

LOUISIANA LEGACY

A GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE

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University announces largest fundraising campaign in its history

The Ragin' Cajun spirit is one of unity, and in that theme, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's largest comprehensive fundraising campaign is more than halfway to its \$500 million goal — a goal that will enhance the role the University plays in strengthening the community and providing a world-class education for all students.

Together: The Campaign for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is “our moment to look upward and see that the only obstacle we face — the only limit we have — is our own capacity to dream,” President Dr. Joseph Savoie said. “Together, we can — and will — shape the future.”

The campaign's priorities are to increase philanthropic support for:

- Student success and teaching, including increased scholarship access; enhanced teaching and learning environments; and optimized facilities for student-athletes.
- Research and discovery, including attracting and retaining faculty members; expanding research programs and partnerships; and modernizing research facilities.
- Service to the community, which includes enhancing fan and student-athlete experiences through the renovation of Cajun Field; expanding K-12 public education impact; and strengthening the University's role in health care workforce creation.

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Giving Legacy a Voice

Every year the vast majority of Americans who pass away do so without having prepared a valid last will and testament. State and federal laws provide some significant incentives for the preparation of a will. These incentives are designed to make it easy for very personal wishes to be known and followed. A carefully planned will may serve to minimize costs related to settling an estate. Learn more and download a free estate planning guide at louisiana.giftlegacy.com/will.

Four Reasons Americans Avoid Preparing A Will:

1. Too Little Property To Merit A Will

Many Americans feel their estate is small and does not warrant the time and expense of a will. Where no will exists, the state will determine distribution.

2. Life Gets In The Way

For some it is simply the day-to-day routine that prohibits them from considering a will. For others, it is the reality that no one plans to die, or certainly no one enjoys planning to die. What good could it do to plan today?

3. A Will Is Costly

In many instances, a carefully prepared will does have some attendant costs. This is especially true where complicated or larger estates are involved. However, a few hundred dollars or more pale in comparison to the cost of having no will at all. Having a will could even save you and your family money.

4. Distaste For Legal Documents

Many Americans have a built-in distrust for legal documents that tend to be long and difficult to understand. Attorneys will gladly provide an easy-to-understand summary of the contents of a will to insure that your objectives are met.

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From Cypress Lake to career success, young alumnus gives back



“I hope to inspire those who don’t think they have the ability to give a cash gift to seek other ways to make an impact, even if it’s not right now.”

Gareth Griffin’s (’08) affiliation with UL Lafayette began long before his decision to give back to it. He comes from two generations of family members who attended, and his parents met across the street from the La Maison Française. His childhood was filled with Cypress Lake visits and elementary school bus routes through campus.

After attending the University of Georgia for his undergraduate degree, his educational ambitions led him back to UL Lafayette to pursue a Master of Arts and work as a graduate assistant in the Edith Garland Dupre’ Library. Griffin’s work there deepened his special connection to UL Lafayette and led to him seeking ways in which he could ease the financial burden on current and future students as they pursue their own goals.

In addition to providing annual support for graduate students, he expanded his philanthropic impact through designating UL Lafayette as a beneficiary of his 401(k) to establish the Gareth F. Griffin University Libraries Fund. At age 37, he became one of the youngest members of the Louisiana Heritage Society.

Griffin’s choice to give back was an easy one. His professional background in higher education development forged a deep understanding of the important role private donations play in increasing the quality of the educational experience as well as its accessibility to high-need individuals.

To read more about how Griffin established his legacy plan and how you can join him, visit louisiana.giftlegacy.com (see Donor Stories and Gift Options).

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As of March 2022, alumni and friends have provided nearly \$320 million in gifts and pledges.

“It takes an extraordinary place to motivate this level of generosity, and the results of the campaign’s initial phase provides great momentum — a running start — for what we plan to accomplish over the next few years,” John Blohm, Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation, said.

To date, the campaign has enabled the University to create four endowed chairs and 34 endowed professorships, and 122 endowed student scholarship funds. Additionally, alumni and friends have chosen to support initiatives in every academic college and Ragin Cajun’ Athletics.

To learn more about how you can change UL students’ destinies, visit together.louisiana.edu for more on the campaign’s goals and priorities. The campaign is projected to conclude in 2025.



R1 designation places UL Lafayette among top tier of nation’s public and private research institutions

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has achieved the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education’s elite R1 designation. That places UL Lafayette among the nation’s top tier of public and private research institutions, those with “very high research activity,” according to Carnegie.

About 3%, or 137, of the nation’s colleges and universities have R1 status, which is synonymous with academic excellence, research, innovation and global impact.

What does this mean for the University community?

“Reaching R1 enhances the University’s prestige and that of our region,” President Dr. Joseph Savoie said, adding that the designation helps attract and retain high-quality students seeking an institution of academic and research excellence.

Savoie said R1 also makes current faculty more competitive, particularly in seeking additional funding, and adds value to degrees pursued by current students and earned by alumni.

This designation is also an important factor in workforce creation and economic development. “It’s attractive for businesses that need an established, trusted source of intellectual capital that an R1 University like ours provides,” Savoie said.

To learn more about research initiatives, visit louisiana.edu/research.



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Together,
**WE SHAPE
THE FUTURE.**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE