



The University of Louisiana at Lafayette
December 2009

Parent Perspectives

Parent Perspectives

Insights on your Student's Experience



Happy Holidays

On behalf of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, we wish you all a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable holiday season.

University Holiday Break:

Offices closed

Monday, December 21, 2009—Sunday, January 3, 2010

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BeuSoleil Returns Home

After competing in the 2009 Solar Decathlon, the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home has returned to campus. It's permanent home is near Fletcher Hall on campus. Public tours and viewing information will be available in spring semester. Visit www.beausoleilhome.org for more information.

Assessing the first semester

Happy Holidays from the Office of Orientation and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This is an exciting time of year for you and your student. Together, you can celebrate the holidays and the accomplishment of surviving the first semester.

The holidays provide a unique stress, especially for those of you who have students returning home for the first time for an extended period of time. Here are a few survival tips for you as your son or daughter spends the next few weeks at home:

- Expect your daily rhythm to be disrupted.
- Show him/her you're happy to see them.
- Allow him/her to lead the vacation life s/he chooses (barring blatant disregard for family members).

- It is fair to ask about his/her schedule and expect to know his/her whereabouts.
- Remind her/him that the household's longstanding courtesies are still in place.
- Ask him/her to save some time to do something with you (movies, breakfast, etc.)
- Remember to be thankful that s/he wants to come home!

The holidays are also a good time to assess the first semester. Ask your son or daughter how they did academically, financially, and socially their first semester on campus. The break is a good time to celebrate accomplishment and plan for fixing difficulties that occurred during the first semester. Best wishes for a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Inside the University

Information on university issues, projects, and accomplishments

Recently the university was featured for its efforts to increase accountability of teachers. Our education program is being spotlighted nationally.

“This is simply having the courage to say that great teaching matters. Why is it today that we have only one state operating in this manner?”

**-Arne Duncan,
US Secretary of
Education**

In an era of increased accountability and high stakes testing, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is leading the way in effective teacher preparation and assessment. Recently, the College of Education was featured in a [Washington Post](#) article about innovative assessment programs for new teachers.

Louisiana is the first nation in the country to have full accountability for graduates of education programs. The teacher training model currently being employed by the university's College of Education provides feedback on potential deficiencies in teacher preparation, allowing the university to address the needs and continue producing the highest quality teachers.

The program is being showcased as the model of the future by US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Stating that many education schools do a “mediocre job” in preparing teachers, Duncan recently said the Louisiana model demonstrates that the state and university have “the courage to say great teaching matters.”

University President Dr. E. Joseph Savoie spearheaded the



development of the new program prior to becoming UL Lafayette's President in 2008. He refers to the program as “accountability on steroids.” He is now working with Dean Gerald Carlson and the education faculty to spearhead improvements in the English and Writing curriculum for Education majors at UL Lafayette. The first round of feedback showed these areas as potentially deficient in teacher preparation.

Dean Gerald Carlson of the College of Education appreciates the feedback. “We can't improve unless we know something's broken,” said Carlson.

UL Lafayette continues to produce the largest number of new teachers of any university in the state. The graduates are sought after with rigor

because of their vigorous preparation, including field-work and internships that allow students to get hands-on experience working with classroom management and students.

Campus Construction Updates

The University continues to invest money into overhauling our facilities. Girard Hall is currently undergoing renovations, and the new Legacy Park Student Housing additions continue, both set to be open in Fall 2010.

The University has recently put out to bid proposals to renovate our residence hall facilities. This spring, the university will begin the bid process for renovation of the Student Union and the University Quad.

Greek Life: Growing & Demonstrating Excellence

University plans expansion of Greek System on Campus

The Greek System at UL Lafayette is growing. In the Fall of 2008 there were a total of 815 Greek students. Currently, in the Fall of 2009, there are 926 Greek students. Individually, fraternities and sororities both increased their membership in that time. Overall this is a 13.6% increase in Greek Organization membership in just one year.

The Greeks on UL Lafayette's campus are not only growing, but these organizations are being recognized as some of the elite chapters nationally. This summer, many of our Greek organizations attended their national conventions. Many of these organizations came home with a number of prestigious awards. We are proud of these organizations for being recognized for their excellence by their national offices.

Alpha Omicron Pi received the Alumnae Advisory Committee Excellence Award, Corporation Excellence Award, and Karli Sherman, former Chapter President, was awarded the Stella George Stern Perry Award which goes to the outstanding Chapter President. This is the most prestigious award a collegiate member can receive.

Alpha Phi Alpha members Nicholas Potier and Karlne-



lius Duhon won the Alpha Phi Alpha National Education Scholarship award. This award is based on academic achievement, community service, and involvement in student life. Marcus Jackson, Nicholas Potier and Karlnelius Duhon were named a National Distinguished Collegiate Scholar. This award is based on campus life and community service.

Kappa Delta attended their national convention in Orlando, FL June 27-July 1, 2009. Chapter president, Amenah Abdelfattah, received the Corre Anding Stegall Leadership Award, which is the highest honor presented to a collegiate member. She also received one of four founder's scholarships given in the country, amounting to \$4,000.00. The chapter received the largest honor presented at the collegiate level as well, receiving Merit status, which recognizes the Gamma Kappa chapter as

one of the top 14 chapters in the country. The chapter also received, Girls Scouts Honorable Mention, Shamrock Honorable Mention, Academic Excellence Programming Honorable Mention, Panhellenic Award, and Chapter Advisory Board Excellence Award.

Kappa Sigma captured two prestigious awards during their Grand Conclave in San Antonio. The Epsilon Chi Chapter received the FACE (Founders Award of Chapter Excellence) which recognizes outstanding chapter management, achievement and program development in all areas of operations. The chapter was one of 36 chapters to receive this award. They also received the Founder's Circle Award. This is the highest award given to Kappa Sigma chapters. It recognizes success in all areas of fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service, the four pillars of the fraternity.

Pi Kappa Alpha was awarded the Raymond L. Orians Chapter of Excellence Award at their National Convention. This award recognizes overall chapter excellence. The chapters that win this award are amongst the best on their campus and Pi Kappa Alpha's most competitive chapters.

Theta Xi received the National Benchmark Chapter Award for placing in the top twenty percent of chapters nationwide. They also attended two awards banquets in which the Alpha Omicron Chapter received the following national awards: 1st place in Website Design and 2nd place for Local Community Service. In addition to these national awards, Bernard Lemoine, AO1053 was elected to the National Grand Lodge and has filled the position of Undergraduate Director.

We are looking forward to the continued growth of Greek Life here on UL Lafayette's campus and the continued success and leadership that come from the members of our organizations. UL will welcome Sigma Nu fraternity to campus in Spring 2010.

They're back!

Welcoming students home after their first semester

They invade from every corner of the country, arriving in trains, planes, and automobiles. They're sleep-deprived and burned out, bearing laundry bags instead of gifts. Yes, the holidays are here, and your college students are back home!

Now that final exams have ended, many of you can look forward to

This article is reprinted from Family Education. Access to the full article can be found by clicking [here](#).

a four-week visit from your "independent" child. Welcome to the upside-down lifestyle of college students: sleeping until early afternoon and staying out late. While we can dangle curfew in front of high-schoolers, college kids are used to living without nagging parents and are unlikely to accept prohibitive rules without a fight. But, like it or not, they must balance their independence with the lifestyles and schedules of family members. A word of advice: Lower your expectations and be prepared for mixed results.

Let the Disruption Begin

Suddenly, battles for the car, bathroom, and remote control rage again. At 3:30 in the morning, you hear voices outside. A car door slams, the garage door opens, and your college star comes in. You're disoriented, until you remember that all his email to you is written at 4 a.m. The refrigerator door opens and the microwave beeps, before he finally bounds up the stairs into his room and slams the door. You stare at the ceiling until it's time to drag yourself out of bed at 6 a.m. At 2 p.m., he wanders out of his bedroom, yawning, and the dog saunters into his room to lick the empty bowl of spaghetti.

What to Expect When Older Kids Come Home to Visit

When your college student comes home to visit, it helps if you know what to expect!

- Frenzied visits with old friends from high school, mixed in with a sprinkling of college buddies.
- They'll want to have a drink with you, because of course everyone drinks at school, and all of their friends' parents let their kids drink at home now, so why won't you? (Excuse me — the national legal drinking age is 21.)
- They'll discuss friends, roommates, teachers, and campus buildings you don't know the slightest thing about.
- They'll go shopping with your credit card.
- They'll complain bitterly about lack of space in the bathroom. How dare a younger sister fill up the cabinet with her body sprays, herbal shampoos, and Tampax boxes?
- Guys want to watch football and basketball games on TV with Dad and brothers.
- Girls look forward to going clothes shopping

and baking chocolate chip cookies with Mom.

How College Kids Feel About Being Home

Students returning home for the holidays have mixed feelings. Some enjoy returning to the warmth and security of home; others are fiercely protective of their newfound independence. Many college kids feel a combination of these emotions:

- "I want everything just the way it always was. The trees, stockings, outside lights, smells of cookies and all this great food."
- "Oh...I love it when my mom makes my favorite foods. Chocolate chip cookies, brownies. Anything chocolate..."
- "I'm so excited that some of my sorority sisters are coming here to light Hanukkah candles and eat potato latkes. I like my friends from college to get to know my family and the way I am at home."
- "I need a few hours to adjust from school to home, so please understand if I seem a little spaced-out at first."
- "Don't make all these plans for me with the family. That drives me

crazy. I want to see everyone, but when I want. Please ask me first. I'll usually say yes."

- "I like looking at all my stuffed animals and pictures and stuff from when I was little. They're so cute!"
- "I'm not a little kid anymore and I hate it when my dad keeps telling me to be home by midnight. I keep my own hours at school, and I don't like being treated like a baby."
- "I like it when my parents treat my new friends like they like them. I always talk about my family and my house and my

friends from high school, and it's cool for my new friends to see them."

- "I'll never take clean laundry for granted again. Thanks, Mom." (This gratitude lasts about five days.)

Before you know it, spring semester will begin and it will be time to send your son or daughter back to campus. Before they leave, have a conversation with them about their first semester and expectations for the second. It's a great way to continue supporting them and helping them learn through the transition.

Important Changes in Tuition Payment Options

University no longer accepting VISA Cards

Starting December 1, 2009, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette no longer accepts VISA debit or credit cards as a form of payment for tuition, fees, or housing. The change comes amidst increased costs associated with use of VISA as a payment option and is meant to save the University money.

Payment of tuition, fees, and housing should be done online using a MasterCard, American Express, or Discover card, or with an electronic check.

Payments can also be made in person at Coronna Hall with a check, money order, or travelers check. Credit Cards are no longer accepted in person at the Student Cashier Center. All Credit Card payments should be made online through your student's [ULink](#) statement of account.

Questions about the new policy can be addressed to the [Bursars Office](#) at 337-482-6385.

Campus Resource Spotlight

Career Services

Conference Center, Room 104

(337) 482-1444

<http://careerservices.louisiana.edu>

Since the Fall semester seems to always be a transition period for students, we are looking forward to the Spring semester in helping them find the perfect job now that they are well adjusted!

[Career Services](#) offers a variety of services to assist students in their job search preparation. Announcements for full-time, part-time, summer,

internship and co-op positions are posted in Career Services Online and in the Center. Campus-wide Career Days are held each fall and spring semester to provide students an opportunity to explore career options with employers. Students are also able to send in their resume for advice and critiquing and sign up for mock interviews for feedback on their

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Career Services

Career Fair



Tuesday, February 23 & Wednesday, February 24

UL Lafayette Student Union Ballroom
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Bring Plenty of Resumes!
Dress professionally!
careerservices.louisiana.edu

performance. We encourage each student to visit our office and our website for more information about the many services that we have available.

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 at Lafayette.

We're on the Web!

<http://ulorientation.com/parents>
www.universityparent.com/lalaf

Calendar of University Events

Important dates for students & parents to know

December

December 19: Women's Basketball vs. FAU, E.K. Long Gym, 2PM

December 21: Women's Basketball vs. Centenary, E.K. Long Gym, 2PM

December 21: Men's Basketball vs. Tulane, Cajun-Dome, 7:05 PM

January

January 4, 2010: University reopens, 7:30 AM

January 5, 2010: Spring Tuition Payment Deadline

January 13, 2010: First Day of Spring Semester

January 18, 2010: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, University Closed, No Classes

January 19, 2010: Last Day to Add Classes

February

February 3: National Athletic Signing Day Celebration, TBA

February 15—February 17: Mardi Gras Holiday, No Classes