On April 20, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Office of Sustainability hosted a pop-up festival on the corner of St. Mary Boulevard and Hebrard Boulevard to celebrate Earth Day with students and faculty.

The 2018 Fête de la Terre, or Celebration of the Earth, welcomed students to eat free jambalaya and listen to live music in an open-air setting while learning about eco-friendly practices.

"I wish stuff like this would happen more often," Allison Gilbert, a junior visual arts major, said. "It makes me really sad that people don't recycle when we have bins all over campus."

UL Lafayette Director of Sustainability Gretchen Vanicor planned the festival and said she was excited to bring all of her colleagues together to promote eco-friendly living.

"I think (my favorite part of the festival) is getting to see all of my colleagues that I work with throughout the year come together at one spot on campus," Vanicor said. "It's a great day for the university."

Vanicor also highlighted the various organizations at the event.

"What we like to do is bring together all of the different non-profit organizations in town and some of the businesses in the area that focus on sustainability," she explained.

Organizations at the festival included Bayou Electric Vehicles, The Bayou Vermilion Watershed (Keep It Clean), The T.E.C.H.E. Project, Transportation Recreation Alternatives in Louisiana (TRAIL), Deuxieme Vie Creative, Republic Services, Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act, the Bayou Vermilion District in Vermilionville and the Citizens Climate Lobby.

"We are creating political will for a livable world. We are doing that by educating the public about climate change and lobbying Congress to promote bipartisan climate solutions," Jessica Schulz, Citizens Climate Lobby local chapter founder said.

Charissa Helium, the Bayou Vermilion District in Vermilionville director of community outreach, said the mission of her organization is to clean and promote recreation on the Vermilion River, which runs through Lafayette.

The festival also celebrated the launch of a local "plogging club," in which members jog and pick up litter around campus and in surrounding areas.

"Plogging" is a Swedish word that blends "jogging" with "plocka upp," the Swedish term for "pick up." Vanicor said she went plogging on April 16, the Monday before the festival.

Taylor Sloey, Ph.D., a wetland plant ecologist and restoration ecologist at the UL Lafayette Institute for Coastal and Water Resources, pioneered the local plogging club, as she said "runners cover..."
a lot of ground."

"I was jogging for my own health, and I said, 'Hey, why don't we have a plogging club?'" Sloey said, adding she "hesitates" to use the term "club" because there is only two members for now; herself and her friend Courtney Hall, who is an environmental scientist who works outside of the university.

Sloey said she also feels a club shouldn't be necessary to carry out a plogging or anti-litter movement.

"Anybody can and should be doing this," Sloey said. "If you see trash, you should be picking it up."

Sloey also said Earth Day is especially important in Louisiana.

"Litter is a massive problem in Louisiana, and we all need to do our part to abate litter or pick it up when we see it," she said.

Deepak Jain Veerendra Kumar, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering, set up a "Wind and Solar Energy Module" to educate students on the different modes in which solar panels collect energy at the festival. His structure used a wind turbine, two solar panels and power indicators to illustrate this concept.

"(Students) can actually see how much power it is producing," Kumar said.

Lucy Rhymes, a music media major who played the fiddle for the second Cajun Ensemble live at the festival, said although she attended primarily to play music, she is also concerned for the environment.

"Global warming is a big concern, and we need to reduce everybody's carbon footprint," Rhymes said.

the 'V' in Vermilion, a color which I hold close to my heart, with a sex whip," LeMeunier said.

SGA President Mary McMahon gave a farewell speech to the senate, as this was her last meeting in office.

"This position has pushed me to my mental, physical and emotional limits more than I ever expected," McMahon said. "I can't thank you all enough for being such an amazing support system."

SGA Vice President Maddie Breaux said she was "so incredibly grateful" for her experience serving on SGA. Treasurer Kristopher Harrison agreed with both Breaux and McMahon on their sentiments.

"This position has taught me a lot about myself and challenged me ... I definitely had a great time with the Finance Committee," Harrison said.

SGA Senate Chair Katie Wappel said she enjoyed her two-and-a-half years on SGA and cracked jokes with McMahon over past political competition.

McMahon announced applications for the SGA chief elections officer are now available and students have access to 24-hour library service this week and the week of finals.

After the meeting, a new meeting was called in which McMahon swore in SGA President Elect Chandler Harris. Harris swore in SGA Vice President Elect Anna Paddock, SGA Treasurer Elect Reece Walker, Newly Appointed Chief Justice Rachel Lautigar, the new college presidents and the new senators.

when her and her husband's ad agency was no longer feasible, that she decided to attend graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DeVine has taught 19th-century British literature among other subjects for the past 17 years at UL Lafayette.

"I found that no matter my mood, no matter what's happening in life, teaching can raise my spirits and students can renew my enthusiasm for well trodden literary texts and unfamiliar ones," DeVine said.

It's still sinking in that this is my last time editing copy in our newsroom. My last time making bad puns at 10:30 p.m. because I'm out past my bedtime. My last time calling everyone here my babies at a meeting. This paper and these people have carried me through every rough day, every impossible moment and every single "there's no way I can do this" in my college career. I can't imagine where I would be without it and them.

I've given my all to this publication and I hope it came through every single week to you, the reader. I hope you've fallen in love with this newspaper the way I did when I first started. My advice to future leadership: Never stop pushing to be the absolute best. Give 110 percent, and then a little more. Because that's what it takes to keep this publication afloat. My advice to future readers: Be patient, be kind and continue trusting in your campus newspaper.