

# Shifting Into Overdrive

Ragin' Cajuns® Athletic Foundation revs up fund raising

**S**OME LOYAL UL LAFAYETTE FANS and former Ragin' Cajun student-athletes have rallied behind a structured effort to raise money for the university's athletics program.

They're members of the Ragin' Cajuns® Athletic Foundation's board. The foundation was formed in 2007 to provide financial support for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 16 intercollegiate varsity teams. It was announced in April.

John Bordelon, who played football for UL Lafayette in the 1970s, is president of the RCAF's board. "Our goal is to provide a strong financial base for the strategies of the Athletic Department. Right now, athletics has one of the smallest budgets in the country. We have to consolidate our fund-raising efforts and provide a more consistent plan," he said in an interview.

Other board members are Dr. Frank "Jay" Culotta Jr., Ed Domingues, Charlie Moncla Jr., C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier, Robert Daigle and Curtis Hollinger. Domingues ran track for UL Lafayette in the 1960s; Hollinger was a member of the Ragin' Cajuns tennis team in the 1980s.

Bordelon acknowledged state budget cuts for higher education that are expected for the 2009-10 fiscal year that begins July 1. "Some of the budget cuts will trickle down to athletics and we need to have outside funding to meet our priorities. We have to be able to provide for the general operation and advancement of the Athletic Department despite the economy," he said.

The RCAF will seek unrestricted gifts that will be spent on the basis of priorities determined by the university and its athletic director. The money could be used to help pay for facility improvements, academic center resources, scholarships, recruiting and

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more, along with a range of corresponding benefits. One of the rewards for giving \$250 or more is a priority parking pass for basketball and football games.

"Only current Ragin' Cajuns Athletic Foundation members are eligible to enjoy the best and most convenient parking privileges and special gifts associated with each contribution level," said Scott Farmer, senior associate athletic director. "The fact that Ragin' Cajun student-athletes benefit at the same time makes this a great program for all Ragin' Cajun fans to become a part of."

The RCAF is expected to launch a capital campaign later this year.

Donations to the foundation are tax deductible. ■

 [www.rcaf4ul.com](http://www.rcaf4ul.com)

## 2009 LOUISIANA'S RAGIN' CAJUNS® FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



SEPT. 05	SOUTHERN 9th Annual Herbert Heymann Football Classic	CAJUN FIELD
SEPT. 12	KANSAS STATE	CAJUN FIELD
Sept. 19	Louisiana State	at Baton Rouge, La.
Sept. 26	Nebraska	at Lincoln, Neb.
OCT. 10	NORTH TEXAS *	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 17	Western Kentucky *	at Bowling Green, Ky.
OCT. 24	FLORIDA ATLANTIC * 64th Homecoming	CAJUN FIELD
Oct. 31	Florida International *	at Miami, Fla.
Nov. 07	Arkansas State	at Jonesboro, Ark.
Nov. 14	Middle Tennessee *	at Murfreesboro, Tenn.
NOV 21	UL MONROE *	CAJUN FIELD
NOV 28	TROY * Senior Day	CAJUN FIELD

\* Sun Belt Conference Games