

THE UL EXPERIENCE

**HOW WE FOUND
OUR PLACE AT
THE UNIVERSITY
OF LOUISIANA AT
LAFAYETTE!**

NOVEMBER
2023



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BRIS' ULL HOMECOMING

As an incoming freshman, I had always looked forward to my first football game. Growing up I would always hear about how much of an amazing experience football games are. Especially growing up in the rich Lafayette culture I had high expectations of what was to come. My expectations were definitely exceeded after going to all of the events. The first thing to attend was the Homecoming football parade. The Homecoming parade was a very amusing thing to watch and seeing some of my friends on the float was very entertaining. Decorated floats, catching beads and candy, and music made the event a great time. Next on my itinerary was the football tailgate. The tailgating consisted of food, music, games, and spending time with friends and family before the game. Going from booth to booth and meeting people and talking to sororities and fraternities was very fun and kept me engaged with meeting new people. This connected Lafayette's culture of food, music, and family with the excitement of the game. Seeing everyone dressed up in red really made me realize how proud I am to be a Ragin Cajun. Also, I felt prideful celebrating 125 years of the university and all of the activities that it brought. Once we left the tailgate we headed over to the stadium. It was an incredible experience seeing someone skydive with the American flag and fireworks to kick off the game. Sitting in the student section was a riveting feeling and the band playing was an unreal experience. I loved how inviting everyone was and all of the little games and people on the jumbotron was a very welcoming thing they did to keep you engaged. The cheerleaders and dancers really kept you energetic to cheer on the team. The lively crowd kept your head in the game and gave me a great first college football game. Overall, I had an incredible time at the homecoming parade, tailgate, and game and I encourage all students to participate in school activities which can have a great impact on your first-time experience at University of

Louisiana at Lafayette

Bris' Pictures



EMMY'S INDEPENDENCE JOURNEY



Moving an hour away and living by yourself has been a huge adjustment from living at home with my family. It can definitely be nerve racking to move out of your comfort zone. My high school did a really good job at preparing me for college academically and physically. I took family and consumer science classes in school and that helped me learn how to cook for myself and learn how to manage money. Living in an apartment is a little more challenging than living in a dorm because I fully have to fend for myself, food and all. The cooking classes built a foundation for me to learn upon so I already knew the basic principles, and cooking has saved me lots of money by not eating out.

The second I moved into the apartment I knew that I had to start creating habits of cleaning up and staying on top of dishes and chores. Setting rules for yourself and following them strictly starts to not feel like a chore and just a part of your daily routine. Also having a roommate makes it easier to split up chores or take turns doing thing and keep things organized. My roommate and I have a list of chores and responsibilities that we do separately on a white board in our kitchen. I cook and do the dishes, and my roommate unloads the dishwasher and takes out the trash. And just a general rule for us to pick up after ourselves in our common living spaces. The key to getting along with your roommate is communication. Its super important to have clear boundaries when you are living with someone to avoid potential conflicts. Its always a good idea to have a conversation about boundaries and agreements when you move in to make things easy between roommates.





EMMYS' PICS

Mary-Dawson's' Greek Life Experience

My journey to Greek life is not like everyone else's. When I first moved to Lafayette for college, I did not want to be involved in any organizations on campus, especially a sorority. I felt like I was not cut out to be in a sorority. I just wanted to go to school and not have to worry about anything else. However, my mother had a conversation with me and told me that for me to get the full college experience, I needed to get involved in my school. This is where my story begins.

I had been going to college at UL for about two weeks, and it was time for rush week. My roommate was very excited for rush week because she had always wanted to be in a sorority. So, I talked to my mom about it, and she convinced me, with the help of my roommate, to sign up for rush. At this point I still was not totally into the whole idea of being in a sorority and all the things that came along with it.

It came time for rush week, and I really had no idea what to expect. To my surprise, I was nervous and somewhat excited about what I was going to experience. Little did I know that week would change my life completely.


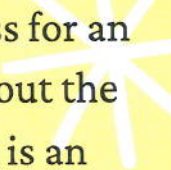
Throughout rush week, I experienced things that I never thought I would experience. I met so many great people and I made so many new friends in such a short amount of time. Also, during rush week, I found my home. On bid day, when I opened my envelope, and saw the words, "Alpha Delta Pi", I was overwhelmed with excitement and happiness.

Since I have been a member of Alpha Delta Pi, I have felt an overwhelming amount of happiness, acceptance, and sisterhood. My sisters mean everything to me. I could not imagine how my college life at UL would have been if I decided not to rush a sorority. I feel like I am truly getting the full college experience since I have joined this great organization.


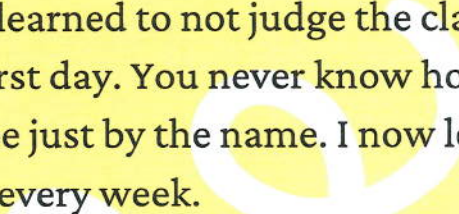


Mary-Dawson's' Pics





This semester I was forced to take a dance class for an elective. I thought it was just a stupid class about the history of dance and I would hate it. Instead it is an actual ballet class. Everyday I have to “dress out” in a leotard and tights with my hair up. We take an hour and fifteen minutes of ballet. It is an introduction class so it is not that serious but our teacher is still strict. Sometimes I will admit I don’t feel like dancing, but once I get in the class it is a blast. The environment in the class is the best. We all come from different dance backgrounds and experiences. Some of us have danced our whole lives and others have never danced a day. No matter where we have come from we support each other through every move. We have four football players that are in our class and they make the class super fun. They goof off all the time but still try their very best. Four class periods out of the semester we have lecture days that we do learn about the history of ballet. It is super boring and has lots of hard french names but still interesting. A week after the lectures we have tests on the history we just learned. The tests are super easy if you study the material. One class, we observed a master class that the dance majors were taking. It was super interesting to watch them take class from a guest artist. They were all super good at dancing and so much fun to watch. From the class I have learned to not judge the class before I show up for the first day. You never know how hard or easy a class will be just by the name. I now look forward to this class every week.



Lanis’ Dance Class

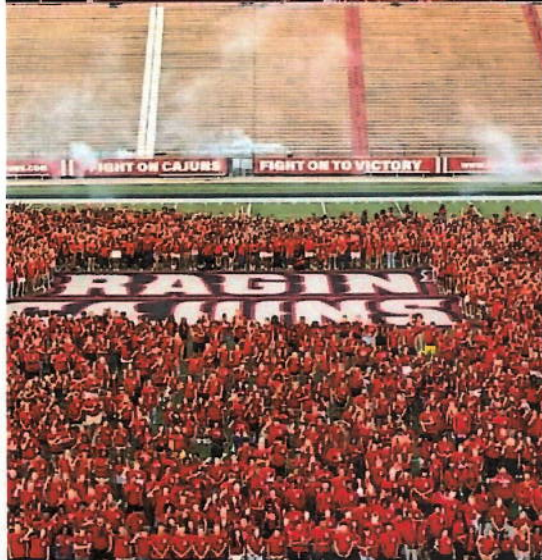


SORCHAS' COLLEGE TRANSITION



Moving from high school to college is a significant turning point in a student's life. It is a time filled with excitement, anticipation, and anxiety. One of the most challenging aspects of this transition for me was adapting to the academic rigor. Essays in high school were relatively straightforward, but in college, they require more critical thinking. Social adjustment was another challenge. People at UL come from different origins and cultures, so you can't always match a name to a face. In high school, everyone in their grade level knew each other. Financial independence is also a critical part of the college transition. For someone like me who tends to overspend, managing college expenses for the first time was a difficult task. College has introduced the beginning of adulthood and unfortunately, made me leave the mindset of the person I once was behind. The college transition may have been rough, but it helped me improve my decision making, financial literacy, and personal growth as a young adult.




Sorchas' Pics



ELISE AND TRI DELTA



In the beginning of my freshman year of college I felt so lost and lonely until I was introduced to Greek Life by a few friends and peers in the classes above me. I had no intentions of joining a sorority, but I went through recruitment being the only one in my family to go Greek, and I enjoyed it a lot more than I thought I would. On the first day of recruitment, I went to each chapter and Tri Delta immediately stuck out to me. I felt extremely comfortable and instantly got good vibes from each girl that I talked to. Throughout recruitment they called me back each day and I just kept getting more and more excited along with feeling nervous. On bid day when I opened my bid I teared up and immediately hugged my roommate who also got into Tri Delta. We then ran home to the field and celebrated at one of the girls' house with all of the members. It was such a fun day and I remember feeling so grateful that I chose Tri Delta and that I got chosen back as well. There were a couple weeks where I felt out of place because I felt like I knew nobody, and I felt like everyone else was making friends quickly. Once I started to put myself out there, I immediately started gaining friendships with lots of the girls. Each day that we spent at the house for new member meetings and other things I started to feel more comfortable. It wasn't until I got my big sister that I felt like I was fully involved in Tri Delta, and now I cannot imagine going to ULL without being in my sorority. I have made an immense number of friends and I am so thankful for this experience.







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