



The University of Louisiana Lafayette
September 2009

Parent Perspectives

Insights on your Student's Experience



Wear RED on Friday!

You can support your son or daughter and the University of Louisiana Lafayette by wearing red each Friday! Encourage your son or daughter to wear red on Friday's as well. It shows support for our university.

Still need that Ragin' Cajun Gear? Check out the wide array of apparel available at the University Bookstore. Located in the Student Union or online at <http://bookstore.louisiana.edu>

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Emergency Notification System

If you have not done so yet, encourage your son or daughter to add your cell phone to the university's ENS. This is the official means of communication during a campus emergency. Learn more about campus preparedness plans at <http://safety.louisiana.edu>

From Parenting to Partnering

Partnerships of learning are an important part of the message we give to students and parents during our annual New Student Orientation programs. The idea of a partnership, that we all have a joint interest in the success of our students, is an important one for parents to think about as your son or daughter begins their first week of classes at the university. How will you partner with your son or daughter, as well as with our university, to ensure that your student has optimal academic, social, and personal success during their time at UL Lafayette?

Parent Perspectives is part of the university's commitment to partnering with parents of our students for their success. Our bi-monthly newsletter will aim to give you timely

information on the university, your student's adjustment, and insights into how you can be a partner with us to ensure a positive experience for your son or daughter. Contact us at any time with your thoughts, comments, questions, or concerns. You can e-mail parents@louisiana.edu or call the Office of Orientation at 337.482.1391.

During the first few weeks of school, it is important to ensure that your son or daughter is achieving balance. Ask them about their time management skills, what organizations they are getting involved in, and ensure they are studying at least 2 hours outside of class for every credit hour in which they are enrolled. Students should study, on average, 24-30 hours a week.

Inside the University

Information on university issues, projects, and accomplishments

This month, we focus on how the university is handling the state budget crisis and reductions in funding and how that impacts students and parents.

Savoie said the university has two choices in dealing with this budget reality. “One choice is to let this crisis become an excuse for mediocrity and wait for someone or something to rescue us. The other choice is to view this challenge as an opportunity for carefully conceived actions and innovative thinking... We must choose the second option.”

University of Louisiana President Dr. Joseph Savoie and members of the university administration have spent much of the summer working on plans for how to deal with decreases in state funding for higher education.

The plans come after UL Lafayette’s state budget was cut by \$4.3 million in January along with an additional \$7.5 million cut following the legislative session that ended in June. The university must also absorb \$2.9 million in state-mandated, but unfunded costs – for a total year-to-year budget reduction of \$14.7 million.

New fees and tuition increases will generate \$3.2 million, so the net reduction is \$11.5 million for UL Lafayette’s \$99 million budget.

Savoie said the university has two choices in dealing with this budget reality. “One choice is to let this crisis become an excuse for mediocrity and wait for someone or something to rescue us. The other choice is to view this challenge as an opportunity for carefully conceived actions and innovative thinking that will maintain our current progress and allow us to continue efforts to meet goals established by our new institutional strategic plan,” he said. “We must choose the second option.”

Savoie acknowledged the work of nine UL Lafayette Budget

Task Forces that he created last January in anticipation of possible budget cuts. These Budget Task Forces were charged with developing short-term and long-term cost savings and additional revenue.

He noted that several task force recommendations have been incorporated into UL Lafayette’s budget. Those task forces were composed of representatives from throughout the university’s community.

“Our goals were to protect our core academic mission, minimize the impact on our students, and protect our faculty and staff, who are our most important asset in providing quality academic services,” Savoie said.

The university administration based the budget plan on three primary elements: cuts to meet actual budget reductions, cost avoidance measures to reduce operational expenses and increased revenue generation.

Specifically, the plan calls for:

- freezing vacant positions for a \$2 million savings;
- reducing \$2.1 million in funds set aside for deferred maintenance projects;
- reducing university sponsored research and economic development investments by \$1.5 million;

- implementing a 10 percent cut to each college’s and department’s operating budget (excluding personnel and contractually mandated expenses);

- deferring across-the-board merit increases for faculty and unclassified administrative staffers; and

- reducing maximum support staff merit increases from 4 percent to 2 percent. Other options for cost savings include consolidating or eliminating programs with historically small participation, merging administrative and academic departments, decreasing the number of dropped classes each semester, eliminating waste, negotiating bulk purchases, maximizing teaching loads and lab usage, and increasing class sizes where appropriate.

Savoie said the university will also invest in efforts to increase enrollment by implementing aggressive and sophisticated recruitment efforts, increasing fund raising, providing incentives for increasing research proceeds, partnering with private enterprises to maximize the commercial potential of select university assets and increasing revenue from facility rentals.

“If we stay true to our core values and are receptive to necessary change, I am confident that UL Lafayette will emerge a stronger, better university,” said Savoie.

Transition Tribulations

Timely information on typical September Transition Issues

The first few weeks of college offer tremendous challenges for new students. Adjusting to new time schedules, academic and social demands, and school/life balance issues can create some stresses and anxiety that you can coach your student through. Here are some typical issues students face and some insights on how you can help your student successfully navigate through them.

“I wonder how that person can believe that or live that way.” UL Lafayette has students from all over the state, country, and world. Students often meet people with different religious, political, or value beliefs, as well as people from different backgrounds. Encourage them to think with an open-mind and clarify their own values, beliefs, and lifestyle.

“My classes don’t seem all that hard. The professor never takes roll and we never talk about the assigned reading.”

Students often underestimate the difficulty of the college curriculum. Encourage your son or daughter to make sure they are taking notes in class, completing assigned reading prior to class, participating in study groups, and making academics their top priority will help them be successful academically.

“I feel so stupid in class. I’m afraid to talk to the professor and I don’t understand what is going on.”

Students oftentimes feel intimidated by professors. Faculty want your student to succeed. Encourage them to ask questions in class or after class, to go to the professor’s office hours, and to participate in study groups. Students can also receive tutoring assistance for free at the Learning Center, located in Lee Hall. Tutoring schedules are available on your student’s ULink account under the Tutoring Tab.

“I thought I would have free time, but I can’t find time to do anything. I’m stressed by the amount of work.”

Time management may be one of the biggest challenges facing new students. Encourage your student to use a planner and schedule their lives. Each student was provided a student planner during New Student Orientation this past summer. Your son or daughter could also complete the online time management assessment and other resources online: <http://studentsuccess.louisiana.edu/learning/time-mgmt/index.shtml>



Parent to Parent

Insights on parent transition issues

This month, Lane & Michele Robinson, share the story of their son Ben, who went from a general disinterest in school to being excited about life as a student at UL Lafayette.

“The remote thought that Ben might lose interest. . .after the second day of student only orientation was quickly erased with a phone call from the parking lot. ‘Dad! For the first time in twelve years, I can’t wait for school to start! This place is AWESOME! It’s gonna be so cool!’”

Our son Ben has always been a good student. He would occasionally even win special recognition for some of his accomplishments. His pride was evident the day he came home from kindergarten with the “best-ester” award. He was named class champion napper when he won the coveted prize for the second time that year!

We often felt the extra prodding it took to get him to do his homework and class projects was attributable to his being a middle child. His enthusiasm about school was somewhat of a roller coaster ride. If it were something that truly interested him, he would complete the task in record time. Less interesting projects or assignments usually took a little more “encouragement.” He kept us from too much nagging with honor roll grades throughout his transition to middle school and on into high school.

Ben’s enjoyment of high school was punctuated by his participation on the baseball team, and the freedom of expression he was allowed by performing as “Sparticus,” the East Ascension High School mascot. The classes were a necessary evil that enabled him to do “the cool stuff.”

The subject of his plans for attending college had been discussed several times throughout his high school years, but his intentions were not very clear. He mentioned the possibility of going to, “Oh, I don’t know. Maybe UL. I’m still thinking about it.” We were excited to see him send out an inquiry for information. The level of excitement was heightened when he followed up with web searches and full-fledged discussions on checking out what UL has to offer. We were very excited to hear his announcement that “UL looks pretty cool, I want to check it out.” The application was submitted and in short order Ben was accepted. The day he got the acceptance letter was reminiscent of the presentation of the “best-ester” award! He was all smiles about the opportunity that was before him.

The prospect of a full day of speeches and instructions of who, what, why, how, etc., for orientation didn’t appeal to mom, dad, or Ben. We were all aware that it was a necessity in order to be prepared for what would be expected, so we trudged to the appointed location. None of us were prepared for an energetic, enthusiastic group of people who

were excited about what they were doing. Everyone we encountered seemed glad to be a part of sharing what UL has to offer. All points of contact were informative and helpful. We were glad we went. The campus tour and meetings with instructors completed the cycle.

The remote thought that Ben may lose interest after the second day of student only orientation being a let down, was erased with a phone call from the parking lot. “Dad! For the first time in twelve years, I can’t wait for school to start! This place is AWESOME! Its gonna be so cool!” I didn’t want his enthusiasm to be dampened by the un-cool condition of parental approval, so I was able to maintain calm while I had him on the phone. I told him I was happy he was looking forward to furthering his education and I reminded him to be safe on the drive home. His mom and I spent the next twenty minutes yelling “CHACHING! BADDABING!!” and doing an end-zone celebration around the living room.

We could not be more excited about our newly acquired status of “Ragin’ Cajuns” parents.



2009 Football Schedule

- 9/5: Southern University, 6PM
- 9/12: Kansas State, 6PM
- 9/19: LSU, TBA
- 9/26: Nebraska, TBA
- 10/10: North Texas, 6PM
- 10/17: Western Kentucky
- 10/24: Florida Atlantic, 4PM
- 10/31: FIU, TBA
- 11/7: Arkansas State, TBA
- 11/14: Middle Tennessee, TBA
- 11/21: UL Monroe, TBA
- 11/28: Troy, TBA

Support Ragin' Cajun Athletics

Freshman First Down set for Saturday, September 12

The 2009 Football Season kicks-off on Saturday, September 5th against Southern University. Parents are encouraged to attend and support the Ragin' Cajun. Our students participate in 16 NCAA Division I sports and compete in the Sun Belt Conference. Information on tickets and all athletic events can be found online at <http://www.ragincajuns.com>

If you are looking for a way to become more involved with supporting athletics, consider donating to the *Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation*. Money raised through RCAF goes to support the university's athletic programs and student athletes. Information on the *Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation* can be found online at <http://www.rcaf4ul.com>.



Campus Resource Spotlight

Dean of Student's Office
 Martin Hall 211
 (337) 482-6272
www.louisiana.edu/Student/Dean

The Dean of Students Office is committed to working with and challenging students on their college journey. We encourage students to take full advantage of every opportunity of engagement. Involvement outside the classroom is vital to student success and the Dean of Students Office is

a great place to find out about areas that can enhance the college experience. The office houses information on all student organizations and Greek life. Please visit our web page where you can find a listing of all student organizations & the Code of Student Conduct.



INVOLVEMENT MATTERS!

Get on Board Day set for August 26th

There are over 180 Student Organizations at UL Lafayette. Encouraging your son or daughter to become involved is an important part of the transition to our university.

Get on Board Day is an annual event that allows students to learn about the various student organizations on campus. This year it will take place on August 26th from 10AM—2PM in the University Quad. Encourage your student to attend and get involved in campus life!





9th Annual Freshman First Down

Saturday, September 12, 2009

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Game time 6:00 p.m.

Cajun Field

University of Louisiana

vs.

Kansas State

Post the top portion on your fridge as a reminder, and mail the bottom to:

University Program Council

P.O. Box 42611

Lafayette, LA 70504-2611

Any Questions: (337) 482-6381

We will mail you a confirmation postcard with ticket pickup information once your order has been received in the University Program Council Office.

Deadline is September 9, 2009.

PLEASE PRINT

Yes! I would like 2 **Complimentary Tickets**.
...brought to you by the University Program Council,
and Lafayette Coca Cola.

For additional tickets @ \$10.00 each:

Number of additional tickets: _____

Method of Payment: _____
(Check, Money Order, Visa or Mastercard Only)

Check # _____
(Make checks payable to UL Lafayette)
OR

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Office of Orientation
Lee Hall 106
PO Box 44252
Lafayette, LA 70504

Phone: 337-482-1391
Fax: 337-482-1494
E-mail: parents@louisiana.edu



Parent Perspectives is produced by the Office of Orientation at the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

We're on the Web!

<http://orientation.louisiana.edu/Parents.shtml>

www.universityparent.com/lalaf

Calendar of University Events

Important dates for students & parents to know

August

August 24: First day of Classes

August 26: Get on Board Day, University Quad, 10AM—2PM

August 27: Student Schedule Adjustment Period ends.

September

September 5: UL Football vs. Southern University, 6PM

September 7: Labor Day, No Classes, University Closed

September 12: Freshman First Down

September 15: Payment plan due date—2nd installment

September 17: University kick-off for Hispanic Heritage Month

September 19: UL vs. LSU, broadcast on ESPNU.

October

October 1-2: Fall Break, No Classes

October 15: Last day for students to drop a class (\$100 course drop fee)

October 19: Spring Advising begins