format.

The first principle of the Pixar Theory is that magic is imbued within the world in small ways. In “Brave,” Merida, a medieval Scottish princess, gets a spell from a witch (who becomes incredibly important later) and unintentionally turns her mother into a bear.

When I interviewed Computer Art and Animation Professor Donald Gremillion, he said his favorite film is “The Incredibles” for its “retro futuristic style and making the characters feel fun and believable, and having fun with the powers... it’s just a solid story, good visuals.” This family with superpowers takes place in the 1950s and 1960s. The climax features the AI omnidroids, originally owned by the main villain, becoming self-aware.

“Toy Story” comes after this, which Visual Arts Master Instructor James Tancill said was his favorite Pixar film, especially because Pixar is designed for everyone and, “in every Pixar film, there’s a ton of characters, and they have this amazing ability... you will remember them for their brief little

moments.” Inanimate objects and animals becoming sentient are common in Pixar across the “Toy Story” franchise, “Up,” “Finding Nemo,” “Ratatouille” and “Hoppers,” taking place from the 1990s to the present day. This is because of the source of all magic in the Pixar universe: human memories. This is shown in Land of the Dead in “Coco,” the subtle color coordination in “Elemental” and the physical embodiment of emotions as memories in “Inside Out.” How we remember and care for people and things has repercussions on the world.

The exodus of humans into space because of pollution in “WALL-E” is all thanks to Buy n Large, a multinational superconglomerate that Pixar created. It manufactures the batteries that power Buzz Lightyear in “Toy Story” and tries to purchase Carl Fredrickson’s house in “Up.”

“Elio” depicts the burgeoning interstellar ambitions of humanity. However, by the mid-21st century, Buy n Large dominates Earth’s governments and worsens pollution, prioritizing spaceship manufacturing for evacuations over saving the planet.

I think we’ve all at some point wondered how the vehicles in “Cars” came to life... or was that just me? In “Elio,” cloning clay is a key aspect of the plot, so the clone takes a piece of the essence of someone and replicates its appearance and sentience. After humans left Earth, the Commiverse, the galactic pacifistic alliance from “Elio,” sent cloning clay to help restore the ecosystem.

Notice that the “Cars” universe doesn’t explore the concept of birth or childhood. So, we arrive at a disturbing conclusion that the cloning clay cloned all the vehicles in “Cars,” but detected the human DNA on them and then used educated guesses to create a single lifeform.

Hundreds of years later, humans return to Earth in “WALL-E” when it’s proven that the ecosystem stabilizes.

They evolve into the monsters in “Monsters, Inc.” thousands of years later. These monsters, needing electricity for their society, develop time travel to open portals (closet doors) into the past, which is how monsters collect energy from children in the form of memories.

Does it sound a little too incredulous? Well, I hope you lie awake at night thinking about why the witch in “Brave” has wooden carvings of Sully from “Monsters, Inc.” and a Pizza Planet truck from “Toy Story.” The obvious answer is that the witch is Boo from “Monsters, Inc.,” who learns to time travel in search of Sully, and is in her old age in “Brave.” It’s your choice to believe.

Pixar has changed since its founding. As its animation style has changed over the years, Computer Art and Animation Professor Geoffrey Marshall said, “It’s easier for the audience to be engrossed as the technology advances.”

On their story model, he said, “It’s a really collaborative method... they do a lot of prep work before they actually get into the process of doing the final animations.” Contrarily, Computer Art and Animation Professor Yeon Choi

explained that Pixar stories follow typical archetypes and are “chasing commercialism” to keep as much of its fanbase as possible.

Choi said, “It appeals deeply to everybody’s subconsciousness,” including the theorists. New stories are vital for creativity, and repeating the same ones can be tiresome.

On the other hand, I think there’s something magical about how our conditions are constantly changing. We love categorizing and making conclusions that fit what we want to believe. I don’t think it’s cynical. Sometimes it’s for pure whimsy. Even Negroni and the Carlin brothers have discrepancies between their theories. Fandom.com has thousands of competing posts.

Professor Gremillion said, “Animation can be a whole lot of different things, not just kids movies,” and it’s the exploration of an art form. Concurrently, I think Pixar wants us to dream bigger, live in the moment and cherish this beautiful world we can share, experience and protect. I just hope Pixar will always remember the magic they started with.



Graphic by Paige Stevens

Meaning behind a true friendship?

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

As generations come and go, we could make up a multitude of definitions for the term friendship. For one person, it could mean being by someone's side. Maybe for another, it's the aspect of sharing life with them. For others, it could simply be the action of creating memories. Or maybe it's all the above.

We all know who we consider to be our friends; as you're reading this, someone is coming to your mind at the moment, imagining them as I list off all the different ways of what makes someone a friend. So I must ask, what did it take for that person to be a friend?

In the midst of life and getting to know people, it can be easy to build up multiple friendships, sometimes even at once. Oh, how beautiful, to connect with a multitude of people. I understand

it is not like this for everyone; however, especially in college, it is pretty hard not to meet new people.

This is a good thing. This is how we build community, how we grow as individuals: Surrounding ourselves with well-rounded people.

However, too many friendships can lead to a downside most of us never anticipate. I'm not saying being well known is bad. But being well known and being known deeply are two different things that we easily confuse. When we have a big friend group, becoming the person that everyone knows, we start to lose true connection.

Yes, you and that other person are connected in the hobbies you share. But compare that connection to the person who walked with you through that messy season of your life. Which bond is deeper?

Since I've been in college, I would say

I pride myself in fighting to make new relationships, getting to know all those I meet. But in doing so, all my friendships have come to a standstill.

You would think the more friends you make, the closer connections you would have. Yet, I've unfortunately found that isn't true.

When your only circle is over five people, it can be hard to make sound relationships; instead, everything ends up being surface level. Sometimes it's too many relationships to balance, so there's not time to deepen the bonds, and maybe these are the types of relationships you want and nothing more. But don't you get lonely? I know I do.

Having a big group of friends is good; there's nothing wrong with it, but having even just two friends who have such a strong bond with one another is something great. To go through life with

someone who knows you better than anyone else. Someone who will always be there for you.

Going into my third year of college, I find myself grieving this. I hate that I missed the chance to create a best friend, a person who knows me completely. By trying to foster knowing everyone else, I never let someone, just one person, get to know me.

Having one best friend versus a group of 10 friends can offer you more stability in a relationship rather than just their presence. At some point, someone's presence isn't enough, and your soul will long for more sustenance. This is where those close friends come into play.

I'd be lying to you if I told you I don't get jealous of best friends. I want to have that person I can always hang out with. A person who I can call at 1 a.m. and not have to feel guilty or bothersome. I'm glad I have friends (if I can even qualify to use this term), but I yearn for that special person. A friend that will last forever. No fear of ever losing them and having that safety net of always having someone by my side.

I mentioned earlier how upset I am about missing out on that chance. However, as I write this, I want to end it with hope. Third year of college or not, there are still people out there. People who are freeing, peaceful and refreshing. Let us, if you're in the same boat as me, strive to find these people. With a desire to find that close group, let us make friends with those around us and let this group become more than friends, but a family.

It has to be possible. It is possible. Stop getting caught up in knowing everyone and sit with someone, truly get to know them and let them get to know you. Let our relations in this world reach beyond the surface.



Graphic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

THE VERMILION

A weekly student publication of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The paper is distributed on Thursdays except on holidays and semester breaks. The Vermilion is supported in part by student-assessed fees. Views expressed in The Vermilion do not necessarily reflect those of UL Lafayette administrators, faculty, staff or other students.

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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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Beaucoup

You Seem Obsessed

The Beaucoup section writes about what they've been obsessing over recently.



Graphic by Ray Bardales

Gabrielle Mouton
NEWS WRITER

My current obsession is photography projects! I got a camera during the spring semester in order to take photos for my multimedia class. Soon, I began to realize how much I enjoyed taking pictures of events and people, so I thought of attempting a photoshoot with a friend of mine. When that was through, I knew I was hooked. Not only have I been getting into the phototaking and editing process,

Sadie Lynn Burrell
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Since the semester has started, I haven't had a ton of time to indulge in my interests, but my most recent one is undoubtedly Toki Pona. Toki Pona is a conlang, or constructed language, created in 2001 by a linguist with the goal of being as simple as possible. This means it only has around 130 words total. Each word can operate as

I have also tried my hand at doing makeup for the shoots, set dressing and even some prop making. I think that this hobby combines a lot of what I already enjoy doing and then some. Getting to work with new people and my friends makes the experience even more enjoyable. I love making them feel good and giving their photos an extra layer of design with graphics. I only hope to continue to harness my craft and build my portfolio with more dynamic and unique shoots.

a noun, verb or adjective, making the language very contextual. For example, the word moku as a noun means "food," as a verb means "to eat" and as an adjective means "edible." However, this is just one example. Each word can be used in a lot of different ways, so you have to get creative. I spent a lot of time over summer making flashcards, going through lessons and talking in Toki Pona Discord servers. I think it's super interesting and I want to get back into journaling in it.

Kinsey Waits
ALLONS EDITOR

My current obsession happens to be a book series I have absolutely fallen in love with over the summer. "Throne of Glass" by Sarah J. Maas, is a fantasy series that has stolen my heart! I first heard about this series online from some of my favorite reading YouTubers and decided to give it a try. It was out of my comfort zone, as I usually stick to historical fiction or

Ja'lyn Braud
ALLONS WRITER

Currently, I am obsessed with "Dancing with the Stars." It is by far one of my favorite television shows of all time. Not necessarily because of its popularity today, but because it has always had a special place in my heart since I was a little girl. Every year, my grandmother and I would watch it together. At some point, back then, I decided

biographies, but once I started reading I was absolutely hooked. The series follows Celeana Sardothian, an assassin, through a very interesting time in her life. As the larger plot unfolds, the reader gets to know each of the amazing characters deeply. Maas really does an incredible job of creating a world that feels as real as the one we are living in. The fast-paced action is written so well, and it truly never feels like the story is dragging. I spent my entire summer enthralled in this series and I hope you give it a try! that I was going to be on the show when I grew up. It is obvious that I have not made it onto the show, but I have yet to miss an episode this season. Completely glued in, staying in touch with everything happening outside of the cameras, I am attached to this show as if I need it to survive. I know everything about each professional dancer and star as if we are close personal friends. I cannot express my admiration for the show enough, and I am so excited to see where this season goes.

Cajun Crossword

Compiled by Vallen Power No. 5

INSTRUCTIONS

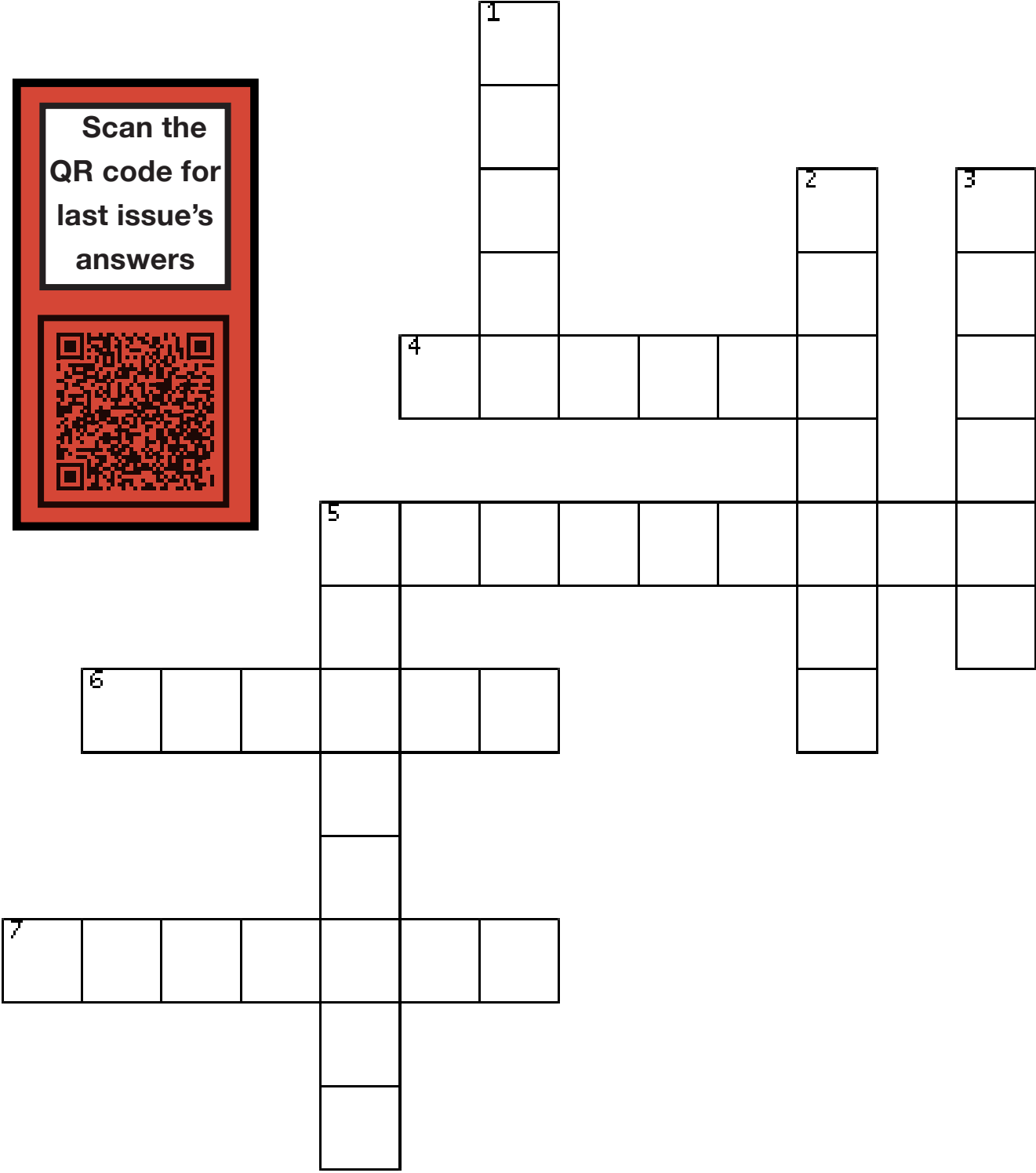
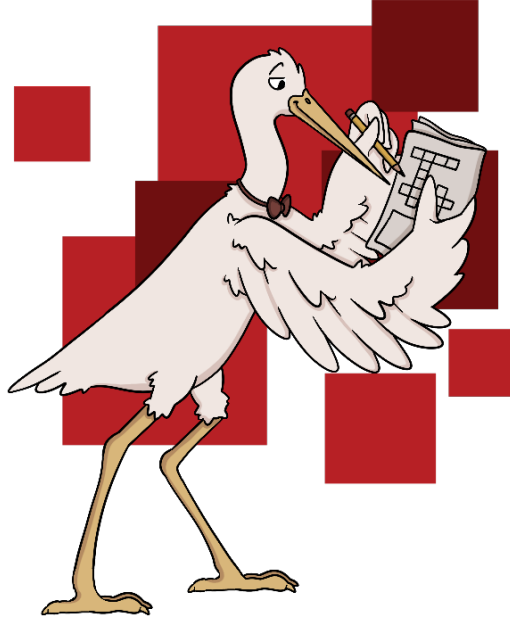
The answers can be found throughout the newspaper, so make sure to thoroughly read each story. Try to find all of them and see if you got them correct in the answers provided in the next issue's crossword search!

ACROSS

- 4. The defendant in Sherrill vs. Knight.
- 5. A team from the Department of Geosciences, led by Dr. Alysia Cox, got a project off the ground on Sept. 19, integrating geochemistry and ____ activity in the Pecan Island area with coastal change.
- 6. What type of fish did Isabelle Brumley's colleague order from the Fit Meals menu?
- 7. Some of the most popular exhibits at Science Day are within the School of Computing and Informatics and the Department of ____.

DOWN

- 1. Quarterback Lunch Winfield now has ____ total rushing touchdowns in 2026.
- 2. Ancelet was happy to retire before the University could realize he would have done his job for ____.
- 3. Look for friends who will become a ____.
- 5. The source of all magic in the Pixar universe is human ____.



SOUNDING OFF

"Who is your favorite faculty member and what have they done for you?"



Ethan Nunez
HISTORY JUNIOR

"Probably Buster LeBlanc, he's my old advisor before I switched majors. He actually is for the students."



Dylan Talbot
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FRESHMAN

"I think by far is Lindsay Hobbs."

Mason Olivier
KINESIOLOGY FRESHMAN

"She makes everybody feel welcome."



Karsyn Griffin
PETROLEUM ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

"Ms. Kasie Clark."

Dax Dimas
FINANCE FRESHMAN

"She's very kind."



Heidi Ewing
CIVIL ENGINEERING FRESHMAN

"Dr. Zito, my calculus teacher. He makes everything so much fun and really easy to learn."



Alyse Sonnier
PSYCHOLOGY JUNIOR

"Professor Gregory Dubois... He is one of the most down-to-earth professors I have ever met."



Lauren Crow
VISUAL ARTS SENIOR

"Mr. Brian Kelly in the printmaking department... He cares about students and their well-being."

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. Watch the full Sounding Off interviews on our Instagram @thevermilion.

Photos and interviews by Alyus Dick and Joann Seow.

COMIC Happy Fall!



Comic by Sadie Lynn Burrell

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