For whom the bell tolls
Victory bell to honor academic, athletic achievements

"We hope that this traditional way of letting people know of our victories will promote pride in the university," said university president, Joseph Savoie, Ph.D., according to the website.

"I think hearing the bell ring will make all of us feel a huge sense of pride," said Anne Catherine LeBlanc, a junior secondary education major. "It will be the sound of our Ragin' Cajun victory."

Ragin' Cajuns' sophomore kicker Stevie Artigue said he thinks hearing the victory bell ring would give athletes and their fans a sense of pride because it symbolizes winning.

"I guess it's going to become a positive feeling to more than just the athletes," said Artigue, when asked about the victory bell ringing for commencement ceremonies.

LeBlanc said she thinks students will get used to the bell quickly.

"It's an awesome tradition to start, and I think we will adapt to it pretty fast," she added.

The bell's clapper can be activated electronically by cell phone. It will ring for five minutes for every home, away and postseason win, 10 minutes for graduations and conference championships and 15 minutes for NCAA championships.

The victory bell was made in Annecy, France, and weighs 3,000 pounds. It is custom made of bronze with the university's name, and established year, in French on the front with "Lafayette" on the back and raised fleurs-de-lis on both sides.

According to the university website, "the bell was purchased with private funds."

"I think this bell is honestly one of the best investments they could have made," LeBlanc said. "It brings so much more spirit and pride to campus."