SUMMER 2025 FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

# Commencement



# University of Louisiana at Lafayette The One-hundred and Eightieth Commencement Exercises

# University of Louisiana at Lafayette Alma Mater

Alma mater, beloved old Southwestern,
Pride of our Southland so fair!

Oaks and pines and sweet magnolia's beauty,
Show forth thy charms so rare,
Alma mater, for honor, truth and wisdom
Thy halls for aye shall stand
Loyal sons and daughters sing
Proclaiming here's my heart and hand.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns® Fight Song

Fight on, Cajuns, fight on to victory

For the Red and White,

We will sing of triumph and glory,

For our team tonight,

You will hear the rage of the Cajuns,

So let's give a yell, (Aiyee!)

Hustle up and bustle up and

Fight on to victory - Geaux UL

# WELCOME



Louisiana Welcome Wall

#### Welcome, Family and Friends

he University of Louisiana at Lafayette welcomes you, the families and friends of our distinguished graduates. UL Lafayette isn't just a university. It's a community and you're an important part of it.

Since its founding in 1898, the University has been dedicated to improving the lives of its students. Each academic year, more than 3,000 students receive degrees.

We join you in honoring our graduates and celebrating their accomplishments as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

#### Walk of Honor

isitors to the UL Lafayette campus enjoy looking for graduates' names on the Walk of Honor. The walkway is paved with bricks engraved with graduates' names, arranged alphabetically by year. The bricks begin near Martin Hall with the Class of 1903, fill the arched walkways and sidewalks of the Quad, line Boucher Street, continue along McKinley Street and around the Student Union. Those who earn multiple degrees from UL Lafayette receive a brick for each graduation year.

# ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has a reputation for academic excellence, community service and its Ragin' Cajuns spirit.

Established July 14, 1898, it is the largest university in the University of Louisiana System and the second largest in the state. It has one of the highest graduation rates among Louisiana's public universities.

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, the leading framework for describing the nation's colleges and universities, has designated UL Lafayette an R1, its top tier. Just 5% of higher education institutions in the U.S. have achieved R1 status.

Nearly 19,000 students choose to attend UL Lafayette each fall.

To ensure them a strong academic foundation and the best opportunities to compete in the global job market, the University offers contemporary degrees and many online options.

UL Lafayette has been ranked among the best universities in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* and The Princeton Review.

The University has one of the most distinctive athletic monikers in the nation: the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns. The Ragin' Cajuns are members of the Sun Belt Conference, and student-athletes complete in 16 NCAA Division I sports, the highest level of collegiate athletics.

The University regularly receives support from the National Science Foundation, which funds only the most innovative research. In addition, 11 faculty members have earned the NSF's CAREER Award, given to outstanding researchers who have potential for leadership in their fields.

Community service is an essential component of the learning experience at UL Lafayette. It's a course requirement for all first-time freshmen, for example. Each academic year, students contribute about 150,000 hours of service as part of University courses. That service has an estimated value to Lafayette and surrounding region of about \$1.7 million.

Some students also participate in UL Lafayette's AmeriCorps Community Service Program. Established in 1995, it is the only campus-based program in the state and is one of the oldest in the nation.

Louisiana's diverse cultures are reflected in the University's academics. For example, the archives of the Center for Louisiana Studies include one-of-a-kind recordings of Cajun and Creole musicians, oral histories and storytelling. UL Press specializes in books related to Louisiana, producing award-winning academic titles as well as best-selling general interest books.

UL Lafayette's Francophone studies doctoral degree program is the only one of its kind in the state. And, students may study roots music to earn a bachelor's degree in traditional music, one of only a handful of such programs nationwide.

The University has an extensive economic impact on the state and in the region. According to an independent study, residents who are UL Lafayette graduates add \$1.8 billion to the state's economy. Also, every \$1 of state funds invested in the University has a return of \$7.30. In the years to come, UL Lafayette's impact on the economies of Louisiana and Acadiana is likely to be even greater than it is today.



#### **University Seal**

The seal was adopted May 11, 1926, when UL Lafayette was known as Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Dr. Edwin Stephens, the University's first president, helped design it, along with Ellsworth Woodward, director of the Newcomb College art school, and John McBryde, a professor at Tulane University. Elements of the seal reflect Louisiana's history as both a French and Spanish colony. The three fleurs-de-lis refer to France, while the castle denotes Louisiana's connection to Spain. The pelican is symbolic of Louisiana. Oak leaves represent the strength and endurance of the oak tree.

The seal includes the Latin motto "Fortier, Feliciter, Fideliter," which means "bravely, happily, faithfully."

The institution's name was updated in 1960, when it was recognized as a university and became the University of Southwestern Louisiana. In 1999, USL's name was changed to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to better reflect its stature as the state's second-largest university and an institution with statewide and national — rather than regional — influence. In that same year, the seal was modified to include elements of the Acadian and Creole flags to reflect the University's cultural diversity. The gold star on a white background symbolizes Acadian culture; the red, gold and green stripes represent West African heritage.

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

#### **Academic Dress and Heraldry**

The academic dress worn by the faculty and administration in the procession today originated in medieval universities of Europe, where instructors were priests and members of religious orders. Students were clerks in holy orders, monks or priests themselves. In the unheated buildings, they wore habits with cowls, or hoods, that could be pulled over their heads for warmth.

In 1894, a commission of American educators met at Columbia College with the leading supplier of academic robes. It created a dress code that was eventually accepted by almost all universities and colleges in the United States. The code was modified slightly in 1932 and remains in use today.

Typically, degree candidates wear black gowns. At UL Lafayette, bachelor's gowns and doctor's gowns are vermilion; master's gowns are black. The University's distinctive fleur-de-lis is incorporated in the design of its graduation gowns.

Bachelor's gowns have pleated fronts, semi-stiff yokes and pointed sleeves. They are worn closed. The master's gown is worn open, with the forearm protruding through an opening in the long sleeve. The doctor's gown, also worn open, is more formal, with velvet panels around the neck that extend down the front edges. Three horizontal velvet bars are placed on the upper arm of a squared sleeve. The velvet is usually black, but may instead be a color that reflects the academic discipline related to the degree. The mortarboard is the usual headwear.

The most notable feature of academic dress is the hood, reminiscent of the monks' head coverings. The colors of the lining, folded so that they are exposed in the back, are the official colors and pattern of the university from which the individual received a degree. For those who have received a degree from UL Lafayette, for example, the hood is lined in vermilion with a white chevron. The master's hood is three and one half feet long, the doctor's hood, four feet.

The color of the velvet border on the hood indicates the academic discipline of the individual's degree. For example, the Ph.D., or doctor of philosophy degree, is identified by a blue border. Colors worn by members of the procession at UL Lafayette reflect its academic diversity; faculty members have earned advanced degrees from institutions across the United States, as well as abroad.

#### Fleur-de-lis

UL Lafayette's fleur-de-lis is a federally registered symbol. Historically, the fleur-de-lis has been associated with the French monarchy, and used in other political and religious contexts.

The University has used a fleur-de-lis as part of its identity since 1926, when three fleurs-de-lis were introduced in its seal.



#### **Presidential Regalia**

The University president wears a handcrafted medallion, a miniature of the University seal, during Commencement and other formal events. Its chain includes small plates engraved with the names of the institution's presidents.

UL Lafayette President Dr. E.

Joseph Savoie also wears a lapel pin that once belonged to Dr. Edwin Stephens, the University's first president, who served from 1900 to 1938. The pin's design features

the letters, "SLII," which stand for Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute. Stephens gave the pin to Dr. Joel Fletcher, the institution's third president, who served from 1941 to 1966.



Fletcher passed it down to his grandson, who gave it to Savoie as an inauguration gift in 2009.

#### **University Ring**

UL Lafayette's ring signifies the bond between the



University's graduates and their alma mater. The red stone represents the University's primary color, vermilion, and also features its fleur-de-lis. The design

incorporates other elements and images of campus life, including cypress and oak trees, the University's seal, and Martin Hall, the main administrative building. Inside each ring is the inscription, "heart and hand" — the final three words of the University's alma mater.

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SAVOIE TO NEW GRADUATES

Congratulations, members of the Class of 2025!

Today, you join the ranks of nearly 150,000 individuals who have graduated from our University since its founding in 1898. No doubt the graduates who preceded you felt the same sense of relief and accomplishment that you're experiencing today.

You're probably also feeling a little nostalgic. You are concluding a wonderful period filled with cherished friends, inspiring instructors and extraordinary opportunities.

As you think back over your time here, I hope you realize that you are different than you were when you arrived on campus. You have changed – and for the better. You possess more knowledge and more skills and, as a result, you are well prepared to pursue your professional and personal goals.

As you make this transition from student to graduate, remember that the bond between you and your alma mater is perpetual. Like all relationships, however, it is strengthened by attention and care.

There are many ways to stay connected to the University. You're now a member of the Alumni Association – but be an active member by attending events the organization sponsors. Some, such as game day tailgates, take place close to home, while alumni chapter functions are held in cities across the country.

Learning is a lifelong pursuit and, as you grow in your careers, you may find the need – or have the desire – to continue your education. You've already experienced the University's commitment to your success, in the classroom and online, so remember that your alma mater is always ready to help you achieve whatever dreams the future may hold.

Today, you'll leave here with a diploma. Display it. It commemorates your success and it is a visible reminder of what you have achieved; more important, it serves to inspire you to use the skills and knowledge you possess to work toward even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

Like the thousands of graduates who preceded you, you are now an ambassador of this institution. No matter where life takes you, you'll represent the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

You are prepared to do it well, and you will make us proud.

Congratulations and Geaux Cajuns!

1 S.

Dr. Joseph Savoie President



Dr. E. Joseph Savoie became the University's sixth president in 2008. Under his leadership, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette continues to concentrate on providing students with a high-quality education and a fulfilling college experience.

The University's president is known for successfully building strategic partnerships, especially within higher education. He served as Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education for 12 years, providing advice and policy direction for higher education across the state.

The president earned bachelor's and master's degrees from UL Lafayette, where he previously served as the University's first vice president for University Advancement. He also holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Columbia University's Teacher's College in New York

He and his late wife, Gail Heinbach Savoie, have a daughter, Blaire; a son, Adam; and a granddaughter, Addison Marie.

# TOP UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. E. Joseph Savoie President

#### Vice Presidents

Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Academic Affairs
Mr. Jerry Luke LeBlanc, Administration and Finance
Dr. DeWayne K. Bowie, Enrollment Management
Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, Research, Innovation and Economic Development
Dr. Bryan Maggard, Intercollegiate Athletics
Mrs. Patricia F. Cottonham, Student Affairs
Mr. John Blohm, University Advancement

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Blake R. David

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Dallas L. Hixon

Darren G. Mire

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Rosalind Robertson

David Romagosa

Donald Washington

### **EMINENT FACULTY AWARDS**

Together with the University, the UL Lafayette Foundation annually honors outstanding faculty members for their commitment to and effectiveness in research, teaching, and service-learning outreach.

The Eminent Faculty Awards is a tradition of recognizing excellence. The Eminent Faculty program serves as the highest-level University recognition program honoring five faculty members for their outstanding efforts in teaching,

research, and service-learning outreach.

The first Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1965 to recognize faculty members who excel in research, scholarship, or creative works, and who demonstrate a commitment to and effectiveness in teaching and make significant contributions to campus life and the community.

In 1992, the Distinguished Professor Awards program was expanded to incorporate the Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award honoring faculty members for their dedication to the

profession and student learning. Instructional innovation,

student performance in graduate or professional careers, and publications relating to pedagogy in their discipline are determining factors in the selection of these award recipients.

Exceptional service-learning outreach among faculty created a need for further program expansion and the Leadership Service Award was added in 2016 to recognize faculty members showing commitment

and effectiveness to service learning. Combining service and classroom instruction, notable faculty integrate service learning as a key component of higher education providing students with skills and knowledge to become effective citizens and community leaders.

The name Distinguished Professor Awards was changed to Eminent Faculty Awards in 2015, encompassing the Distinguished Professor Award, Ray P.

Authement Excellence in Teaching Award, and Leadership Service Award. UL Lafayette faculty are now recognized for each of their primary roles as educators research, teaching, and service-learning outreach.

#### Distinguished Professor Award



Dr. Rafael Hernandez
Professor
College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering



Dr. Beth Stauffer Associate Professor Ray P. Authement College of Sciences Biology

# Leadership Service Award



Dr. Philip Auter
Professor
College of Liberal Arts
Communication

#### Dr. Ray P. Authement Excellence in Teaching Award



Ms. Penny Powell Master Instructor Ray P. Authement College of Sciences Biology



Dr. Douglas Williams
Professor
College of Education &
Human Development
Educational Curriculum
& Instruction

# UL LAFAYETTE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



#### Welcome to the Family

Class of 2025, Congratulations! You have earned your degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, what an exciting time! We are honored to officially welcome you to the UL Lafayette Alumni Association: your home away from home.

There's no better time to be an alum of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The University is experiencing powerful momentum as it creates the next generation of leaders and innovators. As alums, we generate \$2.2 billion in added income for the state economy. We support in impactful ways no matter who we are, where we live, or what we do.

#### A Tradition of Service

In 1903, the first graduating class of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute organized the Alumni Association. Those 18 graduates began a tradition of pride and support for their alma

mater while maintaining connections with one another.

Those connections continue with you, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's graduating class of 2025. Your experience with the Alumni Association officially begins upon graduation and stays with you throughout your life. You are now a member of the Alumni Association, welcome to our family!

#### **Stay Connected**

UL Lafayette Alumni are ambassadors of our institution, its values, and its spirit. Alumni contribute to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for many reasons: lifelong learning, quality education, and the betterment of our University. You can support your alma mater by attending a University function or showing your pride by wearing red and white. Stay involved by joining an Alumni Club or Chapter, which allow alumni near and far to connect and network with fellow Ragin' Cajuns across the country.

Support the UL Lafayette Alumni Association with your annual gift to the Loyalty Fund. By supporting student programs, alumni programs, and academic areas funded by the Alumni Loyalty Fund, you help UL Lafayette to continue as a premier institution of higher learning. As a UL Lafayette graduate or former student, you receive all free member benefits. By selecting one of the Loyalty Fund membership levels, you will access additional benefits and perks based on the level you choose. Please visit: alumni.louisiana.edu/give for more information about paid membership options!

Stay informed about what's happening on campus or in your area by signing up for Alumni Accents: an e-newsletter about upcoming events, University news, notable alumni, and more. Stay current with the Alumni Association and your alma mater by keeping your information up to date on our website: alumni.louisiana.edu/update.



Shown are nine of the 18 members of Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institutes first graduating class. TOP ROW FROM LEFT: Alma

Gulley, Maxime Beraud, Rhena Boudreaux, Annie Bell and Ula Coronna. BOTTOW ROW. FROM LEFT: William P Mills, Pothier J. Voorhies, Harold Demanade and Henry D. Amedes.

# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Jefferson Caffery	Doctorate of Laws	May 23, 1971
Alfred Lamson	Doctorate of Humanities	December 20, 1982
Edward W. Stagg	Doctorate of Humanities	May 15, 1983
Joseph A. Riehl	Doctorate of Letters	May 15, 1988
Elida P. Millet Caillouet	Bachelor of Education	December 16, 1990
Sammie Wayne Cosper	Doctorate of Sciences	May 13, 1991
A. Hays Town	Doctorate of Arts	December 16, 1995
J. Bennett Johnston	Doctorate of Arts	December 14, 1996
G. Frank Pervis, Jr.	Doctorate of Humane Letters	May 17, 1997
Rosemary Saucier LaBorde	Bachelor of Nursing	December 12, 1998
Joseph D. Jamail	Doctorate of Laws	May 15, 1999
James Lee Burke	Doctorate of Letters	December 18, 1999
Marc C. Breaux	Bachelor of Fine Arts	December 16, 2000
Michael Doucet	Doctorate of Fine Arts	May 17, 2002
Clay M. Allen	Doctorate of Letters	May 23, 2003
William H Fenstermaker	Doctorate of Sciences	May 23, 2003
Matthew G. Stuller, Sr.	Doctorate of Business Administration	May 23, 2003
Robert Trahan	Doctorate of Humanities	May 15, 2004
Clara Constantine Broussard	Bachelor of Humanities	December 18, 2004
Martha Jane Conway-Bossett	Bachelor of Humanities	December 18, 2004
Shirley Taylor Gresham	Bachelor of Humanities	December 18, 2004
Charles Singleton	Bachelor of Humanities	December 18, 2004
Cecil Picard	Doctorate of Educational Leadership	May 20, 2006
Norman Francis	Doctorate of Higher Education Leadership	December 15, 2007
Ernest J. Gaines	Doctorate of Letters	May 24, 2008
Zachary Richard	Doctorate of Fine Arts	December 20, 2008
George Rodrigue	Doctorate of Fine Arts	December 19, 2009
Cindy L. Courville	Doctorate of Humanities	December 18, 2010
Joe Stewart	Doctorate of Fine Arts	May 12, 2012
Ambassador François Delattre	Doctorate of Francophone Studies	December 20, 2013
Dr. Craig Walker	Doctorate of Nursing Practice	May 13, 2016
Lloyd J. "Red" Lerille	Doctorate of Educational Leadership	December 16, 2016
Donald Mosing	Doctorate of Systems Engineering	December 16, 2016
Governor Kathleen B. Blanco	Doctorate of Liberal Arts	December 15, 2017
B.I. Moody III	Doctorate of Business Administration	December 15, 2017
Winfred Sibille	Doctorate of Educational Leadership	December 16, 2018
James A. "Jim" Garland	Doctorate of Arts	May 14, 2021
James Devin Moncus	Doctorate of Nursing Practice	May 14, 2021
Ginger M. Myers	Doctorate of Nursing Practice	May 13, 2022
Richard "Dickie" Landry	Doctorate of Arts	May 16, 2025



# SUMMER 2025 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Cajundome • 10:00 a.m. • Friday, August 8, 2025

Introduction	Dr. Jaimie Hebert
	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
	Master of Ceremonies
Recognition of Grand Marshal and Platform Guests	Dr. Jaimie Hebert
	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
	Master of Ceremonies
Welcome	Dr. E. Joseph Savoie
	President
Alumni Address	Alumni Association Executive Board
Presentation of Undergraduate and Graduate Candidates	Ms. Lori Crain
	Assistant Dean, College of the Arts
Presentation of Doctoral Candidates	Dr. Wesley J. Bradford
	Chair, Graduate Council

The audience is requested to remain seated until the academic procession has left the arena.



# GRADUATE SCHOOL

Founded 1957 Dean Mary Farmer-Kaiser

#### **EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Angela Denise Beal Lee (Educational Leadership) Baton Rouge, Louisiana B.S., Southern University, 1995 M.Ed., Nicholls State University, 2002

M.A., Nicholls State University, 2004

Ed.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025

"A Qualitative Study of Job Satisfaction and Retention of Professional Counselors" Directed by Dr. Dianne F. Olivier & Dr. Amanda Shuford Mayeaux

Matthew E. Mattox (Educational Leadership)
West Liberty, Ohio
B.S.S., Ohio University, 2007
M.Ed., University of Southern
Mississippi, 2008
Ed.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Parallel or Intersecting? A
Mixed Methods Study Assessing
Spirituality and Leadership
Development Processes in
Higher Education"
Directed by Dr. Dianne F. Olivier

Donta Mills (Educational Leadership) Baton Rouge, Louisiana B.A., Southeastern Louisiana University, 2006 M.B.A., University of Phoenix, 2013 Ed.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "The Link that Connects: A Phenomenological Case Study Examining African American Male Professionals' Success in Leadership Roles at Two-Year Higher Education Institutions in the Louisiana Community and Technical College" Directed by Dr. Christopher L. Giroir

Elizabeth Mary Sloan
(Educational Leadership)
New Orleans, Louisiana
B.S., Louisiana State University,
1989
M.S., Texas Woman's University,
1991
Ed.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"An Examination of the Initiation,
Implementation, and Sustainability
of Campus Food Banks in the
University of Louisiana System"
Directed by Dr. Dianne F. Olivier

Joy Watson
(Educational Leadership)
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
B.S., Louisiana State University,
2006
M.Ed., Southern University, 2012
Ed.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Empowering Literacy Outcomes
in Early Education: A Qualitative
Study on How Teacher Efficacy and
Professional Development Influence
Literacy Achievement Among Low
Socioeconomic Students in Grades
1-3"
Directed by Dr. Amanda Shuford

#### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Mayeaux

Mohamed Salah Eldin Esmail Awaad (Systems Engineering, Civil Engineering) Kalyobiya, Egypt B.S.E., Benha University, 2013 M.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2022 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Advancing Flood Mitigation Strategies for Low-Gradient River Systems: Insights into Tributary Contributions, Natural Storage Areas, and Forecasting Uncertainties" Directed by Dr. Emad Habib

Ferdinando Cilenti
(Earth & Energy Sciences, Ph.D.)
Napoli, Italy
B.S., University of Napoli
Federico II, 2017
M.S. University of Napoli Federico
II, 2020
Ph.D. University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Controls on fluid discharge at
cold seep-hydrate systems: 4D
seismic monitoring and fluid
migration modeling at Woolsey
Mound, Gulf of Mexico"
Directed by Dr. Davide Oppo

Lelia Deville (Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering) Ville Platte, Louisiana B.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2020 M.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2023 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Analysis of Open-Source and Commercial Photovoltaic Modeling Software and Recommended Improvements to Modeling Methods" Directed by Dr. Terrence L. Chambers

Sarah Elizabeth Djos-Raph (Francophone Studies)
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania
B.A., University of Maine, 2013
M.A., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2022
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025
"Beninese Women Writers of the 21st Century: Fémicriture and Popular Culture in the Post-Colonial Nation"
Directed by Dr. Amadou
Ouédraogo

Anireju Emmanuel Dudun (Systems Engineering, Petroleum Engineering) Warri, Delta State, Nigeria B.S.E., University of Benin, 2014 M.S.E., University of Benin, 2018 M.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2023 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Numerical simulation of wormhole propagation in fractured carbonate rocks during acidizing using a Stokes-Brinkman model" Directed by Dr. Yin Feng

Shawn Guillory (Systems Engineering, Mechanical Engineering) Lafayette, Louisiana B.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2002 M.S., Southern New Hampshire University, 2018 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Generalized Robust Systems-Based Theoretical Kinematic Inverse and Regular Wedge Cam Procedures for Producing Three-Point Diametral Self-Centering Motion Combined with Stateof-the-Art Design Optimization Techniques" Directed by Dr. Terrence L. Chambers & Dr. Alan A. Barhorst

Md Mehedi Hasan (Mathematics)
Satkhira, Khulna, Bangladesh B.S., University of Dhaka, 2014 M.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2020 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025
"A Novel Particle Swarm Optimization Algorithm for Computationally Intensive Functions and Its Application to Hyperparameter Optimization" Directed by Dr. Bruce A. Wade

The appearance of a name in this program is presumptive of graduation, but it is not to be regarded as conclusive. Students whose names are listed twice in this program are receiving two degrees. Due to late application, the names of some students who are graduating are not listed in this program.

# GRADUATE SCHOOL CANDIDATES

(Earth & Energy Sciences)
Shiraz, Fars, Iran
B.S., Payame Noor University,
2010
M.S., Zanjan University, 2014
M.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2021
Ph.D. University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Metal-Silicate Segregation
During Planetary Accretion via
the Multiphase Thermal Lattice
Boltzmann Method: Implications
on the Magma Ocean Dynamics

and Iron-Silicate Mixing"

Directed by Dr. Gabriele Morra

Leila Honarbakhsh

Muhammad Usama Islam (Computer Science)
Rajshahi, Rajshahi, Bangladesh
B.S., Islamic University of
Technology, 2016
M.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2020
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Towards Designing Acceptable
Voice User Interfaces for Older
Adults"
Directed by Dr. Beenish Moalla

Chaudhry

John Miller
(Earth & Energy Sciences)
Eunice, Louisiana
B.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2017
M.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2020
Ph.D. University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Revisiting the Lifetime Method
of Phosphor Thermometry"
Directed by Dr. William Hollerman

Ladi Mary Opaluwa
(English)
Lokoja, Kogi State, Nigeria
B.A., Kogi State University, 2006
M.A., McNeese State University, 2020
M.F.A., McNeese State University, 2021
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025
"How It Began to Rain"
Directed by Dr. John McNally

Ishita Pal
(Earth & Energy Sciences)
Howrah, West Bengal, India
B.S., Jadavpur University, 2014
M.S., Indian Institute of
Technology Bombay, 2016
M.S., University of California San
Diego, 2018
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"A Systematic Multi-Element
Isotopic Study of Individual
Presolar Graphite Grains"
Directed by Dr. Brian A. Schubert
& Dr. Manavi Jadhav

Andrew Blake Powell
(Earth & Energy Sciences)
New Iberia, Louisiana
B.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2015
M.S., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2020
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Constraining the Hydrogen
and Helium Abundance of
Saturn: Predictions of Acoustic
Signatures in the Upper
Atmosphere"
Directed by Dr. Andi Petculescu

Yitoshee Rahman (Computer Science)
Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh
B.S., University of Dhaka, 2014
M.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2019
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025
"Exploration of Teacher Interface Design and Gaze-Based Visualization Techniques for Supervising Students in Educational VR"
Directed by Dr. Arun K.
Kulshreshth

LaToya D. Roberts (Applied Language & Speech Sciences) Greenwood, Mississippi B.S., Delta State University, 2008 M.S., Southern University Baton Rouge, 2010 Ph.D., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Acoustic Marking of Lexical Stress in Oral Reading by Individuals with Parkinson's Disease before and after Lee Silverman Voice Treatment" Directed by Dr. Michael P. Cannito

Araf Mim Ahmed Smrity
(Systems Engineering,
Mechanical Engineering)
Tangail, Dhaka Bangladesh
B.S.E., Bangladesh University of
Professionals, 2018
M.S.E., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2023
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Investigation of Stability and
Thermophysical Properties
of Hybrid Nanofluids through
Molecular Dynamics Simulation"
Directed by Dr. Peng Yin

Renee M. Vincent
(English)
New Orleans, Louisiana
B.A., University of New Orleans,
2017
M.A., University of New Orleans,
2019
Ph.D., University of Louisiana at
Lafayette, 2025
"Ecologies of Vulnerability:
Reading Hurricane Alley
Literature through Disaster
Criticism"
Directed by Dr. David Squires

Shelby Anthony Williams, Jr. (Computer Engineering) Lafayette, Louisiana B.S.E., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 1994 M.S., University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2020 Ph.D. University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2025 "Design and Integration of Lightweight, Energy-Efficient, Reconfigurable True and Hybrid Random Number Generator Architectures for Secure Hardware Systems" Directed by Dr. Magdy A. Bayoumi

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