Barry Ancelot, head of the modern languages department at USL, is coordinating an international conference on the similarities and differences between the Academics of Canada and Louisiana.

Thousands of Acadians were deported by the British in the 1750s to various points along the eastern seaboard and many eventually ended up in Louisiana.

"We share in a frontier heritage that is characterized by a fierce sense of independence."

— Barry Ancelot, head of the USL department of modern languages

which now has the largest Acadian population in Canada. The name of the conference, "Across Borders," has more than one meaning. "One of the kinds of borders we're trying to cross is geographic," he said in French. "Ancelot said, the other is the disciplinary border." Representatives of a number of academic disciplines, including architecture, linguistics and politics, will participate in the discussions. The conference has been a long time in coming for both cultures. In years past, people born in this region heard vague references to having come from Canada, but found nothing about it in history books. The Acadians of Canada had also heard of their distant cousins. "My grandmother told me about the deportation when I was very young," Basque said. "Louisiana has a big place in the Acadian culture imagination. For many people I know, going to Louisiana is a very emotional, almost a sentimental moment in their lives — sort of a pilgrimage." The similarities of the two cultures go beyond shared family names, Ancelot said. "We share in a frontier heritage that is characterized by a fierce sense of independence. We share a certain extent, an artistic heritage." Architecture is another discipline in which similarities can be found between the Acadians of Louisiana and the Acadians of Canada. Certain styles are also found in some regions of France, in particular, Poitou, from which a large percentage of our common ancestors came. "It's always interesting to me how consistent our design has remained," Ancelot said. Even the topology of the two regions shares some similarities. "The areas we're talking about is flat as a table and you have a marsh area where people lived in what we would call igloos," Ancelot said. And there's deeper significance. "There is something about the sense of community that is typical of Cajuns and Acadians," Basque said, "good times, helping each other — even if the Cajuns do have a more pronounced desire to have a good time."
The differences are more pronounced, having to do with how we have been assimilated — or not assimilated — into our respective environments. Cajun culture here in Southwest Louisiana is different because of the difference in climate, the differences in other people we've encountered here and of course, there was a profound difference in political development.

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Submitted Photo

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The College of Liberal Arts began in 1822 as a hodgepodge of disciplines whose only link was to lay another leg in the fact that they were not related to teacher education. Agriculture, engineering, nursing and commerce were some of the studies included under the umbrella of liberal arts in the early days. Over time, many of the disciplines evolved into colleges in their own right. In 1936, the College of Agriculture was formed, in 1940, the College of Engineering, and in 1946, the College of Nursing and Commerce. In 1974, another split occurred when the College of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences was formed. At that time, what was left of the Liberal Arts college took a new name, the College of Arts, Human and Behavioral Sciences.

In 1823, the School of Art and Architecture left the college to exist on its own, as did the School of Music 10 years later. Also in that year, the College of Liberal Arts lost its original name renew. Right dean's have served as heads of the department. The first was Harry Lewis Griffith, who was a building which houses the Liberal Arts college is named. Other include familiar names like Edgar White Cooper, C. T. 1974. Richard Charles Cunnigham, set to try and the current dean, Allen David Barry. The college now consists of 3000 students in the areas of communication, communicative disorders, criminal justice, English, history and geographic modern languages, philosophy, scientific, psychology, sociology and anthropology. In addition to bachelor's degrees there are the criminal justice department offers an associate's degree. Master's degrees are offered for a number of fields and the English department offers a doctoral degree. In addition, the college is one of only three in the world that is a doctorate in Francophone studies.

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Colloque Acadie/Acadia: A Travessiers Frontières (Conference on Acadia/ Acadia: Across Borders)

When: Aug. 10 to Aug. 13
Where: All events will be held in the Bayou Room, UL Union unless otherwise specified.
Cost: Free (open to the public)
For information: 337-482-6121
Parking: On campus, off-campus is available in most areas.

Aug. 10: 2 p.m. — Opening of conference, "Thirty years and round table discussions, Resources for Research and Communication, Acadia and Acadie, Linguistic Studies P6. — "La Language and oral literature: A study of a documentary on Acadie made by German television" (30 years and round table discussion.)

Aug. 11: 9 a.m. — A papers and round table discussion, Academic History and its history, in round table discussions, Studies in Acadia. (7 p.m. — Chapmen's Panel)

Aug. 12: 9 a.m. — A papers and round table discussion, Academic History and its history, in round table discussions, Studies in Acadia. (7 p.m. — Chapman Panel)

Aug. 13: 9 a.m. — A papers and round table discussion, Academic History and its history, in round table discussions, Studies in Acadia. (7 p.m. — Chapman Panel)

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Liberal Arts: An overview

The College of Liberal Arts began in 1822 as a hodgepodge of disciplines whose only link was to lay another leg in the fact that they were not related to teacher education. Agriculture, engineering, nursing and commerce were some of the studies included under the umbrella of liberal arts in the early days. Over time, many of the disciplines evolved into colleges in their own right. In 1936, the College of Agriculture was formed, in 1940, the College of Engineering, and in 1946, the College of Nursing and Commerce. In 1974, another split occurred when the College of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences was formed. At that time, what was left of the Liberal Arts college took a new name, the College of Arts, Human and Behavioral Sciences.