Growing up a Hispanic-American in Louisiana, I found myself exposed to cultures since the very beginning. I have seen the food, the music and the lives of my Hispanic family, my American peers and my French professors. I have seen what cultures can mean to people and I know the extensive history behind it, but now, as a Ragin’ Cajun here in Lafayette, I’m learning about yet another pair of cultures: the Cajun and the Creole.

My staff and I have learned so much through our interviews and profiles on the Cajun and Creole cultures this week. We here at The Vermilion thought we would share a little of what we learned about the cultures around us and the stories of those behind our education through this week’s special edition issue.

This week’s issue will give you a peek into the ever-changing life of Cajun and Creole cuisine, some of the local music that has kept the culture vibrant through its unique sound and even the way the Cajun image has changed over time.

Perhaps most importantly, we hope this issue can be used as a handy guide to the upcoming Festivals Acadiens et Créoles as well as the Cajun and Creole culture. We hope every page will provide with a little something special and take you with us through our journey of learning just a little more about the unique people around us.

Thank you for picking up this week’s issue and may your Festivals weekend be full of music, food and fun. Laissez les bon temps roulez, reader!