Hello PRIDE…and Happy Summer!

Hopefully you are having a relaxing summer, but in the UL Band Office we’re hard at work preparing for the coming season. This year promises to be one of the best here at UL: the band faculty is expanding to 3, we’ll present 5 home games in “The Swamp,” and we’ll have two pep band trips this Fall: the first in September to Kyle Field to watch our Cajuns take on the Aggies of Texas A&M, and the second in October to Arkansas St. for a Thursday night televised match-up of conference foes. On top of that, very soon we’ll be able to announce our new Marching Band Director. Exciting, indeed! Keep watching for more details when we send out Part II of the summer letter.

As many of you know, Dr. Melley will not be with us this coming season, having accepted a new position at Providence College in RI. Often transitions such as this can be cumbersome…but not this one! There are a couple of reasons for that: Dr. Brett Landry, our new Assistant Director, has already begun working, and along with Dr. Hochkeppel the progress made this summer has been terrific. Coupled with the return of the core of our outstanding instructional staff (Troy Breaux, Hawley Joe Gary, and James Cork), you will see very little change in the day-to-day workings of the PRIDE. But the most important part of this transition is YOU! As a vet of the PRIDE, you are the heart and soul of the tradition that is building here at UL. Directors may change, and staff may come and go, but you are the thing that makes this band amazing. You are the Ragin’ Cajuns!

Many of you have been wondering: “Where’s my newsletter?” Well, that’s the final factor in favor of the smooth transition – we’re **very** close to announcing our new Associate Director of Bands. Over the last couple of weeks, through committee meetings and Skype interviews, our faculty here at UL have narrowed a lengthy list of qualified candidates down to the very best of the best. These candidates come from across the country, and represent some of the finest programs from coast to coast. It’s truly a testament to all of you that so many qualified applicants have sought this position! Part II of your summer newsletter, arriving at an email inbox near you in a few short weeks, will (amongst other important information) reveal the results of this search. And while we can’t share a name today, what we can tell you is that under new leadership your PRIDE will not “skip a beat.” I GUAR-UN-TEE!!!

So why this email? – great question! Mainly to keep you up to date on the workings of THE PRIDE this summer, yet this email also addresses two important issues: **band camp registration** and our preliminary **calendar of events**. On the first item, you will find our registration link below. It is similar to previous years, so you should find it quick and easy to fill out. Get it done NOW!

**[2017-18 Pride of Acadiana Registration](http://music.louisiana.edu/ul-lafayette-bands/marching-band/pride-acadiana-registration-2017)**

Now on to the second point – here is the tentative schedule of events for the PRIDE for this coming season. IMPORTANT: this schedule is subject to change, though certain aspects (such as home games) are pretty solid. More specifics, such as game times, as well as dates and times for pep rallies and other spirit events will be given to you as soon as those are made available. Watch for Part II of the Summer Letter for those details, as well as info on Wind Ens. & Jazz Ens. Auditions.

**Fall 2017 Calendar of Events**

August

Sat 12-Sun 20 Preseason Camp and Ensemble Auditions

 \*\*\*Daily schedule & other details to come in Part II\*\*\*

Mon 21 First Day of Classes

 12:15 PM First Marching Band Class

 7:00 PM First Brass/Percussion Sectional

Tues 22 First Guard Sectional (6pm)

Mon 28 First WW Sectional (7pm)

September

Sat 2 Home Game #1, Southeastern Louisiana

Sat 16 Large Pep Band to Texas A&M (no halftime show)

Sat 23 Home Game #2, University of Louisiana-Monroe

October

Thurs 12 Home Game #3, Texas State

Thurs 19 Large Pep Band to Ark. St.

Tues 24 District Marching Band (Cajun Field) Exhibition

November

Sat 4 Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands (Cajun Field)

Sat 18 Home Game # 4, New Mexico St., UL Homecoming Parade in the a.m.

Sat 25 Home Game #5, Georgia Southern (& Alumni Band)

Lastly, please be sure to register for marching band if you haven’t already! 1st & 2nd year members schedule AMUS 152. 3rd year & above use AMUS 352. You can also go ahead and register now for other ensembles (Wind Ens., Jazz Ens., etc.). It’s usually easier to drop or adjust later on, if necessary. And, as always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Dr. Hochkeppel (hochkeppel@louisiana.edu), Dr. Landry (brett.landry@louisiana.edu), Mr. Breaux (tjb6611@louisiana.edu), or Mrs. Bastida (bastida@louisiana.edu).

We look forward to seeing all of you again very soon. For now, best wishes from the UL Band Office and thanks for being part of the UL Bands:

GEAUX CAJUNS! *-- WJH -- BBL*