New editor in chief seeks to make The Vermilion the paper students both want and need

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I'd like to start by thanking you, dear reader, for picking up The Vermilion today. My name is Leah, I'm the new editor of this little publication, and I want to be your one-stop resource for all things Ragin' Cajun.

For freshmen, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette can seem like a sea of people who know what's happening and just don't want to tell you. Or at least that's how I felt when I started college three years ago. To the freshmen: The Vermilion will tell you all of the secrets to surviving, thriving and enjoying this concrete-covered swamp.

Sophomores: you'll probably start finding yourself this year; don't resist it. As you delve into your major classes and get more involved on campus — which I highly recommend as a former anti-social commuter student — you might start to wonder why the university operates the way it does. Lucky for you, The Vermilion keeps tabs on just about everything happening around campus and in administration. And if you don't see what you want, I hope you feel confident emailing us here at the paper so we can look into it for you.

To the juniors out there: I'm sorry. Junior year is hard; all of your major classes seem to fall on you at once and there will be times you contemplate blindly walking across Johnston Street during 5 o'clock traffic. For you, the tired, the tattered, the juniors, I offer our newly revamped arts and entertainment section. The Vermilion can tell you where to hang out, what band to listen to, which new album is worth your time on Spotify and what's happening in the community. It's always helped me get my head away from school.

Seniors, I have little advice because just like you I have only accomplished two days of senior year. The good news, though, is that we're almost done. We know all the movers and shakers, we know how to get around, we know where to be on the weekends. So for you, The Vermilion is a hub of bonus knowledge. Things you've been halfway following are explained, projects long in the making are featured and your favorite annual events are highlighted.

My goal is to be not only what the students need, but what the students want. We are taught that we are the curators of our education, so help us curate your news. If there's something on campus you think is newsworthy, email us, call or stop by the office at 1306 Johnston St. Send us a letter, we'll publish it for you. Engage in our social media, we'll give you a shout out. Stay tuned for our new website and launch party in September.

The Vermilion exists for you and because of you, so don't let this awesome resource go to waste. We're not intimidating, I promise; we're just a collective group of strange students who find solace in internet memes and YouTube videos. We'd love to hear from you and work for you, so please add thevermilion@louisiana.edu to your contacts.