Acadians remember the journey

Cultural fusion celebrates Acadians’ arrival

By Kailey Broussard
kaileybrous@gmail.com

Road races, a new stage and a procession through campus are coming to the 2015 Festival Acadiens et Créoles Oct. 9-11. The events, which will mark the 250th anniversary of the Acadians’ arrival to Louisiana, will involve everyone from University of Louisiana at Lafayette students to community members to people from outside of Louisiana. According to Barry Ancelet, Ph.D, a festival organizer, the events were inspired by the different cultures coming together.

“There are a bunch of (Cajuns) coming down from Canada, so I decided to fuse ... two traditions together into a TintaMardiGras,” he said.

The procession is a combination of Mardi Gras and Tintamarre, which is an Acadian tradition similar to Mardi Gras where crowds would be as loud as possible to either celebrate or mourn.

“We’re going to mix them up and process through campus and make some noise,” said Ancelet.

The procession will depart Friday at 4:30 p.m. on the corner of Lewis Street and Johnston Street by the Red Zone. After going the wrong way on Rex Street and through campus, the TintaMardiGras will arrive as the first concert begins.

“It’s a lot of fun,” said Ancelet. “We have a home game that weekend, so you know students are going to be around and we hope that everyone comes and joins us in what has always been ... a self-celebration of our cultures.”

Also new this year is the anniversary stage, which will feature trio and quartet bands. Although the bands are smaller, Ancelet said, the size of the stage allows a more intimate experience.

“The anniversary stage is not a throwaway stage or a minor stage; it’s small format bands, but one of them won a Grammy,” he said. “It’s just that it’s a different feel when you’re listening to a trio as compared to a seven-piece band.

On Oct. 10, LA TRAIL will host races in an event called the Tour des Atakapas. The event consists of a three, five and seven-mile

FESTIVAL
continued on page 6